



DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES

Faculty of Social Sciences

University of Delhi

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DELHI-110007
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CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

PERCEPTION OF LIFE AND DEATH: JAPAN AND INDIA

Date: February 14 -15, 2014

Venue: Conference Centre, University of Delhi

Modern scientific and technological advancement has, undoubtedly, made life very easy and convenient. However, we cannot deny the fact that along with all the benefits that it provides, it has also given rise to a whole lot of problems like stress, sociological and psychological pressures upon an individual, which tend to make him weaker spiritually. Societies all over the world despite becoming more affluent and economically stable are also facing an increase in stress related diseases like high blood pressure, heart problems, sleep-disorders and so on. All these so called 'modern day problems' are being studied by scholars of various fields like doctors, sociologists, psychologists and philosophers from their respective perspectives. However, recently there is a new trend where many scholars are relating all these problems to the perceptions of life and death.

There are also ethical issues related to death and life in the modern times, such as, the debates concerning 'brain death', surrogacy, human-cloning and so on. Are these modern scientific activities ethical and moral?

Needless to say, all these problems have a direct relation to the perception of life and death. In the ancient times, things which were unquestionably accepted due to the influence of faith or traditions, which were the main factors influencing people's perception of life and death, in the modern, scientific age, they came to be looked upon sceptically and it also gave rise to a lot of dissatisfaction and anxiety. This phenomenon was more conspicuous in Japan, where there was a sudden surge of scientific knowledge following its opening to the world in the modern era (i.e. post-Meiji Restoration), after almost two centuries of isolation. These problems became aggravated by the economic depression after the 'bubble bust'. The general dissatisfaction with life leads people to think more about life and death. It is at this time, that the life and death studies started as new field of research and learning in Japan.

India and Japan are two nations that are in contrast to each other as far as their culture and societies are concerned. While the former is a conglomeration of a number of races and cultures, the latter can be included into the 'single-race single-culture' category. Consequently the religious sensibilities, philosophical thought and behavioural patterns of the two societies too are varied. Hence it could be said that even the perception of life and death in the two countries, under the influence of their respective religious and philosophical thought is quite varied.

Although not limited to these topics, the conference invite papers on the following issues related to understanding the perception towards life and death in Japan and India, and, also, in other cultures / countries.

1. Comparative study of the perception of life and death in India and Japan.
2. Sociological, cultural and historical factors influencing the perception of life and death in India, Japan and other countries.
3. Religious, philosophical and traditional values influencing perception towards life and death in different cultures.

4. Societal relationships, family, sex and gender in understanding life and death
5. Understanding the perception of life and death through literature and art
6. Perception of life and death as reflected in the work ethics and social morality of the countries
7. Perception of life and death in relation to disasters and natural calamities.
8. Issues related to Bioethics and technology (brain death, euthanasia, organ transplant, surrogacy, cloning) and perception of life and death.

Online submissions:

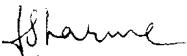
Please email the Title and the Abstract of your paper (500 words) to

lifedeathconf.du@gmail.com

Last date of submission of Title and Abstract: November 31st 2013

Those selected to present their paper in the conference are required to submit the Full Paper (3000-5000 words)

Last date of submission of Full Paper: January 15th 2014.


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