The Pulse of Death Now
The Austin H. Kutscher Memorial Conference
Saturday March 29, 2008
Columbia University
The Kellogg Center, International Affairs Building, 15th floor

8:00-9:00 Registration and continental breakfast
9:00 -9:30 Welcoming remarks and tribute to Austin Kutscher
Christina Staudt, Arthur H. Kutscher, Jr., Robert G. Stevenson

9:30-11:00 Panels

**Death and the Clinician**
Miriam Piven Cotler – How We Let Us Die: Ethics and Modern Medicine
James M. Hitt – Dead But Animate
Maureen O’Reilly-Landry – Death on a Chronic Dialysis Unit: A Psychodynamic Formulation
Thaddeus Mason Pope – Medical Futility Statutes: Can They Be Resuscitated?

**The Psychology of Death – Religion and Violence**
M.K. Bartalos – Violence and Adaptation – A New Framework
David Greene – Revelation and Death in the 21st Century
Jerry Piven – Terroristic Apotheosis in Death

**Reframing Death & Dying**
Philip Alcabes – The Behavioral Turn and the Refashioning of American Death
John Eric Baugher – Encountering the Intimate Stranger
Herbert G. Gingold & Ruth Mutzner – Death: Near and Out of Sight
Alan Pope – The Influence of Buddhism on Western Death Attitudes

11:00-11:15 Break

11:15-12:45 Panels

**The Dying Process**
John Fox – The Changing Cultures of Dying within Medical Institutions
Joanna Sheinfeld – What Dying Patients Should Expect from Their Health Care Providers
Margaret Souza – The Irregular Pulse of Death
Margaret A. Yard – Decivilization as Response to the Cultures of Death and Societal Trauma in the Second Millennium

**Death as Advocacy**
Banu Bargu – Weaponization of Life: Proletarian Violence, Instrumentality, and Partisanship
Ibrahim Abu Bakar – Thanatopsis in Muslim Theological and Ethical Works
Brigitte Nacos – Mass-Mediated Debate about Torture in the “War on Terrorism” in Post-9/11 America
Julio Pino – Soldier versus Shaheed: How Martyrdom Turns Death into Life

**Death & Representation**
Angela Belli – Witnessing Death on the Modern Stage
Marcelline Block – Capturing Death on Video: Sophie Calle’s Public Installation at the 2007 Venice Biennale
David Sterritt – Steven Spielberg’s Flesh Fair: Film, Fantasy, and Death Denied

12:45-1:30 Lunch break
1:30-3:00 Panels

**Death of the “Objectionables”**

**Kristen Drybread** - Social Life and the Deaths of Brazilian Street Children

**Ana María Gómez López** - From mass graves to public cemeteries: Unidentified bodies in Colombia’s conflict

**Robin Root** - Disarticulating Death and Dying in Discourses of HIV/AIDS in Swaziland

**Ronald F. White** - Assassination Discourse and Political Power

**Life & Death as Willful Choices**

**Elena B. Bezzubova** - Death: Destiny vs. Choice. Are We Ready for this Paradigm Shift?

**Angela García** - Suicide as a Form of Life

**Jerry Thomas Nessel** - Increasing Life Expectancy and the Hope of Increasing Life Span: Resetting the Pulse and Clock of Death

**Judith Schwartz** - When Dying Patients Request a Hastened Death: Evaluating Meaning and Responding to Nuance

**Memorializing in the 21st Century**

**Mikita Brottman** - Virtual Limbo: MyDeathSpace.com

**Sayantani DasGupta & Marsha Hurst** - Death in Cyberspace: Challenging the Boundaries of the Public/Private Dimensionality

**Maura Spiegel** - Transforming Grief into Mourning: Movie memorials in the American 21st Century

**Lauren F. Winner** - From Black Crepe to Mourning Tattoos: The Return of Embodied Memorials in Twenty-First-Century America

3:15-3:30 Break

3:30-4:30 Plenary session

4:30-6:00 - Reception

Inquiries: Columbia University Seminar on Death, Joanna Cheetham, jlc221@columbia.edu