

**CONFERENCE**  
**THE AGENCY OF THE DEAD IN THE LIVES**  
**OF INDIVIDUALS:**  
**EXPERIENCE AND CONCEPTUALISATION<sup>1</sup>**

The international interdisciplinary conference *The Agency of the Dead in the Lives of Individuals: Experience and Conceptualisation* was held from 30 August to 1 September at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Ljubljana. The conference was organized within the ERC (European Research Council) project *The Roles of the Agency of the Dead in the Lives of Individuals in Contemporary Society (DEAGENCY, ERC № 101095729)*<sup>2</sup> and cooperation with the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana.

The conference aimed to provide a forum for discussion between researchers from diverse disciplines. The conference was defined by subject matter and not by research affiliation. Topics related to death and the dead have been explored from their origins from an interdisciplinary perspective. These topics represent immensely complex and multidimensional research areas that a single theoretical or methodological perspective of a single discipline cannot cover. Therefore, by their very nature, these research areas call for interdisciplinarity.

The conference in Ljubljana brought together experts from the fields of folklore studies, ethnology, cultural and social anthropology, sociology, archaeology and history, thanatology, and many other scholars who share an interest in the issue of death and the role of the deceased in contemporary

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<sup>2</sup> More information can be found on the official website of the project: <https://erc-deagency.eu/>

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society.<sup>3</sup> The conference aimed to discuss how individuals in contemporary society perceive death and the dead, and how socioculturally shaped ideas about death and the deceased affect their lives. Engaging papers presented at the conference provided a wealth of stimulating discussion on the topic of death and the role of the dead in the lives of individuals in contemporary society.

The conference *The Agency of the Dead in the Lives of Individuals: Experience and Conceptualisation* was the first in a series of international conferences that will be held annually in the summer months as part of the aforementioned ERC project. The second in a series of four international and interdisciplinary conferences will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 2 – 4 July 2025, and will be entitled *The Agency of the Dead in the Lives of Individuals: Reasons, Triggers, and Contexts*.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> The program of the conference is available here:

[https://www.ff.uni-lj.si/sites/default/files/documents/DEAGENCY%20Conference%20Programme\\_0.pdf](https://www.ff.uni-lj.si/sites/default/files/documents/DEAGENCY%20Conference%20Programme_0.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Registration for the conference is possible via

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=35DMpoD13EmQP4evWnUzjsEWIRmdLMpPoBXXuJWeZJIUMTNMMIZaS1dIVVNTSTBUMINQMUIJMUZKQS4u>