

2:00-3:00 pm:

# STANDING UP IN SOLIDARITY TO THE TERROR OF DEATH



Helen Stanton Chapple, PhD, RN, MA, MSN  
Creighton University  
Omaha, NE

Level of Instruction: Introductory

**Presentation Summary:** Solomon et al (2015) offer their carefully researched theory of terror management to explain negative responses and behaviors that occur when they remind their research subjects of death's reality. The public's slow uptake of advance care planning means a terrible surprise for families of ICU patients when machines fail to deliver a future for their loved one. Clinicians struggle to ride this knife-edge of social denial, too often finding themselves burned out and looking for other work. Even hospice has trouble affirming that the "hard work of dying" (Bishop 2014) has value, as more jurisdictions legalize medical aid in dying. Dying is more than a "private trouble" (Jennings 2013). How can society lend a hand to those on the front lines? Returning to terror management and other theories, several responses to the problem will be offered.

**Objectives:** Upon completion of this lecture, the participant will be able to:

- List one of the three strategies in terror management.
- Explain one reason why the body's physical continuation can become an overarching goal. (*and why doesn't it feel like solidarity? Or does it?*)
- Describe one strategy of solidarity in standing up to death.

References (continued next page)

2:00-3:00 pm:

# STANDING UP IN SOLIDARITY TO THE TERROR OF DEATH-(CONTINUED)



Helen Stanton Chapple, PhD, RN, MA, MSN  
Creighton University  
Omaha, NE

## References:

Bishop, J. P. (2011). *The Anticipatory Corpse: Medicine, Power, and the Care of the Dying*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press.

Bishop, J. P. (2014, July 15). The Hard Work of Dying: Refusing the False Logic of Physician-Assisted Death. Retrieved from [The Hard Work of Dying: Refusing the False Logic of Physician-Assisted Death](#)

Chapple, H. S. (2018). The Disappearance of Dying and Why It Matters. In A. C. G. M. Robben (Ed.), *A Companion to the Anthropology of Death* (pp. 429–443). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.

Jennings, Bruce. (2013). Chapter 16: Solidarity, Mortality: The Tolling Bell of Civic Palliative Care. In Staudt, Christina; Ellens, J. Harold (Ed.), *Our Changing Journey to the End (2 volumes): Reshaping Death, Dying and Grief in America* (Vol. 2, pp. 271–288). Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.

Solomon, S., Greenberg, J., & Pyszczynski, T. (2015). *The Worm at the Core: On the Role of Death in Life*. New York: Random House.