

Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	xi
<i>Notes on contributors</i>	xiii
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xvi
<i>Preface</i>	xvii
 Introduction: making one's death, dying, and disposal in contemporary Japan	 1
HIKARU SUZUKI	
 PART I	
Meaning of life and dying in contemporary Japan	31
1 Death and 'the pursuit of a life worth living' in Japan	33
GORDON MATHEWS	
2 Dying in Japan: into the hospital and out again?	49
SUSAN ORPETT LONG	
3 <i>Sarariiman</i> suicides in Heisei Japan	64
SAWA KUROTANI	
 PART II	
Professionalization of funerals	81
4 Working of funeral homes: between dignity of death and commercialism in work for the dead	83
DAISUKE TANAKA	
5 Funeral-while-alive as experiential transcendence	102
HIKARU SUZUKI	

6	Contemporary transformation of Japanese death ceremonies HARUYO INOUE	123
PART III		
	New burial practices in Japan	139
7	Beyond ancestor worship: continued relationship with significant others IWAYUMI SUZUKI	141
8	Life course and new death rites in Japan: the loss of comrades in the Second World War and the choice of ash scattering SATSUKI KAWANO	157
9	An anthropological study of a Japanese tree burial: environment, kinship, and death SÉBASTIEN PENMELLEN BORET	177
10	Disaster and death in Japan: responses to the Flight JL123 crash CHRISTOPHER P. HOOD	202
	Epilogue: price of mortality – reinvention of Japanese death rituals HIKARU SUZUKI	226
	<i>Index</i>	230