

# Don't Fear the Reaper: Or the Birth of a Research Project

## The Challenge:

Analyze 12 years of death drawings by undergraduate students at Southern Oregon University for themes in perspectives of dying.

## Method:

Individual and group coding of all images to categorize themes. Objective versus subjective coding- used happy only if a happy face was present in image.

## Discussion:

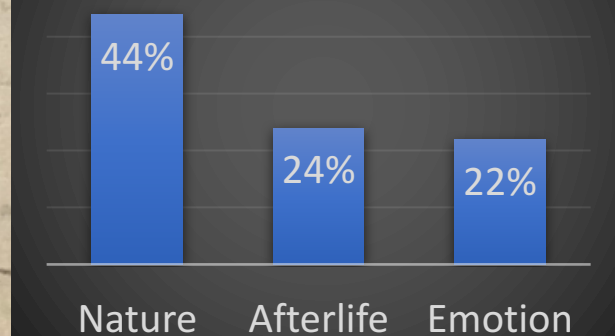
Are perspectives of death changing due to shifting attitudes in society such as living healthy and in the moment? Is there a reluctance to show fear?

## Results:

- Less rigid belief structures than hypothesized
- No depictions of fear
- Duality of happy and grief present at the same time.

★ Dr. Mary Russell-Miller,  
Candy Boerwinkle,  
Miaya Dombroski,  
Kris Williams

## Overarching Themes



## Conclusion:

Modern research into perspectives of dying needed to understand societal and cultural shifts and anticipate needs.



