

2020 Crossroads Discussions
Death and Dying: Finding Meaning Across Cultures

"No other satisfactory reason can be given": The 19th-century discovery of the ancient Egyptian afterlife

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ART HISTORY

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Rune Nyord is Assistant Professor of Ancient Egyptian Art and Archaeology at Emory University. Before joining Emory in 2018, he held positions at the University of Copenhagen, University of Cambridge (Christ's College), and the Free University Berlin. His research focuses on conceptions and experiences of representation, ontology, and personhood in ancient Egypt, especially as evidenced in Middle Kingdom (Middle Bronze Age, early 2nd millennium BCE) funerary culture, and drawing on a combination of archaeological and textual sources. Rune Nyord's current book project examines the history of the Egyptological notion of the ancient Egyptian 'quest for eternal life'. Arguing that important details of this framework stem more from 19th-century expectations than from ancient Egyptian sources, the book explores the possibility of deriving an alternative conceptual frameworks for understanding Egyptian mortuary religion from the ancient sources themselves. Related to this project, he is also editing a volume of symposium proceedings on Concepts in Middle Kingdom Funerary Culture to be published by Brill.



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