

# Commemorating a Life of Service:

## *Deathscapes, Black Cemeteries and the U.S. South*

### Abstract

In this talk, I explore death, and in particular Black cemeteries through the geographic concept of deathscapes. I do so through the lens of a Black owned cemetery in Orangeburg, South Carolina. First, I discuss the preparation of the body, an important part of grieving, celebration, and at times a response to the violence that Black people face during life. Second, I discuss the space of the Black cemetery, land that holds on it rich stories, that are oftentimes hidden from the public sphere. I consider cemeteries in the U.S. South simultaneously in the context of Black land ownership and land dispossession.

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## Fall 2022 UTK Geography & Sustainability Colloquium Series

TIME: SEPTEMBER 29 (THU) 2022  
4:05 PM–5:20 PM  
LOCATION: WALTERS  
ACADEMIC BUILDING (WAB)  
ROOM M-309