

## Preface

SHIMIZU Tetsuro / AITA Kaoruko

It gives us great pleasure to publish this volume consisting of selected articles authored by those affiliated with the Global COE Program, Development and Systematization of Death and Life Studies, The University of Tokyo.

Section 1 of this volume comprises articles that are English translated versions in our Japanese publications, such as *the Series Shiseigaku (the Series on Death and Life Studies)* and *the Shiseigaku Kenkyu (the Journal of Death and Life Studies)*. The authors of the articles are faculty members at the Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, The University of Tokyo, who also serve as representatives of our program.

The papers in Section 2 comprise original articles authored by younger researchers who are affiliated with our program; these articles are reviewed by faculty members at The University of Tokyo. We express our deepest gratitude to Thomas Marks, who is a Master Faculty Specialist at the Career English Language Center for International Students, Western Michigan University, for guiding the authors when they were preparing the texts in English. Without his support, it would have been very hard to publish the peer-reviewed original articles.

We also greatly appreciate the invaluable efforts of Ryan Ward and Erik Schicketanz in proofreading the Part 1 articles. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them.