

00547 **Tackling the Taboo: Predicting Views Towards Organ Donation, Autopsy and Dissection in Singapore**

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Aims: Three after-death procedures - deceased organ donation, autopsy, and dissection play an important role in medical care and education. However, surveys of lay views suggest that individuals are uncomfortable with the dead body, leading to a shortage of transplantable organs and cadavers worldwide.

Methodology: To understand discomfort with after-death procedures, we conducted a crosssectional survey assessing whether: views regarding the after-life, concerns about organ donation, and socio-demographic variables predicted attitudes towards afterdeath procedures. Participants were 593 Singaporeans and Permanent Residents recruited door-to-door between August 2016 and May 2017 (response rate: 60.3%).

Result: Using multinomial regression analyses, we found that belief in the sanctity of body -the view that bodies should be kept intact after death - consistently predicted a low willingness to engage in the three after-death procedures. This remained a strong predictor even after controlling for demographic factors. Namely, for each unit increase in the level of belief (as measured by a self-reported scale), individuals were 38.9% less likely to agree to autopsy (OR .611, 95% CI: .488 - .765), 71% less likely to agree to organ donation (OR .290, 95% CI: .192 - .438), and 55.4% less likely to agree to dissection (OR .446, 95% CI: .344 - .578). In addition, gender emerged separately as a predictor for willingness to engage in autopsy and dissection.

Conclusion: Taken together, our results suggest that public policy addressing after-death procedures need to reflect the importance that individuals may place on having an intact body. This is particularly true in Asia, where beliefs about sanctity are tied to long-standing cultural traditions and religious beliefs.