Humans and dogs have lived together for at least 15,000 and perhaps more than 25,000 years. Over those millennia our two species have explored much of the world together geographically, culturally, and spiritually. Some of the earliest evidence linking humans and dogs involves burial rituals. This fascinating connection between the two species suggests that dogs held a central place in early humans’ quest to understand dying, death and the afterlife. Dr Hobgood-Oster’s lecture draws on sources from diverse religious and cultural traditions to examine the ways humans and dogs have been linked together in both life and death.

Dr. Hobgood-Oster is Professor of Religion and Environmental Studies at Southwestern University. She is the author of Holy Dogs and Asses: Animals in the Christian Tradition and The Friends We Keep: Unleashing Christianity's Compassion for Animals. Her current research explores the history of human-dog relationships.

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