

The Death Philosophy of Taiwanese Aerial Acrobats

Authors : Tien-Mei Hu

Abstract : Death is not only a physical event and a fact of life ending but also one of the ultimate issues of philosophy. The aerial acrobats' dangerous nature and protective rope culture have kept the concept of death in this profession. This study aims to interpret the Taiwanese aerialists' view of death through the philosophy of death, starting from the archetype of traditional Eastern body practices (aerial acrobatics). Five Taiwanese acrobats (two male and three female) were interviewed through a snowball approach. After the interviews, ATLAS.ti, a qualitative analysis software, was used to analyze the verbatim transcripts, photographs, and documents. The following three conclusions were drawn from this study: every performance by Taiwanese aerial acrobats is a life-threatening performance; Taiwanese aerialists' perception of death changes with different life stages; Taiwanese aerialists' philosophy of death is based on the heritage foundation of the "acrobatics" profession, which has created the phenomenon of not using safety equipment unique to Taiwanese aerialists.

Keywords : acrobatics, body culture, circus, tightrope walker

Conference Title : ICPSPA 2024 : International Conference on Philosophy of Sport and Physical Activity

Conference Location : Taipei, Taiwan

Conference Dates : March 04-05, 2024