

Rites of Passage in Canada: A Bibliography of Recent Studies

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[See table of contents](#)

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rites of passage in Canada: A Bibliography of recent studies

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The following bibliography grew out of research which I conducted on behalf of U.n.e.s.c.o for their compilation of recent "stages of life" studies. While U.n.e.s.c.o was interested only in studies related to northern and western Euro-cultures published in the last five years, I broadened my search to cover all Canadian studies published since 1980 and all culture groups within Canada.

The resulting bibliography is far from comprehensive, but it should act as a useful finding aid for anyone interested in the general study of rites of passage. I have divided the studies into five categories, the first four of which are rather self-explanatory: 1) general 2) birth, childhood and parenting 3) retirement and aging 4) death and burial. The fifth category, initiations or organizational and bureaucratic stages, refers to those rites which celebrate our occupational and official journeys through life—initiations, job-transfer parties, and the paper-work trail which marks our official existence in complex society.

I have been somewhat inclusive in my definition of rites of passage, so much so that not all of the studies in the bibliography speak directly to the patterns of ritual itself, but to the stages of life which are most often marked by ritual. My intent was to create a general finding aid which would lead readers into areas of scholarship which might prove fruitful for any study of rites of passage; but the bibliography is far from complete in such areas as gerontology, archaeology, sociology, genealogy, law, demography or psychology. Beyond these disciplines, however, the bibliography is a bit more comprehensive in the areas of folklore, history, anthropology and literature.

Although I have gleaned citations from many sources, I have found four bibliographies to be particularly helpful: the on-going lists in the *Canadian Historical Review*, the *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française*, *Acadiensis* and *BC Studies*. I was also aided by Laurel Doucette who alerted me to several studies on aging.

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