Quarter 12 Progress Report for Haycombe Crematorium Project

July, August, and September marked the final months for my Knowledge Escalator project. I spent these past months wrapping up the project and preparing the project for the next steps.

In July, I gave a keynote address for the International Cremation and Burial Conference and Exhibition in Bristol. The keynote discussed my work at Haycombe as well as other forms of final disposition technology. I was invited to give the keynote by the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities. Also in July, the University of Bath Press Office and the Research Development and Support Office hired a filmmaker, George Chan, to produce short films about University research. I met with George and we’re going to produce a film about the Haycombe project. George and I met with Tracey Mock, Haycombe’s Manager, in August, and we’re now working on filming dates and times.

In September, I presented the Haycombe research at the Semi-Annual International Conference on the Social Context of Death, Dying, and Disposal in Nijmegen, the Netherlands. The DDD conferences are the World Congress for Death Studies scholars. The conference attendees were all quite impressed by the research and look forward to seeing more of it.

One of the most valuable things for both this research project and my overall work occurred in September. Towards the end of the month, I participated in the University of Bath’s Ideas Sandpit on Sustainable Water. I met scientists and engineers from the University of Bath who work on a number of environmental issues related to the Haycombe research. Collaborating with my colleagues in the sciences and engineering is extremely important and I’ve got the contacts now to make this happen.

On September 27, I spoke about the Haycombe research at the Universities Southwest Knowledge Escalator event in Taunton. It was a great way to wrap up this portion of the project.

In the coming weeks, I will be submitting a Leverhulme Trust Research Project Grant build around four concepts and technologies for handling the dead body: Fire Water Earth and Air.

Many thanks to everyone who helped see this research project through to completion.