



# Centre for Death & Society

## Newsletter

### April 2021

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# Director's Note

April 2021

After months of waiting for various institutional actors *not connected* to the Centre for Death and Society to stop dithering....CDAS finally launched it's new *In Conversation* series alive and online.

Big thanks to our first 1:1 conversers, Lucy Easthope and Hasina Zaman, for reflecting so eloquently on this last year's experiences with COVID-19.

Additional big thanks to the audience members and all the excellent questions asked during the sessions. We recorded the conversations on Zoom and will post links to the events on the CDAS webpage as soon as we have them.

You can follow the In Conversation events on twitter at [#CDASInConversation](https://twitter.com/CDASInConversation).

But wait! There's more! The week of May 10, which is also [Dying Matters Awareness Week](#) in the UK, we have three different online events for people to watch.

**On Tuesday May 11**, Rachel Forrester-Jones and Stuart Todd are In Conversation on *Death, Disability, and COVID-19*. Register for free [here](#)

**On Wednesday May 12**, Professor Fiona Poland is delivering the annual Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture, titled *Researching on the edge: Beatrice Godwin's contribution to recognizing and retrieving how people may deploy their senses of self when living with later stage dementia*. Register for free [here](#)

**On Thursday May 13**, Dan O'Brien and Su Chard are In Conversation with "You are on mute" – *Reflections on change and continuity in funerals during a pandemic*. Register for free [here](#)

More In Conversation events will also soon be announced so keep your eyes on this newsletter and on the CDAS twitter ([@cendeathsociety](#)) and [facebook](#).

Team CDAS is also preparing for the June conference, which will run the week of June 07 and we will release more information about it as soon as we can. The conference will be online and staggered across the week.

Finally, big thanks to everyone in the Department of Social and Policy Science's Research Support Office who make all these events possible. Rachel, Aislin, and Alice moved all kinds of mountains to make these CDAS events find an audience. Indeed, Aislin recently started her post in the research office and jumped right in to make things run smoothly.

Many thanks one and all.



# CDAS COVID-19 Resources, Events and Updates

Our [Centre for Death and Society \(CDAS\) team members](#) curate a monthly collection of resources relating to the effects of Covid-19 on death and society.

We include guidance relating to Covid-19 for:

- grief and bereavement support;
- funeral practices;
- social policy implications.

These resources are both written work produced by CDAS staff and general information on Covid-19 from other organisations. All the resources will be listed on our website [here](#).

## April 2021 Covid-19 Information

### ***Publications***

Woodthorpe, K. [How has the Coronavirus pandemic and lockdown affected society?](#) Kate Woodthorpe reflects on the effect the last year had on us.

Fang C and Comery A (2021) [Understanding Grief During the First-Wave of COVID-19 in the United Kingdom—A Hypothetical Approach to Challenges and Support](#). *Front. Sociol.* 6:607645. doi: 10.3389/fsoc.2021.607645

### ***Event Information***

#### FutureLearn Free Courses

FutureLearn is offering a number of free online courses in themes related to Covid-19. Visit their [website](#) to find out more.

## ***Call for Papers, Information & Funding Proposals***

### **Bereavement During the COVID-19 Pandemic: New National Survey of Bereavement Services Now Open**

Researchers at the University of Bristol and Cardiff University are conducting an important national survey to document how bereavement service providers have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic – please visit [covidbereavement.com](https://covidbereavement.com) to find out more and complete the survey.

In the last year we have witnessed an unprecedented loss of life in the UK, with millions of people bereaved in exceptionally difficult circumstances. Bereavement services have faced many challenges and have had to adapt rapidly to meet the needs of the people they support. This survey provides an opportunity for staff and volunteers working in voluntary/community sector bereavement support services to have their voices heard and influence policy and future service provision. Only one person at each organisation needs to complete the survey (usually the manager or bereavement service coordinator).

Please visit [covidbereavement.com](https://covidbereavement.com) for more information and to complete the survey, which is open until **30 April 2021**.

The research team has already collected valuable data from over 700 people bereaved since 16 March 2020, but it is also vitally important that the views and experiences of those providing bereavement support are represented. The study funded by the Economic and Social Research Council.

We appreciate that this is a busy time for all those working in bereavement support and are really grateful for all those who take time to share their experiences and help with this important work.

## **Developing a core outcome set for the evaluation of interventions to prevent COVID-19 in care home (COS-COVID-PCARE Study)**

The Centre for Trials Research at Cardiff University is now working with the Universities of Liverpool and Nottingham to conduct the COS-COVID-PCARE project <https://www.comet-initiative.org/Studies/Details/1810> to establish a set of core outcomes (COS) that should be measured, at a minimum, in all trials of COVID-19 prevention in care homes.

COVID-19 has had a devastating impact on people living in care homes, including older people and people with a learning disability, who are at a significantly increased risk of death due to COVID-19. Current methods to prevent COVID-19 infection and reduce transmission in care home residents include infection control measures such as the use of PPE and visiting restrictions.

Vaccines and other pharmacological interventions may also be effective.

In order to be able to compare the effectiveness of these different interventions and see which are best, we need an agreed set of outcomes that can be measured in all relevant trials in care homes.

We are inviting people with an interest in the prevention of COVID-19 in care homes to take part in our study to develop a 'core outcome set'.

This will involve an online survey conducted over two to three rounds to rank the possible outcomes, with the option to join an online meeting to agree the final set of outcomes.

**Click on the following link to access the survey:**

<https://delphimanager.liv.ac.uk/COSCOVIDPCARE>

If you have any questions about the project, please contact [islami@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:islami@cardiff.ac.uk) or [ShepherdVL1@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:ShepherdVL1@cardiff.ac.uk).

# CDAS NEWS

## *Recent publications*

### You and Yours – Human Rights in Care, Direct Cremations, Green Festivals – BBC Sounds

Kate Woodthorpe explains how the coronavirus pandemic has led to a rise in direct cremations in [BBC Radio's You & Yours](#) (from 20:05)

### 'Supporting people living with dementia through safeguarding processes'

New government guidance, bringing together research undertaken by **Dr Jeremy Dixon** at the University of Bath, alongside people living with dementia, their family carers and professionals in the sector aims to improve supported decision-making for adults with dementia. Access the full government report [here](#)

## CDAS Community News

### Cautious New World. Fieldwork in Pandemic Times - Off the Beaten Track

"In the upcoming summer, we will be hosting three summer sessions in our basecamp, where we will be integrating everything that we learned in our curriculum. We formalize this by incorporating it as a dedicated project: *"Cautious New World. Fieldwork in Pandemic Times"*."

There are only few slots left, but applicants can already get approved for one of the 2022 sessions, or a possible earlier session yet to be announced.

More information can be found on the [website](#). Applications can be made online through this [form](#).

Contact [sam.janssen@xpeditions.be](mailto:sam.janssen@xpeditions.be) for any further questions.

## Demystifying Death Week: Bringing dying into the limelight

### **Demystifying Death Week: Digital Event Resource Pack**

A new [resource pack](#) has been launched to support people to hold digital events as part of [Demystifying Death Week](#).

Taking place from 10-16 May, Demystifying Death Week is about shining a light on death, dying and bereavement in Scotland.

Since the first death awareness week back in 2013, each May, people across Scotland organise local events giving people the chance to talk about death, dying and bereavement.

Organising face-to-face events has become impossible for a while, but the need for opportunities to discuss death, dying and bereavement is more relevant than ever.

Produced by Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief, the new [Digital Event Resource Pack](#) is designed to make it easier for individuals and organisations to hold online events.

It includes outline event programmes, films and resources on four themes: *What happens when someone is dying?*; *Planning ahead*; *Death in times of covid-19*; *Caring for the carer*.

Also included in the pack is a guide to hosting digital events, with tips on how to plan, host and facilitate a digital event.

GLGDGG is also offering members in Scotland free use of a Zoom Pro account to hold an event during Demystifying Death Week, including: video conferencing, password protected entry and breakout rooms.

All these resources are designed to support small group discussions over zoom, with input and facilitation from local experts.

Please [get in touch](#) if you'd like more information about organising an event as part of Demystifying Death Week, and check out the [Digital Event Resource Pack here](#).

More information is available here: [Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief :: Demystifying Death Week \(goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk\)](#)

## **Before I Go Solutions® Accr edited Intensive Training in End of Life Plan Facilitation**

Applications from every country are invited for the next intake of this online course to become a licensed facilitator, beginning 7th June.

As a result of Covid-19, this accredited course has been re-organised and is now available in an Intensive format, over 4 months. Divided into 3 parts, you begin with creating your own end of life plan. Part 2 covers the practicals of doing death differently, and part 3, the practicing of facilitating others in both an offline and online setting.

It will be primarily of interest to health professionals, counsellors, coaches, educators, celebrants or others interested in helping people to prepare well for a good end of life, no matter how it happens, and to take this planning beyond the conversation stage to getting decisions taken and written down.

By the end of the course, licensed graduates will be able to successfully support others in creating their own plans, both using the Before I Go Method® online course, and in-person, to groups and individuals.

Ongoing mentoring and support resources are then available.

For more information, see <https://beforeigosolutions.com/big-training-intensive/>



## Annual Review of Death and Society

*Volume 1 will be published by in print and as an Open Access publication in 2022.*

The *Annual Review of Death and Society* gives space to publications that deal with the phenomena of dying, death and bereavement from a sociological perspective or from the perspective of related disciplines. In addition to empirical contributions, theoretical discussions are also welcome. The aim of the *Annual Review* is to further develop the current thanato(socio)logical level of knowledge and to achieve national and international networking on a high scientific level.

The *Annual Review* is the result of a collaboration between the *Arbeitskreis Thanatologie* (Thanatology Working Group), which has organized several conferences and workshops since 2018 and presented various thanatological publications as well. Published at the University of Passau with editorial members at the Universities of Bonn, Hildesheim, Osnabrück, Weimar and Zurich, the *Annual Review* is supported by the following Scientific Advisory Board: *Clemens Albrecht* (Bonn), *Ronald Hitzler* (Dortmund), *Hubert Knoblauch* (Berlin), *Thomas Klie* (Rostock), *Gesa Lindemann* (Oldenburg), *Werner Schneider* (Augsburg), *Ursula Streckeisen* (Bern) und *Tony Walter* (Bath).

The contents comprise scientific articles in German or English. Manuscripts are double-blind reviewed. There will also be book reviews, conference reports, statements and presentations of classical standard works. In the long term, interviews with well-known actors from the field of thanatological research as well as a ›forum‹ are planned in which current articles, related counter-positions and replicas of these positions will be compiled.

Contributions in the field of tension between dying, death and bereavement are welcome, both theoretically and empirically. Interested authors submit an abstract with 2 pages (max. 3 pages). Based on the abstracts, the editors decide within four weeks if the proposal is suitable for the *Annual Review of Death and Society* and will let the authors know about their decision. A stylesheet is then submitted. The peer reviewed manuscripts should contain approximately 45.000 characters.

**For abstracts and correspondence please contact:** [tod-gesellschaft@uni-passau.de](mailto:tod-gesellschaft@uni-passau.de)

*Arbeitskreis Thanatologie / Thanatology Working Group:*

Thorsten Benkel • Ekkehard Coenen • Ursula Engelfried-Rave • Matthias Meitzler • Melanie Pierburg • Miriam Sitter • Michaela Thönnies

## **Events**

### **Upcoming Down to Earth training:**

#### **Raising money for funeral costs | 13 May**

Gain skills and knowledge to better support your clients in this new practical and interactive online workshop from Down to Earth. For those supporting and advising people who have a funeral to arrange, this practical workshop enables you to support your clients better to find funds to meet the cost.

### **When Grief Goes Viral: Psychological Assessment and Intervention in the COVID Crisis**

**Date: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July**

**Time: 17:00-18:30 BST**

This event provides carefully validated screening tools for both coronavirus anxiety as the contagion spreads and the complicated bereavement it will leave in its wake and suggests evidence informed interventions for dealing with these disturbances constructively.

Speakers: Robert A. Neimeyer, PhD, Sherman A. Lee, PhD

More information [here](#)

### **Suicide Bereavement UK's 'ON THE GO' ONLINE suicide bereavement training modules**

The brief 'ON THE GO' online LIVE modules have been designed to complement Suicide Bereavement UK's face to face training (Postvention Assisting those Bereaved by Suicide (PABBS) and Emergency Services Postvention Response training, ESPR).

SBUK are regarded as leaders in the field of suicide bereavement (training and research), with an unrivalled training portfolio, giving assurance that organisations/individuals will be training with an expert team

Cost of each 'ON THE GO' training module is £80 + VAT

**First LIVE ONLINE Level 2 'ON THE GO' 90 minute module, which will help address a national unmet need.**

**Title of Module:** Applying the 'Grief Map' Model to Support People Bereaved by Suicide

**Who is the module for?** Therapists, counsellors those in level 2 of the stepped care model for Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) and other appropriately qualified professionals.

**Date:** May 24<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 10:00AM

We expect high demand for this specific module, as it helps address an unmet need.

Click on the following link for more information about the 'ON THE GO' online suicide bereavement training: <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/sbuk-training/>

## **Call for Papers**

### **Call for Papers for The 15<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal**

In increasingly fractured and confusing times, this conference seeks to locate death as the one intersection that truly touches us all.

We are now seeking papers and panels on a range of topics connected to our main theme of 'Diversity and Decolonisation'. As ever, this 'Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal' conference is multi-disciplinary and open to all, including artists, academics, professionals and practitioners of all kinds, whose interests and/or practices are related to death and dying.

Due to the ongoing Corona Virus pandemic, DDD15 will be an entirely virtual event. The conference will take place in line with the time zone (GMT) of the conference organisers, Manchester Metropolitan University (UK) but we welcome and encourage papers from around the world.

A limited number of free places will be available for successful applicants who indicate in their submission that they cannot afford to pay a fee to attend.

Please click [here](#) to view our full Call For Papers and submit your abstract.

Please contact us if you have any questions: [DDD15@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:DDD15@mmu.ac.uk)

## **Call for Chapters for Edited Collection**

### ***Difficult Death: Challenging Cultural Representations of Death, Dying and the Dead in Media and Culture***

**Deadline: Monday 1 May 2021**

You are invited to submit 300-word abstracts for the forthcoming edited collection provisionally titled *Difficult Death: Challenging Cultural Representations of Death, Dying and the Dead in Media and Culture*. The interdisciplinary collection seeks to examine a range of representations of and engagement with death and dying across different media and cultural forms including film, television, new media, journalism, performing arts and literature. With a media and cultural studies focus, the collection will examine some of the difficulties and challenges of representing death, dying and the dead whilst also exploring 'difficult' and 'challenging' representations of these subjects as important objects of analysis in themselves. We welcome contributions from all disciplines and approaches and from those working within and beyond academia.

## **Context**

Death and dying are difficult to avoid both in the global media and in popular culture. At times the representation of death, dying and the dead can be especially challenging for viewers. Yet at other times it can offer solace, escapism, or provoke engagement with mortality. Penfold-Mounce (2018) has examined how different popular cultural texts can promote both 'safe' and 'provocative' morbid spaces for engagement with death and the dead. For those who create cultural texts, ranging from novels to journalism to film and television, how to engage with and represent death, dying and the dead also represents particular challenges. Often, texts can themselves be challenged by those who engage with them for the difficult, revealing or problematic ways that they represent death. For example, as Luckhurst (2016) has argued, the representation of the living dead in zombie horror can be read as a form of social realism with its own necropolitics (Mbembe, 2003). From depictions of real or 'natural' death in documentary, journalism or narrative to dramatic depictions of violent deaths and the (un)dead in literature, film and television, there is ample opportunity to explore the ways in which death can be represented in difficult ways, can raise difficult questions, and can be difficult to engage with in media and culture.

Writing on death spans and transcends all academic disciplines, though much writing has recently found a locus in the developing field of Death Studies. Within Journalism Studies, more might be written about the interactions with death that many journalists encounter and must, as part of their career, prepare for. From the 'death knock' to reporting sensitive and traumatic events, investigations into this aspect of reporting tend to offer ethical guidance (see Luce, 2019) rather than a full exploration of the area. More research and discussion has taken place around photographic journalism and its encounters with death, with Sontag's *Regarding the Pain of Others* (2003) and Barthes' *Camera Lucida* (2000) offering widely cited explorations of the effect of photographic representation of the traumatised, dying and the dead. There are also photographers noted for their work in this area including Joel-Peter Witkin, Andreas Serrano (Morgue Series), Luc Delahaye and Robert Capa, all who have explored death through the camera lens.

## Contributions

Contributions might focus on:

- Representations of death and the dead in film, television and new media that can be read as 'challenging', or that might benefit from being 'challenged'
- The challenges of reporting on death and dying
- The ways media can shape and inform responses to death and dying
- Cultural engagement with and representations of deaths often positioned or perceived as especially 'difficult' or 'challenging' (suicide, migrant deaths)
- Representations of ageing as a 'problem' in ways that conflate ageing and death
- The representation of difficult choices around euthanasia and palliative care

At this stage, we have initial interest from two global publishers and will be submitting a full proposal once chapter abstracts have been collated. Authors will be contacted by 1 June to confirm whether their chapter has been selected and will be kept informed throughout the process.

**300-word abstracts along with a brief biography of no more than 150 words should be sent to [difficultdeadbook@gmail.com](mailto:difficultdeadbook@gmail.com) by 1 May 2021.**

**Please send any queries to [difficultdeadbook@gmail.com](mailto:difficultdeadbook@gmail.com)**

## **Call for Papers: *Religions***

### **Special Issue: Birth and Death: Studying Ritual, Embodied Practices and Spirituality at the Start and End of Life**

**Submission deadline:** 01 October 2021

**Special Issue Editors:**

Dr. Joanna Wojtkowiak, University of Humanistic Studies, [J.Wojtkowiak@UvH.nl](mailto:J.Wojtkowiak@UvH.nl)

Dr. Brenda Mathijssen, University of Groningen, [brenda.mathijssen@rug.nl](mailto:brenda.mathijssen@rug.nl)

**Details:**

Birth and death are fundamental human experiences. Both life-transitions are meaningful and profound but can also lead to ambiguous feelings, negotiated in embodied, cultural, spiritual and symbolic practices (Hallam et al., 1999; Kaufman and Morgan, 2005; Mathijssen, 2018; Wojtkowiak, 2020). The study of birth and death as existential transitions, comparing and contrasting these two life-events from a ritual and embodied perspective, can reveal novel insights into spirituality and religiosity. In this Special Issue of *Religions*, we want to unravel these questions and explore new theoretical and empirical research on birth and death from multidisciplinary perspectives, such as cultural anthropology, religious studies, chaplaincy studies, medical and cultural psychology and psychology of religion and related disciplines.

The importance of studying birth and death from an embodied, ritualized and symbolic perspective relates to several observations. First of all, all humans are related to their own birth and death and often involved in the birth and death of others (Hennessey, 2019; Schües, 2008). However, entering the world, as well as saying farewell to loved ones, is not a linear transition. Liminal and ambiguous meanings accompany pregnancy and birth, as well as death and dying. Cultural, spiritual and ritual practices accompany this transition and accommodate possible ambiguous states. Secondly, both life transitions are related to spiritual and existential questioning, revealing what matters to us (Wojtkowiak and Crowther, 2018). Thirdly, rituals and embodied practices—varying from quotidian storytelling, performances, meditation and beautification practices to initiation rites and funerals—are grounded in the body, the senses and material culture. Gaining insights into the significance of embodiment, the physical and material dimension of spirituality has been underdeveloped in the literature (McGuire 2006). Fourthly, because of changing religious and cultural contexts, such as secularization, medicalization, migration and globalization, the way we frame and give meaning to birth and death are changing and leading to pluralistic and possibly conflicting meaning frames. Rituals at the start and end of life have also been changing (Grimes, 2002). What kind of challenges do we face in changing birth and death

contexts? What can we learn about meaning making and spirituality by studying birth and death rituals? How is embodied spirituality negotiated in birth and death rituals and practices?

**We invite scholars to submit papers on the following topics:**

- Rituals and ritualization of birth and/or death (such as pregnancy and birth, dying, death and mourning, commemoration, memorials, private, individual ritualizing);
- Embodied spirituality at birth and/or death from theoretical and empirical perspectives (such as midwifery, chaplaincy or personal practices);
- Social and cultural meanings and ambiguity surrounding personhood at birth or death from an embodied, ritualized perspective (when do we become a person/social being? And how is this manifested in embodied practices? See, for instance, Kaufman and Morgan, 2005);
- Philosophical perspectives on ritual at birth and death (e.g., phenomenological approaches to ritualizing pregnancy, birth, death and dying).

**Manuscript Submission Information**

Manuscripts should be submitted online at [www.mdpi.com](http://www.mdpi.com) by [registering](#) and [logging in to this website](#). Once you are registered, [click here to go to the submission form](#). Manuscripts can be submitted until the deadline. All papers will be peer-reviewed. Accepted papers will be published continuously in the journal (as soon as accepted) and will be listed together on the special issue website.

Submitted manuscripts should not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere (except conference proceedings papers). All manuscripts are thoroughly refereed through a double-blind peer-review process. A guide for authors and other relevant information for submission of manuscripts is available on the [Instructions for Authors](#) page. *Religions* is an international peer-reviewed open access monthly journal published by MDPI.

Please visit the [Instructions for Authors](#) page before submitting a manuscript. The [Article Processing Charge \(APC\)](#) for publication in this [open access](#) journal is 1200 CHF (Swiss Francs). Submitted papers should be well formatted and use good English. Authors may use MDPI's [English editing service](#) prior to publication or during author revisions.



## **CALL FOR PAPERS for a topical issue of *Open Theology***

### **"Death and Religion"**

**Edited by:** Khyati Tripathi, (UPES, India), Jennifer Moran Stritch (Limerick Institute of Technology, Ireland) and Peter G.A.Versteeg (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands).

"Open Theology" (<https://www.degruyter.com/journal/key/OPTH/html>) invites submissions for the topical issue "Death and Religion".

Flyer:[https://www.degruyter.com/publication/journal\\_key/OPTH/downloadAsset/OPTH\\_CFP%20Death%20and%20Religion.pdf](https://www.degruyter.com/publication/journal_key/OPTH/downloadAsset/OPTH_CFP%20Death%20and%20Religion.pdf)

Death and religion share an interdependent relation. Where death is an event or state that threatens to disintegrate worlds and meaning, religion can be seen as a practice that categorizes, consoles and makes sense of this kind of disintegration. According to Oxford dictionary, death is defined as "end of life", but behind this simple definition, there is a web of complex ideas that could be understood from not just biological but also religious or cultural perspectives. Death has been conceptualized differently in different religious traditions as their texts and practices demonstrate. According to Lifton, religion is 'life power' and dominates death. Similarly, Davies put forth rituals as culture's 'words against death'.

The relationship between death and religion should be seen as a broad scholarly query, which includes philosophical and theological questions, as well as more applied perspectives such as social work. Although death is a clinical process of organs that cease to function, dying and death are events that are surrounded by various sense-making practices, ranging from intricate traditional ceremonies as part of established religious repertoires, to more personal, individualized rituals. Social-cultural context, therefore, is of utmost importance to understand how we interact with dying persons and dead bodies, and why we do it in that particular way.

In theology we see how faith traditions historically account for the reality of death, reflecting upon its existential meaning and thus trying to understand how to deal with the event of death. As such, a theology of death raises both practical (e.g. in spiritual care) and systematical (e.g. in ethics) questions regarding death and dying.

In psychology death anxiety or fear of death invited a great deal of interest starting in the late 1950s with Fiefel's work on death anxiety and religion. Different studies pointed at different relationships between death anxiety and religiousness; some studies found a positive relationship between the two while others found an inverse relationship. Some research argued for a curvilinear relationship between death anxiety and religiousness, explaining that moderately religious participants have more death anxiety than those who are extremely religious or not religious at all. The relationship between religion and death anxiety has been an inconclusive one because of the multidimensional nature of both religion and death anxiety. There



is, however, a lack of scholarship on death anxiety and religion in non-western cultures.

In cultural anthropology, death studies have developed into a substantial research niche. There has been ample attention for practices pertaining to e.g. the process of dying, death as transition, as well as to the interaction with the dead body. Important here, too, is the global perspective on death, also in the sense of engaging with ontologies of life and death outside of the established scientific-medical spectrum.

This special issue encourages scholars from different disciplines, not just restricted to the ones we mentioned, to contribute to this debate. Of special interest are situations in which religion becomes overbearing and a burden to carry forward in times of death, or if religious practices are obstructed, for example, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. How do these crisis situations affect the relationship between religion and death? This special issue aims at invoking curiosity, enquiry and interest in looking at the different facets of this topic.

The special issue on 'Death and Religion' invites empirical (qualitative and quantitative), review/conceptual and analytical papers focusing on the different facets of this relationship from scholars in different disciplines such as: Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, Theology, Philosophy, Cultural Studies, Thanatology, Health Humanities, Social Care and Social Work. Among others, topics or areas of focus might include:

- Death anxiety and religiosity in non-western cultures
- The different perspectives to 'Extrinsic Religiosity'
- Is 'Intrinsic Religiosity' really the reliever of anxiety?
- Psychological/sociological/psychosocial significance of death rituals
- The changing nature of death rituals
- Personal religious beliefs and ideas about death
- Belief in afterlife and death anxiety
- The changing relationship between death and religion due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- The non-religious traditions and death
- Autoethnographic accounts of performing/witnessing death rituals
- Death as latent and religion as evident in Freudian texts
- Religious Literacy and the end of life care
- Extinction as ultimate death and other morbid anxieties of the Anthropocene

**Authors publishing their articles in the topical issue will benefit from:**

- transparent, comprehensive and efficient peer review,
- free language assistance for authors from non-English speaking regions.

Because "Open Theology" is published in Open Access, as a rule, **publication costs** should be covered by so called Article Publishing Charges (APC), paid by authors, their affiliated institutions, funders or sponsors.

Authors without access to publishing funds are encouraged to discuss potential discounts or waivers with Managing Editor of the journal Katarzyna Tempczyk ([katarzyna.tempczyk@degruyter.com](mailto:katarzyna.tempczyk@degruyter.com)) before submitting their manuscripts.

## HOW TO SUBMIT

Submissions will be collected from September 1 to October 31, 2021, via the on-line submission system at <http://www.editorialmanager.com/openth/>

Choose as article type: "Death and Religion"

Before submission the authors should carefully read over the Instruction for Authors, available

at: [https://www.degruyter.com/publication/journal\\_key/OPTH/downloadAsset/OPTH\\_Instruction%20for%20Authors.pdf](https://www.degruyter.com/publication/journal_key/OPTH/downloadAsset/OPTH_Instruction%20for%20Authors.pdf)

All contributions will undergo critical peer-review before being accepted for publication.

Further questions about this thematic issue can be addressed to Khyati Tripathi at [khyatitripathi27@gmail.com](mailto:khyatitripathi27@gmail.com). In case of technical or financial questions, please contact journal Managing Editor Katarzyna Tempczyk at [katarzyna.tempczyk@degruyter.com](mailto:katarzyna.tempczyk@degruyter.com)

Find us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OpenTheology>

Visit the [CDAS website](#) to view a full calendar of events

### Contact us

Email: [cdas@bath.ac.uk](mailto:cdas@bath.ac.uk)

Web: [www.bath.ac.uk/cdas](http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/centrefordeath](https://www.facebook.com/centrefordeath)

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