



# Centre for Death & Society

## Newsletter

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# Director's Note

## January 2021

And lo, it is 2021!

If memory serves, I concluded the November 2020 Director's Note with something like – What could possibly go wrong in the New Year?!?!

Well....



It's worth noting, I think, that I am typing all this in America where I decided to spend the holidays with my parents in the Great State of Wisconsin and between the UK being in a new national COVID-19 lockdown, my return flights being canceled because of said lockdown, and my desire to stay as close to the Canadian border as possible with my British Passport to hand in the event the USA really does becomes Gilead, I'm still in Wisconsin.

2021 is basically the new 2020. That's all I've got right now.

But none of this will prevent me from saying: I have updates about the June 2021 CDAS Conference!

In the coming weeks, intrepid Research Manager Rachel Willis and top-tier Work Placement Student Alice will be in touch via e-mail about the June 11-12 conference. We need to gauge how many people want to attend this year's online conference, so we will be contacting everyone who submitted abstracts for the 2020 conference as a start. We are still working on the platform we will use in June but that is coming along. I will also add that we plan to announce some virtual seminars starting in February but we are waiting to make sure that the online system will work before announcing dates/times.

So welcome to 2021 everyone. Welcome to 2021.

### **CDAS June 11-12, 2021 Conference Info:**

#### **In the Year 2021: Death, Dying, Technology and Human Mortality**

In a world...

Where over the last twenty-years, first world popular culture's interest in human mortality significantly expanded and death and dying achieved new levels of media attention. What has the last twenty-years of death, dying, and technology produced for human mortality?

And what might the next twenty-years hold? What role does technology now play in the everyday experiences of human mortality?

The June 2021 Centre for Death and Society Annual Conference will focus on Death, Dying, Technology and Human Mortality and what the discovery and re-discovery of human technology means for power, sovereignty, bioethics, the rule of law, global pandemics old and new, and most importantly – death and dying.

# 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](#).

## January 2021 Covid-19 Information

### ***Publications***

### Real Talk COVID-19 Resources

These [articles by the Real Talk team](#) focus on matters of communicating through PPE, discussions over the phone regarding withdrawing life-sustaining treatment, and giving news of a patient's death to a loved one.

### ***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***

### Death in a time of Corona: Call for Contributions

Do you work in the deathcare sector? Have you recently experienced a death? Help us understand how COVID-19 is changing deathcare, funerals, and memorialisation worldwide by contributing to this collaborative, open research platform. For full information please see the main Call for Papers section on **page 12**.

## **Bereavement Network Europe call for information on dealing with bereavement during the Covid-19 pandemic**

The Bereavement Network Europe (BNE) sees that the Coronavirus epidemic requires an immediate and continuous response, and we would like to call on you for your support. We have started gathering resources regarding Covid-19 and bereavement and we will update the [BNE website](#) with resources as we receive them.

If you have any information for the bereaved or health professionals on how to deal with bereavement in the current situation from your European country, please do let us know by providing a link to it. All different languages are welcome. Please send it to the following two addresses: [info@bereavement.eu](mailto:info@bereavement.eu) and [tgo@sorgcenter.dk](mailto:tgo@sorgcenter.dk)

## **National Bereavement Network**

The pandemic has highlighted crucial research questions that are directly related to COVID-19 and the impact of lockdown on all bereaved adults and children. At the National Bereavement Alliance and the Childhood Bereavement Network, we have been approached by a number of research teams over the last three months, and are aware of several studies underway and others planned. Inspired by the work of the NIHR cross-ARC Palliative and End of Life Care collaboration co-chaired by Professor Irene Higginson and Professor Stephen Barclay, at which bereavement emerged as a key theme at the most recent meeting, we have:

- Set up a [public database](#) for bereavement researchers to list current studies or those that are planned (whether COVID-19 specific or broader) – please do upload details of your current or planned studies here if you are happy for these to be publicly available;
- Published a [discussion paper](#) summarising findings from three projects that have explored bereavement research gaps and priorities in the UK. It's not exhaustive, but we hope it will be a useful prompt for further discussion.

# **CDAS NEWS**

## ***Recent publications***

### **Assisted Death in the Age of Biopolitics and Bioeconomy**

This [new book by Anna E. Kubiak](#) analyses assisted death in the philosophical context of biopolitics, searching for the form of resistance which would not produce 'bare life' and would not exclude marginalized social group. A great deal of the criticism of euthanasia from pro-life movements associates this term with the Nazi practice of eugenics, and this book considers the inescapability of the Holocaust in this regard, while also moving the discussion on assisted death in new directions.

### **Leaves of Love: stories of ageing and dying well**

This book by Lucy Aykroyd is an essential read on how to find the positives in our ageing, the opportunities in our dying, and how best to share these gifts with those we accompany. Visit the Leaves of Love website [here](#) to find out more about the book and to purchase a copy.

# **CDAS Community News**

### **Researching cemeteries: Exploring a shared and living heritage – Zoom seminar**

Woking Asian Business Forum has the pleasure of inviting you to a Zoom-generated seminar on cemetery research, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The seminar forms part of the Lottery- funded project *The living and the dead: Exploring minority burial grounds in Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey*, and is open to everyone with an interest in Brookwood Cemetery.

Date: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021, 11:00-16:00

RSVP: Ole Jensen, 07838132521, [o.jensen@open.ac.uk](mailto:o.jensen@open.ac.uk).

Registered participants will be sent a zoom link ahead of the seminar.

## Funded PhD Studentship for 2021

*The Role of Journalists in Reporting End of Life Decisions: Questions of Ethics, Law and Democratic Citizenship* (with Professor Jenny Kitzinger, Cardiff University)

Deadline for applications: 12 noon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb

Start date: October 2021

[Further info can be found here](#)

## Research Fellow position advertised:

### [Open for applications](#)

Getting prescription medications right at home, in hospital & hospice: An Activity Theory analysis  
Research Fellow, full time 18 months

HERA AUG2018 Grade 7 /29 £36,028per annum (including London Allowance of £3,211)

Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department, UCL

This is an exciting opportunity for experienced qualitative researcher looking to:

- Expand their working knowledge and experience of socioculturally orientated research methodology
- Work on the first study in the UK to use patient's activity systems within and across the contexts of home, hospital and hospice to model what happens in reality to make prescribing and medication use for symptom control work for patients and their informal carers
- Be part of an international multidisciplinary research team including world experts in Activity Theory, Education, Patient Safety and Healthcare Improvement Research and Medical Sociology alongside a Patient and Public Involvement Co-investigator

Please contact Dr Sarah Yardley, Principal Investigator, for further information or to discuss the role pre-application/interview [sarah.yardley@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.yardley@ucl.ac.uk)

See also here: <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/research/research-news>

**Application deadline: Midnight 24th January 2021**  
**Interviews to be held week beginning 1st Feb 2021**

## **Before I Go Solutions® Accredited 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 8th February.

As a result of Covid-19, this accredited course has been re-organised and is now available in an Intensive format, over 3 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, graduates will be able to successfully support others in creating their own plans. Ongoing mentoring and support resources are then available.

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

## **Postgraduate study opportunities at the Open University**

There are several ways to study at postgraduate level at the Open University if you are interested in pursuing doctoral level training, especially in the field of death, dying and bereavement.

The OU offers Professional Doctorates in Education as well as Health and Social Care with a deadline of 31 Jan 2021. [http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/professional-doctorates\\_process](http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/professional-doctorates_process) These are open to both those with professional experience or those who are experts by experience. These are part-time.

General information about research degrees at the Open University can be found here: <http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees>

# Events

## Upcoming Down to Earth training: February - May

### Mastering the Social Fund Funeral Expenses Payment | 11 February

Help your clients successfully apply for the Social Fund Funeral Expenses Payment to help them pay for a funeral. For workers in advice, benefits rights, social work and the funeral industry.

### Making charity applications for individuals | 10 March

There are hundreds of charities giving grants to individuals, but it can be hard to know who to apply to and whether your claim will be worthwhile. Learn about who to approach, how to find them, and what makes a strong application.

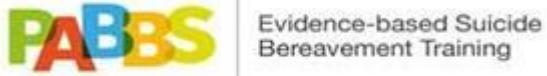
### Let's talk about funerals | 15 April

Some conversations aren't easy, and conversations about funerals can often be challenging, or even actively avoided. But there are ways for us to start having more positive conversations about funerals.

### 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.

**All online, all £40 per place**



Evidence-based • Evaluated • Engaging • Effective

## Postvention Assisting those Bereaved By Suicide

Availability: March 2021

Postvention Assisting those Bereaved By Suicide (PABBS), one day training is evidence-based and evaluated suicide bereavement training and has been informed by a three-year study, conducted by Dr. Sharon McDonnell and her team, at the University of Manchester. Funded (£243K) by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the first of its kind internationally.

### **This training will help those implementing:**

- the suicide prevention strategy (locally, regionally and nationally);
- developing postvention services;
- NICE postvention guidelines in the community and custodial settings; and
- key objectives in the NHS Long term plan etc

The research team have recently published four papers, which are directly associated with the PABBS training and can be viewed at <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/pabbs-training>

**Over 150 testimonials:** <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/testimonials>

**Cost:** £299 +VAT per person

Please note, we also deliver in-house training, upon request, across the UK.

For more information or to register contact: Paul Higham  
Email: [paul.higham@suicidebereavementuk.com](mailto:paul.higham@suicidebereavementuk.com), Tel: [01706 827359](tel:01706827359)

# Call for Papers

## Paper Invitation: Special Issue “Working with Death: Psychosocial Risks and Protective Factors at Work among Funeral Industry Workers”

In the [International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health](#)

In this Special Issue, we invite authors to contribute with research that examines funeral operators' work conditions, with attention to risk and protective factors of wellbeing and of health at work. Papers investigating the role of compassion fatigue, secondary traumatic stress, compassion satisfaction, exhaustion, coping strategies (e.g., humor), stigma, and emotion management among operators of the funeral industry will be especially welcome.

Special Issue: Working with Death: Psychosocial Risks and Protective Factors at Work among Funeral Industry Workers

**Deadline: 31 March 2021**

Website: [https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijerph/special\\_issues/Working\\_with\\_Death](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijerph/special_issues/Working_with_Death)

## Postgraduate Bioethics Conference 2021 - call for abstracts

24th June 2021 - 25th June 2021. School of Law and Social Justice Building, University of Liverpool.

The University of Liverpool is excited to welcome delegates and presenters to the annual Postgraduate Bioethics Conference. The theme of PGBC 2021 is 'Voices and Values in Bioethics'.

Bioethical principles can provide a steer on the most contentious of issues, and we see bioethics being deployed in the courtroom, in clinical practice, in policy, in academic thinking, and in decision-making at the level of the individual. Our theme invites papers that discuss how bioethical principles are interpreted and applied in different settings and disciplines, and the conflict or coherence between interpretations.

For example:

- Why is value placed on certain principles over others?
- Whose voice is most prominent?
- How can voices that have traditionally been marginalised help to enrich our understanding of bioethics?
- What can the voices of bioethics learn from one another?

It also welcomes papers that use theories such as feminist theory, queer theory, and disability studies to disrupt traditional assumptions of bioethics, and provide a new voice on bioethical issue and values.

The conference welcomes applications from both postgraduate research students and postgraduate taught students to present a paper, poster, or take part in a soapbox debate.

For more information on abstract requirements and to submit an abstract, please visit:

<https://www.postgradbioethics.com/pgbc-2021>

## **Death in a time of Corona: Call for Contributions**

Do you work in the deathcare sector? Have you recently experienced a death? Help us understand how COVID-19 is changing deathcare, funerals, and memorialisation worldwide by contributing to this collaborative, open research platform.

We have established a platform to share accounts of how the COVID-19 pandemic is changing deathcare, including end-of-life and mortuary care, arranging funerals, and ongoing memorialisation. This information is of interest to us as part of research into death and technology in the 21st century led by the DeathTech Research Team at The University of Melbourne. We'd like to know what you are experiencing now – e.g. how are funerals happening, how are bodies being handled, what is different?

Please upload your reflections to the interactive map [here](https://padlet.com/hannahgould/deathduringcorona). (<https://padlet.com/hannahgould/deathduringcorona>). To add a reflection, click on the large plus sign, select a location, and then add your text. You can also email [deathtech-research@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:deathtech-research@unimelb.edu.au) if you would prefer that we upload your contribution.

We're particularly interested in first-person accounts, reflections on new technologies being used and new rituals, and the emotional, professional, and social impact of these changes. You can include links to news articles, images, or videos. The researchers will also add published articles about death during COVID-19 to the map.

You can choose to upload anonymously if you wish. You can also choose to identify yourself and/or your company in the post. The location you set for the post can be as specific or general as you wish.

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

### **Contact us**

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

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Twitter: @cendeathsociety

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