

CDAS Newsletter - July 2021

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

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Director's Note

July 2021

It's July. I honestly can't believe it or even know what to say. CDAS worked hard these first six months of 2021 to produce a number of online events alongside our annual conference. I am extremely proud of what we collectively produced given the general instability of the last 18 months.

But more than these accomplishments, I am really looking forward to next year and what CDAS is planning. This is the last CDAS Newsletter before the summer break but we will all be back in September. I promise.



CDAS' Dr John Troyer

Before everyone decamps to wherever they can decamp to at this point, I want to flag up an event that CDAS Postgraduate students George Gumisiriza and Sam Hooker organised themselves. All the details are below and I strongly encourage everyone to attend if you can.

George and Sam worked very hard during this first year of Graduate School, so it is double impressive to see them organising, applying-for-and-then-receiving ESRC funding for these events on July 28th and August 11th.

Excellent work, George and Sam!

That is all for July 2021. Take a break this summer, if you can.

Death, Funerary Practices and Cemeteries - Open Community Event in Newport, South Wales

Wednesday 28th July & 11th August 11:00-14:00 with a lunch break. Free admission & disabled access.

Funded by the ESRC's South-West Doctoral Training Partnership (SWDTP). In two sessions held a fortnight apart we will open the conversation around death to explore with short presentations followed by open discussion and film screening.

- **Session 1:** Revisiting the "bizarre" death and funeral of British novelist and poet Thomas Hardy
Film screening on how British cemeteries are helpful for the wellbeing of local communities.
- **Session 2:** Western/Welsh funerary practices compared to Afrocentric perspectives on death.
How are Covid-19 deaths discussed in the community? Film Screening.

The sessions will be held at Cwtsh, 226 Stow Hill, Handpost, Newport, NP20 4HA. Everybody is welcome, however places are limited. To sign up please contact George Gumisiriza at gwg25@bath.ac.uk or Sam Hooker at smh83@bath.ac.uk.

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](#).

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

- **'Covid-19: Thinking about families - our own family and others' - CDAS In Conversation with Jo Wilson and Paula Smith.** Thu 9th Sep 2021 12:30-13:30 BST

COVID-19: Thinking about families - our own family and others

Eventbrite - Centre for Death & Society presents COVID-19: Thinking about families - our own family and others - Thursday, 9 September 2021 - Find event and registration information.


 <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/covid-19-thinking-about-families-our-own-family-and-others-registration-162258673059>



- **'Good Grief Festival: public engagement and grief research during the COVID-19 pandemic' - CDAS In Conversation with Dr Lucy Selman.** Tue 14th Sep 2021 17:00-18:00 BST

Good Grief Festival: public engagement and grief research during COVID-19

Eventbrite - Centre for Death & Society presents Good Grief Festival: public engagement and grief research during COVID-19 - Tuesday, 14 September 2021 - Find event and registration information.


 <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/good-grief-festival-public-engagement-and-grief-research-during-covid-19-registration-162256113403>



- **FutureLearn Free Courses:** FutureLearn is offering a number of free online courses in themes related to Covid-19.

Search Our Free Online Courses - FutureLearn

Enjoy free online courses from leading UK and international universities.

 <https://www.futurelearn.com/search?q=covid-19>


CDAS News

Recent Publications

- **African Diasporic Bereavement Stories in the UK Through 'Repatriationscapes'** by George Gumisiriza – Radical Death Studies

African Diasporic Bereavement Stories in the UK Through 'Repatriationscapes'

"I could smell something," said a Gambian participant in my pilot focus group, a group I assembled to research contemporary studies on death in the UK in order to understand how studies have ignored Afrocentric perspectives and how Western stories have evaded Afrocentric

 <https://radicaldeathstudies.com/2021/05/25/repatriationscapes/>




Other News

- We're excited that there will be a panel featuring current and former PhD students from CDAS at the forthcoming International Conference on Death, Dying and Disposal. The programme is currently being finalised, once it's available keep an eye out for the panel on 'Home-making and death' which features current CDAS students Sam Hooker and Diana Teggi, and former CDAS student Dr Renske Visser. and will be chaired by their supervisor Kate Woodthorpe. It promises to be a thought-provoking session and we hope to see you at the panel.

Home

In increasingly fractured and confusing times, this conference seeks to locate death as the one intersection that truly touches us all. The conference will present papers and panels on a range of topics connected to our main theme of 'Diversity and Decolonisation'.

 <https://eu.eventscloud.com/website/4167/>



CDAS Community News

Recent Publications

- **'Whys and What Ifs: Writing and Anxiety Reduction in Individuals Bereaved by Addiction'** by Christina Thatcher, Cardiff Metropolitan University

Whys and What Ifs: Writing and Anxiety Reduction in Individuals Bereaved by Addiction

ABSTRACT Research has shown that writing can help reduce anxiety in individuals who have experienced trauma or complicated grief. This small case study asked if writing could also reduce anxiety in those bereaved by addiction. For this study, thirteen individuals who experienced

 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15401383.2021.1924097>



- **Special Issue 'Death in the Margins'** co-edited by Dr Renske Visser and Dr Candi Cann

Death in the Margins

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 https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/Death_Margins




Other News

- **Research on Cremation & Burial Archives at Durham: Possible funding available**

The Durham Residential Research Library is advertising Visiting Fellowships of one month in duration. The extensive archives of the British Cremation Society and the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities might offer one focus for a suitable applicant.

Research on Cremation & Burial Archives at Durham: Possible funding available

 <https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/death-life-studies/about-us/news/research-on-cremation--burial-archives-at-durham-possible-funding-available/>

- **ASDS Online Seminars**

The first series of ASDS online seminars has now finished. If you were not able to attend the events, or would like to watch them all again, you can find all recordings on Figshare.

The Association for the Study of Death and Society

 https://figshare.com/authors/The_Association_for_the_Study_of_Death_and_Society/10168418



- **BBC Opportunity:** There is a really exciting call for PhD students and early career researchers in the arts and humanities to work with the BBC to develop programming ideas. As many of our newsletter subscribers could be eligible for this we want to share it with you. We're happy to talk through ideas with you if we can help you with your application.

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/develop-programme-ideas-with-the-bbc-new-generation-thinkers/>

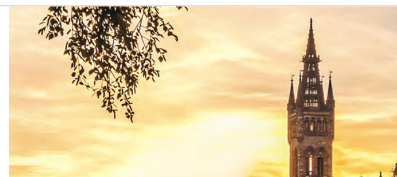
- **Online courses available from the Glasgow End of Life Studies Group**

Fall recruitment has opened for the fully online programme of postgraduate study in End of Life Studies. There are 3 intakes in total throughout the year (in April and September). Learners can work towards a postgraduate certificate, diploma or MSc, and can be based anywhere in the world as it's fully online.

Postgraduate study

Around the world there is growing interest in end of life care, assisted dying, and the cultural values that surround death and bereavement. This postgraduate programme will offer you new and critical perspectives on end of life practice and policy, palliative care, cultural representations

 <https://www.gla.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught/endoflifestudies/>



The fifth run of the free MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) is starting July 12th. It's called End of Life Care: Challenges and Innovations. They currently have learners from 60 countries and the course has been rated as one of the top 100 MOOCs by Class Central. This MOOC runs approximately three times a year.

Challenges in End of Life Care - Online Course - FutureLearn

It is often said that the only certainties in life are death and taxes. Death itself may be certain, but how and where we die and the meanings we attach to dying have many dimensions. This course explores some of the challenges of contemporary end of life care.

 <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/end-of-life-care>




Events

- **Work and Bereavement: opening the conversation through group discussion** - Thu 22nd Jul 2021 10:00-12:00 BST

Work and Bereavement: Opening the Conversation

Eventbrite - Professor Kate Reed, University of Sheffield presents Work and Bereavement: Opening the Conversation - Thursday, 22 July 2021 - Find event and ticket information.


 <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/work-and-bereavement-opening-the-conversation-tickets-162044592739>

eventbrite

- **How to Have a Good Funeral - Free Event with Life.Death.Whatever** - Thu 22nd Jul 2021 19:00-20:00 BST

How to Have a Good Funeral with Life.Death.Whatever July 22 19:00-20:00 | Good Grief

Date: Thu Jul 22nd Time: 7:00 pm Duration: 60 mins Register Now "I'm so sorry", people often say to us. "I'm not very good at funerals." "You're not supposed to be," we tell them. "It's a funeral." From We all know how this ends.

 <https://goodgriefest.com/events/how-to-have-a-good-funeral-with-life-death-whatever/>



- **How to Die Well: Book Launch** Thu 29th Jul 2021 18:30-19:30 BST

How to Die Well book - Royal London

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the subject of death has never been so prominent and we know that many of our customers have experienced an unexpected loss. But, despite it being a universal experience, we still find conversations about death incredibly hard, making it one of the life events

 <https://www.royallondon.com/mutuality/how-to-die-well/>



- **Suicide Bereavement UK's 'ON THE GO' online training modules**

Suicide Bereavement UK have released new dates for their 'ON THE GO' online training modules, which are delivered by experts in the field. The live 90 minutes online modules complement the PABBS face to face suicide bereavement training and are CPD Accredited.

Online Modules

The creators of ON THE GO' online training are all members of the Suicide Bereavement UK (SBUK) team, and come from diverse professional backgrounds. They include practitioners, academics and those with lived-experience of suicide bereavement. In combination, they have

 <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/online-modules/>



- **'10 Years of Our Collective Voice': Suicide Bereavement UK's 10th International Conference** - Thu 23rd Sep 2021 09:00-16:30 BST at The Mercure Manchester City Hotel

Suicide Bereavement UK FACE 2 FACE Conference

Venue: Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel, Portland Street, Manchester. M1 4PH To view the interactive flyer and to register on the FACE 2 FACE conference on September 23rd 2021 if the face 2 face conference is cancelled due to restrictions, we will revert to an on-line conference,

 <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/suicide-bereavement-conference/>



Calls for Papers

Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement Study Group Virtual Symposium - Death and Sociology, Thu 2nd Dec 2021

Call for Abstracts:

The academic study of death, dying and bereavement has become typically associated with disciplines beyond sociology, such as medicine, psychology and psychiatry. Consequently, knowledge about death, dying and bereavement has often focused more on individuals, symptoms or treatments, and less on a holistic lived experience, the social contexts in which life is lived, and the context(s) in which loss occurs. Yet there is much to be gained from developing a more contextual understanding of DDB. For example, the prevailing assumption that grief is a negative emotion to be addressed can overlook the potential value of this emotion and how death can also mean liberation, economic change and (possibly welcomed) relational shifts. What is more, over the past year with Covid-19 we have been reminded of the limitations of individualistic discourses on death and witnessed the value and meaning of shared experiences of funeral rites and bereavement.

In celebration of the study group entering its third decade, in this year's annual symposium we aim to revisit the group's origins with a focus on what sociology can uniquely offer the study of death, dying and bereavement. In this one-day online symposium, we invite researchers and practitioners to submit abstracts on this theme. We are particularly interested in exploring how the application of a sociological way of thinking about death, dying and bereavement can allow for a broader and much richer awareness of the way in which the end of life, and what happens afterwards, is experienced.

Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Application of sociological theory to contemporary and historical death, dying and bereavement
- Use of sociological research methods
- Sociology in professional practice

Submission

Please submit abstracts of up to 250 words by Midnight (GMT) on Monday 20th September 2021 to BSADDB@gmail.com. Presentations will be 20 minutes long with additional time for questions.

The symposium will be held virtually on Thursday 2nd December 2021. An online access link will be sent via email to all registered attendees.

More details about the study group can be found [here](#).

Cultures of Lament, Exile, and Oblivion: A Symposium - Fri 28th Jan 2022

Call for Papers - Deadline 26th Nov 2021

The Fellows of St John's College, Durham University, in collaboration with the Department of Theology and Religion, warmly invite your interest in this one-day symposium on Cultures of Lament, Exile, and Oblivion. While papers on each theme in relation to specific data, texts, or research questions will structure our proceedings, the Symposium Committee particularly encourages proposals on the nuances and opportunities of their thematic relationship by teasing out expressions of their mutual configuration in the complexity of human lives.

What might lament, exile, or oblivion – and their venerable histories of experience – convey to us today? What are their hermeneutical and ethical implications for our grasp of the human condition? These great themes of existence lie at the heart of our Call for Research and how, across diverse cultures and eras, they are experimentally pursued in the rhyme and reason of ritual-symbolism, narrative, myth, art and architecture, and the dramatic textures of politics and poetry, faith, music, identity, and ethics not least. Why, then, do some human cultures, religious or otherwise, persist in depictions of a world of ultimate oblivion for its mortal inhabitants? What might this declare about our epistemologies, our cultural classifications, our emotional or psychological adjudications of the world into which we are thrown? How might oblivion illuminate discussions in our contemporary age, so often diagnosed with social fracture, amnesia, and malaise, and spring forth the hope of their opposite in belonging, memory, and rootedness?

What kind of truth might exile speak to the human condition at large as well as to the displaced of our own day, the marginalised, those in flight from their homeland? And how or why do these experiences often issue in songs of lament, in ritual weeping, in social action and petition, and in philosophic schemes that bid to reveal or conceal the depth of our vulnerable exposure? In short, how have these brute facts of mortal life aided the pinch or push of intellectual, artistic, architectural, and musical creativity? Wherein lies the longevity of these forms in communicating what so often seems to trouble our words in the throes of lament, exile, or oblivion?

It is, therefore, of particular interest to the Symposium Committee to invite ongoing comment on the definitional and experiential variance of these vast force-fields of thought and practice through a series of worked examples, historical or ethnographic cases, thematic experimentations, or first-hand accounts of personal or professional experience. For they, too, constitute arenas of play and improvisation, challenge, pain, and exhortation – all as part of the ongoing creative challenge of humanity's self-knowing.

Themes of Interest

We welcome creative interpretations of the following topics in relation to our principal themes (N.B. this is not an exclusive or comprehensive list):

- Identity and/or narratives of belonging and resistance
- Worldviews
- Memory and/or loss
- Tragedy and trauma and/or healing
- Protest and/or prophecy
- Expression/catharsis in literary, artistic, or musical form
- Environmentalism
- Sectarianism
- Ritual-Symbolism
- Diaspora, migration, refugee crisis
- Force
- Existential angst/fear, philosophies of extinction
- War and peace; terror and offensive death
- The attention economy
- Qualities of relation, perception, and action
- Networked identities and the opacity of the self
- Mythic genesis and/or rupture
- Traditional-Secular spiritualities
- Scriptural and theological approaches
- Pastoral contexts
- Embodiment and/or emotion
- Time, temporality, tenses, and tonalities
- Altered states of consciousness

- Therapy and clinical approaches/experiences
- Theories of knowledge
- Escapism
- Desire
- Language, crisis, paradox; meaning making/breaking
- Technology, consumerism, and the periodization of being
- Theories of culture and the human person
- Ethics, pain, suffering; theodicy and threnody
- Death, mortality, and grief
- Tangibility and material culture

We strongly welcome presentations across a range of textual, historical, philosophical, musical, literary, artistic, and social-scientific disciplines as well as experience-led practitioners in the therapeutic and clinical sciences. Cultures of Lament, Exile, and Oblivion is, then, open for presentations seeking to pinpoint one of our themes in particular (perhaps drawing on specific research data or work-in-progress) or to explore their interplay in any number of experimental combinations and directions. The style and format of delivery for those exhibiting musical or artistic creations is flexible. We are very interested in these kinds of 'interactive' proposals, but we stress that consideration should be given to online logistics: a brief statement of intent in your proposals will suffice.

Conference Format

The symposium will be conducted online. We do not wish to exclude scholars and practitioners in the UK or abroad who may not be able to travel due to varying Covid-19 restrictions across the world. We welcome contributions from academic and service-practitioners at any career stage. The hope, then, is that (a) such arrangements might encourage a greater diversity of participation across cultural borders, enriching the conference's measure of the themes at hand; and that (b) an online meeting might prove advantageous to early-career scholars in particular who might otherwise be unable to attend in person owing to financial or logistical challenges. There is no event fee.

Individual presentations of 15 minutes will be followed by 10 minutes of open discussion. Successful applicants are encouraged to see their work as a potential contribution towards a formal publication of our proceedings, subject to further consultation, selection, and review processes.

Abstract Proposals

Please submit your abstract (max. 250 words) to r.n.whitefield@durham.ac.uk. Proposals should be submitted no later than 6pm on Friday 26th November 2021 and the Assessment Panel will notify their decision by mid-December. The Conference Programme will be published on 14th December 2021.

This symposium is convened by the project's Co-Principal Investigator, Ricky Whitefield, an anthropologist and theologian currently serving as Junior Research Fellow at St John's College and part-time Tutor in the Department of Theology and Religion. For all enquiries, or to make any suggestions and provide feedback, please contact r.n.whitefield@durham.ac.uk.

To register, follow this link and complete the form [here](#).

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

Dr. Brenda Mathijssen, University of Groningen, 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 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.

Open Theology "Death and Religion" Issue

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

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 Fiebel'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) 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/openeth/>

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

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. In case of technical or financial questions, please contact journal Managing Editor Katarzyna Tempczyk at katarzyna.tempczyk@degruyter.com

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

Contact Us



Visit the CDAS website to view a full calendar of events

Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Web: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centrefordeath

Twitter: [@cendeathsociety](https://twitter.com/cendeathsociety)

This issue is guest edited by Aislin Barraclough.

To unsubscribe, please email cdas@bath.ac.uk