

Centre for Death & Society Newsletter June 2021

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Director's Note

June 2021

I am pleased to announce that the CDAS 2021 Conference on Death, Dying, Technology and Human Mortality successfully concluded this past Tuesday. We moved the entire conference online and spread it out over seven days to accommodate/manage both time zones and conference fatigue. And when I say time zones I mean there were sessions where the conference presenters zoomed along from Italy to China to Japan to



Israel to Ukraine to the Sudan to Brazil and beyond. In the end, I think everyone who attended the conference agreed that it worked and created a platform for colleagues from around the globe (see above!) to present their research.

Indeed, I personally found the presentations intellectually invigorating and well argued. Presenting research online can be tricky, but I thought colleagues made it work. So big thanks to everyone who participated in and attended the 2021 CDAS Conference.

I want to thank some specific people for all their hard work with this year's Conference:

- -- Rachel Willis and Aislin Barraclough in the Department of Social and Policy Science's Research Office deserve endless credit for making the 2021 Conference work. I cannot thank them enough.
- -- Allan Houston and his colleagues in the University of Bath AV Department kept the Zoom machine running and made sure that all the different sessions ran smoothly.
- -- CDAS colleagues Sam Hooker, Sarah Griffiths, Jeremy Dixon, and Lorna Templeton who chaired sessions and kept the Q&A's lively and engaging.

And a special CDAS shout out to Alice Pressley who finishes her tenure this month as the Undergraduate Placement Student for our colleagues in the Centre for the Analysis of Social

Policy but who also did many amazing things for CDAS. Alice always made	e sure all the
CDAS newsletters got done and sent out each month – including this one.	So big thanks to
Alice for all her hard work.	

Now for something completely different...

Many thanks one and all.

On July 07, from 7-8pm (BST) CDAS is running another in its In Conversation series. Click below for all the details and to register for a FREE ticket. It's going to be good...

Caring for the Dead during the COVID-19 Pandemic: CDAS In Conversation with **Anatomical Pathology Technologist Lara-Rose Iredale**

Please welcome our newest CDAS Visiting Fellows:

Helen Frisby:

Helen obtained her PhD on Victorian funeral customs from the University of Leeds in 2009. She continues actively to research, publish and speak on this and related topics, including appearances on the History Channel and BBC. Her more recent research, conducted with Dr Stuart Prior, investigates the informal occupational culture of frontline cemetery staff. Helen is Secretary of the Association for the Study of Death & Society (ASDS) and a Council Member of the Folklore Society. She has previously taught British and European history at UWE Bristol, and on the University of Bath's Foundation Degree in Funeral Services. Helen is Researcher Development Manager at UWE Bristol, with particular expertise in writing skills, qualitative research methods and PGR identity and wellbeing.

Lindsay Udall:

Dr Lindsay Udall is a historical archaeologist who graduated with her PhD from the University of Bristol in 2019. She is also an alumnus of the University of Birmingham where she obtained her MA in Landscape Archaeology & Geomatics and her BA Honours in Archaeology. During her career, Lindsay has worked for the Environment Agency and in architectural conservation before holding research posts with the Bath Preservation Trust and the Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust. The latter of which, Arnos Vale Cemetery, became the subject of her AHRC CDA PhD. Lindsay is now a specialist on the development of the Victorian Garden cemetery, deathscapes and crematoria. She has a range of research interests in death and memory which include, exploring landscape as artefact and technology, the theory and application of genealogical research concerning cemeteries and burials grounds, necrogeography, network theory, and microhistory. Lindsay has previously designed a course on how to research and map churchyards for students and lectured to students and geneaologists. She has also been a trustee for the Ledger Stone Survey of England and Wales. Recently Lindsay co established a research consultancy specialising in the Arts and Heritage sector.

CDAS COVID-19 Resources, Events and Updates

Our <u>Centre for Death and Society (CDAS) team members</u> 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.

June 2021 Covid-19 Information

Publications

Woodthrope, K. <u>How has the Coronavirus pandemic and lockdown affected society?</u> Kate Woodthorpe reflects on the effect the last year had on us.

Fang C and Comery A (2021) <u>Understanding Grief During the First-Wave of COVID-19 in the United Kingdom—A Hypothetical Approach to Challenges and Support.</u> 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 <u>website</u> to find out more.

CDAS NEWS

Recent publications

<u>African Diasporic Bereavement Stories in the UK Through 'Repatriationscapes'</u>: by George Gumisiriza – Radical Death Studies

CDAS Community News

A Voice of "Death Studies" in the Middle East: Iran

New book: Social Studies of Death: Death in Iranian Culture and Society published in Iran.

Talking about the Middle East, a region that keeps facing conflicts, is equaled with "violence," "crime," "terrorism," "danger", concepts which resonate with mortality. As a part of the Middle East, Iran has undergone deep changes during the twenties century; two revolutions, some wars and other political conflicts with the western states. Reviewing the history of the country, one may find out that the Iranian society has been engaged with death.

However, there are a few studies about this phenomenon. As well as many countries, death study is not well-known in Iran, among Iranian scholars yet, and relatively a few researchers write about death and dying (Bayatrizi, Ghorbani, Haeri, Karimi, Mansoori, Motamedi, Parsapajouh and Taslimitehrani).

The Social Studies of Death (2021, Ed. Hajar Ghorbani, Anthropology Publication, Tehran, Iran) is a newly released edited volume on death and dying in Iranian society. Twenty six authors, with various approaches such as sociology, anthropology, medical anthropology, philosophy, history, semiology, art, media, and psychology, have contributed in this project.

The book includes six chapters as follows: 1) "The Social History of Death", 2) "Different attitudes to Death", 3) "The Medicalization of Death", 4) "The Sacred Death", 5) "The Representation of Death in Art and Literature" and 6) "A Super huge Cemetery in Tehran: The Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery". Each chapter consists of five or six articles which cover various issues, from the social history of death during the Safavid and Qajar empires (during the 19th century), to the outbreak of the Covid-19 and its consequences in today Iran.

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

Arbeitskreis Thanatologie / Thanatology Working Group:
Thorsten Benkel • Ekkehard Coenen • Ursula Engelfried-Rave • Matthias Meitzler • Melanie Pierburg • Miriam Sitter • Michaela Thönnes

Events

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

Date: Thursday 1st 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 <u>here</u>

Suicide Bereavement UK's 'ON THE GO' ONLINE training modules

Suicide Bereavement UK have released new dates for Suicide Bereavement UK's 'ON THE GO' ONLINE training modules, which are delivered by experts in the field.

The live 90 minute ONLINE modules (noted below) complement the PABBS FACE to FACE suicide bereavement training and are CPD Accredited.

Level 1 – (for those with no knowledge, a basic understanding of postvention or have an interest in a specific module)

- Suicide Bereavement & Language
- Talking with Children and Young People When There Has Been a Suicide
- Introduction to Post-Traumatic Growth
- Beyond the Lock-down; Implications for Supporting Those Bereaved by Suicide

Level 2 – is more specialised (e.g. working with therapeutic tools). Please note appropriate qualifications required to attend the following module

Applying the 'Grief Map' Model to Support People Bereaved by Suicide

For more information and to register, click on the following link: https://suicidebereavementuk.com/online-modules/

Suicide Bereavement UK's FACE TO FACE international conference

Title of conference: Suicide Bereavement: Thinking Out of the Box!

When: 23rd September 2021

Where: Mercure Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester, UK

Cost: £140 + VAT

Time: 9am – 4.30pm

The conference will:

- Combine science, lived-experience, practice-based experience and the Arts throughout the day.
- Discuss issues around suicide bereavement across the lifespan.
- Challenge and equally motivate you.
- Provide an opportunity to meet with like-minded people and experts in the field.
- Inform you of findings from research, that will be presented for the first time.
- Ultimately encourage you to consider thinking out of the box, when engaging with this hard to reach and difficult to engage population.

For more information and to register click here

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

Call for Papers

<u>Call for Papers: Cultures of Lament, Exile, and Oblivion: A Symposium</u>

Friday 28th January 2022

Call for Papers

Deadline: 26th November 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
- Therapy and clinical approaches/experiences
- Theories of knowledge
- Escapism
- Desire
- Language, crisis, paradox; meaning making/breaking
- Technology, consumerism, and the periodization of being
- 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 spiritualties
- Scriptural and theological approaches
- Pastoral contexts
- Embodiment and/or emotion
- Time, temporality, tenses, and tonalities
- Altered states of consciousness
- 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

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, <u>J.Wojtkowiak@UvH.nl</u> Dr. Brenda Mathijssen, University of Groningen, <u>brenda.mathijssen@rug.nl</u>

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 internaional peer-reviewed open access monthly journal published by MDPI.

Please visit the <u>Instructions for Authors</u> page before submitting a manuscript. The <u>Article Processing Charge (APC)</u> for publication in this <u>open access</u> journal is 1200 CHF (Swiss Francs). Submitted papers should be well formatted and use good English. Authors may use MDPI's <u>English editing service</u> 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

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) 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

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

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