

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

October 2022 Newsletter

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Director's Note

Welcome to the October 2022 CDAS newsletter. Here in CDAS it is exciting times as we grow our membership, provide opportunities for all CDAS core staff and Visiting Fellows to get involved in our activities, promote the work of colleagues, and contribute to many external events ourselves. In the next few months alone we have activities and events that include Sam Carr, Jeremy Dixon, Chao Fang, George Gumisiriza, Pete Manning, Sarah Moore, Tal Morse Tamarin Norwood, Naomi Pendle, Diana Teggi, John Troyer and Kate Woodthorpe, and further events with colleagues Karen Coombes, Lorraine Hansford, Jessica Jacobsen and Edward Kirton-Darling. These come off the back of recent talks and activities that included Helen Frisby, Gayle Letherby, Bethan-Michael Fox, Brian Parsons, Ruth-Penfold Mounce and Hannah Rumble. We're delighted that so many CDAS colleagues want to contribute to the Centre and are very pleased to promote their work through what we do. Right now, we especially want to welcome new PhD student Mathew Crawley, who joins CDAS as a student studying for a Professional Doctorate at the University of Bath.

It really does feel like a time of growth as the Centre, our membership and our research areas expand, and we hope you can join us as we evolve and head towards our twentieth anniversary in 2025.

There are numerous ways to get involved in CDAS. Through PhD study (details in this issue), becoming a Visiting Fellow or Visiting Professor (details available [here](#)), and participating in our events, including the upcoming 2023 CDAS Conference – details of which will be in next month's newsletter. Please join us if you can on Saturday 12th November for the second event in our new CDAS Writing Initiative, where we explore our writing together. Details and sign up are in this issue. Our first mini online writing retreat on 12th October was a resounding success, and we hope to develop this further to support the death studies community.

Behind the scenes, we are currently co-authoring publications and writing research bids together and with colleagues in other organisations, both academic and non-academic, as well as working in our local community in Bath to explore ways to collaborate effectively. Get in touch if you want to get involved in any of these activities, we'd love to hear from you.

This period of growth for CDAS reminds us that life is constantly evolving and as we welcome and thank members we also say goodbye to others within the death studies community. In this issue of the newsletter we remember Professor Lyn Lofland, who died in September 2022. Our Emeritus Professor Tony Walter reflects on the contribution of Professor Lofland to the death studies community, noting that she was the “outstanding sociologist of death” in the 1970s and 1980s. We also include her obituary written by her colleague Ara Francis, to share her many achievements with the CDAS network.

As always, let us know what you are up to so we can share your work and achievements here in the newsletter and on social media. You can find us on Twitter [@cendeathsociety](#) and on Facebook [here](#).

Until next month, where we will announce our call for papers for the 2023 CDAS Conference!

Kate and Jeremy

New Conversation article

CDAS member Sam Carr and Visiting Fellow Chao Fang have recently written an article for The Conversation: [‘Losing a loved one can change you forever, but grief doesn’t have to be the end of your relationship with them’](#).

Introducing new Professional Doctorate Student Mathew Crawley

We are very pleased to welcome a new PhD student to CDAS this year. Mathew Crawley has just started on the [IPR Professional Doctorate](#) Programme here at the University of Bath and is studying for his doctorate part time alongside his professional work with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. Welcome to CDAS Mathew!



“I have been involved in services relating to deathcare and its management for over 25 years. During this time I have been fortunate to be involved in operational practices, providing direct service delivery to bereaved persons and their wider communities throughout the UK, and in later years have pivoted to a more strategic role working for a non-profit organisation which provides training and guidance for professionals within the deathcare sector, often tackling the sensitive issues that, whilst providing the most discomfort in addressing, yield the largest reward in being able to drive policies forward that are of benefit to bereaved people. I have recently began my studies through the University of Bath’s DPRP programme and look forward to engaging with the CDAS arm of the University and providing an alternative, lived perspective to the valuable and ongoing works undertaken.”

On the death of Queen Elizabeth II talks now available on the CDAS website

The two talks we hosted in September following the death of Queen Elizabeth II are now available on the CDAS website. Thank you again to Helen Frisby and Brian Parsons for their talk on [‘How the Past Informs the Present’](#), and Bethan Michael-Fox and Ruth Penfold Mounce for their talk on [‘Representations of Ritual’](#).

On the Death of Professor Lyn H. Lofland, 1937-2022

By Prof Tony Walter

Though I did not know Lyn Lofland personally, as did her former student Ara Francis whose obituary of Lofland follows, she was quite simply the outstanding sociologist of death in the decade from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s, an inspiration to many, myself included. If you want to glimpse how sociology can assist our understanding of grief, look at her article ‘The Social Shaping of Emotion: the case of grief’ (*Symbolic Interaction*, 1985, 8:2, 171-190). And if anyone reading this newsletter has not read her *The Craft of Dying*, recently re-issued by MIT Press on the initiative of John Troyer and Ara Francis, then do! This short and highly readable book’s perceptive analysis of those of us who are trying to reform contemporary deathways has not dated in 44 years. My only regret is that it took me a while to discover her, possibly because she is not cited nearly as often as she should be in the death studies literature. And that may possibly be because Lofland, like any top-rank symbolic interactionist, provides a mirror showing us how we really are – and that for some may be too close to the mark for comfort.

Lyn H. Lofland obituary, 1937 — 2022, professor emerita in the department of sociology at UC Davis, died on Sept. 7, 2022.

Lyn grew up in Juneau, Alaska, and attended Stanford for a year before transferring to Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Initially a student of history, she fell in love with the discipline of sociology during an introductory course and hastened to declare it as her major.

Having earned her bachelor’s degree in 1960, an era when it was uncommon for women to attend graduate school, Lyn worked as an administrative assistant and social worker for several years before enrolling at the University of Michigan. There she earned a master’s degree in 1966. She then joined the first cohort of doctoral students in the sociology program at UC San Francisco, where she knew she could develop her interests in symbolic interaction and premise her research on observational data.

Much of Lyn’s scholarship grew out of her love for big cities, something she first discovered in Chicago and later relished about living in San Francisco. The dissertation that she submitted to complete her Ph.D. in 1971 was published two years later as a monograph titled

“A World of Strangers: Order and Action in Urban Public Spaces.” A foundational text among scholars of urban sociology and social interaction, the book is an analysis of how modern city dwellers navigate social spaces populated by strangers.

In “The Public Realm: Exploring the City’s Quintessential Social Territory,” published in 1998, Lyn expanded this focus to consider the layered nature of urban social spaces, challenging her reader to see how public life is organized to encompass private activities and personal meanings. In doing so, she established the public realm as a rich, standalone sphere of study.

Lyn’s writing balanced brilliant sociological insight with strict analytical discipline. She jettisoned rhetorical flourish in favor of clear-eyed description, a style that has given her work a timeless quality. This is particularly evident in her scholarship on death and dying, emotion, and grief. In between the publication of “World of Strangers” and “The Public Realm,” Lyn wrote “The Craft of Dying: The Modern Face of Death,” an examination of how people at the time were responding to the slow, medicalized forms of dying that have come to characterize end-of-life experience.

Originally published in 1978 but reissued in 2019, the text offers a trenchant critique of what Lyn called “The Happy Death Movement,” or the movement that gave rise to hospice care. So prescient was Lyn’s analysis that this book has reemerged as a touchstone for scholars of the death-positive movement today.

Shortly after joining the faculty at the UC Davis, Lyn developed the flagship course Self & Society and went on to teach courses in social interaction, urban sociology, and the sociology of death and dying. Early in her career she took special pleasure in lecturing to large groups of undergraduate students, jokingly referring to herself as a “showboat.” Graduate students sought her out not only for her substantive knowledge but also for her expertise in qualitative methods. Her co-authored text “Analyzing Social Settings: A Guide to Qualitative Observation and Analysis” remains widely used in the graduate training of qualitative sociologists.

When it came to the political work of academe, Lyn could be a fierce and savvy advocate — “feisty” in the words of one colleague — and she worked on behalf of faculty in many ways and at many levels. Perhaps most notably, she chaired the department of sociology at UCD from 1996 to 1999, was president of the Pacific Sociological Association from 1989 to 1990, served as president of the Society for Symbolic Interaction from 1980 to 1981, and worked as the academic director for the Women’s Resources and Research Center at UCD from 1976 to 1978.

In notes of remembrance, Lyn’s students and colleagues describe her as a “treasure” and a “rarity,” a wise and honest mentor. We will remember her for her remarkable accessibility, generosity, interpersonal ease, and warmth. She will be dearly missed.

Ara A. Francis, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology

College of the Holy Cross

<https://www.davisenterprise.com/obits/lyn-h-lofland/>

Visiting PhD opportunities

As noted in last month's issue of the newsletter, the University of Bath has recently opened its latest application window for receiving new VPS (doctoral) applications, from Tuesday 13th September until Thursday 9th December 2022. This means that completed applications, with all the necessary paperwork from students and host supervisors, must reach the University by 9th December. We will be accepting applications in this period for visits beginning between November 2022 to June 2023, inclusive. Please contact us via cdas@bath.ac.uk if you would like to discuss making an application.

Studying with us: doing a PhD

The annual competition for PhD funding will open in the next month or so, and applications for an October 2023 start will close in January. We currently have three funded full time PhD students within CDAS and would like to grow our PhD community. The best applications for funding come from potential students who have worked closely with an academic in CDAS to develop their research proposal.

If you have a budding PhD idea you'd like to discuss, have a look at the CDAS membership and please contact the best looking 'fit' for an academic supervisor. If you have any questions about the application process or doing a PhD, please email cdas@bath.ac.uk and we can share further information.

As you can see from our new PhD student Mathew Crawley there is also the opportunity to do Professional Doctorates here at the University of Bath. Contact Kate or Jeremy if you'd like to find out more.

Upcoming CDAS events

InConversation: Remaking Responsibility for Poverty and Conflict

Tuesday 1st November 2022

11:00 GMT

Location: Online

In this research seminar Professor Sylvia Nannyonga-Tamusuza (Makerere University, Uganda) and Dr. Naomi Pendle (UoB) will talk about their work looking at how social continuity and understandings of the dead were affected during decades of armed conflict in South Sudan.

Register [here](#).

CDAS Writing: Narratives of Loss

Saturday 12th November

10:00 – 12:00 GMT

Location: online

Join us for the second online writing retreat with Tamarin Norwood, as part of the CDAS Writing Initiative.

This session will explore the stories we tell ourselves, and the stories we are told, when we experience a loss. These stories might be medical accounts that emphasise fact over feeling, religious narratives that speak of life everlasting, cultural traditions that shape our mourning practices, personal or professional identities that tell us who believe ourselves to be.

Register [here](#).

Research Seminar: Poverty, choice and dying in the UK: How can public health approaches to palliative care address the needs of low-income communities?

Monday 5th December

19:00 GMT

Location: online

Lorraine Hansford and Karen Coombes

Join Lorraine Hansford and Karen Coombes in this research seminar, who will draw on qualitative research from the Wellcome supported Checking Out study, which explored the experiences of individuals and professionals in low-income communities, and looked at the ways in which structural, social and economic aspects of poverty impacted attitudes towards and experiences of dying. Together Lorraine and Karen open up a discussion about developing community approaches that support people to live, die and grieve well in low-income communities. This has never been more important given how low-income communities are less likely to access palliative care in the UK, yet how little is known about the impact of poverty on dying and attitudes towards death.

Register [here](#).

[Lorraine Hansford](#) is a Research Fellow at the University of Exeter interested in health inequalities and community engagement. Karen Coombes is a community partner, part of the Checking Out Advisory Group and an active member of her local community.

Upcoming CDAS events: *Save the date!*

10th January: CDAS Writing talk with published acclaimed author [Cathy Rentzenbrink](#)

End Jan/early Feb (date TBC): Research Seminar ‘Narratives of Covid’ with Sarah Moore and Pete Manning

28th February: InConversation with Visiting Fellow Tal Morse and John Troyer

28th March: End of life in care homes, led by Jeremy Dixon

2023 CDAS CONFERENCE

We are busy putting together our call for papers for the 2023 CDAS Conference, which will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter and on social media. Watch this space.

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

New Books

Children, Young People and Dark Tourism


Edited by Mary Margaret Kerr, Phillip R Stone, and Rebecca H Price

This book is the first its kind to offer an innovative examination of the intersecting influences, contexts, and challenges within the field of children’s dark tourism. It also outlines novel conceptualizations and methods for scholarship in this overlooked field.

Presently, tourism research, and in dark tourism specifically, relies primarily on adult-centered theories and data collection methods. However, these approaches are inadequate for understanding and developing children’s experiences and perspectives. This book seeks to inform and inspire research on children’s experiences of dark tourism. Designed to appeal to students and scholars, it brings together insights from leading experts. The book focuses on five themes, to explore the conceptual and historic origins of children’s dark tourism, developmental contexts, child perspectives, specific contexts relevant to children’s encounters, and methodological approaches.

This book is aimed at an international array of scholars and students with inherent research interests in the contemporary commodification of death and ‘difficult heritage’ within the visitor economy. Thus, the book will provide a multi-disciplinary scope within the fields of history, heritage studies, childhood studies, psychology, education, sociology, human geography, and tourism studies. The volume is primarily intended for undergraduate and postgraduate study, as well as scholars and tourism professionals.

Find out more [here](#).



Events

Good Grief Festival

October 2022

Join the Good Grief festival in late October for a series of new talks and re-sharing of talks from their hugely successful past festivals. Full details are available [here](#).

Death Festival at the Attenborough Centre for Creative Arts

11th-12th November 2022

Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts (ACCA), the Brighton-based arts centre at the University of Sussex, announces an inspiring and enlightening programme for 'Death Festival' (11-12 November).

Bookending the lives of every single one of us, birth and death are the core elements of the human condition and something that unites us all. Yet, whilst births are commonly celebrated, we remain reluctant to face up to death and dying. Death Festival encourages us to consider death and dying through two days of talks, concerts, performances, workshops and installations.

The brainchild of **Jude Kelly**, Founder and CEO of The WOW Foundation, the inaugural Death Festival has been programmed by **Jenna Mason** in collaboration with the writer and activist, **Catherine Mayer**, theatre director and ACCA patron, **Michael Attenborough** and artist, social innovator and University of Sussex researcher, **Louise Harman** (Louise on Death).

Respectful and at times irreverent, the packed programme invites audiences to share their own stories and hear from academics, artists, undertakers and broadcasters, airing their different perspectives on death.

Programme highlights include: an installation of portrait photography by world-renowned photographer **Rankin**; an evening of performance of letters to the lovely and beloved dead by those mourning them, including author **Catherine Mayer** writing to her close friend, Paula Yates, whose death was treated as a tabloid sensation; a **Jude Kelly** in conversation event with **Mina Smallman**, who will share her journey of grief, rage, faith and activism following the murder of her daughters Bibaa Henry and Nicole in June 2020; a workshop on honouring and remembering loved ones with **@thegriefcase** founder Poppy Chancellor; Amber Jeffrey, founder of **The Grief Gang** podcast, in conversation with Anna Burt, co-host of **The Mother Of All Losses**, how podcasting has enabled them to find a community as they share their experiences of grieving their mothers and maternal figures.

In the way that a fitting memorial can be revelatory, or the presence of humour in a well-observed wake can lighten the load, Death Festival aims to shed some light on a subject too often consigned to the shadows.

The inaugural Death Festival, to be held at the Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts (ACCA) in Brighton, is intergenerational, inclusive and representative of the diverse and divergent cultural contexts and social issues that shape death across the UK and beyond.

Hospice UK is the charity partner of Death Festival, bringing voices, experience and expertise from its Dying Matters campaign to help change the conversation about death and dying. Death Festival is supported by DeadHappy, life insurance to die for.

Programme highlights include:

- ❖ See an installation of portrait photography by world-renowned photographer **Rankin**.
- ❖ Hear **Jude Kelly** in conversation with **Mina Smallman**, mother the Smallman sisters who were brutally murdered in a north London park in June 2020, who shares her journey of grief, rage, faith and activism.
- ❖ Join **Louise Harman (Louise on Death)** and **Cara Mair**, founder of Arka Funerals to find out what choices we have about the body, burial and memorial of a loved one.
- ❖ This evening of performance of letters to the lovely and beloved dead by those mourning them including author **Catherine Mayer** writing to her close friend, TV presenter Paula Yates, whose death in 2000 was treated, like her life, as a tabloid sensation, novelist and screenwriter **Nikesh Shukla** writing to his mother, whose death coincided with the launch of Shukla's career as a writer, and **Monika Radojevic**, inaugural winner of Stormzy and Penguin Random House's #Merky Books New Writers' Prize, writing to the grandparents she didn't have the chance to know, like so many children of immigrants.
- ❖ Hear from a panel of researchers, campaigners, artists and grief support workers as they discuss LGBTQ+ experiences of dying, death and bereavement.
- ❖ Honour and remember your loved ones in a workshop with **@thegriefcase** founder **Poppy Chancellor**.
- ❖ Explore the role of cooking and eating in a time of loss.
- ❖ Play a game of Death Euphemism Bingo and party to a collective Last Dance Disco.
- ❖ Hear from Death Studies scholar **John Troyer** as he shares how his own encounters with death and dying have changed the way he thinks about the everydayness of grief.
- ❖ Join **Amber Jeffrey**, founder of **The Grief Gang** podcast, and **Anna Burt**, co-host of **The Mother Of All Losses** podcast as they talk about maternal loss.
- ❖ See reflections of Pakistani women's experience of caring for people at the end of life.
- ❖ Join a workshop to reflect on death in homelessness.
- ❖ Consider the racial and ethnic disparities in access, quality and outcomes of end of life care with **Dr Jamilla Hussain**.
- ❖ Join **Isabelle Farah** for a comedy show that explores grieving, authenticity, and being funny.
- ❖ Take part in **BRiGHTBLACK**'s interactive digital installation to help you consider your relationship with dying.

Death Festival

Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts (ACCA), Brighton

Tickets: Friday evening (£12/£10), Saturday evening (£12/£10), Saturday Day Pass (£15/£12) Visit [Death Festival](#) for ticketing information. The full programme can be [downloaded here](#).

Lifting the Lid Festival 2022

18th – 20th November, online

This international online festival over three days is ACCESSIBLE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

CDAS members Jeremy Dixon and Diana Teggi will be doing a session on Friday 18th GMT. The title of the talk is, Aging and Dying in Care Homes: How institutions and regulations shape the care older adults receive in the last phases of life.

Full details, including contributors and registrations are available [here](#), with a short promotional video about what to expect [here](#). If you are a Twitter user follow LiftingtheLid [here](#), as they promote individual sessions and topics. It promises to be a hugely diverse and inclusive event.

Caring, dying and grieving: encouraging and supporting action in communities

1st December 2022 9:30-15:30 BST

This event will explore how to give people in Scotland opportunities, skills, and the confidence to support people who are caring, dying or grieving.

It is a chance to learn more about these issues, to share the work you're doing, and explore the current challenges, potential solutions and opportunities for collaboration that exist within Scotland. The day will explore:

- ❖ Public health palliative care
- ❖ Compassionate communities
- ❖ Planning ahead for ill health and death
- ❖ Death education and bereavement support in schools
- ❖ Bereavement-friendly workplaces
- ❖ Public education about death and dying

The event is designed for anyone interested in this field, whether professionally, personally or in a volunteer capacity. We're keen to welcome volunteers, community members, social care staff, nurses, doctors, funeral directors, death doulas, academics, policy workers, community development practitioners, service planners/managers and more.

Book your ticket here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/caring-dying-grieving-encouraging-and-supporting-action-in-communities-tickets-410437568817>

CALL FOR PAPERS

Call for Journal Papers

Accounting History – Accounting for Death: an historical perspective

Where death and accounting coalesce in the historical literature, it is generally within the context of institutions. Most prevalent are military, medical or welfare organisations, or instances where labour is institutionalised, such as slavery practices (see for example Baker, 2019; Funnell and Chwastiak, 2015). These studies demonstrate how calculative practices are mobilised to transform death to enable a transaction through enumeration or valuation, such as the inventory-style accounting for enslaved people, the commodification of the corpse to provide specimens for anatomical schools in the 18th and 19th centuries, financial reporting of work, health and safety or death (see for example Tyson and Oldroyd, 2019; Moerman and van der Laan, 2021a). This research into accounting for death tends to identify death as a transactional phenomenon used in calculative practices; or a consequence of organisational or institutional activity that gives rise to demands for accountability (see for example Fleishman et al., 2004; Sargiacomo et al., 2012).

In situations where death is the consequence of intended or unintended organisational or institutional activity, the responsibility is to render an account of death. In order to reorient the analytical focus to death as a phenomenon in accounting studies, the term *necroaccountability* has been introduced into the lexicon (Moerman and van der Laan, 2022 forthcoming). *Necro* comes from the Greek *nekros* meaning corpse and gives rise to a novel accountability relationship. For example, is there a duty owed to the former self or the future corpse?

Given the limitations of calculative practices to disclose accounts of death, accounting historians generally have access to rich sources of alternative forms of data and the expertise to establish a narrative of *necroaccountability*. In addition, since multimodal accounts of death also describe the conditions of the living, they also inform us about relationships of power and inequalities. For example, instances of genocide and war, slavery practices, and the market for corpses (Lippman and Wilson, 2007; Moerman and van der Laan, 2021b).

This special issue seeks historical contributions that include, but are not limited to the following topics:

- ❖ Necroaccountability as an opportunity to develop an alternative framing of death to understand organisational and institutional responsibility.

- ❖ Situations where the business of death provides a space to accrue profits, such as the extraction of resources in developing countries, thanatourism, the use of privatised militias, silencing of minorities, and slavery
- ❖ Role of institutions and intermediaries and the way they account for death.
- ❖ Alternative accounts of death, especially in sites where traditional forms of documentation do not exist e.g. carvings, funerary artefacts and artwork; or where official accounts render death invisible.
- ❖ Non-financial reporting frameworks that prescribe how death is disclosed.
- ❖ Accounting's role in thanapolitics, slave labour and genocide (e.g. Twyford, 2021)
- ❖ The calculative practices of accounting used as a technology of death (e.g. Funnell et al., 2021)
- ❖ The impact of various understandings of death such as 'brain death' or 'death care' and the consequences for accounting for those deaths (Lock, 2001)
- ❖ Histories of the 'business of death', such as undertaking, funeral operators and memorialisation in various contexts.
- ❖ Histories of accounting for death from non-western cultural perspectives
- ❖ Accounting and accountability for non-human death such as animals, plants and other non-human living entities.

Submissions written in English and in accordance with the *Accounting History* style guidelines should be submitted electronically, as per the submission instructions on the [journal website](#).

The closing date for submissions to the journal is **15 September 2023 with publication expected in 2025**. Potential contributors are welcome to contact the Guest Editors to discuss their proposed topics.

Guest Editors:

Lee Moerman, University of Wollongong (leem@uow.edu.au)

Sandra van der Laan, The University of Sydney (sandra.vanderlaan@sydney.edu.au)

Call for Book Chapters

'Looking death in the eyes': Autoethnographic perspectives on death and end of life events

Death in no way occurs in isolation. Whether it occurs in close proximity or is observed from a distance, it has an engulfing effect on the deceased, the bereaved, and the witnesses (who might not be bereaved). In this collection we are looking at how such experiences can be brought together to analyse their intricate elements, paving the way for the creation of new theories, conceptual frameworks, and research approaches. We invite autoethnographic essays from scholars who work in either death studies or whose work in a different field aligns with it, including multi/post-disciplinary and post-human perspectives. We are also interested in hearing from those whose professions entail a constant engagement with death (such as medical practitioners, funeral directors, frontline workers, crime scene cleaners, etc.), who would like to share their personal encounter(s) with death (direct or vicarious)

through an academic essay, reflecting on and analyzing the various facets of their experiences from an evocative/emotional (Ellis, 1997, 2004), analytical (Anderson, 2006) and collaborative/relational (Ellis & Rawicki, 2013) autoethnographic perspective or an amalgam of the different ways in which autoethnography is approached, as Ellis writes “categories never completely hold” (p. 446) (Ellis & Bochner, 2006).

Autoethnography as a method has challenged the traditional ways of doing qualitative research. It involves an active engagement with memory along with a careful tying of it to one’s emotions. It is an authentic account of an insider’s personal and interpersonal experiences that take place at the intersection of self and society (Reed-Danahay, 1997). It is through the articulation of that perspective, in words (and sometimes images) that the autoethnographer negotiates, introspects, reflects, and represents their memories and experiences. In this regard, there is not one conclusive response to who is considered an insider, and this could vary based on one’s experiences (one could very well be a part of a community but still be an outsider).

How to ensure that the researcher’s subjectivity does not seep in is not an uncommon question in qualitative research. However, what is uncommon is to understand subjectivity in the context of the study and to look at it not as bias but as a significant invisible dialogue that a researcher has within the field. It should not be forgotten at any point in time that a qualitative researcher becomes an inevitable part of the process and a co-constructor of the knowledge shared. Any qualitative research cannot be understood bereft of the researcher’s emotional and experiential world, especially in the context of death.

This volume will bring together multi-voiced autoethnographies by going beyond the ‘twice-told multivoiced autoethnography’ (e.g. Denshire, 2015; Ellis et al, 2017) approach and focussing on the phenomenon of death analyzed through different stories/narratives/experiences of different people, rather than juxtaposing narratives of different people regarding the same event. This project, through a ‘phenomenon-based multi-voiced autoethnography’, takes into account different events pertaining to the same phenomenon (in this case, ‘death’) witnessed/experienced by different people to explore shared subjectivity and ascertain if a common thread runs through them all.

The editors’ aim is to develop a meta-autoethnography of the analytical autoethnographies based on the different sections in the book along with a concluding meta-autoethnographic account based on the sectional meta-autoethnographies.

We are seeking expressions of interest for contributions that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- ❖ Death spaces and the spatiality of death
- ❖ Sensory experience in association with encountering death/dead bodies
- ❖ Tangible and intangible characteristics of an encounter with death/dead bodies, directly or vicariously through witnessing
- ❖ The articulation of loss and grief in the digital sphere and/or the metaverse

- ❖ Grief experienced independent of any social/familial association (eg. celebratory death)
- ❖ The affective component(s) of (anticipatory) grief and loss
- ❖ Affective responses to the end of life events (such as funerals, crime scenes, fatal accidents, finding a dead relative, etc.).
- ❖ Approaches undertaken for the analysis and exploration of the composite death dynamic
- ❖ Autoethnographic writing as therapeutic
- ❖ Autobiographical approach to making the latent visible
- ❖ The indelibility of death on social media
- ❖ Witnessed/lived/textual ‘impurity’ of/in death
- ❖ Deathwork and the associated psychosocial challenges
- ❖ Deathwork as the “dirty work” (Eyal Press, 2021)
- ❖ Inheritance of ‘memory of death’ (through conversations, rituals, etc.)
- ❖ Autoethnography as disruptive; a birthing pool of unmanageable/untameable emotions

If you are interested in contributing please send an abstract of up to 300 words along with a brief biographical note to **Khyati Tripathi** (ktripathi@fas.harvard.edu) and **Ian R Lamond** (i.lamond@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) by **December 16th, 2022**. We will review all the abstracts and get back to all the contributors by January 15th, 2023.

Khyati Tripathi is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the South Asia Institute (LMSAI), Harvard University.

Ian R Lamond is a Senior Lecturer in the UK Centre for Events Management at Leeds Beckett University, UK.

Contact Us

Visit the CDAS [website](#) for more information.

Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Web: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centrefordeath

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