

Centre for  
Death & Society  
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

## Centre for Death & Society

### May 2023 Newsletter

[Director's Note](#)

[CDAS](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[CDAS Community](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Call for Papers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## Director's Note

---

Welcome to May edition of the CDAS newsletter. This month saw us host a successful online conference on the theme of Innovation. A wide range of death studies scholars and professionals joined us from throughout the globe. Held over two days we welcomed over 100 participants and 40 speakers, with keynotes from Dr Ruth Penfold Mounce (University of York, UK) and Professor Darcy Harris (Kings University College at Western University, Canada) and an In Conversation between worldwide renowned mortician and author Caitlin Doughty and CDAS' own John Troyer. It was great to see so many people engaged in conversations around death, dying and disposal and there were some great speakers and conversations. Running a conference takes a huge amount of effort. A huge thank you to everyone who presented, chaired and contributed. A special thank you to Rachel Willis and Allan Houston for all their hard work behind the scenes.

If you missed out on the conference this year, then there will be opportunities in the future to revisit some of the conference themes.

Our forthcoming special issue in Mortality will take further the theme of innovation. It will be published in 2025, to coincide with the Centre's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Following from the conference we have been inundated with abstracts for this special issue. If you submitted an abstract you should have received an acknowledgement email from Kate, if you didn't, please chase her ASAP to ensure it was received! ([K.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk](mailto:K.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk)).

We were really pleased to welcome The Death Studies Podcast who joined us at our conference this year. As part of the conference, Beth and Renske interviewed previous CDAS director Professor Tony Walter. If you missed this interview, it will soon be available on the Death Studies Podcast channel on Spotify.

Our newsletter provides details of recent activities by CDAS members. These include new articles by John Troyer, on grief in Psyche and by Sam Carr on tiredness of life, in the Conversation.

Look out for our CDAS event on June 15<sup>th</sup> about podcasting your research with the Death Studies Podcast hosts on the 15<sup>th</sup> June. Sign up details are below.

We also have the normal items of community news, community events and call for papers.

Jeremy and Kate

### **CDAS Conference success**

A huge thank you to everyone who presented, chaired and contributed to the recent CDAS Conference on 'Innovation at the End of Life'. Held over two days we welcomed over 100 participants and 40 speakers, with keynotes from Dr Ruth Penfold Mounce (University of York, UK) and Professor Darcy Harris (Kings University College at Western University, Canada) and an In Conversation with worldwide renowned mortician and author Caitlin Doughty. Special thank you to Rachel Willis and Allan Houston for all their hard work behind the scenes.

Following from the conference we have been inundated with abstracts for the special issue that we are editing, to be published to coincide with the Centre's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. If you submitted an abstract you should have received an acknowledgement email from Kate, if you didn't please chase her ASAP to ensure it was received! ([K.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk](mailto:K.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk)).

Watch this space for updates on the special issue as it comes together as a legacy of what was a great conference.

### **Member News:**

#### ***New Publications***

##### ***John Troyer's Essay in Psyche***

We are pleased to announce John Troyer's most recent publication in Psyche Ideas, "I thought I knew everything about death. Then grief struck me". You can find the article [here](#).

##### ***Sam Carr's Article with The Conversation***

We are delighted to share Sam Carr's most recent publication with The Conversation: "Tiredness of life: the growing phenomenon in western society". You can read Sam's article [here](#).

## **Upcoming CDAS events**

### ***Podcast Opportunity***

#### ***Podcasting Your Research: The Death Studies Podcast Workshop***

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 1pm BST

Location: online

Join the hosts of [The Death Studies Podcast](#) for this interactive workshop where you will be encouraged to reflect on:

- How to communicate your research via a podcast as a guest or in your own podcast
- How to utilise podcasts to keep up to date with research and utilise them in your own research
- Top tips for being a podcast guest
- How to make the most of your podcast participation on your CV and in your career

Please come along ready to discuss your research and ideas. Participant numbers are capped to make sure that attendees get the most out of the workshop, so make sure to sign up ASAP.

You can sign up to this event [here](#).

---

## **CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS**

### ***PhD Opportunity***

**Applications are invited for Psychology Demonstratorships in the department of Psychology, Sociology, and Politics, commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023.**

The scholarship is for three and a half years full-time study (pro-rata part time) and covers home PhD fees, currently £4596, and pays an annual stipend at the living wage foundation rate of £18,178 per year in the academic year 22/23.

The GTA scholarship scheme aims to develop highly skilled postgraduate researchers. More information can be found [here](#).

## ***Before I Go Solutions® Accredited End of Life Plan Facilitators Programme***

Applications from every country are invited for our reputed End of Life Plan Facilitators Programme, **the only international training that trains, equips and supports you to become an End of Life Plan Facilitator**, helping others get their end of life plan done, and getting yours done too.

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

Research led by Cardiff University's Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Centre shows that 90% of people think end of life planning is essential, but only 14% actually have done anything formal about it. Hence the need for this very valuable service.

Divided into 3 parts plus a 3-month Incubator Stage, you begin with creating your own end of life plan. Part 2 covers the practicals of doing death differently, and part 3, the practicing of facilitating in this arena, both 1:1 and in groups, and offline and online. The Incubator 3 months allows you to fulfil your graduation requirements while getting a taste of our ongoing Facilitators Community.

After this, for those who are self-employed, there is the opportunity to continue on by joining our marketing course, so you can learn about promoting your service successfully in a culture where the topic is still somewhat taboo.

By the end of the course, with online modules taken in your own time with weekly live group support calls, graduates will be able to successfully support others in creating their own plans, within their current role, as an addition to their current services, or as a new venture.

Accredited by the Continuing Professional Development Standards Office, recognised in over 80 countries, the 50-80 hours of this training is all eligible for CPD credits.

For more information, view one of our free Information Sessions, or download the Info Pack. Visit <https://infosession.beforeigosolutions.com/>.

## ***New: Project findings and guide: Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care Framework***

We'd like to share recent project findings and a new Grab-and-Go Guide (Small Steps, Big Vision) related to the Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care Framework. The project was conducted by a team based at The Open University (Erica Borgstrom, Joanne Jordan, Claire Henry, and Una St Ledger). Read on to find out more about the project and outputs.

The Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care: a national framework for local action (2021-2026) provides guidance on how to improve palliative and end of life care and it is incorporated into the statutory guidance for Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). The project, funded by Marie Curie, sought to explore how people understand and implement the Framework. This project used a multi-stage design to learn from case studies, focus groups and workshops.

We found three ways as to how people operationalise the Framework in their work. Some adopt it at a strategic level, some use it to address action around specific Ambitions, and some use it to complement other work being done. Focusing on the foundations, rather than only the Ambition statements, was easier for people to identify actionable plans. The project team therefore created a Grab-and-Go Guide to help people focus on the foundations and link them to their areas of practice or service.

You can read our full project report [here](#).

Get your copy of the Grab-and-go guide *Small Steps, Big Vision* [here](#).

Get your copy of the customisable guide *Small Steps, Big Vision* [here](#).

If you'd like to be added to the mailing list for future events and resources, please message [joanne.jordan@open.ac.uk](mailto:joanne.jordan@open.ac.uk).

If you'd like a member of the project team to speak to your organisation about the project or how to use the guide, please contact [erica.borgstrom@open.ac.uk](mailto:erica.borgstrom@open.ac.uk). And lastly, thank you to all who took part in the study in various roles, and we appreciate the continued support of the project by engaging with and sharing the resources. We'd love to hear how they help you and others!

## ***Teenage Cancer Trust launch 'Talk About Dying' to support young people facing a terminal cancer diagnosis***

In May and June, Teenage Cancer Trust will be opening up a nationwide conversation about death and how receiving a terminal diagnosis affects young people with cancer and those they love.

Launching on May 10th, as part of Dying Matters week, *Talk About Dying* is a new suite of digital resources to help young people talk about receiving a terminal cancer diagnosis, provide advice on how to plan for the end of their lives, and demystify some of the language used about dying.

Teenage Cancer Trust will also be sharing stories from young people and their families to show that there is no right or wrong way to face this situation.

The latest NHS statistics show that teenagers and young adults with cancer have an 87% chance of survival. Teenage Cancer Trust's nurses and youth support coordinators are there to provide sensitive, individual care for every young person with cancer, and that includes supporting young people who are coming to the end of their life.

Louise Soanes, Chief Nurse at Teenage Cancer Trust, said: "We know from the nurses and youth workers we support that for many teenagers and young adults whose cancer cannot be cured talking about death and dying with loved ones and professionals can be difficult and upsetting. Teenage Cancer Trust's *Talk About Dying* campaign aims to raise awareness of how these conversation can take place with family, friends and care team, with the young person's needs and wishes front and centre time to empower them to feel more in control of their lives.

"Everyone's different, and there's no one way to do this. What matters is that each young person can have the conversations they want and need, at a time and in a way that works for them."

Lorraine Beddard, Teenage and Young Adult Clinical Liaison Nurse for North Devon, Torbay and Exeter, said: "Young people often don't want to talk at first – it's up to us to build the relationship and the trust to allow that to happen. There's no stereotypical young person, they all have different needs. Not being able to talk about death can be very isolating, so Teenage Cancer Trust's *Talk About Dying* is an important step towards making it easier for young people to have those conversations."

Every day, seven young people aged 13-24 hear the words "you have cancer". They will each need specialised nursing care and support to get them through it. Teenage Cancer Trust is the only UK charity dedicated to meeting this vital need.

For more information about Teenage Cancer Trust, visit [teenagecancertrust.org](https://teenagecancertrust.org).

## ***The Cemetery Research Group Relaunch!***

The Cemetery Research Group has relaunched its website, independent of the University of York, so we can begin to develop a resource-rich information hub that will be more useful to scholars with an interest in disposing the dead. The relaunched site features an interactive, searchable bibliography. You can find the new website [here](#).

## ***The Open University Research Update***

We recently conducted a survey about staff knowledge and experience of bereavement leave whilst employed in an UK higher education institute. We had over 500 responses and are grateful that so many people were willing to take the time to complete the survey.

We have begun the analysis and have produced our first report looking at the quantitative data from the survey – this report is attached. At the end, we have five initial recommendations for HEIs.

You can also read a shorter overview of our findings in [our recent OpenLearn article](#). We are conducting further analysis of the data yet, especially of the free text comments.

---

## **CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### ***Seasonal online death cafes from The Wisdom Space***

**Grab a cuppa and join us to talk about death, dying and what really matters in this safe, confidential and supportive online space.** Our Death Cafes run four times a year and are facilitated by [Sue Brayne](#) (author of [Living Fully, Dying Consciously](#) and host of [Embracing Your Mortality Podcasts](#)) and [Sue Judge](#) (Eco Therapist and Living Well facilitator for [Penny Brohn](#)). Death Cafes run from 6.30-8.30pm via Zoom and are a suggested £3 donation.

#### **2023 dates:**

- ❖ Summer: Weds 19th of July
- ❖ Autumn: Weds 18th of Oct
- ❖ Winter: Weds 17th of Jan

[Death Cafes](#) were set up by Jon Underwood in 2011 to provide a safe, confidential setting for people to come together to talk about death and dying over a piece of cake and cup of tea. We're holding it online so people can bring their own drink and relax in the comfort of their own home. [The Wisdom Space](#) is a non-profit Community Interest Company based in Wiltshire that brings people together across the generations to make sense of what really matters in life (and death).

[Sign up through Eventbrite](#) and find out more by vising [The Wisdom Space](#).





## **Webinar: Enhancing Communication between Clinicians and Seriously Ill Patients: From Research to Pedagogy to Practice**

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Time: 14:00 – 15:00 BST (09:00 – 10:00 EDT)

Open to all. Join the webinar at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86876083715>

We are delighted to invite you to a webinar by our guest from Boston, USA, Professor James Tulsky. Prof Tulsky is Poorvu Jaffe Chair, Department of Psychosocial Oncology and Palliative Care at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Chief, Division of Palliative Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School.

In this webinar, Prof Tulsky will review highlights of his observational and interventional research on communication between clinicians and seriously ill patients and introduce the pedagogy that has evolved to train clinicians in these skills. He will share how this work has been used to develop a comprehensive program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to enhance goals of care communication between oncology staff and patients with advanced cancer.

**James A. Tulsky, MD** has published widely in the areas of clinician-patient communication and quality of life in serious illness. His work has been recognized with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (2002), the Award for Research Excellence from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (2006), the George L. Engel Award from the American Academy on Communication in Healthcare (2013), and the American Cancer Society Pathfinder in Palliative Care award (2014). In 2017, he was named a Hospice and Palliative Medicine Visionary by AAHPM. From 2016-22 he Co-Chaired the Roundtable on Quality Care in Serious Illness of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. He is a Founding Director of [VitalTalk](#), a non-profit devoted to communication skills teaching.

## ***My journey from Doctor to Patient: Henry Marsh and Rachel Clarke in conversation***

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023

Time: 18:00 UK Time

Pioneering neurosurgeon Henry Marsh discusses his latest work, [And Finally: Matters of Life and Death](#) with Rachel Clarke, NHS palliative care doctor, activist and gifted author of [Breathtaking](#) (2021) and [Dear Life](#). They'll delve into Marsh's transition from doctor to patient after a diagnosis with advanced prostate cancer, now in remission. You can register for this event [here](#).



## TRAINING: SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SOCIAL MEDIA USE IN THE AFTERMATH OF A SUICIDE

We currently have a limited number of funded places available on our workshops and webinars about safe and supportive social media use in the aftermath of suicide. In partnership with Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership, the training is designed and delivered by Dr Jo Bell and Dr Chris Westoby from the University of Hull. Sessions are suitable for anyone affected by suicide, but are particularly impactful for professionals, policymakers and practitioners who work in services supporting those affected by suicide.

Attendees will take away new evidence-based knowledge of:

- The uniqueness of suicide bereavement
- Harmful and protective effects of social media use in the aftermath of a suicide
- How social media use can be harnessed to manage trauma, alleviate grief and reach those who need support
- Guidance and recommendations for prevention policy and practice (including developing media strategies)

Attendees will be awarded a Certificate of Attendance from the University of Hull, and will come away with recommendations and guidance for practice on how to mitigate against harmful effects and promote positive effects of social media use following a suicide.

### FACE-TO-FACE WORKSHOP, UNIVERSITY OF HULL

🕒 9:30-1:30pm (Includes lunch)

- Tuesday 20th June
- Thursday 20th July

### INTERACTIVE ONLINE WORKSHOP

🕒 9:30-12:30PM

- Tuesday 11th July

### WEBINAR

🕒 10-11AM

- Wednesday 28th June

For more information and to book your free place, visit [www.passhub.org.uk](http://www.passhub.org.uk). Places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis.

# CALL FOR PAPERS

---

## *The Dead Body in Ireland: an interdisciplinary conference*

Dates: 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023

Location: Trinity College Dublin and Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin Cemeteries Trust

In September 1823 the burial of Arthur D’Arcy, a well-known Dublin citizen, was disturbed by a complaint. When mourners and members of the Catholic clergy gathered in St Kevin’s Churchyard in Dublin city to recite the *De Profundis* over his coffin, the sexton of the Anglican parish, William Bruce Dunn interrupted. He asserted that prayers at the graveside for Catholics in a Church of Ireland churchyard violated the law. The incident came to public attention, another example of religious tension in nineteenth-century Ireland.

The burial of Catholics in Church of Ireland graveyards was required by law since 1697, but the issue of prayers, rites and rituals, created tension at a local and national level. As part of government attempts to address the conditions of Catholics and dissenters, the Easement of Burial Act was passed in 1824, and the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 ensured that Catholics could purchase their own ground for interment. From the 1850s onwards the state became more directly involved in the management of cemeteries through the passage of the Burial Boards Act (1856). This role was further cemented following the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland (1869) and the introduction of the Public Health Act (1878).

In recent years historic treatment of the dead has come to public notice following the confirmation that almost 800 children were buried in septic tanks on the grounds of a Mother and Baby Home in Galway. Discussion around the repatriation of human remains from Irish museums and universities has also hit the headlines. On the anniversary of the 1823 controversy the School of Histories and Humanities at Trinity College Dublin and Dublin Cemeteries Trust (created by O’Connell in the 1820s) are delighted to invite scholars to the university and the cemetery to discuss the significance of the dead body in Irish culture and history and consider the ‘work’ that the dead have done and continue to do in Irish society. (Thomas Laqueur, *The work of the dead*, 2015)

We welcome scholars from *all disciplines* and *all career stages* to begin a discussion on histories of burial in Ireland since the early modern period. Dr Clodagh Tait (Mary Immaculate College, UL) will be one of two keynote speakers over the two days.

- ❖ Normative / deviant burial
- ❖ Archaeology and the remains of the dead
- ❖ Commemoration / grave markers
- ❖ Cemeteries and cillíní
- ❖ Institutional burial
- ❖ The science of burial
- ❖ Medical history
- ❖ Rituals of mourning
- ❖ Religion and faith
- ❖ The treatment of the dead
- ❖ Exhumation
- ❖ Display of the dead
- ❖ Repatriation of human remains

❖ Dead Irish bodies abroad / Irish diaspora

Queries and submissions to Dr Georgina Laragy, School of Histories and Humanities, Trinity College Dublin [laragyg@tcd.ie](mailto:laragyg@tcd.ie). Please send a 250 word abstract of your paper, along with a short bio by 20 June 2023 if you wish to present your research. Details about attending will be released once the schedule is finalised.

Find out more on their website [here](#).

Deadline: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023



---

## Contact Us

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

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

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

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

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

*To unsubscribe, please email [cdas@bath.ac.uk](mailto:cdas@bath.ac.uk)*