

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

September 2023 Newsletter

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Director's Note

The world of death studies and interest in the end of life around the globe is growing and this month we're very pleased to share news of events, publications, and new members as the CDAS community grows and thrives.

Welcome to new CDAS Visiting Fellows Molly Conisbee, Fawn Harrad-Hyde and Lucy Coleman Talbot, and to Visiting Professor Johanna Sumiala. All will be working with CDAS core members on specific projects, which we're excited to share with you in due course. If you're interested in becoming a Visiting Fellow or Visiting Professor with us, you can find out more on our website [here](#). We also asked Professional Doctorate student Mat Crawley about why he decided to do a PhD while working full time, what he hopes to learn and his future ambitions. If you'd be interested in working towards a PhD while you're working, check out the [information online](#) and get in touch with Kate (at k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk) who is Mat's supervisor and knows how the professional doctorate works.

This year in CDAS we are trialling have themed seminar series, to bring together intersecting themes from scholars around the world. First up is a series on ambiguous loss, with Professor Ken Doka – the world renowned theorist of disenfranchised grief and anticipatory grief – on 19th September, followed by Dr Lisa McLean from Kings University College at Western University, Canada, on ambiguous loss and grief activism in the context of migration in Mexico. The final seminar in this series is from our very own Professor Lucy Easthope, who will be speaking in person at Bristol about disaster and disappearance, as part of the Disappearance Festival organised by CDAS member Professor Brad Evans, who heads up the Centre for the Study of Violence at the University of Bath.

We are honoured to share with you the publication of Visiting Fellow Tamarin Norwood's new book. Tamarin has previously won a prize for her paper in the Lancet on the experience of the death of her newborn son, and she has been integral to our CDASWriting events. Tamarin, we are so proud of you and what you are doing following the loss of your second child.

Finally, as usual we include details of activities and news from our fantastic CDAS community, many of whom we will see and meet at International Conference of Death, Dying and Disposal, held at the University of Padua in Italy at the beginning of September. Affiliated with the Association for the Study of Death and Society, the last time this conference was held in person pre-Covid it was in Bath. We therefore know how much work goes into organising the conference behind the scenes, and we want to say good luck and thank you to the DDD16 organisers!

Until next time.

Kate and Jeremy

New CDAS members

Welcome to our new Visiting Fellows and Visiting Professors!

Molly Conisbee

Molly has a PhD on the social history of dying and death, and is currently writing a book for Wellcome/Profile, *No Ordinary Deaths: A People's History of Mortality*. She co-founded, with Ruth Potts, *bread, print & roses*, a feminist walking group and small printing press. She has devised and guided over fifty history walks all over the UK, exploring themes of dying, death, grief, memorial, politics, and the environment. Molly is a member of Bristol Radical History Group, and is in training to be a bereavement counsellor.

Lucy Coleman Talbot

Lucy is the Community Engagement Officer at Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey. Once known as the London Necropolis, Brookwood is the UK's largest cemetery with the highest consistency of minority burial grounds. Prior to this, Lucy was awarded a fully funded PhD studentship by the University of Winchester (2017). During this time she was recognised with an Outstanding Commitment to Research Award (2018) and became a fellow of the Higher Education Authority (HEA). Her thesis constructed a landscape biography of Crossbones Graveyard in London (2022), arguing for an intersectional approach to heritage management, through engagement with the intragroup differences present in groups and communities, both living and dead. Broadly, her research is concerned with the marginality and materiality of death, from below acts of death ritual and memorialisation, community engagement at cemeteries, and the contemporary function of cemetery space.

Johanna Sumiala

Johanna Sumiala is Professor at Media and Communication Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki and Visiting Senior Research Fellow at LSE, London. In recent years her work as media anthropologist has focused on theoretical and empirical analyses of digital mediations of death in the contemporary society. Currently she writes about AI, death and immortality. Sumiala's work appears in several international journals including *New Media & Society*, *Media, Culture & Society*, *Social Anthropology* and *Sociology Compass*. She has published several books including *Media and Ritual. Death, Community and Everyday Life* (Routledge, 2013) and *Mediated Death* (Polity, 2021). Presently, she leads EU CHANSE funded (2022-2024) research consortium on Digital Death. *Transforming, History, Rituals and Afterlife (DiDe)*.

Fawn Harrad-Hyde

Fawn is researcher interested in care homes. After graduating from her BSc Psychology with Sociology (2012, University of Leicester), Fawn worked on healthcare improvement research projects and in care roles, supporting people with dementia and learning disabilities. More recently, Fawn has combined the two strands of her work by undertaking research in care homes. Fawn completed her PhD (2017-2021) which focussed on care home staff decision-making about residents who potentially require a transfer to hospital. She also joined and later led the ENRICH (ENabling Research in Care Homes) team at Clinical Research Network West Midlands (2016-2023). Since completing her PhD, Fawn has been working as

a Research Associate at University of Leicester, funded by LOROS hospice, on projects focussed on deteriorating care home residents. In 2023, she was awarded a Mildred Blaxter Fellowship from the Foundation of the Sociology of Health and Illness, which will enable her to build on her PhD work and to use sociological theories of risk to explore ambulance staff experiences of attending call-outs to care homes.

We asked IPR Professional Doctorate student Mat Crawley to tell us about himself and his motivation for doing a PhD with CDAS

Can you tell us a bit about yourself Mat, and your background?

Of course. I'm 41, originally from Suffolk and currently live in the North-West of England where I've been for the last 14 years. My professional background has predominantly been spent working in 'death-facing' services within the UK starting as a funeral director when I was just 15. I then moved into operations within cemetery and crematoria settings, before working on high profile funerary provision as a manager, director and board member of various local authority and privately owned organisations. Currently I am employed by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) as a national consultant providing best practice, guidance and policy for cemetery and crematoria settings, ultimately aiming to improve the services provided to bereaved people.



IPR Professional Doctorate student Mat Crawley

What led you to contacting CDAS?

I had always been aware of CDAS and the research and works that they consistently undertake but had never considered myself in a position to add anything of value to such works. As I have entered academia at a later stage than many, whilst embarking on the DPRP programme, I was pleased to find that the encouragement, engagement and overall want to be socially responsible in the research undertaken within the University of Bath was evident from the first conversation I had with staff even prior to beginning my studies. Once enrolled, I found that this drive and enthusiasm remained consistent and led me (through staff and peers) to make contact with CDAS. I felt, and still feel strongly, that the lived experiences I had encountered through working at both operational and strategic levels over the past 27 years throughout the UK could provide an alternative perspective complimenting the works carried out by CDAS and potentially give a voice to those bereaved people that I still encounter on a day-to-day basis.

Why a PhD? Why now?

I always wanted to pursue higher education as I left school shortly after taking my GCSEs but university at that point would not have been an option available to me at the time. Throughout my professional career I had always completed any training that was available and particularly when I completed diplomas for example, realised that I enjoyed the process of undertaking written projects and had a lot to say! During lockdown I completed my bachelor's and master's degrees and again, really didn't look back. Having completed my

MBA, I then wanted to keep the momentum going as I felt in myself that I hadn't 'finished' that which I'd set out to do as both of my degrees were completed with a focus on improving conditions for bereaved people in the immediacy following a death. I had looked at various PhD programmes and once I had found the DPRP programme that enabled me to continue working alongside my academic studies, it seemed like a great fit for all. The fact that CDAS was also based in the same university provided a huge positive in making my decision, as to be able to draw on and add to the existing knowledge base within the Centre and the potential scope for collaboration was particularly exciting to me.

What do you hope to get out of a PhD for your own personal and professional development?

As with any type of self-development, of course there is an element that I eventually wish to hold a Doctorate in my particular specialism. Within my working 'space', there is also huge scope to build on that which has already been achieved thus far with regard to offering a better service to bereaved people, particularly when they are in that period of sharp grief. Completing a Doctorate in Policy, Research and Practice provides that safe environment to challenge, promote, and explore both existing and proposed policy across a range of funerary settings and ultimately ask contemporary questions of how bereavement services can be improved. Professionally, I have been fortunate enough to notice a change in my communication style almost immediately as I have opted to approach the DPRP with a clean slate and be open to re-imagining all that I have previously thought to be true where policy is concerned within my field. The benefit of undertaking a professional qualification alongside persons of other backgrounds, cultures and ages has also been enlightening as we come together to share those professional, lived experiences within our own areas of expertise and specialisms throughout the programme. Going forward, I hope to have several more years building on this academic understanding, alongside making new friends, and enjoying the experience rather than being overwhelmed by the occasion. The final goal is to produce pieces of work that whilst academically sound, can be utilised and referenced by others in bringing debate to the table for policy gatekeepers in order to safeguard bereaved persons at any stage of the grief journey.

New CDAS Publications

Who Wants to (Digitally) Live Forever? The Connections That Narcissism Has with Motives for Digital Immortality and the Desire for Digital Avatars

Tal Morse

I am happy to share with you that a new study I was part of was just published by the Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health. In this study, with Avi Besser and Virgil Zeigler-Hill, we tried to understand who are the people who want to digitally live forever, i.e., to leave behind a "digital twin", that will be keep communicating with family and friends. We were interested to know if there are any personality traits that can explain the desire or wish to leave behind a "digital twin". We focused mainly on narcissism as a possible explanation, and we searched for associations between narcissistic behavior, fear of death and a wish for digital immortality.

The article is open freely here: <https://www.mdpi.com/2446882>

The Song of the Whole Wide World: On Motherhood, Grief and Poetry

Tamarin Norwood

A few months into pregnancy, Tamarin Norwood learned that the baby she was carrying would not live. Over the sleepless weeks that followed, Tamarin, her husband and their three-year-old son tried to navigate the unfamiliar waters of anticipatory sorrow and prepare for what was to come.

Written partly during pregnancy and partly during the silent maternity leave that followed, *The Song of the Whole Wide World* is an emergency response to grief held somewhere between the womb, the grave and the many stories that bind them: stories drawn from medical science, poetry, liturgy, vivid waking dreams of underwater life, and knowledge held deep within the body.

This profoundly moving and intimate account offers a lyrical and fearless meditation on birth, death, and the possibilities of consolation.

‘Writing this book has been a joy and a solace. It tells the story of travelling to the very edge of human experience and discovering, at that terrifying precipice, a new landscape of hope and possibility. I hope you will feel in its pages the rush of love I felt, and the power of myth and poetry in the face of the intolerable. I am so proud to see Gabriel’s book take wing in the care of Susie Nicklin and all at Indigo.’

TAMARIN NORWOOD, AUTHOR

Published 22 February 2024

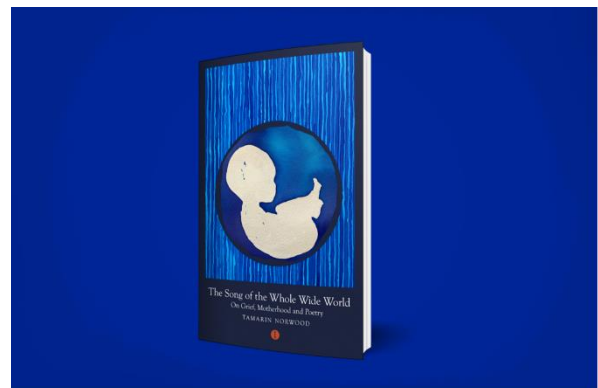
Publisher The Indigo Press

Price £9.99

Category Non-fiction / Essay

Format A-Format 178mm x 111mm

ISBN 978-1911648741



Existential Crisis: How Long COVID Patients Helped Us Understand the Struggle with Identity and Purpose

Chao Fang

CDAS visiting fellow and University of Liverpool lecturer, Chao Fang, has penned an insightful piece for Conversation Insights. In it, he discusses how the experience of Long COVID can provide valuable insights into the understanding of existential crisis. Read more here: <https://theconversation.com/existential-crisis-how-long-covid-patients-helped-us-understand-what-its-like-to-lose-your-sense-of-identity-and-purpose-in-life-211223>.

Upcoming CDAS events

Disenfranchised death and grief today

Professor Emeritus [Ken Doka](#), The College of New Rochelle, NY

Tuesday 19th September 7pm BST online

We are honoured to welcome leading death studies academic Professor Ken Doka to give the first CDAS seminar of the new academic year. Known around the world for his work on anticipatory grief, gender and loss, and more in his 40+ published books and 100+ papers and book chapters, Professor Doka will be commencing our three-seminar series on ambiguous and disenfranchised loss in the autumn of 2023. In this seminar Professor Doka will reflect on contemporary deaths and the ongoing relevance of his most well-known theories of anticipatory and disenfranchised grief today.

Join us for what promises to be an enlightening start to our three-part seminar series, with subsequent seminars on ambiguous loss from Lisa McLean in October and on disaster and disappearance with Lucy Easthope and the Centre for the Study of Violence in November (details below).

Sign up [here](#).

Sowing Life in Place(s) of Death: Migrant Disappearance and Grief Activism

Dr. Lisa McLean, Assistant Professor

Department of Thanatology, King's University College (London, Ontario, Canada)

18th October 7pm BST online

Public grief and practices of memorialization have been mobilized by activist movements around the world as potent strategies to raise public awareness about unjust losses and to pursue justice and accountability. The concept of 'grief activism' was first elaborated by Maurice Stierl (2016) to describe the political implications of the construction of informal memorials to commemorate the lives of migrants who died or disappeared while attempting to cross the Mediterranean. This presentation draws upon Stierl's conceptualization of 'grief activism' to examine transnational protests against migrant death and disappearance in the US/Mexico borderlands. In particular, the presentation will focus on the transformation of private grief into a collective struggle for justice among members of the Caravan of Central American Mothers of Disappeared Migrants. The presentation will discuss the politicization of grief within the movement before turning to an examination of the movement's use of "traumatic memes" (Taylor, 2019), or the mobilization of visual imagery, sound, and space to

make the violence of disappearance and border militarization visible to a broader public. This research demonstrates the centrality of grief as a foundation for social justice activism.

Join us for the second seminar in our three-part series on ambiguous and disenfranchised deaths. Sign up [here](#).

Our final seminar with Professor Lucy Easthope on disaster and disappearance is in November (details below)

LUCY EASTHOPE

4 NOVEMBER 2023



CENTRESPACE STUDIOS & GALLERY
6 LEONARD LN, BS11EA
BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM.

16:00hrs - 18:00hrs
Free Admission

For more events visit:
www.historiesofviolence.com

FORENSIC UNCERTAINTY AND AMBIGUOUS LOSS

Professor Lucy Easthope is the country's leading authority on recovering from disaster and the Sunday Times Best Selling author of 'When The Dust Settles'. For over two decades she has challenged others to think differently about what comes next, after tragic events. She is a passionate and thought-provoking voice in an area that few know about: emergency planning. She is known globally for her work and holds research positions in the UK and New Zealand. She is a Professor in Practice of Risk and Hazard at the University of Durham and Honorary Professor in Mass Fatalities and Pandemics at the Centre for Death and Society, University of Bath.

Much of Lucy Easthope's work in disaster has presented scenarios where bodies or remains are not recovered. In this talk she discusses the specific challenges that this poses for families, responders, communities and responders.

THIS EVENT IS PART OF THE STATE OF DISAPPEARANCE PROJECT

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND | BATH | TREBUCHET | HISTORIES OF VIOLENCE | ES/S010146/1 | ES/S010146/1 | UCC | LOCATE INTERNATIONAL | BATH | Bristol ideas

Events where CDAS members are speaking

DDD16

We can't wait for the DDD16 conference at the University of Padua, Italy, where CDAS will be well represented by PhD students Terumi Okaku and Sam Hooker, director Kate Woodthorpe, Visiting Fellow Tal Morse and Visiting Prof Johanna Sumilala.

The death body in modern Ireland

John Troyer will be giving a keynote at this upcoming FREE conference in Ireland!

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/the-dead-body-in-modern-ireland-a-conference-tickets-704496145937>

Deathscapes: What Does the Future of Dying Look Like? - Bristol Ideas

Hannah Rumble will also be talking at the Bristol Ideas festival in October:

<https://www.bristolideas.co.uk/attend/deathscapes-what-does-the-future-of-dying-look-like/>

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

Call for participants – Virtual Memorial Research Study

Jessica Thomas will be assisting with this research, and has requested a call for participants amongst CDAS community – [Virtual Memorial Research Study](#)

Inquiry on Assisted Dying/Suicide

Pauline Carroll has a written submission published for the Inquiry on Assisted Dying/Suicide which is on-going by the Health and Social Care Committee. Pauline covers her experiences as a District Nurse and the incomplete end of life research by local hospice, Dorothy House. More information is included on their website – see 4th July published date:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/81/health-and-social-care-committee/publications/written-evidence/>

Written evidence submitted by Pauline Carroll (ADY0028)

To what extent do people in England and Wales have access to good palliative care? How can palliative care be improved, and would such improvements negate some of the arguments for assisted dying/assisted suicide?

When I was on a District Nursing service for terminally ill on an extended evening service, I worked alongside Macmillan Nurses, who specialised in palliative care and worked from the local hospice of Dorothy House. Just 10 beds were available in the hospice which meant that approximately 75% of their patients were nursed in their own homes. My support for legalisation of a safeguarded assisted dying law comes from my experiences of when 2 patients in their last 6 months of life requested a quicker death (Carroll, P. (2002) Euthanasia: reflecting on the experience of dying. *Journal of Community Nursing*. 16(11): 37-9). These patients had difficult symptom control which even the Macmillan nurses and palliation were unable to relieve.

Through my research and understanding of the sensitive areas and ethical considerations, I have concluded that forcing terminally ill, mentally competent adults to suffer protracted deaths against their wishes is cruel, when self-determination is already a right. What I experienced is still happening, in spite of improvements to palliative care and in its provision of 24-hour cover; not something our society should be tolerating when safeguarded laws for terminally ill have shown to be a more compassionate choice in other countries.

It is certainly true that palliative care can help many achieve a dignified death but the reality is that this is not always the case. Extra funding will help to allow for more accessibility but it is not the answer to this issue, when even excellent hospice/palliative care has its limitations no matter how great the resources.

The Palliative movement has its roots in Christian doctrine and hence its members are opposed to the legalisation of assisted dying/suicide even for their terminally ill patients with an under 6 months prognosis. Pointedly I have recently discovered that a hospice has obstructed evidence in its research which could have assisted the current assisted dying debate.

A research project on Conversations about Life, Death and Dying was conducted by the research department of my local hospice, Dorothy House Hospice Care, near Bath. Several participants anticipated that their views on the subject of assisted dying would be acknowledged. However, this statement was sent out by the hospice:

“In line with the Royal College of Nursing and the Royal College of Physicians, Dorothy House Hospice Care maintains a neutral position regarding assisted dying. Assisted dying is currently illegal in the UK. As Dorothy House Hospice Care works within the framework of our current law, assisted dying is therefore a topic that is beyond the scope of our research activities.”

Months of informal reasoning to include this subject was not successful. It was only when I made a formal complaint that the CEO, Wayne de Leeuw, issued this statement in December 2022: “I suspect the finding that will be most significant for you is that excluding assisted dying from being recorded as a topic within the research was an error as our organisational position of neutrality on the issue did not require that.”

However, in July 2022 a Poster Abstract of this research was published in the Journal of Palliative Medicine Vol36, Issue 1, Supplement from the 12th World Research Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care in May 2022. No acknowledgment of this “error” had been included – no evidence that voices of terminally ill had expressed their wishes for an assisted death were ever mentioned. This is appallingly disingenuous and can only culminate in inconsequential research. One could conclude that the palliative care division is ideologically blinded, controlling and silencing the voices of the terminally ill when such sentiments are expressed. It is shocking intimidation.

Palliative care can improve by being more honest and inclusive. It is staggering that our terminally ill are having their views dismissed even in research I honestly feel, put in religious terms that, it must have been soul destroying for those two patients of mine to be told that assisted dying was not available because it was illegal when they knew it was legal in other countries. One patient was given terminal sedation, taking away his capacity which he had not wanted. The other patient had to suffer uncontrollable pain because he was unable to have all the medications recommended because of potential side effects. He had not wanted sedation and had not wanted to go to hospital for palliative radiation of his bone metastases.

Courage is needed but we have to confirm that we are individuals who are autonomous beings and therefore should be allowed to make such decisions to ease our suffering at the end of life if that is our wish. It could be considered a seismic shift but we will finally be putting our terminally ill patients at the centre of our care, never to be dismissed again.

Of course, the inclusion of safeguards would be paramount in any legislation of a medically assisted death act to prevent any slippery slope into unjustified cases of euthanasia and to maintain the trust between doctor and patient. However, trust can quickly go when doctors hold onto the religious maxim that only God can take a life (as do the majority in the palliative care sector), and are unable to respect autonomous decisions of their patients to lessen suffering. Conscientious objection is valid but not to the detriment of their terminally ill patients’ needs and wants. The British Medical Association went neutral in September, 2021 because a majority of doctors who respect autonomy supported this end-of-life choice, particularly when the terminally ill mentally competent adult patient chooses of their own volition to take a life-ending prescribed medication themselves. I look forward to a time when doctor assisted dying can be offered as a legal choice alongside palliative care bringing peace of mind to many should the pain and distress of a terminal illness be intolerable to them. It has worked well in the State of Oregon for over 20 years. It is time for the UK to finally embrace this change and stop the hypocrisy and tragedy that occurs within our present law.

May 2023

New paper alerts

A paper on the benefit of memorial attendance when bereaved, showing that memorial / funeral attendance during COVID had a protective function against depression and anxiety,

by our colleagues over at the University of Bristol who run the very successful Good Grief Festival:

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1064748123003457?casa_token=yPwxnS0abzIAAAAA:h083fFQ8XRJinNvouhQm1GhMfnui3WO2HF2XqPwDurb7klC8raFrrvqQkCLUEgvAAJhxXeMo

A paper by long time CDAS friend Udi Lebel on *[‘Dying Was Never a Preference’ – Post-War Ethical Discourse \(PWED\): Casualty Aversion and the War Legitimizing Projects](#)* has just been published in Mortality

[An Unflinching Journey Through Grief and Addiction: "The Blackbird and the Rainbow"](#)

A note from Chrissie Smith

“I hope that anyone who reads this book will be comforted and helped in a way that will move their life forwards in a positive direction” <https://shorturl.at/cCMVZ>

Job alert

[City University of London – recruiting a Professor of Healthy Ageing](#)

[My Home Life \(England\)](#) is delighted to inform you that City University of London, is recruiting a Professor of Healthy Ageing who will be working very closely with our team to promote quality of life in care homes and other care settings. Click here: [Details • City, University of London](#)

Closing date: 17th September 2023.

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

[Free webinar: Realising the Ambitions for Palliative and End of Life Care: Lessons so far, the Open University](#)

Date: Monday Sept 11 2023

Time: 12.30-1.30pm

Where: Online (Teams)

Book free ticket: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/realising-the-ambitions-for-palliative-and-end-of-life-care-lessons-so-far-tickets-658278557887?aff=oddtcreator>

Since 2021, a team at The Open University has been investigating how people make sense of and use the Ambitions Framework. We surveyed and talked to a wide range of people

involved in palliative and end of life care across England, including commissioners, managers, service providers and the public. This webinar will: present project findings; share examples of how the Ambitions Framework has been used; discuss what helps and hinders action around the Framework; offer suggestions for how the Ambitions can be further realised in the new era of Integrated Care Boards and beyond England.

Why Should Hamlet Die? Mortality in Elizabethan Writing

Date: Wednesday 27 September 2023

Time: 7.30pm

Where: Bath Royal Literary and Science Institute and Online

‘To be, or not to be,’ How exactly does the poetry of Hamlet actualise the cultural awareness of death in Shakespeare’s time? In this talk, BRLSI Poetry Convenor Duncan McGibbon discusses the role of death in one of Shakespeare’s most celebrated tragedies. He explores how a play encompassing mourning, a haunting, an offstage assassination, and a suicide, has come to be seen as singular rather than a representation of the cultural landscape of its time.

Suicide Bereavement UK’s conference

Professor Myfanwy Maple, from the University of New England, Australia will be speaking at Suicide Bereavement UK’s conference in Manchester on September 28th 2023. I have long admired Professor Maple’s work in the field of

- postvention (care of those bereaved by suicide)
- trauma and loss
- risk and resilience

Her work has influenced policy and practice in Australia and beyond. She is recognised as an international expert in this field and has collaborated with many international experts across several continents. She has kindly agreed to present at our conference. Her knowledge in postvention is vast and she has worked with many vulnerable populations bereaved by suicide, examples are noted below

- families
- farming communities
- Armed Forces

For more information about Suicide Bereavement UK’s hybrid international conference and to register [CLICK HERE](#). Currently over 500 are registered to attend from many countries covering 4 continents (e.g. USA, Australia, NZ). Please don’t leave it too long as we expect to be oversubscribed even earlier this year.

That’s all for now - I hope to see you in September 😊

Sharon (**Dr Sharon McDonnell**)



Professor Myfanwy Maple is a social work professor at the University of New England, Australia and Director of Manna Institute, the Regional Australia Mental Health Research and Training Institute. Professor Maple’s research has focused on

Wisdom Space autumn death café

Grab a cuppa and join us to talk about death, dying and what really matters in this safe, confidential and supportive online space.

The Wisdom Space 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 GMT via Zoom and there's a suggested donation of £3.

2023/24 dates:

Autumn: Weds 18th of Oct

Winter: Weds 17th of Jan

Spring: Weds 20th of Mar

Summer: Weds 19th of Jun

[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).

CALL FOR PAPERS

Death & Grief Conference, 17-19 JANUARY 2024



The Department of Sociology (SNIoE) cordially invites you to submit an abstract of 250 words along with a brief bio outlining the research foundation of your proposed paper. We would appreciate submissions that focus on areas outside of South Asia. Please note that there is no conference fee. **Deadline for submission of abstract is 1 September.**

Write to: ravi.singh@snu.edu.in

Reckoning for the dead and death

Are the dead alive? Is death a finitude or a metamorphosis? If death is a finitude, why are the dead often carefully processed, interred, cremated, desiccated, and memorialized? Are these merely rituals of remembrance, or are they practices that also mark a change of state not only for the living but also for the dead, where the dead metamorphose – like pupa to butterfly – take wing and fly away to another world? Is that why death is problematic because the natural course has been cut short, and the dead are not able to metamorphose and fly away? Is the grief that follows such departures merely caused by the inability to say goodbye, either due to suddenness or the absence of the living at the moment of passing, or is it because they interrupt the procedures that make possible the transmutation of the dead, who, being unable to depart, enter into intimate relationships with the living? Is such grief an intra-psychic phenomenon that requires counseling, or is it the dead conversing with the living and imploring them, through entreaty and threat, to find ways of transmuting them and thus helping them to depart? In short, this is a call to reflect, cross culturally and historically, on whether there are good and bad deaths; how we process the dead as a material entity and why; how this processing of the dead changes with new technologies such as the crematorium; how and why we mourn and memorialize the dead, including categories of the dead like perinates that were mourned but not memorialized earlier; what are the hieroglyphics of the relationships that the dead forge with the living; and how do we reckon with the continuing absent presence of the dead? In other words, do we grieve for the dead, or do the dead, too, grieve for the living? If such grief is unnaturally long, are the living to be shrunk by the psychiatrist under the sign of “prolonged grief disorder” (APA 2022), or is it to be played out and addressed by an appropriate death rite for the dead?

Convenors:

Harish Naraindas (JNU, New Delhi) Serena Bindi (Université Paris Cité) Ravi Nandan Singh (SNIoE, Delhi NCR)

Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement Study Group

British Sociological Association Study Group Annual Symposium
Thursday 14th December 2023, Hybrid Delivery
University of Liverpool and Online

Call for Abstracts: **Death and Sexuality**

Sexual activity and sexual orientation are common aspects of human experience and relationships, but what about their place in death studies? Sociologists have begun to answer this question by studying, for example, sexual and romantic relationships at the end-of-life, as well as re-partnering norms after bereavement.

However, there is much yet to explore, particularly forms of kinship and family practices beyond cis-heterosexual and monogamous relationships, and biological parenting. As such, the salience of sexuality in death, dying and bereavement requires further sociological exploration. Building on last year’s symposium on death and gender, this year’s symposium recognises the intertwined nature of gender and sexuality, and their diverse and mutable forms of expression. The chosen topic for the 2023 symposium thus welcomes broad

and creative interpretations of the theme 'sexuality'. The aim is to highlight research and practice that contributes to and extends thinking in these sociological areas.

We invite researchers and practitioners to submit abstracts on the theme of sexuality in relation to death, dying and bereavement. Topics could include:

- LGBTQIA+ inclusive palliative and end of life care
- Dating and re-partnering after loss
- Bereavement in LGBTQIA+ relationships
- Sex and intimacy in later life, at the end of life, and with a life-limiting illness
- Queer families and families of choice
- Polyamory and non-monogamy
- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and diseases (STDs)
- Psychosocial views of death and sexuality
- The eroticisation of death in visual culture
- Sexually motivated homicide, suicide, and violence

Submission

Please submit abstracts of up to 250 words by Midnight (GMT) on Monday 18th September 2023 to BSADDB@gmail.com. Presentations will be 20 minutes long with additional time for questions.

The symposium will be held on Thursday 14th December 2023 in the School of Law and Social Justice at the University of Liverpool. For venue details and travel indications click [here](#). The conference will also be accessible online. More details will be released closer to the event. A small number of bursaries are available to assist with travel costs for those with limited financial resources. For more information, please contact the study group convenors Diana Teggi, Chao Fang and Natalie Richardson at BSADDB@gmail.com.

Lifting the Lid festival



Just a reminder that this year we are streamlining the process so that there are no concurrent sessions and will be hosting events on Zoom. We will be using a committee to vet applications and therefore only a limited number of applications will be accepted. The festival is growing and this is a necessary step for us to ensure a full and varied schedule of events, and so that each presenter has the full attention of the audience.

Please complete this [application form](#) if you are interested in being considered for this year's event. We very much look forward to hearing from you. Application due: August 31st 2023 (no extensions). You will hear from us about the status of your application by September 30, 2023.

ALSO in the run up to the 3rd annual, online, international Lifting The Lid Festival of death and dying (17- 19 November, 2023) we would really love to hear from you about anything you have learnt, or any questions you still have about death and dying, either personally or as a part of your deathwork. If you have a few minutes to film a short video (up to 1 minute) of you on your phone and message it to us on liftingthelid2021@gmail.com, we will share these with our social media audience with the aim of encouraging new and old connections, furthering discussions and letting people know a bit more about you and your work and/or experiences. Find out more about A Mortician's Tale and Spiritfarer @laundrybeargames and @thunderlotus. Thank you in advance for being apart of these continuing conversations. Jo, Victoria and the LTL team.

Virtual Colloquium, 17th November

The first Virtual Cemeteries Colloquium will take place on the 17th November, 2023 and **the call for paper is now open**. We invite papers on places and practices relating to disposing the dead including burial, cremation and other technologies. Papers are expected to fall within social science and humanities disciplines, demonstrate theoretical engagement and include empirical data.

As always, with the Colloquium, this is a particularly supportive environment for postgraduate students and postdocs. Each paper will have a thirty-minute time slot: presenters are expected to speak for around twenty minutes, to allow time for questions. We encourage submissions from around the world, and panels will be organised to accommodate a range of time zones. All presentations must be in English.

[Submit papers here](#). The deadline for submission is 30th September 2023. Tickets will be available via Eventbrite from 6th October.

Accounting History

Call for Papers: Special Issue 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, the planet 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: <http://ach.sagepub.com/>. The closing date for submissions to the journal is **15 December 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)

Submit your abstract for the Marie Curie Research Conference 'Improving End of Life For All' 2024

The conference will take place virtually from **Monday 5 to Friday 9 February 2024** and will be free for all to attend. [Abstract submission is now open](#), and we are inviting abstracts for short oral presentations and posters on research in palliative and end of life care. All abstracts that are selected will be published in the BMJ Supportive and Palliative Care journal.

This is a great opportunity to showcase your work, last year over 2700 individuals from 46 countries registered for the conference. More information about the conference and the call for abstracts, including the themes, can be found on our [website](#).

To submit an abstract, please complete [this form](#) by **17:00 BST on Monday 9 October 2023**.

Registrations for the conference will open in November 2023. To be kept informed about the conference and our research generally, please sign up to our [mailing list](#).

Contact Us

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


Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

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Exploring attitudes about death and approaches to dementia care

Department of Psychology



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CONTACT

Ben Kwapong

Clinical Psychologist in Training
bk513@bath.ac.uk
(researcher)

Dr Ashley Vanstone

Clinical Psychologist
adv30@bath.ac.uk
(supervisor)