

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

June 2024 Newsletter

[Director's Note](#)

CDAS

[News](#)

[Events](#)

CDAS Community

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Call for Papers](#)

[PhD and job vacancies](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Director's Note

Hello everyone and welcome to the June 2024 issue of our newsletter. We start by extending a HUGE thank you to everyone who attended, presented, chair and participated in our annual Conference earlier this month, this year on 'Death and Communities'. We had 40+ sessions with 130+ attendees, including three panel plenaries, one In Conversation keynote, and a (brilliant) session on writing in and for the death studies community. It was a wonderfully warm and inclusive two days, reflected in the feedback we received. We also thank those who gave us very helpful and constructive feedback on how to develop the conference for next year. Thank you all, and especially all those who's contribution is largely invisible but keeps everything going – we're looking at you Rachel and team, and Allan from AV. Thank you!!


Our big news this month is the launch of the 'Voicing Loss' findings. This was an ESRC project conducted over 3 years at between Birkbeck, Bath and Queen Mary London, exploring bereaved peoples' experiences of the coroner's system. With significant input from participants and key stakeholders [the webpage for the project findings has now gone live](#) and we encourage everyone to take a look. The project team led by Professor Jessica Jacobsen will continue to share the findings and we are sure there will be renewed interest in this area when, across the UK, the medical examiner system will be rolled out later in the year. Thank you to researchers Lorna Templeton and Hannah Rumble who worked on the project at the CDAS end.

We also say well done to Dr Rebecca Burden who successfully defended her PhD thesis earlier this month and to Mat Crawley, one of our Professional Doctorate students who was awarded a Doctoral Recognition Award from over 100 applications across the University of Bath.

As you can probably tell, CDAS continues to grow and thrive, and we have been busy behind the scenes planning for our 20th anniversary year in 2024-2025. Starting in September we will have a series of events to mark the Centre's milestone, including past directors, speakers from around the world, and in areas where we see a lot of shared (and underdeveloped) interests such as death in/from conflict, social (in)justice, environmental loss, and more. We will be sharing detail of the first events in the July newsletter. Watch this space.

Before then, if you are local to Bath please join us on Tuesday 9th July for a University of Bath Minerva Lecture with Sam Carr and Adrian Wyatt, chaired by new CDAS director Naomi Pendle. This is part of the University's public lecture series, and details of the event can be found in this newsletter.

Until next time
Kate and Naomi



ESRC funded project findings launched

We are delighted to share with you the launch of the findings from the ESRC Voicing Loss project, on which CDAS researchers Lorna Templeton and Hannah Rumble have worked over the last few years. Find out more below.

Voicing Loss: A research and policy project on the role of bereaved people in the coroners' investigations and inquests



Coroners in England and Wales are independent judicial officers who investigate violent, unnatural and unexplained deaths, and deaths in prison or other forms of state detention. Every year, around 200,000 deaths are reported to the coroner, and well over 30,000 inquests are held.

The Voicing Loss project has examined the role of bereaved people in coroners' investigations and inquests. The researchers conducted interviews with bereaved people, coronial professionals and witnesses, in addition to reviewing law, policy and existing research.

The research for Voicing Loss was conducted by the [Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research](#) at Birkbeck, University of London, and the [Centre for Death & Society](#) at the University of Bath, with funding from the Economic and Social Research Council (grant reference ES/V002732/1).

On this website, you will find research papers and policy and practice briefings based on the Voicing Loss research. The website also provides general information about coroners' investigations and inquests, links to related resources, and a series of Expert Insights authored by leading professionals and others with in-depth knowledge and diverse experiences of the coroner service.

The [research team](#) gratefully acknowledge the help and support of [many individuals and organisations](#).

[Find more information on the project here](#)

Mat Crawley received a Doctoral Recognition Award

IPR Professional Doctorate student (and in his spare time, Deputy CEO of the Institute for Cemetery and Crematoria Management) Mat Crawley has been awarded a Doctoral Recognition Award, selected from over 100 nominations across the University.

This is a credit to Mat, who has been described many times as 'a breath of fresh air' to the Professional Doctorate programme, academia, and his sector overall. He is a terrific example of the potential for Professional Doctorates and the opportunities that they can provide for highly engaged and capable working professionals.

Well done Mat, from all of us here in CDAS. If you want to find out more about Professional Doctorates at the University of Bath, email us at cdas@bath.ac.uk and we will get back to you.

The National Funeral Exhibition – Catriona Brickel



The National Funeral Exhibition, hosted by the National Association of Funeral Directors, brings together funeral industry professionals from the UK and beyond for 3 days of inspiration, networking and sales.

Catriona Brickel, PhD student at CDAS, headed up to Stoneleigh Park to get a sense of what challenges and changes are underway. Here are her top three takeaways:

1. Sustainability is a hot topic. Alongside traditional wooden coffins, exhibitors were showcasing a wide-range of other possible materials including cardboard, willow-weave and simple shrouds. They were keen to showcase their green-credentials.
2. Alternative approaches to ashes-scattering. From mixing ashes with seeds and compost to sow in the garden as a living memorial to scattering on the edge of space, there are a multitude of options for creating meaningful rituals around scattering ashes.
3. Digital, and multimedia, are big business. There's a clear desire to augment in-person services and physical memorials with digital assets, be that through multimedia experiences within a funeral service, QR codes on memorials or the beautifully designed suite of products offered by Taiwanese start-up Revere.

Whilst there seemed excitement around the choice that innovation in funeral and memorial practices allows, there was also an undercurrent of worry: who gets to choose? Funeral directors expressed concern that the deceased's expression of wishes, which bereaved family members felt honour-bound to fulfil, didn't effectively fulfil the needs of the surviving family for ritual and meaningful remembrance. Perhaps choice, without the corresponding support to have conversations about death and funeral arrangements, is not the benefit it appears to be.

Congratulations to Dr Rebecca Burden

CDAS member Dr Rebecca Burden had her viva at Cardiff University and passed! Huge congratulations Dr Burden, from the whole of the CDAS team. Enjoy the moment.

Dr Kate Woodthorpe's research focuses on end-of-life care, death, and dying has significantly influenced policy

With a focus on end-of-life care, death and dying, and via an IPR sabbatical, Kate's research has generated policy impacts in Government and in Parliament.

Kate was asked 'How is your work relevant to policymakers?'

"It's very relevant in that there are some very big, very profound questions about how you treat your citizens at the end of their life — when does citizenship end, along with the rights and responsibilities of the state that come with that? There are also some big financial implications when people die too — people might not be able to work, they may not be able to afford funerals. What is their safety net?

"It is important to consider what policymakers can do to provide that safety net, while making it as cost efficient, effective, and targeted as possible. These big life events are profoundly linked to poverty and the risk is that if you don't put in preventative measures, more people will tip into poverty or go further into poverty when someone dies.

"It is the issue of being preventative versus responsive. You don't want it to get to crisis point because then it affects other parts of the system, such as health, housing and communities. So, if you can manage it and you can keep people going as they experience the turbulence that comes when someone dies, you give them a fighting chance."

[Read more here!](#)

Blog from CDAS Visiting Prof Jane Ribbens McCarthy

Jane oversees an Open Society Challenge at the Open University and have published their first blog for the group, where they discuss whether 'grief' is a health issue (hint – they argue it is a limited view from the coloniality/modernity of affluent minority countries!) and why that matters to the climate emergency. We anticipate that this will hopefully be the first of many posts.

Read the blog [here](#).

Researcher Wellbeing and Emotionally Challenging Topics

As part of the University of Bath Researcher Wellbeing Project (funded by the UKRI Research England Research Culture Fund) colleagues at the University of Bath are doing an online training session on the 21st June (12.00-3.20 pm British Summer Time) on researcher wellbeing and emotionally challenging research.

In the training they will be talking briefly about the findings of the research (including the potential of secondary and vicarious trauma), as well as helping people develop their own Researcher Wellbeing Plans, and discussing how to do a Risk Assessments that considers the emotional impacts of potentially distressing research.

There will be a small charge to attend for people external to the University (£20 Masters and PhD students, £30 staff).

You can find out more about the training and [sign up for the workshop here](#)

<https://store.bath.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/conferencescoursesevents/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/dept-of-social-and-policy-sciences/secondary-trauma-workshop-21st-june-2024-external>

If you have yet to see our colleagues' project webpages and resources (e.g. quick tips on including researcher wellbeing in funding bids, guidance on how to do a Researcher Wellbeing Plan, guidance on what to do if a researcher or participant gets distressed), have a look. They are free to use:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/projects/the-researcher-wellbeing-project-rwp-addressing-researcher-distress-trauma-and-secondary-trauma/>

And finally, a BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who attended, presented, chaired, and participated in our 2024 Conference on 'Death and Communities'. Attended by over 130 people over two days, with three panel plenaries and an In Conversation keynote, it was an inclusive, welcoming and warm two days, and that is done to the community in which the centre is a part. Thank you again.

Our feelings were echoed by others, who shared their thoughts to us via feedback forms, emails and social media. Thank you to all, and for your constructive suggestions about next year.

“Enamored with the Cultivating Collaborative Communities panel at the [#CDAS24](#) conference. Even virtually, this community feels warm and inquisitive. I haven't been able to attend a lot of sessions, but it feels somewhat fated that I was able to make it to this one” (**Marissa Diaz** (@[themarissadiaz](#)))

CDAS EVENTS

Conversations on Loneliness

The Mission Theatre, Bath

9th July 2024

Dr Sam Carr and Adrian Wyatt (additional panellist TBC)

Chaired by Naomi Pendle

[Sign up here](#)

According to the media, we are suffering from a ‘loneliness epidemic.’ Scientists, medics, and politicians are scrambling to identify the most effective ways to eliminate loneliness from our lives. Yet respected scholars and artists also hint that ‘to be alive is to be lonely.’ What is loneliness and how should we view it? Is it a pathology to be cured? Or an inevitable human experience from which we are increasingly estranged?

And if loneliness is an inevitable part of our journey, how can learn to live alongside it more comfortably? We invite you to consider these questions (and more) in a panel discussion with loneliness scholar and author Dr Sam Carr, photographer Adrian Wyatt, and one more panelist to be announced.

Come along to the Mission Theatre on Tuesday 9th June to see how art, research and community can help us understand loneliness.

About the panel

Sam Carr is a Reader with the Department of Education and Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath. He is a scholar of loneliness and was the director of '*The Loneliness Project*,' a large-scale exploration of older people's inner experience of loneliness. He is also the author of *All the Lonely People: Conversations on Loneliness*, recently published by Picador.

Adrian Wyatt is a professional Photographer based in Bristol who amongst other styles, embraces Mindful Photography. Having struggled with complex PTSD he has seen how it has been life transforming for him. Today Adrian runs two weekly photography for well-being groups in Keynsham and Radstock called ‘Snap & Stroll’ as well as running a variety of photography workshops and courses in Bristol, London, Rotterdam, and Morocco. He believes in the power of creativity to reconnect us to ourselves, to others and to the world.

This is part of the University of Bath Public Minerva Lecture series, so is open to all.

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcome to the inaugural BNE webinar series

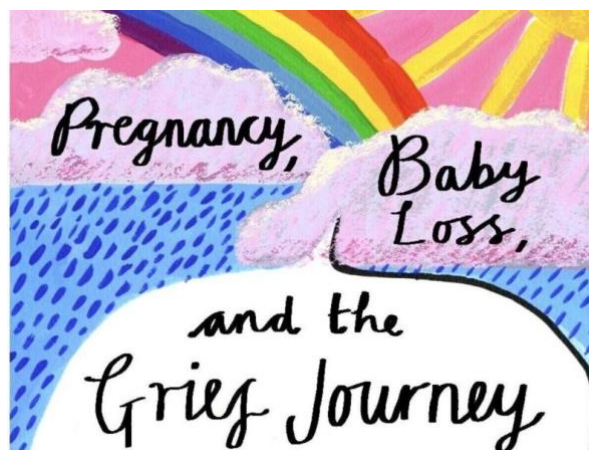
To mark the official launch of the BNE we will be offering our members exclusive access to a series of lectures and presentations selected to represent the pillars of the BNE. Webinar topics and themes are chosen to showcase the diverse areas of interest and knowledge across the BNE from societal grief literacy and awareness, general support and information, peer support or extra support and therapy support. Clinicians, researchers, educators, and bereavement experts from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences will be invited to present on the latest topics related to grief and bereavement.

Find [more info here](#) including details for the three webinar sessions!

Pregnancy, Baby Loss & the Grief Journey

Good Grief is delighted to launch a brand-new illustrated resource for people affected by baby and pregnancy loss, including bereaved parents, families, friends and medical professionals.

You can view the booklet here: [Pregnancy, Baby Loss and the Grief Journey](#)



Inspired by the team's personal and family experiences, *Pregnancy, Baby Loss and the Grief Journey* was created by researchers at the University of Bristol in collaboration with parents and medical professionals, the artist [Jayde Perkin](#), and the charities [Sands](#), [Twins Trust](#) and [Antenatal Results and Choices \(ARC\)](#). The illustrated booklet aims to explore the intense emotions that follow baby loss, emphasising that every experience is different and there is no one right way to grieve.

Pregnancy, Baby Loss and the Grief Journey includes the following topics:

- When our baby dies
- The physical & emotional impact of grief
- Relating to our partners & other people
- Miscarriage
- Stillbirth & late miscarriages
- Neonatal death
- Twins & multiple births
- Termination for Medical Reasons (TFMR)
- Subsequent pregnancies & multiple losses
- Remembering our baby

- Living with loss
- Baby loss contacts and resources

We don't 'get over' grief – just as we don't get over love. Undertaker Rupert Callender says 'we grieve [...] because we are connected to each other through threads of the heart'. We will carry our baby with us throughout our lives: they are still part of us, just in a different way. We hope the booklet will provide support to bereaved parents and their families.

This work was supported by the Participatory Research Fund (Research England), the Elizabeth Blackwell Institute for Health Research, University of Bristol, and the Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund. It was formatted and printed by [Minuteman Press](#).

£1 million partnership research call from Marie Curie and Alzheimer's Society

Improving end of life experience for people with dementia

Recent estimates suggest that there are currently **982,000 people** living with dementia in the UK and that this will rise by **40% to 1.4 million in 2040**. Despite dementia and Alzheimer's Disease being the leading cause of death in the UK, there are significant gaps in both evidence and service provision for people dying of, or with, dementia. This means that many are not receiving the right care and support to have the best possible experience at the end of their lives.

That is why **Marie Curie** and **Alzheimer's Society** have come together to make available **£1,000,000** for new research that can improve the end of life experience for people with any form of dementia, and for those who care for and support them.

We invite you to [sign up to our discovery webinar](#) from **2-3pm on Tuesday 11 June** to learn more about the call, ask questions and network with others interested in research in this space.

Need to know

The call will be open to expressions of interest (EOIs) from lead applicants based at eligible UK organisations **from 4th June to 30th July 2024** and lead applicants of shortlisted EOIs will be invited to submit a full application to the scheme.

Further details, guidance for applicants and the expression of interest form are available [here](#).

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

3RD ANNUAL END-OF-LIFE DOULA INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM – BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Glasgow, Scotland (Online and in-person)

July 1st – 2nd

Join for two days of cutting edge research, public discussions, and a practitioner workshop! This year we will be hosting nine speakers from five countries, each who will be sharing some of the first innovative research about end-of-life doulas that is beginning to emerge from different parts of the world. On Day Two we will be hosting a Discussion Forum with a range of health and social care stakeholders about what they are interested in learning about (and from) end-of-life doulas. We will also offer a practitioner workshop that employs a series of case studies to delve into the issues and different ways in which end-of-life doulas can support people with dementia, multi-generational households, and those who request assisted dying, among other concerns. More generally, we have ensured time for Symposium participants to connect through our in-person and online socials, and finally, we've organized for a public event to share national and international perspectives about what end-of-life doulas do.

The Symposium is free and open to anyone who is interested in this topic, but there are a limited number of spaces and registration is required. Registration links are below.

[Book here](#)

Suicide Bereavement UK's international conference

26th September 2024

Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel



Keynote speaker:

Dr Frank Campbell (USA); Internationally recognised leader in suicide bereavement for over 30 years. Frank developed the Active Postvention Model (APM), which supports families bereaved by suicide at the scene. He is also a US Army veteran and has been a contributor to the Tragedy Assistance Programme for Survivors (TAPS) for military families bereaved by suicide.

His presentation is entitled '*The Installation of Hope*'.

Dr Campbell is recognised internationally as the leading expert in the care of those bereaved by suicide. His work is ground-breaking and has been instrumental in improving the care of those bereaved by suicide, especially in relation to the early stages/hours of their loss. Those who attend the conference will learn so much from him.

You will especially benefit attending Dr Frank's Campbell's presentation If you

- come into contact with or are responsible for the care of those bereaved by suicide
- responsible for the implementation of the suicide prevention strategy
- commission postvention services

In addition, the other speakers will also help advance your understanding of the experiences/perceived needs of those bereaved by suicide. Also, it will provide an opportunity to engage with experts in this field and learn about best practice.

Dr Campbell is also a USA army veteran and has been a consultant and contributor to the USA Tragedy Assistance Programme for Survivors (TAPS) bereaved by suicide programme for military families. Ultimately, Frank's knowledge and expertise is relevant to the UK Armed Forces community

Also:

Dr Corinna Priest (Maj Retd) will be delivering a workshop entitled '*Postvention Activities for all Types of Leaders in the Military Community*' at Suicide Bereavement UK's international conference.

This workshop will be of interest to those who come into contact with or are responsible for the care of serving or veterans bereaved by suicide

Suicide Bereavement UK's hybrid conference will discuss the following issues:

- The development of an Active Postvention Model in the USA
- Lived experience of losing more than one family member
- The development of the first postvention support pack for primary care
- Suicide bereavement research
- Depression and its impact
- Suicide clusters
- The importance of language when engaging with those bereaved by suicide
- The experience of finding a stranger who has died by suicide

Workshops

- Laughter Yoga (an actual 60 minute laughter yoga session). Those that attend are required to engage in the whole activity. **Limited numbers available**
- Suicide bereavement and self compassion
- The Forcer Protocol for missing veterans (presented by Gtr Manchester Police and the founder of the Forcer Protocol) wife whose veteran husband died by suicide
- Evidence-based postvention guidelines when a colleague dies by suicide

- Suicide prevention in Punjabi communities

For more information about the event, [CLICK HERE](#)

Palliative Care research in Residential and Community Settings

Friday 4th October 2024

Dorothy House Hospice, Winsley, BA15 2LE

Learn about the latest research and best practices in providing palliative care in both residential and community settings.

Come join us at Dorothy House Hospice for an exciting collaborative event focusing on palliative care research in residential and community settings. This in-person event will bring together experts in the field to discuss the latest findings and innovations. Don't miss this opportunity to network with fellow professionals and learn from leading researchers. Register now to secure your spot!

Note: we have launched an [abstract call](#) for posters and presentations. We particularly welcome early researcher abstracts. The deadline for submission is July 2nd. Please follow this link for the form: [abstract call submission form](#)

This year's Digital Legacy Conference will take place as part of Public Health Palliative Care International 2024

25th October 2024

Location: Bern, Switzerland

Free to attend

Call for speakers/abstracts now open!



This year, the Digital Legacy Conference (#DLC2024) will be heading to Switzerland and taking place as part of the [Public Health Palliative Care International](#) Conference 2024

(#PHPCI2024). The Digital Legacy Conference is a not for profit conference organised by the [Digital Legacy Association](#).


Digital Legacy Conference attendees will learn about emerging best practices in areas relating to digital assets planning and digital legacy safeguarding. The conference theme for the PHPCI 2024 Conference is '*building bridges between science and people*'. The theme for the DLC2024 will align to the wider conference theme and also be '*building bridges between science and people*'.

The Digital Legacy Conference 2024 will welcome nearly 150 attendees and it is free to attend for all PHPCI badge-holders. If you are not a badgeholder, we have a limited amount of free tickets. Simply, [get in touch with us](#)

Find more information on the conference [here](#)

1st International Congress on Pedagogy of Death and Improvement of Education

 Dates: April 2, 3 and 4, 2025

 Venue: Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain).

This conference, bilingual Spanish-English, is a meeting point to share theoretical advances and research on the Pedagogy of Death and Educational Improvement. It is an opportunity to collaborate, establish international networks and contribute to social and educational research and innovation.

Key topics:

1. Research in the Pedagogy of Death and Death Education.
2. Innovation, practice and social and educational transfer in schools and curricular change.
3. Training and resources in the Pedagogy of Death for educators and professionals in social and health sciences.
4. Radical pedagogy and curriculum with other fundamental issues for the improvement of education.

 The first deadline for the proposal of [oral communications](#) is [October 31, 2024](#) (only an abstract will be required).

This conference is part of the Spanish state R&D project 'Pedagogy of Death, Pandemic and Improvement of Education' (Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities), with an attendance certification of 15 hours of training (1.5 ECTS).

We are waiting for you at the Assembly Hall of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid for an event that promises to be enriching and inspiring. Register now and be part of the change in education.

🔗 Register, send your oral communications and more
here: <https://eventos.uam.es/112658/detail/i-congreso-internacional-de-pedagogia-de-la-muerte-y-mejora-de-la-educacion.html>

(the language can be changed to English-Spanish at the top right of the web page, in the "Idioma" icon)

CALL FOR PAPERS

4th Lifting The Lid International Festival of Death and Dying 15th – 17th November 2024



If you are interested in joining us as a presenter or workshop facilitator, [please submit a proposal via this form](#) below by July 30th

They will be making selections by mid-August so that the event can be publicised a bit earlier this year.

“Death and the Digital Realm” Leiden University, Netherlands

October 11-12th 2024

Event co-sponsored by the International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying (IAPDD), Leiden University, and the Australian Research Council project “Digital Death and Immortality”

A legacy of today’s digitally driven world is the increasing number of ‘digital remains’ a person leaves behind after they die, such as audio and image files, social media accounts and emails. How to deal with these digital remains has become an increasingly significant and costly problem for individuals, families, organisations, tech companies, and governments.

Existing legal approaches focus on treating digital remains as a form of property, but they do not fully capture the sensitivities and significance of digital remains in people’s lives. Additionally, a property-only approach cannot address the dangers of ‘digital reanimation’ – emerging artificial intelligence technologies that re-use digital remains to ‘revive’ the dead, making it possible to interact with them. This offers new ways of commemorating the dead and for managing grief.

Yet these technologies also threaten to exploit the dead and to change our relationship to them in troubling ways. From posthumous chatbots to CGI performances from dead actors, they create ethical dilemmas for dealing with digital souls. Clearly, more work is necessary on the ethical use of these technologies and the best policies for regulating the reuse of digital remains.

This workshop/conference will consider what sort of ethical significance digital remains have, and determine how they should be preserved, reused or disposed of.

Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- The ontological status of the digital dead
- What we owe the digital dead
- The digital dead and privacy rights
- The ethics of putting the dead to work
- Responsible use of the digital dead for grieving
- Regulating the digital dead
- The digital dead and agency

Abstracts addressing this theme should be approximately 400 words long and sent to info@philosophyofdeath.org by 22 Jul 2024. We expect to notify authors of acceptances in mid-August.

Further information regarding IAPDD can be found at <https://www.philosophyofdeath.org/>

Sign up for IAPDD newsletters at <https://www.philosophyofdeath.org/contact/>

Call for Papers: Crime, Death and the Gothic Imagination

Cfp online symposium: 'Crime, Death and the Gothic Imagination'

9 September 2024

Organisers: Professor Ruth Penfold-Mounce, University of York
Professor Lizzie Seal, University of Sussex

Mysterious deaths suggesting foul play, unexplained occurrences surrounding the dead and gloom filled environments suggestive of suffering and violence. The relationship between death, crime and the gothic is a well-established trope in literature and gothic studies. However, the relationship has much potential for insight and debate from engaging a broad interdisciplinary approach.

We invite short abstracts for presentations, panels and roundtables for an online symposium on interdisciplinary aspects of crime, death and the gothic imagination.

We aim to put scholars into dialogue from criminology, death studies, gothic studies, literature, film and media studies, history, sociology, cultural studies and beyond. We are interested in contributions that address this topic in relation to 'fact', 'fiction' and the liminal space in-between.



Please send abstracts of around 100 words by **15 July 2024** stating your name, affiliation and the title of the presentation to e.c.seal@sussex.ac.uk

Panel and roundtable proposals are also welcome. Panels consist of four presentations; roundtables can adopt a flexible format. Please include all abstracts for panels. State the key contact for correspondence and include names and contact details for all participants.

Grief Care: Religion and Spiritual Support in Times of Loss

Deadline for manuscript submissions: 30th September 2024

More info and submission point here:

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/9CSTES3W15

This Special Issue exploring how grief care integrates religion and spiritual identities. Understanding the complexities of grief within the contexts of care and religion/spirituality is paramount for several reasons. First, the field of caregiving, whether in healthcare or end of life care settings or informal networks, recognising the manifestations of grief is crucial for providing effective support to those who are grieving. Moreover, delving into the religious and spiritual aspects of grief unveils unique coping mechanisms, rituals and belief systems that influence individual's experiences of loss and healing.

Furthermore, exploring the interface between religion/spirituality and grief care enriches our understanding of human resilience, existential meaning-making, and the ways individuals navigate life's most profound challenges. By fostering of an interdisciplinary dialogue this Special Issue aims to advance knowledge, stimulate critical reflection, and contribute to the development of innovative practices that honour the complexity of grief within diverse religious and spiritual landscapes.

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community - disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

Religions is inviting innovative and comparative contributions. Please consider Religions as an exceptional, exciting enterprise ready to reward your trust, attention, and participation.

Special Issue of Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences “Grief in the Digital Age”

The Special Issue aims to explore the role of digital technologies for grief experiences

Grief is a complex phenomenon that can be characterised as an emotional process in response to the irrevocable loss of a significant person. In recent years, research at the intersection of phenomenology and empirically informed philosophy of mind has gained momentum (e.g., Cholbi, 2021; Fuchs, 2018; Markovic, 2022; Millar & Lopez-Cantero, 2022; Ratcliffe, 2023). This research has identified and analysed key aspects of the phenomenology and emotional structure of bereavement responses. However, the influence of socio-cultural practices and technologies on the structure and quality of grief experiences deserves further exploration and scrutiny. This is particularly true for death technologies (*deathtech*). Death technologies can be defined as personalized and individualized artificial intelligence (AI) systems, which are

marketed as effective resources for the regulation of grief experiences and commemoration. Recently, death technologies have received considerable philosophical attention (e.g., Buben, 2015; Krueger & Osler, 2022; Lindemann, 2022; Stokes, 2021). However, this research has largely focussed on the ethical and moral implications of death technologies, rather than the systematic development of descriptive accounts of interactions between grieving agents and death technologies. This special issue aims to bring together research in phenomenology, philosophy of mind, the cognitive sciences, and the philosophy of AI to help better understand the impact of death technologies on the structure, quality, and temporal unfolding of grief within and across agents, situational contexts, and cultures.

Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- How can agent-deathtech interactions be described from a phenomenological perspective?
- To what extent can accounts of 4E cognition and situated affectivity help understand agent-deathtech interactions?
- How do death technologies influence and shape grief experiences?
- To what extent does the wide availability of death technologies change our attitudes towards our own mortality?
- To what extent does the wide availability of death technologies change how we anticipate the death of significant persons?
- What are the phenomenological and moral implications of the actual or anticipated impact of death technologies on grief?

Guest Editors:

- Regina E. Fabry, Department of Philosophy, Macquarie University, regina.fabry@mq.edu.au
- Marilyn Stendera, School of Humanities and Social Inquiry, University of Wollongong, mstendera@uow.edu.au.

Submission deadline:

Please submit your paper by **February 1 2025**.

Word limit: Submissions larger than 10,000 words (including references) are discouraged.

Online submission:

Please use the journal's Online Manuscript Submission System (Editorial Manager®).

Author Submission's Guidelines:

Authors are asked to prepare their manuscripts according to the journal's standard Submissions Guidelines.

Please access the Collection Page for further information. For any questions, feel free to contact the Lead Guest Editor Regina Fabry (regina.fabry@mq.edu.au).

Journal for Religion, Film and Media (JRFM) 2026, 12/1 – Death, Loss and Mourning in Film and Media

Today, death is both something very absent and very present. When people die, they often do so hidden away in care homes and hospitals. Death is dealt with by professionals, making it something absent in most people's lives. At the same time, death is all around us via media images and popular cultural narratives. Whether in media reports from sites of war, televised royal funerals, gruesome murders in true crime podcasts or fictional stories in films, death would seem to be everywhere. The pandemic also influenced our thinking about death. While the dead and dying were often even more separated from the living – with care homes being closed and funerals limited to only a few people – death was very present in news reports and online spaces provided new ways of mourning and remembering those we had lost.

When death and mourning move online or become the topic of media, different modes of production, representation, and distribution are applied. Death and mourning become commercialized and marketized. Still, media can offer different narratives about death and mourning, and online spaces allow for alternative ways to relate to loss and grief. However, media and digital spaces can also uphold norms and strengthen traditional views on death. As with research on religion and media in general, the connection between the online and the offline when exploring grief must not be ignored. Death and mourning online are connected on diverse levels to offline practices. These processes can be subsumed under the term of mediatization that scrutinizes changes in the field of media and religion.

What are then the narratives the media and popular culture offer us about death? How can media, online spaces, influencers, and popular culture be a part of loss and mourning? What notions of an afterlife do films and the online world provide? How are religious imaginaries about death reinvented in media representations? These are some of the questions we encourage authors to explore in this upcoming issue of the Journal for Religion, Film and Media. Though focusing on death, this issue is also very much about life. It aims to highlight how death, loss, and mourning is also a part of what it means to be human, a notion not always acknowledged in today's culture.

Suggested topics:

- Notions of an afterlife in popular culture
 - The ritualization of death in media
 - Online sites as places of mourning and memory
 - Experiences of online funerals
 - Online pastoral care
 - Theological perspectives on online death rituals and practices
 - Theorizing religion and death online
 - Online deaths and afterlives
 - Grief practices online and offline
-
- Mourning processes in media and popular culture
 - Death/grief/mourning influencers
 - Ethnographic explorations of online and offline grief
 - Media and online death ritual innovations

- The visualization of loss and the aesthetics of grief in media
- Beyond language – capturing grief in alternative ways online
- The digital revitalization of old grief norms/rituals
- The commercialisation and marketization of death in media
- The use of media in death rituals

We invite scholars from a range of relevant fields, such as literature, film and media studies, theology, and the study of religion, as well as of sociology or political sciences, to contribute to this issue. The issue also includes an open section for articles on other topics in keeping with the profile of JRFM. The deadline for all submissions is 1 June 2025. The publication is scheduled for May 2026.

Contributions of 5,000 to 6,000 words (including notes) should be submitted for double-blind peer review through the journal website at www.jrfm.eu. We kindly ask authors to register and to follow the instructions for submitting contributions, especially the style guide.

For questions regarding this call for papers or the submission and publication process, please contact the editors of the issue, Sofia Sjö (Sofia.Sjo@abo.fi) and Marie-Therese Mäder (m.maeder@lmu.de).

Call for British Academy Visiting Fellowships 2025

Funded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

More about the programme

The British Academy's Visiting Fellowships programme provides outstanding academics based in any country overseas with the opportunity to be based at a UK higher education or other research institution. The programme is open to academics at any career stage, and in any discipline within the humanities and social sciences.

Aims

Visiting Fellowships illustrate the British Academy's profound and on-going commitment to international engagement. The aim of this programme is to ensure that the UK remains an attractive, welcoming, and productive research environment for academics globally. Through this programme, the Academy aims to:

- Enhance and build new links between scholars from around the globe and in the UK;
- Foster opportunities and encourage the development of new and future partnerships for collaborative research into the humanities and social sciences
- To enable academics from across the globe to undertake research and/or professional development with UK colleagues;
- And strengthen the UK's research bases in the humanities and the social sciences.

Eligibility requirements

Visiting Fellows must be of postdoctoral level or above, or have equivalent research experience at the time of application. Candidates should be based outside of the UK at the time of application. Applicants may be on permanent *or* fixed-term contracts. Fixed-term contracts must not end before the end date of the Visiting Fellowship. Independent scholars are also welcome to apply.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have been in contact with their UK host institution prior to applying. **Please note that the British Academy is not able to assist with locating or facilitating contact with a UK host institution.**

The British Academy welcomes applications from a diverse range of UK host institutions, and would particularly encourage applications from historically and/or structurally disadvantaged groups, low-income countries, and female researchers.

For more details about the Visiting Fellowship programme, including eligibility requirements, please see the [Scheme Notes](#).

Value and duration

Visiting Fellowships are available for a period of between 3 to 6 months. Applicants will be asked to provide their preferred start date for their Fellowship over the spring and summer (March-August 2025).

The maximum funding available is £40,000.

Application process

Applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), [Flexi-Grant®](#).

Deadline

The deadline for applications is **17:00 (GMT) on Wednesday, 23rd October 2024.**

Research Associate LOROS Hospice

Location:	Leicester
Salary:	£38,735 per annum
Hours:	Full Time
Contract Type:	Permanent
Placed On:	14th June 2024
Closes:	28th June 2024

LOROS Hospice is a local charity and every year we care for over 2,500 people across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. We deliver free, high-quality, compassionate care and support to terminally ill patients, their family and carers.

Up to 37.5 hours per week (negotiable). Minimum 28 hours per week.

LOROS Centre for Excellence, is seeking to appoint an experienced Research Associate to join the enthusiastic and motivated research team to work on a number of exciting projects in palliative and end of life care focusing on older people, family carers and health inequalities. The primary project for this post will be working on the following 3 year study: "Developing effective service models for Adult Palliative and end of life care for People with a Learning disability (DAPPLE)".

We are particularly interested in applications from researchers with experience in qualitative research in palliative care and/or with from diverse ethnic communities. You will be a good communicator, highly organised, rigorous and accurate in your work, and have excellent writing and IT skills.

The role requires independent travel on a regular basis throughout Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and on occasion, the post holder will be required to attend meetings in other areas of the country.

The post holder will work with a multidisciplinary team of academics, clinicians, researchers and Patient and Public advisors as well as a range of external partners across Leicester, Leicestershire and beyond.

E Interested? For an application pack visit our website at loros.co.uk. Please send your completed application form or CV with personal statement to HR@loros.co.uk via the 'Apply' button above.

For an informal discussion about this role, please contact Dr Zoebia Islam on Zoebiaislam@loros.co.uk

LOROS wants to ensure that the profile of its employees reflects the diverse communities of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. We are an equal opportunity employer and welcome applicants from the diverse communities, we serve.

Interview Date: 30th July 2024

LOROS, Groby Road,

Leicester LE3 9QE

Registered Charity No: 506120

[Apply Here](#)

HDR Scholarship – Digital Death and Immortality

Applications now open. A PhD scholarship is available to initiate and conduct research on the topic 'Digital Death and Immortality'.

This project will create a philosophically informed ethical approach for managing the 'digital remains' of internet users who have died. Emerging artificial intelligence technologies make it possible to reuse and interact with these digital remains. This offers new ways to commemorate the dead and manage grief. Yet these technologies also threaten to exploit the dead and to change our relationship to them in troubling ways. Expected outcomes of the project include guidance for the ethical use of these technologies and policy recommendations for regulating the reuse of digital remains. This will provide significant benefits by helping Australia to avoid the ethical dangers inherent in emerging technologies of 'digital reanimation'.

Benefits

This scholarship is available over 3 years.

- Stipend of \$34,400 per annum tax exempt (2024 rate)
- Relocation allowance of \$500-1500 (for single to family) for students moving from interstate
- **International students only:** Tuition fees offset for the duration of 4 years. Single Overseas Student Health Cover policy for the duration of the student visa.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible you must:

- be a domestic or international candidate. Domestic includes candidates with Australian Citizenship, Australian Permanent Residency or New Zealand Citizenship.
- meet Deakin's PhD entry requirements
- be enrolling full time and hold an honours degree (first class) or an equivalent standard master's degree with a substantial research component.

Please refer to the [research degree entry pathways](#) page for further information.

How to apply:

Please email a CV and cover letter to [A/Prof Patrick Stokes](#). The CV should highlight your skills, education, publications and relevant work experience. If you are successful you will then be invited to submit a formal application.

Applications will remain open until a candidate has been appointed

[Find more information here](#)

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

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

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



PARTICIPANTS WANTED!

Exploring
attitudes about
death and
approaches to
dementia care

Department of
Psychology



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH



Ethics Code:
PREC: 21-261

ARE YOU A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
**WORKING WITH PEOPLE WITH
DEMENTIA?**

**If yes, we would like to invite you to
complete a survey about approaches to care.**

You will be asked to anonymously complete some
questionnaires online. This should take about 15-20 minutes.

**You will have a chance to be entered in a draw to
win a £50 amazon voucher.**

Interested? Please scan QR code above or use the link below:

tinyurl.com/44kpps77

CONTACT

Ben Kwapong

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

Dr Ashley Vanstone

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