

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

November 2025 Newsletter

[Director's Note](#)

[CDAS](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[CDAS Community](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Calls](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Director's Note

Hello everyone and welcome to our November 2025 newsletter, produced in what has been the beautiful autumnal city of Bath. This month we bring you news of our 2026 annual conference, upcoming events and calls for papers. As always, there is a lot going on!

This month, first and foremost, we welcome new member Elena Vasiliou to CDAS who is joining us on our Living at Home with Advanced Progressive Illness study. We hope this is a very productive and happy period of your career Elena!

We are also delighted to announce that the call for contributions for the 2026 CDAS Annual Conference on the theme of Death and Power is now open. Full details can be found within this newsletter or online [here](#). Every year the conference is a wonderful way to connect with the wider CDAS community and always provides lots of food for thought and inspiration. As usual we are holding it online to make it as accessible as possible to everyone, and we will do our best to manage timezones to be as international as we possibly can be! We hope that you will consider submitting an abstract for a paper, workshop or panel.

We also bring to you news of events we have lined up in the next few weeks, including a webinar on [death during conflict at 5pm on 13th November](#), and a jointly organised webinar with the Open University on [decolonizing bereavement on 2nd December](#) as part of the UK's National Grief Awareness Week (2-8 December). We are further delighted to share with you as part of the upcoming Children's Grief Awareness Week (17-23 November) our new video interview with Jenni Thomas OBE and Anna May from the Student Grief Network. We have some very exciting news to share about Jenni's work in the next few months, so we hope you enjoy watching her interview in advance!

As always, please do continue to share your news and events with us and we will do our best to share far and wide. Don't forget, you can find CDAS on LinkedIn, Facebook and BlueSky; please tag us and we will share your posts.

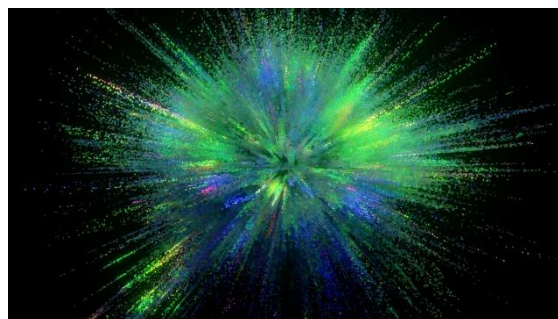
See you next month
Kate and Naomi

Welcome to new CDAS Member Elena Vasiliou

Welcome to our new member Dr Elena Vasiliou who joins us from her Marie Curie fellowship at the University of Warwick to become one of two Research Associates on our [Living with Advanced Progressive Illness at Home](#), which is led by Kate Woodthorpe with Co-Investigators Diana Teggi and Jeremy Dixon. Elena joins the other RA on the project Dr Lucia Crowther who is based at the University of Hull. We are delighted to welcome you to CDAS Elena and hope this is a very happy and productive part of your career!

CDAS Annual Conference 2026: Death and Power is now open for contributions

The 2026 CDAS Annual Conference on the theme of 'Death and Power' will take place from Wednesday 17 - Friday 19 June 2026. It will be wholly online to facilitate international attendance and promote accessibility.



Power, in all its forms, is central to the human condition, peoples' relationships to others, the planet's future, and how endings are experienced. Theorised across many, if not all, disciplines, power is inherent in professions, care, associations with others, policy and politics, perspectives and approaches, rationales and logic. Whether it is something possessed or negotiated, practiced or rejected, power in all its guises is part of life, and of death.

This year's CDAS Conference's theme of power is intended to reflect what is known, and knowable, about dying, death, loss, grief and more, in the past, present and the future. We intentionally leave what we mean by 'power' as open as possible, to encourage as wide a group as possible to engage with the theme.

We welcome abstracts up to 250 words long by 9am GMT on Monday 2 February 2026 from academics, practitioners, policy-makers and others, that address the conference theme.

For more information on topics and the format, please look at [our website](#).

Justice beyond Criminal Justice Symposium Success

On 29th October, the University of Bath's Criminology Research Group held its first major event: a one-day symposium, titled 'Justice beyond Criminal Justice'. Co-funded by the South West British Society of Criminology and the South West Doctoral Training Partnership, the in-person symposium drew 70 attendees from the UK and beyond, and incorporated four panel sessions, a keynote lecture, and an optional training session on

creative methodologies. Several members of CDAS attended and delivered papers. Issues connected to death, criminal justice and forms of accountability emerged in a range of ways throughout the papers, including the ways in which injustice and a lack of accountability has produced death, with detail from Richard Moorhead's plenary address on the Post Office Horizon scandal and the finding that 11 suicides were directly connected to the prosecutions brought by the Post Office. There was also a particular focus on the ways in which deaths are investigated as part of processes closely connected to criminal justice, with Sarah's Moore's argument for criminology to engage with these institutional processes, and Ed Kirton-Darling's exploration of the inquest (and publicness in the inquest) as an illustration of such investigations. Finally, death, responsibility and accountability was unpicked in a series of other papers in different contexts, including in an exploration of the ways AI was trained and deployed by Omar Phoenix Khan, in the ways in which justice operated in the mountains of Crete by Leah Koumentaki, in an analysis of condemnation for deaths in Gaza and the Ukraine by Jane Ngan, and in the faking of deaths of children sold for adoption in Serbia in a paper by Paul Thornbury and Alexander Carswell.

For Children's Grief Awareness Week

17-23 November 2025

To mark this important week, and the upcoming national Grief Awareness Week (2nd – 8th December) we are delighted to share our new interview with Jenni Thomas OBE and Anna May.



Jenni has been a pioneer in bereavement support and as author of her new book '[When a Child Dies](#)' and 'What does dead mean?', in our interview Jenni shares her experience of nursing and founding Child Bereavement UK to support families that have lost a child. Alongside her, Anna May recounts her firsthand experience of losing family members and how this led to her creating the [Student Grief Network](#).

Both inspirational women, Jenni and Anna reflect together on how and why their experiences led to their setting up of support organisations, their learning over the years, and why grief and bereavement matters.

We think this is a really powerful interview and would recommend watching and sharing far and wide. There is also a transcript available (on the video page) if you would like to read the exchange.

You can find it via this link: <https://vimeo.com/1125241155>

Abdirahman Elde Ali's Visit to Bath

Abdirahman is a senior Somali research on the [Everday Politics of Famine project](#) at Bath that is led by Naomi Pendle. His previous research has specialized in humanitarianism in the Horn of Africa, with a particular focus on how displacement, climate change, mobility, and governance intersect in borderland contexts. He has submitted his PhD thesis at the

University of Nairobi. This November (the week of the 10th) he is visiting us in Bath and at CDAS before heading to Somalia to do some research on famine-time burials and the politics around the current preservation of these sites.

NHS Education Scotland Annual Bereavement Conference plenaries

Co-director Kate Woodthorpe did a plenary with Dr John MacArtney from the University of Warwick on 'Is everyone a loved one?' for the [NHS Education for Scotland Bereavement Education Annual Conference](#) on 11th November. Our visiting prof Lucy Easthope presented her own plenary just before Kate and John, on 'Learning from a life of disaster'. It was something of a CDAS takeover for their morning conference session!



You can read John and Kate's blog for the University of Glasgow End of Life Studies Group on which their plenary originated, [here](#).

New CDAS publications

New publication from Tal Morse

Tal Morse, has co-authored an article on 'How Personality Shapes Emotional Reactions to Explicit, Implicit, and Positive Media Images of Terror? An Experimental Investigation'. The study examines how images of death and violence from terror and war affect viewers' emotions, and how personality traits shape these emotional responses. You can read the paper [here](#).

New book chapter from Renske Visser

Renske Visser has produced a chapter in the Research Handbook on End of Life Care and Society titled "Homing in on societal changes in meanings around place of death". Policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and dying people will have different understandings of what home is and is not, yet both everyday and policy usage of the word 'home' hides this and assumes a mutual understanding. The chapter looks at how place of death and home intersect which may be used as a marker of good-quality end of life care.

The book is open access and you can read Renske's chapter and the rest of the book [here](#).

New Article by Lucy Easthope

Visiting Research Fellow Lucy recently co-authored an article published in the Millennium: Journal of International Studies. Titled 'Memory Politics After Disaster: Recovery, Embodied Trauma and the Covid-19 Pandemic', the article critically approaches disaster 'recovery' in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic through the notion of embodied trauma. It explores concepts of embodiment and trauma and asks how embodied traumatic memory differs, particularly in relation to a staggered global event such as the Covid-19 pandemic where trauma was embodied in raced, classed and gendered waves and experiences and outcomes were deeply unequal.

Read full article [here](#).

Lucy Easthope and CDAS mentioned in New Publication.

'Advancing the Field of Forensic Pathology: Lesson Learned from Death in Custody Investigations' featured both CDAS and Visiting Professor Lucy Easthope. It examined the handling of deaths in custody by the medicolegal death investigation system in the United States. You can read the full publication [here](#).

Xin Zhang publishes in death studies journal

Previous visiting fellow Xin Zhang has published a paper on how the ways healthcare professionals respond to grief over patient death remain under-recognised. This paper highlights a challenging yet agentic portrayal of healthcare professionals' grief experiences following patient death and within the Chinese sociocultural context. You can read the full article [here](#).

Other CDAS news

Edina Harbinja visits the Facultad de Derecho Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

"It has been an absolute pleasure and honour to spend the past week in Santiago at the [Facultad de Derecho Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile](#).

During the visit, I had the opportunity to:

- deliver a public lecture on digital remains and digital immortality,
- give classes to undergraduate and PhD students with excellent interaction,
- take part in a roundtable on the regulation of deepfakes, inc Government and Congress representatives,
- and hold several project meetings with my wonderful hosts and collaborators: Raúl Madrid, Javiera Lagos, Díaz Camila Goldberg and the team.

Across these sessions, we explored themes including post-mortem privacy, AI "deathbots"

and digital immortality, the governance of digital remains, and the emerging legal, philosophical and ethical questions surrounding AI and deepfakes.

I felt incredibly welcomed — both as a colleague and as a friend. I am sincerely grateful to my hosts for their generosity, hospitality, and thoughtful engagement throughout the visit.”

The Observer article on the business of dying

Co-Director Kate Woodthorpe appeared in an article by The Observer on how the business of dying is changing and how it is time to regulate it

‘But others believe this trend is a result of a changing approach to death – and not necessarily a bad thing. “People are taking more control of funerals. They are changing up the order and doing their own rituals, such as scattering the ashes, perhaps later,” says Prof Kate Woodthorpe, director of the Centre for Death and Society. Some 89% of those booking direct cremations say they also hold some sort of separate ceremony: a wake or a memorial. Meanwhile, a study of mourners by the University of Bath found no significant difference in the “grief experience” between those organising a traditional funeral and those who chose not to.

That leads us to the second way the funeral business is being disrupted: increased consumer expectations. “Baby boomers changed wedding traditions in the 1970s, now that they are planning their parents’ funerals, they are changing those too,” says Woodthorpe. That generation, she says, is more confident and practiced at getting their way. “Twenty years ago, you’d be told ‘here is your slot for the funeral’. Now families are willing to push back and say it doesn’t suit us.”

Read the full article [here](#).

Mortal Films are now live

Taking inspiration from the Death Positive Movement, artists Ben Faircloth, Eilidh Nicoll, and Mariana Leal have made films reflecting on processing death anxiety, voicing personal grief communally, and queering funerary practice. The films have been developed through discussions with social anthropologist and CDAS visiting fellow Dr Hannah Rumble. You can watch all the films [here](#).

Death during conflict: what can we learn from the aftermath of death in war?

Thursday 13th November 5pm GMT, Online



All armed conflicts are synonymous with excess mortality, and all deaths during armed conflict can have significant psychological, political, social and moral impacts. They can also provide a ‘window’ (in Verdery’s language (Verdery, 1999)) into the real politics of contemporary armed conflict. Graves, or their absence, can become sites of repression and resistance. Undignified or unfulfilled post-death rituals can leave people ‘ungrievable’. Ghosts can stalk the landscape demanding memory and justice. Objects associated with loss can become emotive and politically provocative. Paying attention to the aftermath of death gives us insights into the power, politics and social impact of these conflicts.

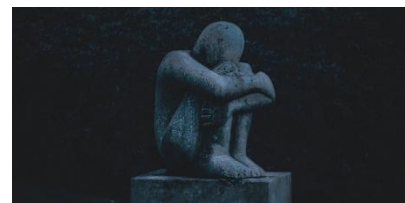
Tal Morse (CDAS Visiting Fellow), Ajala Fisayo (CDAS Visiting Fellow) and Naomi Pendle (CDAS Co-Director) are editing a special issue on death during armed conflict. This panel draws on papers for this special issue and on [a recently published article](#) on combatants’ burial of combatants.

Sign up [here](#).

‘Decolonising’ ‘grief’? Death and its continuing aftermath in the UK today

Tuesday 2nd December

7pm – 8pm GMT, Online



Asking what we know about death and its continuing aftermath raises issues about what counts as ‘knowledge’, what is ‘known’, and how it is known, in regard to lived experiences of human mortality and death’s continuing aftermath in the everyday relational lives of the living - more generally referred to as ‘bereavement and grief’. There is increasing recognition of the extent to which existing ‘knowledge’ about ‘bereavement and grief’ is dominated by perspectives and experiences from affluent Anglophone Minority world countries, rooted in coloniality/modernity and Whiteness. But, in seeking to address this dominance, the depth and breadth of what ‘decolonising’ may mean in response is profound and complex, not least in terms of the need to situate this work in ways that take account of particular geopolitical contexts.

In 2023 the CDAS conference hosted two panels exploring these topics, leading to three publications** in the special conference issue of the journal *Mortality* in May 2025. This webinar will build on and extend this work to continue the discussion about what ‘decolonising’ might mean and what is ‘known’ in regard to ‘grief’ in the contemporary UK, framed more broadly as death and its continuing aftermath (Ribbens McCarthy, Woodthorpe and Almack, 2023). The discussion will consider the implications of the powerful historic and ongoing processes and patterns of coloniality/modernity, addressing its significance for the Whiteness of what counts as ‘knowledge’ of death and its continuing aftermath, its significance for diverse lived experiences across time and generations, and the limitations this creates for all.

Sign up [here](#)

Panel speakers:

Foluke Taylor – writer, *therapist, philosopher of the feels <https://foluketaylor.com/>

Samira Ben Omar – Community Organiser; [Space Maker](#); Co-Founder [Community Voices: Conversations for Change](#)

Jane Ribbens McCarthy – relational sociologist; Visiting Professor, CDAS, University of Bath; Honorary Associate, The Open University; Visiting Fellow, University of Reading. <https://profiles.open.ac.uk/jane-mccarthy>

Chair and discussants:

[Ana Cecilia Dinerstein](#) - Professor of Political Sociology and Critical Theory, University of Bath, Centre for Decolonising Knowledge in Teaching, Research and Practice (DECKNO)

[Maria Jose Ventura Alfaro](#) – Research Associate, Institute of Policy Research, and member of the DECKNO community.

Hosts:

[Centre for Death and Society](#), University of Bath and [Centre for Decolonising Knowledge in Teaching, Research, and Practice](#), University of Bath.

* This is the first webinar of a two part collaboration between the University of Bath and The Open University. Part One is hosted by the University of Bath, building on and extending the first article below, Hamilton et al. Part Two will be hosted by Open Thanatology at The Open University early in 2026, building on and extending the second article below, Stedmon et al.

**** Decolonising the aftermath of death in UK contexts: theoretical approaches, institutional ‘constraints’, and everyday experiences.** Hamilton, S., Keenan, J., Pusey, L., Ribbens McCarthy, J., Stedmon, J., & Taylor, F. (2025). *Mortality*, 30(2): 466-88. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13576275.2025.2458588> Available on request from Jane McCarthy.

‘If I break your leg, you won’t ask me to fix it for you’: innovative explorations in ‘decolonising’ UK bereavement services. Stedmon, J., Hamilton, S., Pusey, L. D., & Ribbens McCarthy, J. (2025) *Mortality*, 30(2): 489-509. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13576275.2025.2451080> *Open Access*

Contemporary responses in Africa to the aftermath of death: developments and decolonising challenges Antonia Nannyonga-Tamusuza, S., Evans, R., Klass, D., Okoth, H. O., Pendle, N., Ribbens McCarthy, J., & Riek, J. J. (2025). *Mortality*, 30(2)355-76

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13576275.2025.2477611> *Open Access*

Cited reference:

Ribbens McCarthy, J., Woodthorpe, K. and Almack, K. [The aftermath of death in the continuing lives of the living: extending 'bereavement' paradigms through family and relational perspectives \(2023\)](https://doi.org/10.1177/00380385221142490) *Sociology*, 57(6) pp. 1356–1374. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380385221142490>

Not organised by us but involves Helen Frisby!

The Rituals of Death and Dying in Medieval England: c.500-c.1550

25th November 18:30PM

This is an online charity fundraiser. Dr Helen Frisby explores how the medieval age made sense of mortality in ways both familiar and alien to us.

For our medieval ancestors, death was a normal part of everyday existence. In this talk, historian Dr Helen Frisby, author of the Shire book [*Traditions of Death and Burial*](#), will draw upon a wide range of artistic, liturgical, material culture, and antiquarian evidence to explore relationships between the living and the dead in the period from the Dark Ages to the early Reformation.

Some of our medieval forebears' customs around mortality, such as sin-eating, seem strange and even unsettling to our contemporary sensibilities. Yet in their rituals are also some threads of continuity which connect the present day to the past. In unpicking and tracing these threads over the centuries, Helen explains why funerals mattered in the middle ages, and why they still matter today.

More information and how to book can be found [here](#).

Advance notice of a Bereavement Network Europe/CDAS co-organised seminar

The impact of traumatic death on social networks, with Dr Georgie Akehurst.

5th March, full details available [here](#).

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

Routledge Handbook of Dark Events: Celebrations, Heritage, and Customs of Death and the Macabre

Brianna Wyatt, Hannah Stewart, James Kennell and Philip R. Stone have collaborated to produce a book that explores and critically evaluates key debates and controversies in the emerging field of Dark Events. It brings together leading specialists from a range of disciplinary backgrounds and geographical regions, to provide state-of-the-art theoretical reflection and empirical research on celebrations, heritage, and customs of death (events) and the macabre. The expected publication is in early 2026- read more [here](#).

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS



LOSS & LEARNING:
NAVIGATING GRIEF AT UNIVERSITY

HE Bereavement Framework- November 19th 2025 12:00- 13:00PM

HE Bereavement Framework is now live and freely available via: <https://lnkd.in/eh8QJUph>

The framework is a practical guide for institutions, bringing together key research and insights from my work over the last seven years, since running my first grief group back in 2018 at the University of Leeds. It outlines key challenges faced by bereaved students and staff, and shares recommendations through five key themes: policy; training; support services; communication; and responding to a staff or student death.

Join webinar presentation of the framework with Q&A: <https://lnkd.in/eCC94ceQ>

The Value of Funary Archaeology for the Present- 18th November

Title: The value of funerary archaeology for the present

Date: 18 November 2025

Time: 15:30 - 17:00 CET

Join us for a seminar exploring the value of funerary archaeology for thinking and talking about death today. Funerary archaeology reveals how people in the past dealt with death through diverse burial and cremation practices and rituals. This seminar will explore what we can learn from such research for how we think and talk about death today.

The poster is for a seminar titled "THE VALUE OF FUNERARY ARCHAEOLOGY FOR THE PRESENT" held on 18/11 from 15:30 to 17:00 CET. It is available online at VUB (B.3.217). The poster features two speakers: Prof. Dr. Barbara Veselka from Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Prof. Dr. Karina Croucher from the University of Bradford. It includes a QR code for registration and contact information for questions. Logos for VUB, AMSC, and FWO are at the bottom.

18/11
15:30 - 17:00 CET
Online + VUB (B.3.217)

SEMINAR
THE VALUE OF FUNERARY ARCHAEOLOGY FOR THE PRESENT

How can knowledge of past burial and cremation practices enrich the way we think and talk about death today?

PROF. DR. BARBARA VESELKA
VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL
Bioarchaeologist specialised in the study of burnt and unburnt human remains, to understand past societies and funerary practices.

PROF. DR. KARINA CROUCHER
UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD
Coordinated interdisciplinary projects which used archaeological insights to open up conversations about death, dying, and bereavement.

INTERESTED?
REGISTER HERE:

Questions?
annemine.frere@vub.be

VUB AMSC ARCHAEOSCIENCE ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY & GEOCHEMISTRY RESEARCH GROUP UMC BRUSSELS INNOVATION FOR LEARNING & UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRE COCO COMPARATIVE CENTRE OF EXPERTISE fwo

Two speakers will present how their research on ancient funerary practices connects to contemporary questions, and how archaeology can contribute to dialogues about death, dying and bereavement: Prof. Barbara Veselka (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and Prof. Karina Croucher (University of Bradford).

- Barbara Veselka, Professor at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (BE), is a bioarchaeologist specialising in the study of burnt and unburnt human remains. Her research deepens our understanding of past societies and reveals the diversity of funerary practices in the past.
- Karina Croucher, Professor at the University of Bradford (UK), researches funerary archaeology and mortuary practices across different times and regions. She has coordinated interdisciplinary projects such as Continuing Bonds and Dying to Talk, which used archaeological and ethnographic insights to open up conversations with young people and healthcare professionals about death, dying, and bereavement.

The event is free and open to all. You can either attend in person (VUB Etterbeek, room B.3.217) or online.

Please register here: <https://forms.gle/E9DRsmvbj5QEb8sq7>

Values at the End of Life: The Logic of Palliative Care

November 19th 2025 16:30-17:30PM

Please join us for our next event on 19 November 2025, 4.30 - 5.30 pm (UK time), via zoom. Register via [Eventbrite](#) to receive a link to attend.

Roi Livne will be talking about his book, [*Values at the End of Life: The Logic of Palliative Care*](#).

About the book: Over the past fifty years, “the end of life” has become the center of extensive economic, policy, ethical, and medical discussions in the U.S. Health economists measure and evaluate its cost; ethicists debate the morality of various approaches to “end-of-life care”; policymakers ponder alternative “end of life”-related policies; and clinicians apply a specialized approach (hospice and palliative care) to treat patients whom they diagnose as being at “the end of life.” This talk summarizes much of the argument of “Values at the End of Life” (Harvard University Press, 2019). It analyzes the proliferation of conversations on “the end of life” as emblematic of a peculiar moment in human history. Ours is a period where modern growth stagnates and the main challenge developed societies face becomes delineating the limits of human agency and governing populations within these limits. Drawing on a combination of historical and ethnographic analysis of the work of palliative care clinicians in three California hospitals, I follow how the limits of what can be done, medically and financially, to prolong life are communicated to severely ill patients and families. I use this empirical case to flesh out different dimensions in the concept of economization, which has recently attracted much theoretical attention in economic sociology.

About the speaker: Roi Livne is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Michigan. An economic sociologist at heart, he studies everyday economic life and its intersections with morality. He has written about death and capitalism, the techno-politics of sovereign debts, and the first months of COVID-19. Presently, he is writing about the moral economy of pricing hospital care in the U.S., the notion of finitude in social theory, and the concept of economization.

Opening Conversations On Assisted Dying, Death and Grief- November 25th 2025 from 5-7pm

Join us for an in-person event in Dumfries on November 25th 2025 from 5-7pm

Title: Opening Conversations on assisted dying, death and grief

The event will feature a short lecture and then a reflective death café to foster conversations. Jointly hosted by The Open University and the University of the West of Scotland, including Prof Erica Borgstrom, Dr Rhona Winnington, and Moira Dale.

Registration via <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/opening-conversations-on-assisted-dying-death-and-grief-tickets-1566498752939>

Tickets are free, and light refreshments will be provided. The event is suitable for the general public.

Registration closes 18th November 2025.

Palliative Research Incubator Event- 2nd December

The Palliative Research Incubator is excited to share with you an upcoming FREE in-person event 'Writing Successful, High Quality NIHR Fellowship Applications' on 2nd December 2025. (Please see the flyer attached).

This one day workshop will guide researchers to write successful, high quality fellowship applications.

Target Audience:

Those planning to apply for a pre-doctoral, doctoral or postdoctoral fellowship who are either clinical or non-clinical and from any profession/discipline

What attendees will gain:

- Insight into the NIHR fellowship programmes
- Understanding of what makes a good application and how they are assessed
- How the NIHR research support service can support individuals
- Inspiration from the experiences of peers
- A spotlight on research inclusion and impact
- Small group working with peers and mentors

Writing Successful, High Quality NIHR Fellowship Applications

Date: 02/12/25

Location: Cicely Saunders Institute, London

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/writing-successful-high-quality-nihr-fellowship-applications-tickets-1746198088489?aff=oddtcreator>



Palliative Research Incubator Workshop
Writing Successful, High Quality NIHR Fellowship Applications

Who is it for?
Those planning to apply for a pre-doctoral, doctoral or postdoctoral fellowship who are either clinical or non-clinical and from any profession/discipline.

What you'll gain?

- Insight into the NIHR fellowship programmes
- Understanding of what makes a good application and how they are assessed
- How the NIHR research support service can support you
- Inspiration from the experiences of peers
- A spotlight on research inclusion and impact
- Small group working with peers and mentors

Travel Bursary
We are offering a travel bursary to a small group of attendees, see the booking page (below) for more details

Cicely Saunders Institute
Tuesday 2nd December
10:00-16:00

[BOOK NOW](#)

Palliative Research Incubator

SUPPORTED BY
NIHR National Institute for Health and Care Research



NDAN & Australian Home Funeral Alliance jointly Presents - End of Life: Bodies in Dress and Death- 6Th December 7-9PM AEDT (8-10AM GMT)

In this presentation, Dr Pia Interlandi will share samples and previews from the Decomposition Database, an evolving research archive that maps how textiles are used across practical and poetic end-of-life contexts and how they transform through regenerative processes such as natural burial, alkaline hydrolysis, and human composting. Pia will discuss the role of cloth in mediating our transitions between body and environment, and how the material choices we make at the end of life continue to shape what becomes of both the dressed body and its material afterlives.

Audience members will gain an understanding of how textiles interact with decomposition, why material selection matters in funeral and body-disposal contexts, and how design and science can work together to create more regenerative end-of-life practices.

Associate Professor Pia Interlandi is a designer and researcher in the School of Design and the Built Environment at Curtin University in Western Australia. Working at the intersections of fashion, funerals, and forensics, her creative practice *Garments for the Grave* explores how materials and materiality shape our experiences of dress, death, and decomposition.

DATE - Saturday 6 December 2025, 7PM-9PM AEDT

Book Now via <https://shorturl.at/28OsZ>

Masterclass in Palliative Care: Dorothy House Hospice

Interested in developing your knowledge and skills? This course is ideal for experienced doctors, nurses and AHP's who are practicing in palliative care and end of life care. Following excellent feedback in 2025, OxCERPC is delighted to collaborate with Dorothy House Hospice for the third year to bring you this Masterclass in 2026. Book now for an early bird price of £175. Topics will be selected from the Oxford Advanced Course in Pain and Symptom Management taken place in Summer 2025.

£195 (£175 if you book now) – Face to face

£180- Virtual



The poster is for a Masterclass in Palliative Care at Dorothy House Hospice, scheduled for Friday 23rd January 2026. It features the OxCERPC logo (Oxford Centre for Education and Research in Palliative Care) and a QR code in the top right corner. A yellow banner in the top left corner indicates '5 CPD'. The poster includes a photograph of Dorothy House Hospice and the Dorothy House Hospice Care logo. The text describes the course as ideal for experienced doctors, nurses, and AHPs, and mentions collaboration with Dorothy House Hospice for the third year. It states that topics will be selected from the Oxford Advanced Course in Pain and Symptom Management taken place in Summer 2025. The price is listed as £195 (£175 if you book now!) for Face-To-Face and £180 for Virtual. The word 'Virtual' is partially visible on the right edge.

5 CPD

OxCERPC
Oxford Centre for Education and Research in Palliative Care

Masterclass in Palliative Care
Dorothy House Hospice
Friday 23rd January 2026



Interested in developing your knowledge and skills? This course is ideal for experienced doctors, nurses and AHP's who are practicing in palliative care and end of life care. Following excellent feedback in 2025, OxCERPC is delighted to collaborate with Dorothy House Hospice for the third year to bring you this Masterclass in 2026. Book now for an early bird price of £175.

Topics will be selected from the Oxford Advanced Course in Pain and Symptom Management taken place in Summer 2025.

£195 (£175 if you book now!)
Face-To-Face

Virtual

Call for Papers- Language, Dying and Bereavement

How do we speak about loss? How do our words comfort, exclude, or transform grief?

This Special Issue curated by Michael Brennan, Gayle Letherby, John MacArtney, and Kate Woodthorpe explores the role of language and discourse in how individuals and societies make sense of dying, death, and bereavement.

We invite submissions from across the social sciences and humanities, including sociology, anthropology, linguistics, social policy, media, and the creative arts, on themes such as:

Language as a vehicle for meaning-making and healing

The role of technology and AI in expressions of grief

Inclusive and anti-oppressive approaches to mourning

Creative forms of language through art, poetry, and performance

Evolving deathways, metaphors, and cultural rituals

Abstract deadline: 19 January 2026

Full paper deadline: 29 June 2026


Further information: <https://lnkd.in/dBuhaStK>

Call for speakers at Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust

Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust runs a regular talk series for the public online and sometime in person and we have a wide range of talks that are broadly on the themes of death, dying, interment, bereavement, human remains, and cemeteries (and anything else we think fits). As a charity, it is a way for us to make a small income for the continuing care of the site, spread the word about Arnos Vale Cemetery and share research and knowledge to a non-academic audience. We welcome the suggestions for presentations of around 45-50 mins from a wide range of speakers and disciplines. We are creating the 2026 programme at the moment and would love to hear from any researchers who'd like to share what they are interested in or working on. A number of previous talks have been delivered by CDAS staff, visiting fellows, and students but we are interested in presentations from all sorts of disciplines, research areas and levels of study.

If you are keen to support us then contact janine.marriott@arnosvale.org.uk

Check out the programme of events at arnosvale.org.uk



Participate in Gov UK 'Make Work Pay: leave for bereavement including pregnancy loss'- Open consultation

Consultation description

The Employment Rights Bill introduced a new day-one right to unpaid bereavement leave for employees who experience the loss of a loved one, including pregnancy loss before 24 weeks.

We are seeking views to ensure the new entitlement is shaped with the needs of employees and employers at the forefront.

This consultation seeks views on:

- eligibility criteria
- types of pregnancy loss in scope
- when and how bereavement leave can be taken
- notice and evidence requirements

We welcome views from all stakeholders, particularly those with insight into this sensitive and personal topic. This may include charities, individuals with lived experience, and employers.

This consultation closes at
11:59pm on 15 January 2026

More information [here](#).

Accommodating the Dead: Materialities, Rituals and Technologies

A new book series from Routledge

Editors: Dr Brenda Mathijssen, Rijksuniversiteit, Groningen (NL) and Dr Julie Rugg, University of York (UK).

Accommodating the Dead will publish works explore the evolving and multifaceted subject of the dead body, and the diverse ways in which humans engage with it. The dead body has an undeniable thereness but can evade direct scrutiny. This series will provide a sharper focus on responses to the materiality of human remains. The dead body demands care, treatment, placement, and ritual. Responses to these demands evolve over time and are shaped by religion, politics, science, and economics. The book series will engage with these responses, creating a coherent yet multifaceted commentary on the core subject.

Book proposals are sought that critically interrogate foundational concepts, including what it means to be "dead," what constitutes a "dead body" in funerary practice, and how disposing the dead can and should be understood in different social, legal, and technological contexts. The series seeks monographs and edited collections that are single- or multi-disciplinary and invites submissions from across the globe. *For further information contact:*

Brenda.Mathijssen@rg.nl & julie.rugg@york.ac.uk

Unsung Heroes in Death Care, A Global Analysis

Editors: Drs. Kami Fletcher & Bulelwa Maphela

During the COVID-19 outbreak and its immediate aftermath, we saw death care professionals thrust from the margins to the center. In Ghana, pall bearers went viral for showing how significant ornate last rites are to guiding loved ones to the ancestral plane. In the United States, death doulas made TIME's "Top 100 Photos of 2022" as well as received a featured article. Even still, they were positioned as last responders, appropriately titled since they were last to receive PPE. The social and cultural value of their work to our communities, our nations, our world went unnoticed. These professionals play a critical role in our communities and do not appear in the developmental agenda. They remain as unsung heroes.

There is an urgent need to start appreciating the work done by these unsung heroes in the death care sector - globally. This volume aims to highlight the contributions of death care professionals - the funeral directors, the embalmers, the mortuary workers, the death doulas; and others death care workers - who all play a critical role in supporting bereaved families and communities during the period of losing a loved one. These death care laborers, as individuals and as group, play vital roles in the care and support of the deceased and their families, yet often go unnoticed or underappreciated in broader narratives about death and dying. This international call aims to attract scholars, researchers, and practitioners from around the world to submit abstracts that explore the experiences, challenges, and contributions of death care professionals.

Suggested themes

- The role of death care professionals in supporting bereaved communities.
- The role of government in supporting the death care professionals.
- The impact of death care work on the mental state of the professionals in the death care industries.
- Societal and cultural perceptions of death care professionals across time and space
- Historical and contemporary perspectives on death care practices.
- Comparative country practices in the death care activities. Innovative and best practices in death care work.
- Challenges affecting sustainability of the death work and within the death care professional circles.
- The role of death care workers in removing trauma in communities and treating the unbereaved.

Editors are asking all interested to please send in a 300-word abstract as well as a working bibliography (primary and secondary sources), no later than August 1, 2026 to kamif2311@gmail.com and bmaphela@uj.ac.za.

For all other queries concerning our volume, please do not hesitate to reach out through the same channels.

The 300-word abstract must include:

- Perspective contributors' name, affiliation, job title
- Essay's (working) title
- Clear argument/thesis statement

Auto/Biographical Reflections on Death and Loss Across the Lifecourse: a writing project

Call for expressions of interest

I am delighted to announce a new project 2025-2027 (in the first instance) focusing on *Auto/Biographical Reflections on Death and Loss Across the Lifecourse*. The project will result in a publication – initially online – that will include creative writing pieces (e.g. fiction, memoir, poetry...) up to 3,000 words accompanied by up to 1,000 words of personal and academic (theoretical and methodological) reflection and if wanted images. Submissions can focus on the writer's and/or others' (including respondents') experience.

Topics might include, but are not limited to, babyloss and child death, children's grief, loss of parents, partners, friends as an adult, reflections on one's own mortality.

The writing process will be supported by one-to-one meetings and communication, group discussion and writing workshops. Myself – Gayle Letherby – and Bethan Michael-Fox, Tarmarin Norwood and Kate Woodthorpe will provide editorial and other support across the life of the project.

Anyone interested in the project, anyone with an idea for an entry, anyone who wants to know a bit more please contact Gayle at gayle.letherby@plymouth.ac.uk by **Monday November 17th 2025**.

Gayle Letherby, Visiting Professor, CDAS

Call for chapters: Dark tourism

We invite contributions to an edited volume, "Dark Tourism Rituals and Micro-Rituals: Performance, Negotiation and Meaning-Making" (Channel View Publications), edited by Dr. Daniel H. Olsen and Dr Nitasha Sharma.


This book will foreground ritual as a vital lens for understanding dark tourism, exploring commemorative practices, micro-rituals, performative storytelling, healing and transgressive rituals, ecological mourning, and digital memorialisation.

Examples of rituals and micro-rituals in dark tourism include - ghost walks, zombie parades, and horror tours that ritualize death and fright as performance; silent observances and walking pilgrimages; lighting candles at Auschwitz to honor Holocaust victims; "grassroots memorialization" (i.e., leaving offerings at spontaneous shrines and creating impromptu memorials, often after sudden or traumatic deaths); leaving pebbles or flowers on memorial plaques; tying ribbons at bombing memorials; taking photographs; whispering in solitary confinement cells and ritualistically photographing themselves inside during prison tours; glacier funerals; memorials and mourning ceremonies; bell-ringing at Pearl Harbor; war re-enactments; and leaving notes, cards, flowers, or holding events at celebrity graves and burial sites (such as leaving lipstick kisses on Marilyn Monroe's crypt).

Studying these rituals and micro-rituals helps us understand how individuals and groups negotiate mortality, morality, mourning, memory, and identity in a globalised, mediated world. We welcome theoretical, empirical, comparative, and methodological chapters (5,000–6,000 words) that examine how rituals and micro-rituals shape visitor experiences, memory, and meaning-making at sites of death, trauma, and atrocity. Abstracts (max 300 words) are due 5 December 2025.

Please send your abstracts to Dr. Nitasha Sharma (nitashar.iu@gmail.com) or Dr. Daniel Olsen (dholsen@byu.edu).

If your research explores ritual, performance, memory, or meaning-making in dark tourism, we'd love to hear from you!



CALL FOR CHAPTERS

Dark tourism rituals and micro-rituals: performance, negotiation and meaning-making

Themes

- Commemorative rituals
- Funerary & mourning rituals
- Rituals of geopolitical memory
- Rituals of fear and the paranormal
- Embodied rituals of pilgrimage, endurance, and penance
- Counter-memory rituals
- Violence and punishment as spectacle
- Therapeutic and trauma-healing rituals
- Rituals for beyond the human (Animal death rituals, rituals of ecological mourning)
- Folkloric and mythic rituals
- Religious, spiritual and esoteric rituals associated with death
- Spontaneous 'grassroots rituals' or rituals of emergent commemoration
- Rituals in the digital realm
- Ethically ambivalent and transgressive rituals
- Educational, aesthetic and curatorial rituals
- Storytelling, performances & re-enactments

Important Dates

- 5th Dec 2025: Abstract submission
- 10th Jan 2026: Notification of abstract acceptance
- 31st May 2026: Draft chapters
- 10th Aug 2026: Chapter revision and edits
- Oct 2026: Tentative submission of book to publishers

Editors

Dr. Nitasha Sharma
University of Alabama, USA

Dr. Daniel H. Olsen
Brigham Young University (USA)

For more information on the themes and submission queries, email: nitashar.iu@gmail.com dholsen@byu.edu

Death Rituals and Death Technologies in Contemporary Ireland and Beyond: Questioning the Old and the New

Symposium at University College Cork, 28-29 May 2026.

Death is the great unifying force for all life — human and non-human. Death shapes our experiences of life as it signals materially and culturally that our existence is finite. In

response, human societies have developed complex death, disposal, and mourning rituals over millennia to cope with the temporal reality of death and the corpse it is represented by. However, we are living in a time of flux — environmental degradation, economic precarity, and migrating populations are all upending how we respond to and subsequently ritualise death and the dead body. So-called ‘new’ death technologies such as pyro- and hydro-cremation, body composting, eco burial, and cryopreservation are disrupting traditional concepts of deathly rituals. In the traditional narrative of society’s unilineal development, the role of ritual and history is framed as being antithetical to these new technologies (and vice-versa). This symposium disrupts this notion.

While the majority of death technology studies focus on the ‘newness’ of the proposed and developing technology, this symposium challenges the notion that rituals are archaic and need to be rewritten if not entirely done away with or that death and technology are only newly united and have not been imbricated since the first human died, was mourned, and their body disposed of. Drawing on the vital work done by death studies scholars — and those who seek to ‘queer’ this increasingly established academic field — as well as the practical expertise of industry innovators, this symposium takes the affirmative position that rituals are not always old, and technologies are not always new.

The symposium will explore how traditional death rituals can adapt in the face of new technologies such as water cremation, human composting, eco burial, and cryopreservation. Ireland’s unique death culture, rooted in the nation’s rich history and death culture, is much-lauded. However, this traditional sequence of wake, rosary, removal, funeral mass, and burial is often portrayed as a relic of the past — a quaint antiquity that harks back to a simpler time and is imbricated with Ireland’s longstanding relationship with the Catholic Church. In fact, in several key ways, Ireland is at the forefront of new death technologies. The European Union’s first water cremation facility opened in County Meath in 2023. A publicly-owned ‘eco’ burial ground is currently under development in Cork City, the result of a significant community-led movement. These developments signal a productive tension within Irish death culture, providing the opportunity to rethink deathly ritual and technology, and their intersections, not in opposition, but totally entwined. They also situate Ireland as a unique point of departure to propel transnational collaborations in death and technology studies.

The aim of this symposium is thus to locate the emerging rituals that come with new death technologies, as well as consider the unique value that new death technologies can bring to old rituals. Participants are asked to consider how their unique cultural experiences from their country of origin or current residence shapes their understanding of death culture, galvanising the international scope of the symposium. Topics can include, but are not limited to, Irish death studies, transnational comparison and contexts, Indigenous rituals and traditions, environmental and ecological impact, the social dimensions of mourning and disposal, and the role of technology in death and disposal.

Proposals should be approximately 300 words with a short bio and bibliography (of 3-5 works cited), and be submitted no later than 31 December, 2025. Responses are anticipated by the end of January. Presenters will be asked to submit draft papers for circulation to symposium participants by 30 April, 2026. Presentations will be 20 minutes long. Whilst online presentation can be facilitated, strong preference will be given to in person

presentation. Please indicate your preference for online or in person presentation when submitting your proposal. The event organisers are in a position to offer some financial support to facilitate in person attendance. Final versions of articles (7500 words including bibliography) will be due at the end of July 2026 in anticipation of being part of a special issue at a leading death studies journal.

Please email proposals to Dr. Julia A. Empey (julia.empey@ucc.ie) and Dr. Kate Falconer (kfalconer@ucc.ie).

Contact Us

Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Web: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centrefordeath

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13222099/>

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

CDAS Videos:

The History of CDAS: <https://vimeo.com/1092402543>

The CDAS Community: <https://vimeo.com/1092402369>

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