



Centre for Death & Society

April 2025 Newsletter

[Director's Note](#)

CDAS

[News](#)

[Events](#)

CDAS Community

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Calls](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Director's Note

Welcome to our April 2025 edition of our newsletter, where as ever we share news of upcoming events, calls, and publications. Our big news this month is that our CDAS Annual Conference programme is now live and tickets available to purchase. Fully online, we hope you can join us for two days in June (12th and 13th) where we will hear from speakers around the world on 'Death in Transition'. Before then, as part of Dying Matters week we have our annual Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture, which explores the relationship between ageing and the end of life. This year we are delighted that Dr James Fletcher from our very own School of Management here at the University of Bath will be doing the lecture, arguing that the agenda for research into dementia needs radical change.

This last month we launched our CDAS Walk around the city of Bath as part of the Bath Curious Minds Festival. Thank you to all who came and, of course, to Visiting Fellow Molly Conisbee for creating the walk. Molly's new book is out this month – full details are in this newsletter.

Molly's book isn't the only publication coming out this month, and we're very pleased to celebrate the launch of Visiting Professor Lucy Easthope's new book, which we are sure will be another Times Bestseller. We also have several papers published this month from CDAS members, including a paper on auto/biographical writing that has come out of our #CDASWriting Initiative over the last few years. Part of a special issue of *Illness, Crisis and Loss*, the paper is open access so make sure to click on the link in the newsletter.

Finally, we were very pleased to get the opportunity to share the work of CDAS with Chief Medical Officer for England Professor Chris Whitty when he came to the University recently. For those in the UK, they will remember Professor Whitty as a regular fixture during the pandemic, and it was great to be able to share the work of the centre, as an internationally leading centre on death and dying (not attached to a medical school). Our work was well received and we're looking forward to sharing and amplifying our own, and your work, as we enter our third decade.

As always, please continue to share your news with us and we will do our best to spread it further.

Until next time
Naomi and Kate

CDAS NEWS

CDAS Conference programme and ticket office NOW OPEN

The Centre for Death and Society (CDAS) 2025 conference is now open for bookings. Fully online and taking place on 11 - 13 June 2025, we hope you will join us to welcome a diverse and wide ranging collection of speakers and contributors.

As part of our 20th anniversary year celebrations, this year's conference promises to be as interesting, provocative and insightful as ever. We have a wide range of papers, workshops and panels, with an opening plenary and 'meet the authors' session, two keynotes, and 'hands on' evening events.

Thank you to all our presenters, participants, and to the conference organising team behind the scenes in making this conference happen and a highlight of our CDAS calendar. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

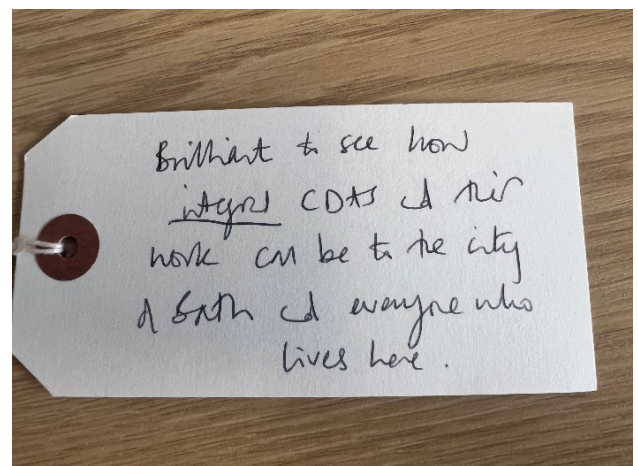
Full conference details are here: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/cdas-conference-2025-death-and-transitions-book-now/>

CDAS walk now available

We launched our free podcasted walk on death and crime around the city of Bath in March, with a walk and talk by Visiting Fellow Molly Conisbee. Huge thanks to Molly for creating the walk, Visiting Professor Ruth Penfold-Mounce for her support, and to all CDAS members who inputted into it.

The walk is in an app, that takes you round some city landmarks to learn some of hidden histories of Bath. When you come to visit us, we'd recommend giving it a listen!

www.cdaswalk.org



Death in the Age of AI

Thank you to all who came to our seminar this month on what dying and death means in the age of Artificial Intelligence. Our panel of CDAS Visiting Professor Johanna Sumiala, Dr Ben Metcalfe and Professor Emma Carmel spent a lively hour discussing and debating the implications of AI on the end of life and its aftermath. The recording of the talk will be available on the CDAS website in due course.



Chief Medical Officer for England Chris Whitty hears about CDAS

Earlier in the month CMO Professor Chris Whitty visited our University campus and co-director Kate Woodthorpe was invited to a roundtable to share the work of the centre.



Welcome back to Lorna Templeton

Following on from the [ESRC Voicing Loss Study](#) Lorna Templeton is returning to CDAS to work on an ESRC Impact Acceleration Account project 'Supporting Loss' with Turning Point, turning findings from the Voicing Loss Study and the previous ESRC study conducted in CDAS on death from alcohol and drug dependency into a usable toolkit for practitioners and families. Welcome back Lorna, its great to have you back working with us.

CDAS Visiting Fellow Imogen Jones on BBC Radio 4 The Law Show

Hear from the panel discussing on death and the law, from registering that someone has passed away, to organising the funeral, and dealing with the estate of the deceased person.

Listen here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0029hx5>

CDAS in the Washington Post

In Daniel Pink's last opinion piece on Living Funerals, Kate Woodthorpe provided insights on their purpose, value and potential, available here:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2025/04/14/living-celebrations-attend-own-funeral/>

New CDAS publications

It has been a busy time for CDAS colleagues with new papers published and books due out imminently. Well done to all for being so productive!

'Demographic, Health, and Social Predictors of Place of Death in England, 2004-2013: Identifying barriers to dying in the community'

Teggi, D., Dixon, J., & Dickson, M. (2025). Read the full article [here](#).

"Why Are So Many People Still Dying in Hospital? New Research Sheds Light

Reducing the number of people who die in hospital has been a health policy priority across developed countries for over two decades. Most people want to die at home or in a supportive care setting, and policymakers want to make this happen. But despite this shared goal, hospital deaths remain stubbornly high.

A new study using data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing shows why progress has stalled—and what can be done about it. Here's what we learned:

- People with cancer are more likely to die in a hospice.
- People with dementia are less likely to die at home and more likely to die in a care home.
- Adults without a cancer diagnosis, especially those cared for by a partner, are more likely to die in hospital.

What should change?

The study suggests that expanding community palliative care services to include people without a cancer diagnosis - and providing more support to family caregivers - could reduce hospital deaths and give more people the chance to die at home if they wish.

New E-Book published by CDAS Visiting Fellow Bethany Simmonds

Simmonds, B. and Berghs, M., eds. (2025). *Intersections of ageing and disability during the COVID-19 pandemic*. Lausanne: Frontiers Media SA.

The pandemic exposed the loss of human rights of older and disabled people and illustrated the critical commonalities these two groups have. As sociologists with personal and professional experience of ageing and disability, we were concerned with the proliferation of such “care-less” spaces ([Rogers, 2017](#)) and wanted to explore what could be learnt. Considering the general population's positive trajectory in increased life expectancy, not enough has been written about experiences of ageing with, and into, disability. This Research Topic brings together a range of epistemological and methodological perspectives in five papers to understand how to situate a better future of care.

Link to the publication: [here](#)

New Article on Auto/Biographical Writing and Loss

Letherby, G., Michael-Fox, B., Norwood, T., & Woodthorpe, K. (2025). From Writing to Doing: Strategies for Approaching Loss, Dying and Grief in Auto/Biographical Writing. *Illness, Crisis & Loss*, 0(0).

Drawing on the auto/biographical experiences of four women working in the field of death studies as well as on a range of creative, professional, and academic sources about loss and the process of writing, in this article, we explore creativity, innovation and impact, and the strategies on offer in auto/biographical writing about dying, death, and grief. We ask and explore the questions: *What is writing doing? When is writing doing?* and provide insights into the productive potential of writing as a way to continue bonds ([Klass et al., 1996](#)), live with loss and engage with grief. Centrally concerned with how first-person writing can function as a powerful practice for responding to experiences of dying and grief, we take a creative approach to the article that seeks to do what it advocates—to write in the first person, to reflect, and to explore the limits and potential of language to produce meanings from loss. The article intersperses the personal narratives of three writers (Gayle, Tamarin, and Kate) woven together by Bethan with epigraphs from other writers whose work is connected to that offered here in terms of its themes. This practice of collaborative writing, and of citing the work of others from a wide range of backgrounds, suggests and produces connections and intersubjectivities, emphasizing the theme of this special issue—public dying and public grieving—and signals the complicated, inevitably partial, and powerful ways in which writing can function to make grief a shared and public experience.

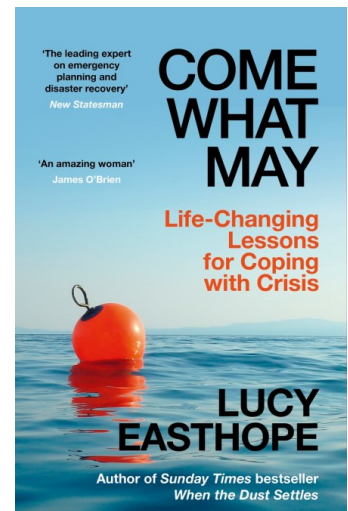
Available Open Access at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/10541373251326161>

Book release! 'Come What May' by Lucy Easthope

Launching on the 15th May and can be pre-ordered [here](#).

We all know that at some point in life, we will experience pain, uncertainty and loss. Widowhood, redundancy, a life-changing diagnosis, pregnancy loss, or a global pandemic. So how can we weather the storms, and cope with whatever comes next?

No one can answer this better than Lucy Easthope, an emergency planner whose job is to support survivors of major disasters. She has been there after countless earthquakes, fires and floods. Time and again she has watched how people rebuild: the work, the pitfalls and the fragile joy. In *Come What May*, she distils for us what she has learned about how to carry on during and after terrible times.



Through poignant stories and hard-won wisdom, she offers a roadmap for resilience in the face of adversity. She explains what shape the recovery journey might take, how to triage your life in an emergency, how to plan for 'the slump' (also known as the lasagne phase), how to take stock of what has happened to you, how to watch out for 'learned helplessness', and what good (and bad) help looks like.

Upcoming book release! 'No Ordinary Deaths: A People's History of Mortality' by Molly Conisbee

Molly Conisbee's new book is published on 1st May.

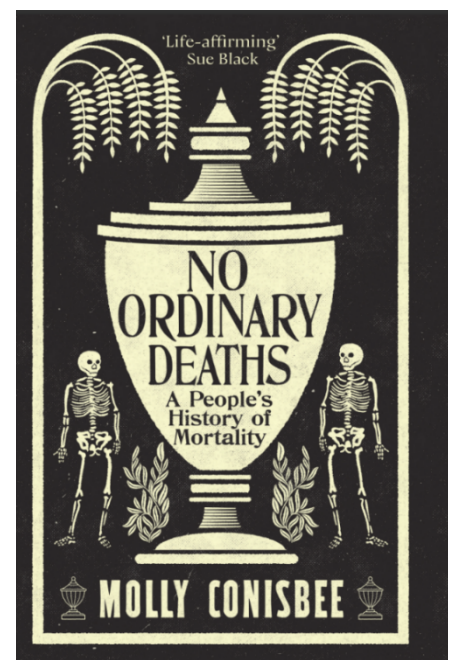
Blurb: How did ordinary people depart this life and grieve for loved ones, and how can historic customs help us to prepare for our own modern ends? From the death-watchers of the Middle Ages to the pomp of Victorian funeral wear, by way of plague pits, grave-robberies and wakes, historian and bereavement counsellor Molly Conisbee explores how cycles of dying, death and disposal have shaped our society. *No Ordinary Deaths* is a vibrant social history of death, dying, and how our ends inform our experience of living.

'Beautifully written and thought provoking' Sue Black

'A captivating read' Chris Pearson

'Fascinating ... a compelling work of social history' Judith Flander

To pre-order the book [click here!](#)



CDAS EVENTS

“In the midst of day-to-day pressures”: dementia research for better future – Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture

8 May, 6-7pm

Recent decades have been relatively lucrative for dementia research. However, rather than achieving the goals of cure or care, dementia research has been most successful in creating conditions that support its own prosperity. We are told that dementia is a syndrome of cognitive decline, caused by brain diseases, distinct from ageing, widely misunderstood by the public, that will one day be overcome through ingenious technical breakthroughs. These ideas nurture the research economy, but they also fuel several problems for people affected by dementia, including the promotion of potentially dangerous treatments and the erosion of social support. We social dementia researchers have often criticised such problems as stemming from a medical model. However, our own tradition can also be complicit in those problems, harming people with dementia by inadvertently contributing to the multifaceted pressures that they live in the midst of. To change this situation, we can pursue a dementia research tradition that centres the welfare of people with dementia today and tomorrow, resisting harmful ideas and pursuing better futures.

Join James Fletcher for a 45 minute talk and a 15 minute Q&A at the end. To register for this event [click here!](#)

CDAS Conference programme and ticket office NOW OPEN

The Centre for Death and Society (CDAS) 2025 conference is now open for bookings. Fully online and taking place on 11 - 13 June 2025, we hope you will join us to welcome a diverse and wide ranging collection of speakers and contributors.

As part of our 20th anniversary year celebrations, this year's conference promises to be as interesting, provocative and insightful as ever. We have a wide range of papers, workshops and panels, with an opening plenary and 'meet the authors' session, two keynotes, and 'hands on' evening events.

Thank you to all our presenters, participants, and to the conference organising team behind the scenes in making this conference happen and a highlight of our CDAS calendar. We look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Full conference details are here: <https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/cdas-conference-2025-death-and-transitions-book-now/>

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

Survey on teaching

Who Teaches Death and Dying Courses? We are seeking to reach college level instructors who have taught an undergraduate course in the last 10 years that included one or more of the following words in the title: death, dying, bereavement, grief, or loss.

We are a research team at Purdue University conducting a study and our primary purpose is to learn more about the approaches to pedagogy, motivations, backgrounds, disciplines, and professional and personal reflections of instructors who teach death and dying courses. Although the literature includes multiple examples of studies that have explored student motivations for enrolling in death and dying courses, little is known about the instructors who teach death and dying courses. The findings from our current study will provide valuable information for those who may be interested in teaching death and dying courses. Those who respond to the survey will also have the option of indicating their interest in a community of practice. Participants must be over the age of 18 years. Participation involves completing an online survey that includes both quantitative and qualitative questions. Questions in the survey are focused on the following topics: pedagogy, motivations, background, and professional and personal reflections. Participants' answers will be kept anonymous. Those who complete the survey may skip any questions that they do not wish to answer, and they may withdraw at any time. Those who meet the inclusion criteria and who are interested in participating in this study, can follow the link below:

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d6Jtshl8kPzBfvg

Please consider sending this link directly to anyone you know who has taught an undergraduate course in the last 10 years with one or more of the following words in the title: death, dying, bereavement, grief, or loss. Your assistance in helping us reach a broader audience is appreciated! If you have any questions concerning this study, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Servaty-Seib (servaty@purdue.edu). This study has been reviewed and granted exemption status by the Institutional Review Board at Purdue University. (<http://www.irb.purdue.edu/>).

New podcast 'Transforming Grief, One Conversation at a Time'

Dr. Jessica Thomas is excited to share that she has a new podcast *Transforming Grief, One Conversation at a Time*. Please consider listening to the recent episode, [Psilocybin Sessions for End-of-Life, with Dr. Lindsey Lerner](#). If you are interested in being interviewed please reach out to Dr. Thomas: jessicathomas@lclark.edu

Dr. Thomas is honored and deeply grateful to have contributed a chapter to this groundbreaking anthology, created by some of the leading voices in the field of Buddhist spiritual care, particularly within education, *The Buddhist Campus Chaplaincy Sourcebook*. She hopes this resource proves valuable not only to chaplains but also to all

Buddhist community leaders and practitioners looking to strengthen their spiritual care skills. [Learn more here!](#)

To Know Dying – Open Thanatology Talks podcast episode and related webinar

The latest Open Thanatology webinar is now available to watch or listen to! In March, we hosted a webinar about the '[To Know Dying](#)' report.

What should be researched in palliative and end of life care in the future? This event shared the recent findings from the 'To Know Dying' report, which focuses on establishing social science and humanities research areas for palliative and end of life care (PEOLC). This project used the initial survey data from this work, and involved researchers across a range of social science and humanities disciplines to analyse and categorise issues into five areas for research. This was a collaborative, innovative process for secondary analysis. This webinar featured a panel discussion to share insights about the process of the project, experiences of being involved in it, and how people are using the report's findings to inform future research design and collaborations. If you're keen to do or fund research in this field within the next ten years, this webinar is for you! It is also useful for those who want to use or adapt the methodology for other James Lind Alliance priority-setting partnerships.

You can see the recoding [here!](#)

Or listen to it as a podcast, via Open Thanatology Talks.

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6TA2AeAU05aQl5EW1MnTWS?si=0bf971672e264b6b>

Amazon: <https://music.amazon.co.uk/podcasts/ef0450cc-5ef4-4226-ab62-e0004527045b/open-thanatology-talks>

Audible: <https://www.audible.com/podcast/Open-Thanatology-Talks/B0CXW4FG17>

If you like, share and subscribe on the podcast platforms, that helps others find the podcast.

BBC Radio 4 programme Inside Health has aired three episodes about assisted dying as part of mini-series

Overview of the mini-series from Inside Health: The Terminally Ill Adults End of Life Bill is working its way through Parliament. If it became law in England and Wales it would be one of those moments in history that profoundly changes society. There are similar discussions taking place in Scotland, the Isle of Man and Jersey too. To be clear about what we're doing on Inside Health. We're not going to debate the rights or wrongs of assisted dying. Or go through the politics of the Bill. Instead, over the next few episodes we're going to explore some of the issues that will come up if assisted dying goes ahead.

Assisted dying: Who's eligible under the proposed bill?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00298nh>

Assisted dying: How can we be certain someone wants to die?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0029h1k>

Assisted Dying: What might the final moments be like?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0029q5v>

Inside Health on BBC Radio 4 is co-produced with The Open University. The panel discussion included Erica Borgstrom (Professor of Medical Anthropology at The Open University); Katherine Sleeman (Professor of Palliative Care at King's College London); David Nicholl (Consultant Neurologist at University Hospital Birmingham) and Mark Taubert (Consultant Palliative Medicine at NHS Wales). The radio programme is also supported by two OU academics, Dr Philippa Waterhouse and Dr Rebecca Garcia. Supporting content can be found on [OU Connect](#), including a map about how different countries around the world consider assisted dying from a legal perspective.

New article: 'Vicarious Death: Grief, Politics, and Identity after the Flight PS752 Tragedy'

Zohreh Bayatrizi, Rezvaneh Erfani and Samira Torabi published an original article in the February 2025 issue of the Canadian Journal of Sociology, titled "[Vicarious Death: Grief, Politics, and Identity after the Flight PS752 Tragedy](#)". The open access article can be downloaded free of charge. Drawing on interviews with Iranian immigrants in Edmonton, Canada, the article explores questions about how being an immigrant, being far from "Home," and being a member of a racialized group might shape and deepen the experience of collective grief and how, conversely, collective grief might influence the meaning of "Home" and bring into question one's ethno-national self-identity. It portrays grief as a collective, rather than individualistic, experience and highlights the complexity and depth of emotional experiences among immigrants.

Loneliness Awareness Week, 9-15 June

The ninth Loneliness Awareness Week hosted by Marmalade Trust is taking place across the world from 9-15 June - and this year the theme is titled Meeting Loneliness Together.

Loneliness is a natural human emotion - we are hardwired to need social connections. This year the week will focus on reducing the stigma surrounding loneliness by creating supportive communities where people can have open, honest conversations. To get involved simply:

[Learn](#) about loneliness

[Choose](#) a connection activity or event

Add your connection activity to our map - coming very soon

Share your involvement using #LonelinessAwarenessWeek #MeetingLonelinessTogether

[Sign up here](#) to be the first to get access to all our toolkits and resources and our activity map. We're excited for you to join us!

New Article: 'I couldn't care less if I saw another sunrise' – what older people who are 'tired of life' can tell us about the assisted dying debate.

An article in The Conversation that reflects an update on work by colleagues in CDAS and European scholars as part of the European Understanding Tiredness of Life Network (UnTil Net)

Click here to read the full article: ['I couldn't care less if I saw another sunrise' – what older people who are 'tired of life' can tell us about the assisted dying debate](#)

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

CSI Open Seminar: Professor Anna Lise Gordon

Wed 23 Apr 2025 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM BST

This event will be taking place online via Microsoft Teams ONLY

Supporting bereaved children and young people in schools

Presenter: Professor Anna Lise Gordon, St Mary's University, London, United Kingdom

Abstract: Death is a universal human experience affecting countless young people every day, including 1 in 29 bereaved of a parent before the age of 16. This seminar presents a British Educational Research Association funded research project – Grief Matters – highlighting the benefits of bereavement awareness sessions as part of an initial teacher training programme. The seminar includes an interview with primary school teacher Emma Marfleet, who has lived experience of end-of-life hospice care as a widow and mother of three young boys.

About the Speaker: Professor Anna Lise Gordon is co-director of the Centre for Wellbeing in Education at St Mary's University. As a former teacher and teacher educator, she is committed to supporting schools in their work with bereaved children and young people.

Link to registration page:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/facultyofnursingmidwiferypalliativecarekingscollegelondon/1643926>



New Insights into Scottish Deathways: a digital conference, 24 - 25 April 2025

This two-day event papers brings together people with diverse perspectives on death and Scotland. Our aim is to stimulate fresh thinking on Scottish deathways and develop a supportive network that facilitates collaboration, including between practitioners and researchers.

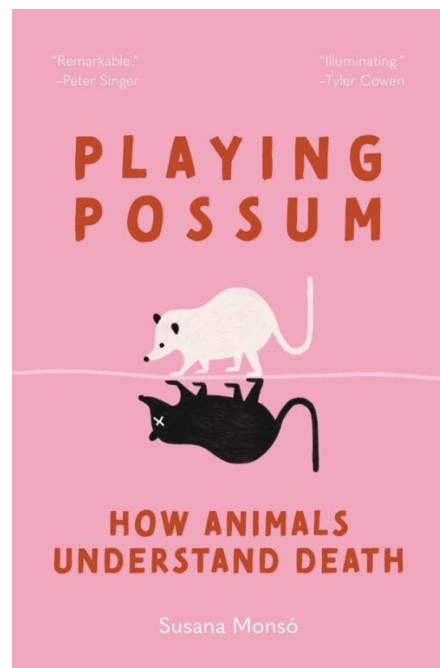
The diverse programme of 15 papers, includes two invited presentations. Our keynote speakers are Dr Naomi Richards (University of Glasgow) who will talk about 'Assisted dying: a new dying aesthetic' and Prof Michael Brown (University of Aberdeen), who will talk about 'Life after death in Scotland: eighteenth century folk stories and the rise of the gothic'. There will also be plenty of opportunities for participants to join discussions and build connections.

The conference fee (for access to all sessions) is £50 and you can **register** at <https://abdn.eventsair.com/deathinscotland2025>

Playing Possum: How Animals Understand Death. Online book club on the book by Susana Monsó.

Our project facilitates an online book club on the book **Playing Possum: How Animals Understand Death** by **Susana Monsó**. We hope that this fascinating book provides a starting point for interesting discussions between a broad range of people interested in the topics of the *Death Care* project. This book club is **open to all**. Whether you are a researcher, societal stakeholder, or just interested in the topic, you are very welcome to join us! **Practical information**

- Where: online through Teams
- When: we will meet three times. The first meeting will take place on **24 April, 12-13h30 CET**. Subsequent meetings will be planned during the first one.
- Reading material: the book *Playing Possum: How Animals Understand Death* by Susana Monsó. If you have trouble obtaining a (digital) copy of the book, please contact us. During the first meeting, we will discuss Chapter 1 – Introduction: The Silence of the Chimps and Chapter 2 – The Ant Who Attended Her Own Funeral.
- Language: English
- For more information, questions and to obtain a meeting link, please contact Kristien Hens (kristien.hens@uantwerpen.be).



About the book

When the opossum feels threatened, she becomes paralyzed. Her body temperature plummets, her breathing and heart rates drop to a minimum, and her glands simulate the smell of a putrefying corpse. Playing Possum explores what the opossum and other creatures can teach us about how we and other species understand mortality, and demonstrates that the concept of death, far from being a uniquely human attribute, is widespread in the animal kingdom. With humor and empathy, Susana Monsó tells the stories of ants who attend their own funerals, chimpanzees who clean the teeth of their dead, dogs who snack on their caregivers, crows who avoid the places where they saw a carcass, elephants obsessed with collecting ivory, and whales who carry their dead for weeks. Monsó, one of today's leading experts on animal cognition and ethics, shows how there are more ways to conceive of mortality than the human way, and challenges the notion that the only emotional reactions to death worthy of our attention are ones that resemble our own.

More information about the author is available on her website: <https://susanamonso.com/>.

Farewell in Antwerp: Study day 29/04

PAREL is pleased to invite you to reserve the date for the study day: Farewell in Antwerp . During this inspiring day we will consider the themes of end of life and funeral from various philosophical and religious perspectives.

Practical details:

- Date: Tuesday, April 29, 2025
- Time: 12:00 – 17:30
- Location: TPC Antwerp,
Groenenborgerlaan 149, 2020 Antwerp
(there is parking nearby)

How much do I pay for the study afternoon?

- €15 (social rate) for students, volunteers, young people or those who have less financial means
- €50 (standard rate)
- €75 (solidarity rate)

All prices include lunch & free brochure "Farewell in Antwerp".

Link to register and find out more about this event: [click here!](#)



***Dying Matters Awareness Week 2025 – Tuesday 29th April, East Wing
Glenside Library UWE Bristol, Blackberry Hill, BS16 1DD***

What's happening: The Culture of Dying Matters: This Dying Matters Awareness Week, focuses on how different communities and cultures in the UK feel, talk about, and deal with death and dying – and what brings them together.

Death and Dying Collective at UWE is hosting a Dying Matters Living Library. Come along, grab a cuppa, 'check out' one of our living books and chat about end of life in different cultures and communities. We will be joined by celebrants, faith leaders and end of life carers from a range of faiths and cultures.

When: 29 April 2025 10:00-14:00

Where: East Wing, Glenside Library, UWE Bristol, Blackberry Hill, BS16 1DD

No booking required. More info: hazel.cottle@uwe.ac.uk

Lived Experience Bereavement Research Network Public Webinar and Town Hall

May 1st 12pm – 2pm ET

In this public webinar & town hall, we will bring together people with varied backgrounds and expertise, both people who have experienced bereavement themselves — bereaved parents, children, siblings, spouses, and community leaders — and bereavement care providers and researchers. Over the next two years, we will work together to identify how researchers can best engage with bereaved people during research endeavors and we will recommend research questions, from the perspective of lived experience, to guide the future of bereavement research.

Find out more and sign up here: https://secure.everyaction.com/dB7_1XZjL02ObIsM5leu4w2

Accelerate Session: MORTAL

Date & Time: May 6, 2025 06:00 PM

Description

Animate presents an online discussion considering how differing perspectives on death and dying can be visually represented for Dying Matters Week. Join us on Tuesday 6 May, 6-7pm, when we will be reflecting with the participants of our 'Mortal' commissioning project on thoughts and questions raised during the development of the project, and the power of animation to ignite conversation around this taboo topic. Joining the discussion will be the commissioned artists, Ben Faircloth and Eilidh Nicoll, along with social anthropologist Dr Hannah Rumble. 'Mortal' is supported by Arts Council England. To register [click here!](#)

Upcoming training sessions:

Within & Without™ therapeutic mindful photography training for grief professionals (Online)

April 4th-April 25th

<https://drjessicathomas.com/therapeutic-mindful-photography-training/>

Save the Date & Call for Speakers Cycles of Life Multidisciplinary Approaches to Mortality, Evening of Thursday, 8th May Cody Dock, East London, E16 4TL

A public engagement event hosted by the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department, in collaboration with Cody Dock, and generously supported by UCL's Health, Mind & Society initiative. The event will explore social, cultural, historical, and ecological perspectives on mortality, through short talks by researchers from UCL and beyond. Join us for a unique opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives, foster meaningful conversations, and inspire new research directions.

Would you like to contribute?

We are seeking speakers for this event, on any topic related to themes of life, death, loss, transitions, renewal or the Anthropocene. Relevant disciplines include global health, inclusion health, creative health, anthropology, ecology, sociology, history, psychology, & the life sciences. We invite contributions of 10-15 minutes. Please contact Natasha.Bradley@ucl.ac.uk by Friday 11th April to express your interest as a speaker.

Last Writes: an Evening with Salena Godden & friends

Part of the Your Library After Dark! collection

Thursday, May 8 · 7:30 - 9:30pm

Join award-winning poet and novelist Salena Godden at Exeter Library for an evening of poetry, prose, and candid conversation about death

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/last-writes-an-evening-with-salena-godden-friends-tickets-1244750274579?aff=oddtcreator>

ACTIVE GRIEF WEEKEND RETREAT

9th -11th May 2025, The Good Grief Project

If you are bereaved following the death of a much loved son or daughter, brother or sister and are now looking for something a bit different to help you navigate your grief, then we invite you to join us for a weekend of true support and inspiration. The weekends are exclusive to bereaved parents and siblings and it matters not when your child died or how old they were.

We've found them to be a valuable space that helps us acknowledge and process our grief in ways that may not be possible in normal everyday life.

For more information, follow the link: <https://thegoodgriefproject.co.uk/events/>

Friday 9 May, 12 noon // University of Bristol.

A Good Grief Festival & Grief Centre, Bristol, event for Dying Matters Awareness Week, followed by book signing.

We are looking forward to hosting Dr Kathryn Mannix in May for Dying Matters Awareness Week. Kathryn is a renowned expert on death, dying and end-of-life care and a best-selling author. Kathryn will be part of two events, one in Weston-super-Mare (8 May) and one in Bristol (9 May) - full details and registration at:

<https://goodgrief1.wpengine.com/events/>

- Talking About the Big Questions: A Conversation with Dr Kathryn Mannix - 8 May, 7.30pm, Front Room Theatre, Weston-super-Mare
- Dying for Beginners: An Interview with Kathryn Mannix - 9 May, 12pm, University of Bristol, Bristol (flyer attached)

Our event in Bristol will also be the first event of our new Grief Centre, Bristol - more news about the Centre coming soon.

The flyer is for an event titled "DYING FOR BEGINNERS: AN INTERVIEW WITH DR KATHRYN MANNIX". It features logos for "GOOD GRIEF FESTIVAL OF LOVE & LOSS", "University of BRISTOL", and "Dying Matters". The central image shows Dr Kathryn Mannix, a woman with dark hair wearing a patterned scarf. To her left is the cover of her book "Listen: How to Find the Words for Your Conversation" and to her right is the cover of "With the End in Mind: How to Live and Die Well". The event details at the bottom state: "FRIDAY 9 MAY, 12 NOON // UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL. A Good Grief Festival & Grief Centre, Bristol, event for Dying Matters Awareness Week, followed by book signing". Tickets are available at www.goodgrieffest.com/events.

Within & Without™ therapeutic mindful photography intro training

Consider joining Dr. Jessica Thomas for her next Within & Without™ therapeutic mindful photography intro training. Based on Dr. Thomas's [recent book](#), research and extensive experience, you will receive direct training in Within & Without™ therapeutic mindful photography for grief. This training offers in-depth knowledge of therapeutic mindful photography, aesthetic perception, symbolism and photographic equivalent, grief ritual, personal and transpersonal narratives, meaning-making, and the impactful role of aesthetic interventions in the grieving process. [Apply here](#), review the [event page](#) for details and reach out to Dr. Thomas with any additional questions.

May/June 2025 10-hr Intro training

10 APA approved CEs are available

Do not let finances be a barrier, please enquire about sliding scale and discounts available for students, NEDA members and NW ADEBS members.

Where: Virtual

When: May 30th 9am-12pm

June 6th 9am-12pm

June 13th 9am-1pm

Palliative Care Research Conference - Using Research to Optimise Care in Community Settings

We're delighted to be hosting a collaborative Palliative Care Research Conference focusing on palliative care research in residential and community settings. Bringing together researchers, practitioners and patients across residential and community settings to share insights and best practice.

Keynote Speakers include:

Dr Ben Bowers - is a Wellcome Post-Doctoral Fellow, University of Cambridge, and a practicing Honorary Nurse Consultant in Palliative Care. Ben leads the UK-wide QNI Community Nursing Research Forum, building

research capacity across nursing specialities. He is the Deputy Theme Lead of Palliative and End of Life Care for the NIHR Applied

Research Collaboration East of England.

Dr Tamara Backhouse - is a research fellow at the University of East Anglia. Her research focuses on improving personal care interactions

for people with dementia and their caregivers, with a particular emphasis on managing refusals of care in advanced dementia.

Professor Matthew Maddocks - Health Services Research & Rehabilitation at King's College London. Matthew is an academic physiotherapist and completed a PhD on the role of exercise in cancer cachexia in 2010 and has since held National Institute of Health Research post-doctoral, clinical trials and career development fellowships. He is a co-lead for the Palliative & End of Life Care theme of the NIHR Applied Research Collaborative for South London.

Our packed agenda will include a range of topics, such as:

- Care home staff's non-medical approaches to harm reduction
- Using injectable end-of-life medications at home
- How can we improve personal care assistance for people living with advanced dementia?

Date - Thursday 5th June 2025

Time - 9:30 - 16:00

Location - Dorothy House, Winsley, BA15 2LE

For more information and registration please visit: [Palliative Care Research Conference - Dorothy House](#)

Cremation & Burial Communication & Education 2025

Save the Date!

Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th June 2025

Join us for the Cremation & Burial Communication & Education Conference and Exhibition is returning to the Hilton Southampton - Utilita Bowl 2025. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for this important event!

The burial and cremation sector faces a time of considerable structural and operational change. With the work of the Law Commission looking at the law surrounding the disposal of the dead, the review of the Process Guidance notes for crematoria, the ongoing monitoring of the funeral sector by the CMA, a significant increase in direct cremations, the ongoing development of new means of disposal and the ever increasing to address environmental issues. These issues alone mean that the sector needs to be prepared to deal with new and demanding challenges.

CBCE 2025 brings together experts and keynote speakers to discuss some of the significant developments that the sector will have to tackle. This key annual event provides a unique opportunity to acquire the most up-to-date information, as well as provide you with the opportunity to meet with exhibitors to discuss their latest services and products.

Follow the link for more information: <https://cbce.org.uk/>

Lunch event - Memento Mori: The Dead Body in Art and Science, 25 June 2025

With a talk by Anna Suwalowska and contributions by Bart Vandeput (Bartaku), Christina Stadlbauer & Anaïs Chabeur

Date: 25 June 2025

Location: building R of the University of Antwerp (Rodestraat 14, 2000 Antwerpen), room info TBA. Online attendance (livestream) will also be possible.

Timing: 12h00 - 14h30. A sandwich lunch will be provided.

Language: English

Art and death have an intimate relationship. Memento mori paintings were popular in the 17th century but also modern painters and contemporary visual artists explore the potential of art as a way of dealing with our own mortality or the death of others. Within the Death Care project we want to make death a topic of research but also of conversation. It is not uncommon nowadays for someone to have never seen a dead body. That used to be different. Can art help in making death visible without traumatizing? Could Death Studies as a field benefit from artistic research methods? How can researchers and artists collaborate in studying, discussing and communicating the legal, philosophical, sociological and

anthropological meaning of death? These questions are the topic of a round table and a ritual with artists, scientists and the audience.

The lunch event will start with a presentation by Anna Suwalowska entitled **Death in the Mind's Eye**.

It will be followed by three responses and a ritual.

Lunch with sandwiches is provided.

[Link to register!](#)

Suicide Bereavement UK's 14th International HYBRID Conference (Face to Face and LIVESTREAM)

Title: *Suicide Bereavement: Leave No-One Behind*

DATE: September 25th 2025

VENUE: Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel

Our speakers and workshops will cover:

The following are some of the things that will be discussed:

- Suicide and self harm
- Autism and suicide
- Impact of losing a husband to suicide
- International speaker from Africa talking about suicide and its impact
- Losing a son to suicide
- Suicide clusters: impact on those bereaved by suicide
- The menopause and suicide

There will also be four workshops

The full conference programme will be available in the new year.

For more information and to register [CLICK HERE](#)

More Details on the DDD Conference in 2025 have been released

DDD17 Conference: The Politics of Death

27-30 August 2025

Registration. Deadline for registration and payment: Friday 16 May, 2025.

The conference will be held in and around Dom Square, the vibrant heart of Utrecht's historic city center. We are currently compiling a list of recommended accommodations (including

discounts) and nearby places to eat and drink, which we will share with you as soon as it's ready.

You can attend the DDD17 conference onsite (in Utrecht) or participate online.

Link to register and more information: <https://ddd17.sites.uu.nl/registration/>

CALLS

Call for Abstracts - Young children's perspectives on (multispecies) death and dying, Submission deadline: Thursday, 15 May 2025

This special edition examines the relationship between children, childhood(s) and death - a timely and urgent topic. Whilst a growing body of literature focuses on teacher and family perspectives on whether death is 'appropriate' to discuss with children, little research has focused on the perspectives of young children themselves. The second aim is to include the other/non/more-than-human in this examination.

Submitting an abstract for this special issue:

- Abstracts of no more than 500 words, with proposed title, authors, and their affiliations should be sent to deathandchildren@gmail.com no later than **15 May 2025**;
- Notification of acceptance and invitation to submit full manuscripts will be no later than **1 June 2025**;
- Full papers (no more than 8,000 words) should be submitted for peer review by **1 November 2025**. For author guidelines see: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/10990860/homepage/forauthors.html>


For more information [click here!](#)

Participants for online focus groups – University Institute of Lisbon

Aversion2agony (<https://aversion2agony.com/>) is the first project to compare journalistic coverage of euthanasia/assisted dying in Portugal and the United Kingdom. It is hosted by the Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-Iscte) at the University Institute of Lisbon (ISCTE-IUL). It receives public funding from the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (Reference 2023.04877.BD).

The researchers of this project are searching for people who are aged 18 or over, live in the United Kingdom and read The Telegraph or The Guardian newspapers and invite them to participate in this research. This study was approved by the Ethics Committee of Iscte's School of Sociology and Public Policy (ESPP), under the reference ESPP Ethics Committee Review – PF 8/2025, on 25 March 2025.

Your participation will consist of discussing the news coverage of euthanasia/assisted dying via a digital Zoom meeting with other readers of The Telegraph and The Guardian.



More information and registration are available at this link:
https://iscteul.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8jOcURo8eHjzG6y

Participants in the focus groups will receive £15 as compensation for their time.

Participants needed for music and grief study - Personal Music Use in Emotional Wellbeing after a Bereavement, University of Leeds

Opportunity to reflect on your experiences, improve bereavement support services, and help grieving individuals by sharing your experiences.

Participation involves:

One-hour interview based on a musical item or piece of music of your choice

1. Three reflective journals completed over a three month period
2. Second interview to expand on themes from previous stages
3. Second interview to expand on themes from previous stages

Inclusion criteria:

1. Must have experienced a bereavement of someone close 6 months to 2 years ago
2. Must be comfortable talking about your grief

Your involvement will help improve bereavement services and provide you with a chance to reflect on and learn from your own experiences.

For more information:

Contact Elizabeth Fair (lead researcher) via email: mc22eif@leeds.ac.uk

Research Degree Opportunity, Do-It-Yourself Commemoration of the Dead

We are delighted to invite EOIs for a full-funded PhD scholarship to join our interdisciplinary DeathTech Research team <<https://deathtech.research.unimelb.edu.au/#tab19>> working on a project investigating Do-It-Yourself Commemoration of the Dead.

The successful applicant will commence in January 2026, and work closely with key members of the research team located in the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) group in the School of Computing and Information Systems at the University of Melbourne.

The PhD research project will focus on the design, use and social impacts of emerging digital technologies for commemoration and memorialisation of the dead. Applicants from both applied and theoretical domains of technology use or design, and with interdisciplinary approaches or methods are welcome. Projects may explore the contexts in which people engage with technology, critically assess existing tools, propose (re)designs or new technologies, and/or conduct user-experience and co-design research.

Full details about the application can be found here:

<https://findanexpert.unimelb.edu.au/opportunity/1485-do-it-yourself-commemoration-of-the-dead>

The deadline for EOIs is May 31, 2025.

Please contact Bjørn Nansen (nansenb@unimelb.edu.au<mailto:nansenb@unimelb.edu.au>)
by email with any enquiries about the scholarship or EOI process.

The Ethics of Body Disposal

As part of the celebrations for its 20th anniversary, IDEA The Ethics Centre at the University of Leeds is pleased to announce the online workshop event: The Ethics of Body Disposal. This will be held online on **Thursday 3rd July 2025**.

Deciding what should be done with our own bodies or those of a loved one after death can be difficult decisions with sometimes significant ethical implications. Deciding what to do, what you would like to be done, and what others should be permitted to do, raises a number of ethical questions – at this workshop, we would like to offer a space to explore and discuss some of these.

Such questions might include:

What responsibilities do we have to the dead and to the living in making body disposal decisions? How might any such moral obligations differ when we are making decisions for ourselves or others? Would ignoring the wishes of the deceased be morally wrong? Should their wishes be honoured even if it might offend others in society? Should laws restrict what we can and cannot have done with our own bodies after death and if so, how? Should body disposal decisions be made with the interests of others still living, even those unknown to the deceased, in mind? In disagreements over arrangement for disposal of a loved one's body, what principles should guide how to move forwards?

This list is not exhaustive but is meant to be indicative of some of the issues and questions that can be raised by this topic.

If you have a paper or idea that you feel would fit this theme and would like to present at this online workshop, please submit the title and an abstract via this link as well. IDEA is committed to interdisciplinary applied ethics and so academics and professionals from other disciplines and related industries are encouraged to submit relevant abstracts for this event.

The deadline for abstracts is 5pm Friday 25th April 2025.

If you have any questions, you can reach the event organiser Dr Sarah Carter-Walshaw at this address: s.carter-walshaw@leeds.ac.uk

[You can register to attend this workshop through this link](#) ; this will be a free event.



The 26th Cemeteries Colloquium

The Colloquium will be taking place as a face-to-face meeting on the 23rd of May 2025 in York, and we are now seeking abstract submissions.

Please use the [submission portal](#) at the Cemetery Research group website.

The Colloquium has developed into an essential forum for the discussion of new and emerging cemetery scholarship and is multi-disciplinary, accepting papers from across the humanities and social sciences. The Colloquium has an emphasis on discussion, and its international and interdisciplinary nature makes the meeting particularly thought-provoking.

Note that we also host a second entirely on-line event in November. A call for papers for this event will be issued later this year.

The Cemetery Research Group [bibliography](#) has now been updated with new material from 2024 and includes additional references to older material.

Routledge has now issued the latest edition in the series **Routledge International Focus on Death and Funeral Practices**. Listen to Hannah Gould discuss *Death and Funeral Practices in Japan* on the [New Books Network](#) podcast

Edited book: “Frontiers of Bereavement: Theories, Models and Frameworks for the Future” Call for chapter submissions

- The commissioned edited book aims to explore emerging theories, models and frameworks of grief and bereavement from an intersectional, interdisciplinary, global, inclusive perspective to counteract pathologisation, myth and legend.
- Grief and bereavement are not just individual but socially constructed processes in response to a significant loss; death and non death (Helton, 2017; Lloyd 2018).
- Research literature advances knowledge in disparate phenomenology within social sciences (e.g. Borgstrom & Visser, 2024), social work (e.g. Pentaris, 2022), and philosophy (e.g. Cholbi, 2021) to name examples.
- The literature has advanced knowledge in significant areas and this book seeks to consolidate and advance a compendium of theories, models and frameworks, rooted within empirical studies. The anticipated audiences are academic, professional and public: anyone with an interest in bereavement studies and providing bereavement support.

Submissions

Should be written in English and lay friendly.

Submission deadline: Please submit your paper by 30th August, 2025.

Word limit:

Submissions no larger than 5,000 words (excluding appendices/references). Multiple submissions from the same author/s will be considered.

Online submission:

Please email any questions or submissions to: backpocketteacher@gmail.com

Coming soon: The Journal of Disappearance Studies

Bristol University Press is pleased to bring you this journal for the newly established field of Disappearance Studies. Our first issue will publish in 2025.

The *Journal of Disappearance Studies* focuses on the collective dimensions of human disappearance, especially enforced disappearance, but also on its consequences at the more than human levels (e.g. cultural and environmental levels).

The journal highlights studies on the disappeared across diverse disciplines and fields of study and encourages transdisciplinary approaches to the study of disappearance. The journal brings together academics, policymakers, practitioners, families of the disappeared, victim-centred organisations, as well as artists and cultural producers for the co-production of interventions aimed at bringing about societal, instrumental and academic impact. The journal also publishes ground breaking transdisciplinary research that addresses the specificities and commonalities to disappearances across space and time. The publication of ethical frameworks for the researching and teaching of disappearance as a pedagogical and public concern are also welcomed.

The *Journal of Disappearance Studies* welcomes the submission of original and review articles, interviews with artists, policymakers, practitioners, survivors and families along with book reviews. The *Journal of Disappearance Studies* will publish one special issue a year, highlighting themes showcased in the annual conference of the Disappearance Studies Network. The journal seeks to publish contributions from all regions of the world. The journal is open to submissions from Sociology, Humanities, International Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, Legal Studies, Anthropology, History and the Arts.

The editorial team is led by [Bahar Baser](#) (Durham University, UK), [Roddy Brett](#) (University of Bristol, UK), and [Élise Féron](#) (Tampere University, Finland). The full editorial board will be announced soon.


Call for papers

Be among the first to publish in the *Journal of Disappearance Studies*. The journal will launch in the summer (Northern Hemisphere) of 2025.

If you would like to make a submission please contact the Editors for information on how to submit: jds-editorial@bristol.ac.uk.

Responsible Technology for Death and Dying

Submission deadline: 30 November 2025



The rapid emergence of technologies designed to interact with the deceased presents a unique opportunity and a significant ethical challenge. Without a robust regulatory framework and a commitment to responsible research and innovation (RRI) principles, these technologies risk exacerbating grief and potentially distorting our understanding of death and the process of dying.

The rapid advancement of generative AI (GenAI) has marked the beginning of a new era of technological innovation, including the development of "DeathTech" or Digital Afterlife Industry (DAI). DeathTech and DAI are new concepts that include any technology-enabled application and devices that help with death and dying. These can include technologies and services to help cope with loss and grief, preserve digital afterlife immortality (e.g., to enable continuous interaction with the deceased) and digital reminiscence, among others. While these technologies offer potential benefits, such as preserving positive memories and facilitating grief, they also raise significant ethical and societal concerns.

This special issue aims to explore the multifaceted impact of "DeathTech" and DAI on grief processes, mourning rituals, and cultural conceptions of death. By promoting RRI approaches, we seek to inform future technological developments to maximize psychological benefits and minimise harm.

By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers, technologists, IT lawyers, ethicists, and end of life practitioners, this special issue will contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the potential benefits and risks of DeathTech. Ultimately, our goal is to shape a future where responsible technology serves humanity, rather than the other way around.

Special issue information:

Key areas of inquiry could include these sub-topics:

The psychological impact: How does DeathTech and digital afterlife industries (DAI) such as ghost bots, dead bots and grief bots, among many others, influence grief processes, bereavement, and the development of healthy coping mechanisms?

The role of GenAI in DeathTech and DAI: How can GenAI be used to create more realistic and personalised digital representations of the deceased? What are the ethical implications of using AI to generate content that mimics human behavior and emotion?

Ethical and moral considerations: What are the ethical and moral implications of creating digital representations of the deceased? How can we ensure that these technologies respect individual autonomy, data privacy and ownership, and dignity?

Cultural, spiritual, and religious perspectives: How do different cultures and religions conceptualise death and dying? How can DeathTech and DAI be designed to accommodate diverse cultural and religious beliefs and practices?

Regulatory frameworks: What regulatory measures are necessary to ensure the ethical, legal, and responsible development and use of DeathTech and DAI? Which are the main accountability issues? Is there a need to professionalise DAIs?

Manuscript submission information:

Free APC: Article Publishing Charge will be fully waived for all articles accepted in this special issue.

Manuscript submission open date: 15/12/2024

Manuscript submission deadline: 30/11/2025

You are invited to submit your manuscript at any time before the submission deadline. For any inquiries about the appropriateness of contribution topics, please contact Prof. Elvira Perez Vallejos via elvira.perez@nottingham.ac.uk.

Bereavement Education Conference 2025 - Bereavement as a Kaleidoscope: An Inclusive Approach for All

Tuesday 11 November 2025

Register by: 04 November 2025

Overview

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) is delighted to welcome you to the Bereavement Education Conference 2025 - Bereavement as a Kaleidoscope: An Inclusive Approach for All.

We will host a number of plenary and parallel sessions throughout the day and full details will follow.

'We're delighted to announce Helen Fielding as a speaker of the #NESBereavement2025 conference on Tues 11 Nov. She is author of the 'Bridget Jones Diary' series, including the recent screen adaptation of 'Mad About the Boy' which includes a focus on the title character's experience of bereavement'

A free, one-day virtual event for health and social care staff.

Please email events@nes.scot.nhs.uk to be added to the mailing list so you receive notifications on this conference.

For more info: <https://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/events/bereavement-education-conference-2025-bereavement-as-a-kaleidoscope-an-inclusive-approach-for-all/>

Loneliness in Grief: Exploring the Silent Struggle and the Path to Connection

Loneliness is a profound and often unspoken companion of grief. As individuals mourn the loss of a loved one, the overwhelming sense of isolation can become all-encompassing, even when surrounded by others. This theme could explore the multifaceted experience of loneliness in grief, examining its psychological, emotional, and social dimensions, while also considering the impact of cultural contexts, modern technology, and social support systems. Presentations should address the role of loneliness as a central challenge in the grieving process and explore ways to mitigate its effects and facilitate healthier pathways for moving forward and for reconnection to life in general. Potential groups/ideas related to this theme include:

- Men in Grief: The Toll of Loneliness
- Loneliness in Grief for Vulnerable Populations (i.e. older adults)?

- The Loneliness in Grief for Marginalized Communities (LGBTQ+ individuals, ethnic minorities, and immigrant populations)

We welcome perspectives from academic, clinical and practical perspectives on these topics. Please [submit an abstract for the 2026 conference](#). We look forward to learning with and from one another!

Concurrent session and poster session proposal deadline: November 11, 2025

Notification date: December 11, 2025

More info [here!](#)

Contact Us

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

