

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

February 2025 Newsletter

[*Director's Note*](#)

CDAS

[*News*](#)

[*Events*](#)

CDAS Community

[*News*](#)

[*Events*](#)

[*Calls*](#)

[*Job/PhD opportunities*](#)

[*Contact Us*](#)

Director's Note

Welcome to our February 2025 issue of the CDAS newsletter where you find us planning our annual conference and sharing details of some great events coming up in the next few months as part of our 20th anniversary celebration year.

We are delighted to say that CDAS continues to grow with new member Martin Savransky and new visiting PhD student Mateus Eduardo Romão from the University of Pavia, Italy. Welcome both! CDAS members have also been very busy writing, editing, podcasting and blogging, with details of our many outputs included in this issue.


Coming up we are really excited to share in this newsletter details of a seminar by Reader in Japanese Studies and CDAS Visiting Fellow Christopher Hood on deadly plane crashes and memorial notes, on 12th March. A week later we have a panel on 'Marginalized Ways of Understanding Death: From Fiji to Africa to Turtle Island' on 19th March with speakers from around the world (finding a time that spans such timezones has been quite a challenge – thank you all for your flexibility!). Later in the month of March the launch of our CDAS 'Hidden Histories' Death and Crime Walk. Based on Ruth Penfold-Mounce's model of walks in the city of York, Molly Conisbee has created this free podcasted walk detailing some of the city of Bath's lesser known historical stories, including stories of disease, corruption, murders and much more. A huge thank you to Molly and the team for all they have done to create this walk, and if you cannot make the launch but live locally or find yourself visiting the beautiful city in which we are so fortunate to be based, please do spend 90 minutes doing the walk, which will take you around some of Bath's most famous sites.

You can find out more about the walk here: <https://cdaswalk.org/>

Our CDAS PhD community has been really active, with graduations (Catriona), panels (George – see below!), new papers (Alastair) and surveys (Polly). We can especially encourage you to share Polly's survey if relevant to you and your networks, which will inform her PhD study on end of life care for and within queer families. Fully details of the survey can be found in this issue, and the link to it is [here](#).

Thank you as always for your continued support for what we do, please keep sending us your info and updates and we will do our best to share it.

Until next time
Kate and Naomi



Conference update

Thank you all for submitting your abstracts for our annual conference. These are now being reviewed by our organising committee (thank you committee) and we will be in touch soon with outcomes. We received abstracts from 21 countries and the quality of them was really high this year, so it promises to be a great two days. Watch this space for more details soon.

Association of Death Education and Counseling panel

Thank you to CDAS members Lorna Templeton, Sarah Moore, Lucy Easthope and Prof Jessica Jacobson from Birkbeck University for their webinar for US-based ADEC in January on difficult deaths.

Chaired by co-director Kate Woodthorpe, it was a 90 minute discussion about how and why difficult deaths occur, investigative processes that occur to make sense of them, and issues of transparency and governance.



Graduation Success



Congratulations on your MSc graduation Catorina Brickel, we hope you enjoyed celebrating the day with your family!

Follow Catriona's progress through her Phd [here](#).

Welcome new CDAS member Martin Savransky

Martin Savransky is Reader in Social and Environmental Thought at the University of Bath. A social theorist, sociologist and philosopher with a focus on planetary instability and socioenvironmental transformations, his work explores what it might take to carve lives (and deaths) tenacious on an earth at loose ends with itself. He is the author of *Around the Day in Eighty Worlds: Politics of the Pluriverse* (Duke University Press, 2021) and *The Adventure of Relevance: An Ethics of Social Inquiry* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, with a foreword by Isabelle Stengers), and co-editor of *After Progress* (Sage, 2022) and *Speculative Research: The Lure of Possible Futures* (Routledge, 2017).

Welcome to new visiting PhD student Mateus Eduardo Romão, who has a new paper out

Mateus joins us for two months from the University of Pavia, Italy. Mateus's work is examining burnout and the needs of those working with people near the end of their life and who has died. While he is with us he is working on developing an educational toolkit for professional groups. We hope you enjoy your time in Bath, Mateus. His new paper is:

Exploring risk and protective factors for burnout in professionals working in death-related settings: A scoping review

Objectives

This study aimed to explore the published literature on risk and protective factors associated with burnout among professionals working in death-related settings.

Results

The studies highlighted risk and protective factors for burnout among death-related professions, such as demographic and personal factors, work-related factors, and psychological and social factors.

Find the full paper [here](#).

New publication by CDAS member Yu-Ching Liu

Yu-Ching Liu has co-authored a publication with Professor Chen-Fen Chen from the Department of Long-Term Care at National Taipei University of Nursing and Health Sciences (Taiwan), titled "A Historical Overview of Policy Perspectives Toward Informal Care in Taiwan (1996–2023)", published in Health Policy. This article examines the development and recent reforms of carer support services in Taiwan using a 'carers as co-clients' perspective. The link for this article can be found [here](#).

New Social Science and Medicine publication by CDAS members

CDAS visiting fellow Dr Chao Fang, CDAS members John Troyer and Alastair Comery, along with colleagues from Shanghai University, Professor MingMing Cheng and Qin Luo, have co-authored an article titled "Exploring good death in China: A qualitative study from the perspectives of family members" in Social Science & Medicine. The paper presents findings from 31 interviews with bereaved family members in Shanghai, examining how China's emerging palliative care services, influenced by Western models, are shaped by cultural values that emphasise family harmony and continuity. The study highlights the need for a balanced approach that considers both individual and family interests in end-of-life care. This research stems from CDAS's ongoing collaborations with Shanghai University on end-of-life care development in China, initiated by John and Chao and supported by Alastair.

Read the full article [here](#).

New publication by CDAS visiting fellow: Grave communications: How an understanding of gravedigging practices informs post-medieval cemetery excavations and interpretations

By Daniel T Brown, Helen Frisby, and Stuart J Prior

This paper examines the contemporary role of the gravedigger, their day-to-day working practices, and how these tasks can impact the archaeological record. The study was undertaken through conducting semi-structured interviews with 16 practising and recently retired gravediggers from in and around Bristol. These interviews revealed that gravediggers not only dig graves but also facilitate funerals, bury coffins, reopen graves for subsequent burials, exhume human remains and curate material culture both within the graves and around the grave plots. The gravediggers also perform important emotional labour in their interactions with the dead and with their families. This evidence demonstrates that gravediggers heavily impact the archaeological record in cemetery contexts and play an important part in the social organisation around funerary practices in the British Isles. Although this role has likely changed considerably over time, these interviews still demonstrate that present-day archaeologists must consider the role and impact of gravediggers when analysing post-medieval cemetery landscapes. In addition, this information can act as guidance for future archaeologists when excavating cemetery sites and churchyard

Follow the link to read:

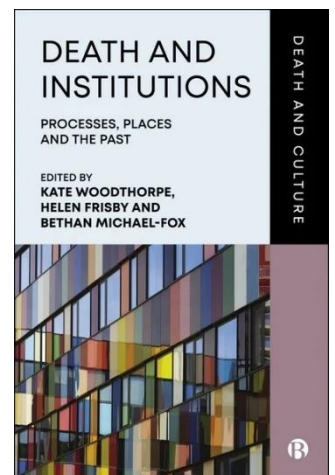
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00794236.2024.2356653>

New CDAS edited collection published NEXT MONTH

Coming soon to a library near you: **Death and Institutions**, a new edited collection by CDAS based on the 2022 conference of the same name. Order your copy from the University of Bristol Press or local bookshop now!

<https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/death-and-institutions>

Our promo video for the book is [here](#). Thank you 2022 keynote and chapter author Hajar Ghorbani for creating it. Please share the promo widely, we love it.



LGBTQ+ survey by CDAS PhD student

Please support and circulate this survey by PhD student [Polly Maxwell](#), which will form part of her PhD on queer families at the end of life.

This survey aims to provide an understanding of the different forms of family practiced by LGBTQ+ people, and how these families experience representation and inequity in public services. It is part of a wider study collecting knowledge on LGBTQ+ families and the care they provide, including towards the end of life. The survey is open to all over 18s living in England, Wales or Scotland who identify as LGBTQ+. This research aims to improve understandings of diverse family structures to both address these inequities and to give visibility to LGBTQ+ ways of doing family. To do this, we want to get an idea of the breadth of diverse ways in which our community practice family, basically: who is family, where is family and what is family.



The researcher: Polly Maxwell, currently completing a PhD in Social Policy at the University of Bath. Their research takes an affirmative approach to the lives and experiences of LGBTQ+ people. The researcher self-identifies as a queer social researcher, doing research driven from the lived experience of grieving their late partner and navigating life as an overall queer human.

Survey link: <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/bathreg/lgbtq-survey>

New blogs and podcasts

CDAS members have been busy talking and writing for wider audiences recently. Please do let us know about your updates whether you're a CDAS member or not, we like to promote and share what we can.

New blog post by Visiting Fellow Imogen Jones

['Funeral Directors make the news again: How we treat the dead \(still\) matters'](#)

New podcast for NHS Education for Scotland 'Talking about Bereavement'

Hear from [Dr John MacArtney](#) from the University of Warwick and CDAS co-director Kate Woodthorpe as they discuss the use of the term 'loved ones' based on their recent blog post ['Is everyone a loved one?'](#) for the End of Life Studies group at Glasgow. Available on Spotify or anywhere else you get your podcasts. OUT NOW!

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/01MgkR4H8kpDnGnsYXRtKw>

New seminar recording by Bethany Simmonds: Intersections of ageing and disability during the COVID-19 pandemic

A recording of a Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research and Data (WISERD) seminar (led by Cardiff University) seminar series on the 19th of November about the paper entitled 'Intersections of ageing and disability during the COVID-19 pandemic: evidencing the need for an 'anti-ableist and anti-ageist ethics of care' to ensure human rights and dignity in society' has been published on YouTube: [Dr Bethany Simmonds - Intersections of ageing and disability during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

A blog post to accompany the talk (by Bethany) can be found here: <https://wiserd.ac.uk/blog/learning-from-older-and-disabled-peoples-experiences-during-the-pandemic-envisaging-a-better-future-of-care/>

Remembering The World's Deadliest Single Plane Crash in Unexpected Ways

March 12th 12 - 1:30pm GMT

Hybrid: Sign up [here](#), to attend in person or online.

12 August in Japan is Obon, the festival of the dead. It was on this day, in 1985, that flight JL123, a Boeing 747 with 524 crew and passengers, crashed into mountains north-west of Tōkyō. By the time search and rescue teams reached the crash site, all but four of those on board were dead. To this day it remains the world's deadliest single plane crash. But this is not why it tends to be remembered.

One of the features of this crash is that some on board wrote final messages, isho. These notes provide an insight into those of those who knew that they may be facing death. Nearly 40 years after the crash, there is much interest in the notes, and this interest is not restricted to Japan. There are many around the world wanting to read the notes. Novels and dramatizations related to the crash all feature the notes in some way. Some of the notes themselves are on display in JAL's Safety Promotion Center. This paper explores the reasons for the interest in the notes and analyses their contents.

Today when a major event occurs, it will be discussed widely on social media. What is perhaps surprising is that there are people making YouTube videos, for example, of events that occurred prior to the internet being widely developed. This is true also about JL123. In the second half of the lecture, I will look at the contents of some of these videos and consider what the implications are for those who may turn to YouTube for learning about historical events and the 'truth' about what really happened.

About the speaker

Christopher Hood is a Reader in Japanese Studies at Cardiff University and a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Death and Society (CDAS), University of Bath. His books include *Japan: The Basics*, *Osutaka: A Chronicle of Loss in the World's Largest Single Plane Crash*, and *Dealing with Disaster in Japan: Responses to the Flight JL123 Crash*. He is the author of articles and chapters including 'Depicting the Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: History and Continued Significance', 'Truth and Limitations: Japanese Media and Disasters', 'Japanese Disaster Narratives of the Early Twenty-First Century: Continuity and Change', 'Disaster Narratives by Design: Is Japan Different?', and 'Developing a Model to Explain Modifications to Public Transportation Accident Memorials'. Between 2016 and 2022 he was the President of the British Association for Japanese Studies. In 2016 he received a Certificate of Commendation from the Ambassador of Japan in the UK in recognition of distinguished service to contributing to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and UK. He is also the author of the novels *Hijacking Japan*, *Tokyo 20/20 Vision*, and *FOUR*.

Homepage: <http://tiny.cc/HoodCP>

Social media: <https://linktr.ee/HoodCP>

Marginalized Ways of Understanding Death: From Fiji to Africa to Turtle Island

19th March 2025, 4pm – 5pm GMT

Sign up [here](#)

Ron Vave

Presentation title: “Indigenous Fijian Funeral culture in Fiji: Contemporary challenges and Strategies for Socioecological and Economic Sustainability”

The talk will look at the social, environmental and economic dimensions and challenges of indigenous Fijian funeral culture in Fiji and the familial and communal negotiations for survival.

[Dr. Ron Vave](#) is an indigenous Fijian and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa (UHM). He holds three degrees from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji: a Bachelor’s in Biology and Chemistry, a Postgraduate Diploma in Marine Science, and a Masters in coral ecology. His PhD in Marine Biology at UHM investigated how the cultural practice(s) of indigenous Fijian funerals in Fiji influenced and affected social and ecological resilience.



George Gumisiriza

Presentation title: "Mapping the difference: exploring African migrant deathways in the UK"

This paper reflects on the ordinariness of death matters in the UK and how regulations, policy, and practice frame death politics in the UK. The paper draws on my PhD research into body repatriation among African migrants in the UK to address two critical areas:

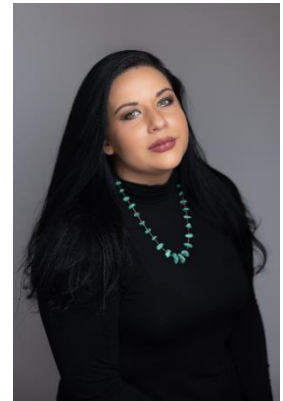
1. The social, cultural, and political factors that highlight African migrant funerary practices in the UK.
2. Understanding African migrant ‘transnational localisms’, barriers to body repatriation, and how these inform social constructions of belonging in the UK.



George Gumisiriza is an early career researcher who focuses on popularising Afrocentric perspectives on death through repatriationscapes studies. He is pursuing a PhD in Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath. George’s on-going PhD research concerns the repatriation of African diaspora corpses [and human remains] from the UK to places of their heritage connection(s) in Africa. His research explores African diaspora transnational localisms, belonging and restoration for both the living and the dead. George’s multidisciplinary research highlights barriers including migration and mobilities, changing social, cultural, economic, and political situations. Link: <https://vimeo.com/724961538>

Dr. Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner

Presentation Title: “Indigenous Feminist Approaches to Death Car(e)cerality: Land, Liberation, and Resistance to Settler Necropolitics in Turtle Island”



This talk interrogates the settler colonial governance of death as a site of necropolitical control, examining interconnected examples of car(e)cerality, including the denial of funeral access for incarcerated Native people, the disruption of mourning through police violence, the privatization of stolen burial grounds, the displacement of unrepatriated Native remains, the regulatory stranglehold of the funeral industrial complex, the ecological harm of “green” burial practices that fail to recognize Indigenous land, and the generational damage to Indigenous death cosmologies caused by the criminalization of ceremonies. Grounded in Indigenous feminist frameworks, this work positions these issues as part of a broader colonial project to control Indigenous life cycles, including death. It advocates for coalition-building and the creation of networks of support for Indigenous death care workers, as exemplified by organizations like the Decolonizing Death Collective and Native American and Indigenous Death Care Autonomy (NAIDCA), to resist settler car(e)cerality and envision relational, anticolonial approaches to death care.

[Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner](#) (Luiseño & Cupeño) is an Indigenous feminist philosopher. Shelbi researches, teaches, and consults on Indigenous research and evaluation methods, cultural and language reclamation, Indigenous epistemologies, Indigenous feminist interventions in critical social work, and land-based feminist coalition-building. Shelbi is fascinated by the intersections of Indigenous knowledge systems, caretaking, power, and trauma. Shelbi is a proud first-generation descendant of the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians, and is of both Luiseño (Payómkawichum) and Cupeño (Kupangaxwichem) descent. She is an assistant professor in the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at University of Maryland, College Park and the founding director of the Indigenous Futures Lab, a hub of Indigenous feminist research and evaluation.

CDAS walk launch

Drawing on our [Visiting Professor Ruth Penfold-Mounce](#)’s expertise and experience of creating walks around the city of York we have been busy creating our own podcast walk around the city centre, sharing some of Bath’s lesser known stories about death and crime. Join us for two launch events in March, including a free walk with the creator herself, [Dr Molly Conisbee](#), and a talk between Ruth and Molly on the walk’s creation and learning on the move.

Bath’s hidden histories: stories of death and crime within the city

25th March 5pm – 6.30pm

Bath City Centre

Join us for a 90 minute walk around the city centre as we introduce you to some of Bath's lesser known hidden histories. Recounting instances of illness, death, crime and more, our walk will take you to some of the best known city landmarks while also shedding some light on the less 'glossy' history of the city. It will be followed by a talk from the walk's creators, which is a separate event (see below).

Sign up [here](#)

Bath's Hidden Histories: uncovering death and crime within the city

25th March 7pm – 8pm

Widcombe Social Club

Join us for a free talk by the creators of the Bath Hidden Histories Walk, Dr Molly Conisbee from the University of Bath and Professor Ruth Penfold-Mounce from the University of York. During their talk they will reflect on how and why some stories, histories and knowledge(s) become public and others suppressed, and the extent to which people are willing to engage with the topics of death and crime. This will be the formal launch of the podcast walk hosted by the University of Bath's [Centre for Death and Society](#), which you can do in your own time. The walk uncovers some of the deaths and crimes that have taken place in Bath over the centuries, and will take you around some of the most well known locations in the city at the same time. It is free and available here: <https://cdaswalk.org/>

Sign up for the talk [here](#)

Both of our walk launch events are part of the [Bath Curious Minds Festival](#) and spaces are limited, so make sure to reserve your space!

Future events

We have a calendar of events in the making for the next few months, including:

April: Dying in the Age of AI panel and launch of the 'Death and Institutions' book edited by Kate Woodthorpe, Helen Frisby and Bethan Michael-Fox

May: Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture chaired by Diana Teggi

May: Panel with Dis/Connections from the Open University and University of Bath Centre for Decolonisation of Knowledge, on decolonising bereavement; as part of the launch of our special issue of Mortality from the 2023 conference, edited by Kate Woodthorpe and former CDAS director Jeremy Dixon

June: Annual Conference

Full details of these events will be in future issues of the newsletter and shared on social media.

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

New Report: To Know Dying: Identifying research areas in palliative and end of life care for the social sciences and humanities

[To Know Dying: Identifying research areas in palliative and end of life care for the social sciences and humanities.](#)

By Mari Greenfield, Erica Borgstrom, Briony Hudson, John I MacArtney

This report demonstrates how a wide range of social science and humanities perspectives are vital for addressing the complex, multifaceted issues around palliative and end-of-life care. It outlines five research areas, which were identified via a multi-step collaborative secondary analysis process drawing on data from patients, carers, and professionals about their ideas for future research. The report complements the ['refreshed' priorities for palliative and end of life care](#) released this month, and the project was funded by Marie Curie.

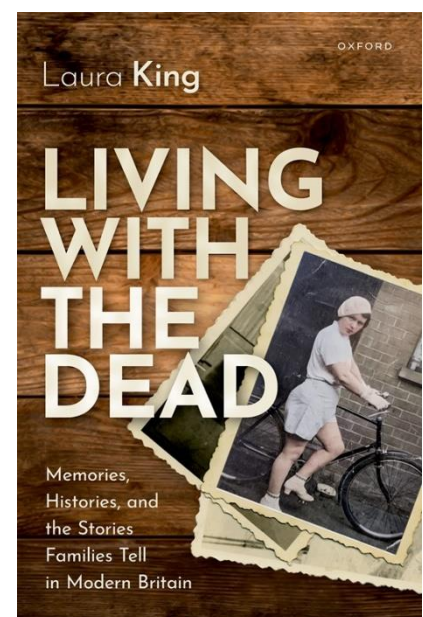
The five areas include:

- Experience, practice and education
- Awareness, communication and planning
- Power, ethics and transitions
- Time, space and care
- Diversity, equity and society

New book 'Living with the Dead: Memories, Histories, and the Stories Families Tell in Modern Britain' by Laura King

Abstract: The dead are everywhere in family life. From a great-grandmother's recipe made time and again, to a dog-eared black-and-white photo of a family on a beach, and from a carefully curated family bible to a much-told story of a family fleeing their home many decades ago, families are made by their pasts. This book examines the relationship between the living and the dead within family life, charting the way families create afterlives for their ancestors. It asks who and what gets to be remembered, and why.

Considering different points of connection with the dead in each chapter—through graves, homes, things, photos, writing, research, and stories—this book shows how death and the dead remain a crucial presence within family life. Through an innovative methodology of collaborative critical family history, *Living with the Dead* features interviews, personal archives, and the results of a collaboration with fifteen family historians, including the author's own family. What results is a unique way of getting inside families in the past, of charting not only how families have remembered their dead and passed on their histories over time, but the



mechanisms of how histories are constructed and shared. Living with the Dead reveals how crucial the dead and stories of them are within families, and provides new ways for historians to unpick the way history is intimately made.

For more info: <https://academic.oup.com/book/59440>

The Association for the Study of Death and Society, ASDS Awards

Eligibility and Nomination Process

- For open awards, nominations may be made by both members and non-members of ASDS (including [ASDS council members](#), see below for further guidance).
- Self-nominations are not permitted for any award.
- All nominations must clearly demonstrate how the nominee meets the criteria for the award, as this information will be used for shortlisting purposes.
- All nominations for open awards must be submitted using [this online submission form](#) for the relevant award. All sections of the form must be completed in full, and any potential conflict of interest declared.
- Nominations must be received by **23.59 hours (BST) on 31 March 2025**. Late nominations will not be considered.
- [Read more about all the Awards here](#).

For the 2025 Awards, the relevant nomination period* for both the ASDS Book Award and the ASDS Mortality Journal Award is 1 April 2021-31 March 2025. Any works nominated for either of these awards must have been published within this date period.

To find out more [click here](#)

'Deathbed Etiquette' Project

Calling bereaved adults in the UK and Ireland.

Finding better ways to support people accompanying their dying family and friends is a focus of the work of The Art of Dying Well at @yourstmarys University.

The 'Deathbed Etiquette' project is investigating the potential impact of a brief and friendly guide to that poignant and precious time. They are looking for bereaved people (aged 16+) who would be willing to give feedback about the guide.

The research is a collaboration between St Mary's and Lancaster Uni.

Contact details:

 dbe.research.enquires@lancaster.ac.uk  07597 312831

Survey of UK-based palliative and end-of-life care researchers

An invitation to participate in an online survey relevant to those who conduct palliative and end of life care research in the UK.

By ‘palliative and end-of-life care researcher’, we include anyone who view themselves as being currently or recently engaged in research on palliative and end-of-life care, advanced/life-limiting illness, death/dying, and bereavement.

- In any workplace in the UK (e.g., University, Hospital, Hospice, Community-based)
- All types of researchers (e.g., University researchers, Clinicians, Freelancers)
- All types of research involvement (e.g., Full-time/Part-time, those who are taking a career break)
- At any career level (e.g., from PhD students to Professors)

You can view the information and survey here:

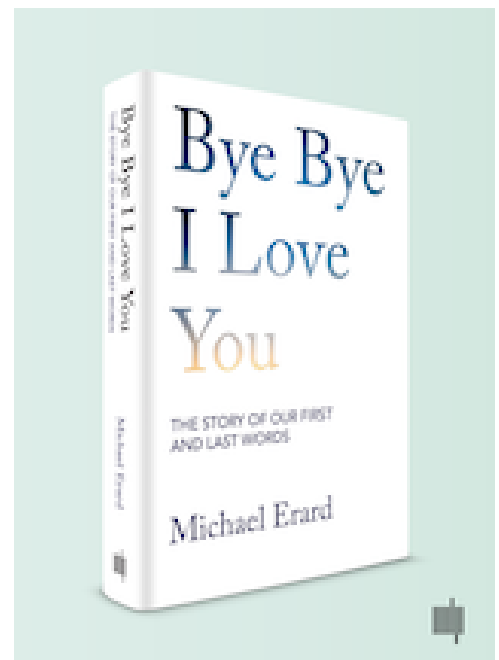
<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/edinburgh/uk-based-peolc>

New book! ‘Bye Bye I Love You: The Story of Our First and Last Words’

The book is a linguistic and historical look at the first words of babies and language at the end of life and draws on personal, historical, and anthropological accounts to show the wide range of meanings that are attached to these milestones. Toni Morrison once said that how we do language is the measure of our lives; Bye Bye I Love You is about where that measuring begins and ends. It is the first comprehensive account from a language science perspective of what happens linguistically and communicatively at the very end of life, which is why it is of interest to the CDAS community.

Here's more about it from the publisher's website.

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/9780262049429/bye-bye-i-love-you/>



About the author - Michael Erard: I have an MA in linguistics and PhD in English, both from the University of Texas at Austin, and I am the author of two previous books about language. I am a researcher at the Centre for Language Studies at Radboud University in the Netherlands. To write Bye Bye I Love You, I received support from the Max Planck Society, the Sloan Foundation, and the US National Endowment for the Humanities. In 2016 I received the Language, Linguistics, and the Public award from the Linguistics Society of America. I am in training to become an end-of-life doula through End of Life Doula UK and serve on the advisory board of the Death Languages Project at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Call for Evidence now open: UK Palliative and End of Life Care Commission

The Commission on Palliative and End-of-Life Care will seek to identify the current strengths and significant shortfalls in provision and the barriers that exist in the current systems of such care. It will look at the relationship between specialist palliative care services and generalist services. Full details are [here](#).

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Human Remains Project digital Library (HRDL) Launch 21st February

We're delighted to announce that The Human Remains Project is launching its new open-access digital library (HRDL) on **Friday 21 February 2025** at a hybrid event (online and at the University of Liverpool) running from 10am to 4pm (GMT). This is a free public event, and all are welcome!

For more details and to book a place visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/launch-of-the-human-remains-digital-library-hrdl-tickets-1237163261619>

HRDL currently has over 2,000 accounts of historic burial management in British churches since the 7th century AD, covering 32 types of historical records translated from 11 languages, and 200+ examples of archaeological evidence of historic burial management from inside 38 British cathedrals.

Offering an unprecedented scale of digital historical and archaeological information on church burial management, the purpose of HRDL is to support research, policy, and practice for those managing or investigating historic burials in Christian contexts. Visit our project website for more details: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/archaeology-classics-and-egyptology/research/projects/human-remains/>

Joining us on the day will be a range of practitioners, researchers, stakeholders, and managers to discuss how we designed HRDL and the potential use of HRDL with the current project team over the course of five themed discussions (see below and on Eventbrite). Further details, the link to HRDL, and the online link for the event will be sent in due course for those who sign-up.

So whether you are interested in a particular period, place, document type, or archaeological evidence; and whether you want to use HRDL for research, training, teaching, policy, planning, collaborating with us, or building your own digital collection, we would love to see you there!

You can also join The Human Remains Collaboratory (the cross-sector network for all those interested in historic human remains) by signing up to the free mailing list, to be kept informed of other forthcoming events and opportunities:

<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/HUMANREMAINSCLLAB>



Demystifying Death: Making Change Happen

This conference will explore how we can work together to demystify death and build more compassionate communities in Scotland. Organised by Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief, the conference will take place on 26 February at the Renfield Centre in Glasgow. More information and booking is available here: [Demystifying Death: Making Change Happen | Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief](#)

TikTok + Grief: An Online Symposium on TikTok, Loss and Connection, 10th March

To register click [here!](#)

Join us for a unique online event exploring the intersection of TikTok, grief, and connection. This symposium will feature presentations and discussions from experts and emerging researchers in the field. Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind opportunity to explore the power of community and connection in the digital age.

Keynote speakers

include: Moa Eriksson Krutrok (Umeå University) and Johanna Sumiala (University of Helsinki)

Organised by Dist. Prof. Larissa Hjorth, Dr Katrin Gerber & Prof Crystal Abidin

This event is brought to you by the Digital Ethnography Research Centre (RMIT University) and the TikTok Cultures Research Network (Curtin University) with support of the Australian Research Council.



Dr Rachel Clarke: The Story of a Heart, 13th March

Rachel Clarke is a bestselling writer (Dear Life and Breathtaking) and NHS Doctor whose books explore subjects that are often taboo, bringing her unique understanding of end-of-life care and compassion for the dying. She reminds us of the many ways we can honour our loved ones and of the tenacity of love.

Her latest book *The Story of a Heart* was shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford prize and is an unforgettable story of how one family's grief transformed into a lifesaving gift for another. When Keira was nine, she suffered catastrophic injuries in a car accident. Her brain and body began to shut down, but her heart continued to beat. Nine-year-old Max, meanwhile, had been hospitalised with a virus that was causing his young heart to fail.

St Swithin's Church, BA1 5LY. Follow [this link](#) for registration

Centre for Ethics in Medicine Seminar Serie: The role of doctors in assisted dying law, with specific reference to the relevance of autonomy within the concept of Western medicine

13 March 2025, 1.00 PM - 13 March 2025, 2.00 PM

Dr Sally Barker

Venue and exact time tbc. For more information [click here!](#)

Closure Conference, Durham, 9-10 April 2025

We warmly invite you to attend our Closure Conference, 9 and 10 April 2025, and encourage you to register here: <https://pay.durham.ac.uk/event-durham/closure-conference-2025>.

The conference will take place at Dunelm House, The Students' Union Building, in central Durham. The conference will begin at 1:15pm on Wednesday 9th April and conclude at 5:30pm on Thursday 10th April, except for those wishing to attend the conference dinner at Hatfield College from 7pm on Thursday 10th April.

Across two-days, attendees will hear from over 20 speakers, representing a diverse range of professional and disciplinary perspectives drawing from anthropology-sociology, theology, ceramic-pottery art, music, funeral directing, funeral celebrants, and palliative care, as well as more personal reflections on loss and grief. All talks, some longer and some shorter, are in a plenary context and not parallel sessions, as to provide everyone with a widely shared audience.

On Wednesday evening, there will be a special public lecture with Dr Kathryn Mannix (well-known palliative care physician) and Dr Julian Stair (one of the UK's leading potters) in conversation with Professor Douglas Davies, followed by a drinks reception with views overlooking the River Wear and Durham Cathedral. This event is included in the full conference package.

Accommodation is available at a discounted rate of £56.25 per night (B&B) at Grey College – a four-minute drive or fifteen-minute walk away from the conference venue.

Full registration (including lunch and refreshments, plus public lecture and drinks reception): **£185**

Conference dinner, three-courses (optional): **£50**

Accommodation, bed and breakfast (optional): **£56.25 per night**

Book here: <https://pay.durham.ac.uk/event-durham/closure-conference-2025>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch at georgina.m.robinson@durham.ac.uk.

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/>

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](#)

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/>

Death Literacies symposium held in Brussels, Belgium

The Death Literacies Symposium is organised by the International Death Literacies Network. The network aims to unite individuals working on Death and End of Life literacy, learn from ongoing projects, inspire each other and collaborate in projects together.

The first symposium was held on June 25th, 2024 at University College London in the UK. The event drew over 30 international researchers from 7 countries working on and around the topic of Death Literacy, Grief Literacy and End-of-Life Health Literacy.

Inspired by each other and the energy in the room, it was decided to keep this group going and plans were soon made for a second event.



Date and location

Dates 17 & 18 March 2025

Location Hoek38, Leuvenseweg 38, 1000 Brussel, Belgium

Link to register and more information:

<https://www.deathliteracy.institute/dlsymposium>

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

Dorothy House Palliative Care Research Conference

Using Research to Optimise Care in Community Settings

Located at the Hospice in Winsley on **Thursday 5 June 2025**, we're delighted to be hosting a collaborative Palliative Care Research Conference focusing on palliative care research in residential and community settings.

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

Registration for the conference will open soon and further information will be found on the Dorothy House Research and Innovation webpage: <https://dev.dorothyhouse.org.uk/what-we-do/centre-for-education-and-research/research-and-innovation/>

The call for abstracts is now open: particularly welcoming early researcher abstracts posters. **Please download our Abstract Submission Form [here](#) and email your completed form to research@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk by Friday 28 February 2025.**



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?

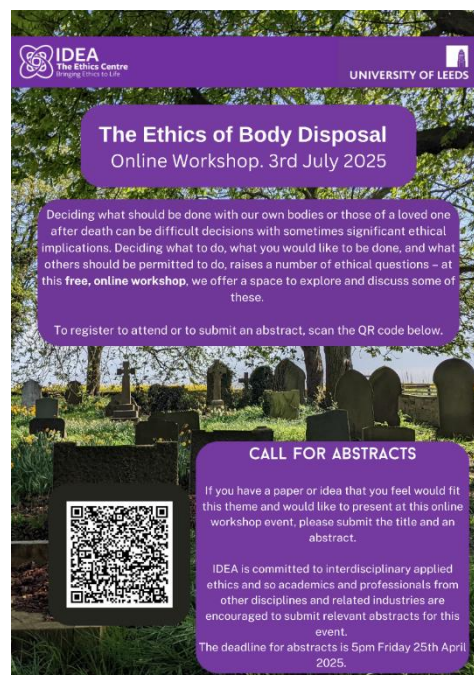
This list is not exhaustive but is meant to be indicative of some of the issues and questions that can be raised by this topic.

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.

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!](#)

Jobs/PhD Opportunities

Funded PhD

Sheffield Hallam University: Psychology Demonstratorships - Exploring the role of Multifaith Chaplaincy in higher education bereavement experiences

When a student dies while at university, it is important for other students and staff to have access to bereavement support. Chaplains are employed by universities to provide pastoral and spiritual care and can often be accessed without filling in forms or any formal process. Many university chaplains now adopt a multi-faith approach, serving people of all faiths and none, and there is therefore potential for them to be of great support after the death of a student, but little research has been done about their role at these times. This PhD would focus on the role of higher education chaplaincy in supporting staff, students, and families following a student death. You could explore the role of chaplaincy in these circumstances, the barriers and facilitators to seeking help, and what effective multi-faith chaplaincy looks like for bereaved members of the university community.

Supervisors: Dr Benjamin Partridge, Dr Rachel Abbott, Dr Jenni Brooks

If you are interested in this project, and would like to discuss your ideas, please contact Dr Benjamin Partridge (b.partridge@shu.ac.uk).

The Institute of Social Sciences will be running an advice webinar for individuals wishing to apply to this project. If you would like to join that webinar, or receive a recording of it, please fill in your details [here](#).

Demonstratorship scholarships are open to Home, EU and International applicants.

Closing date for applications: 17:00 (GMT) on Friday 28th March 2025.

Interviews are to take place during the weeks commencing 28th April and 8th May.

Full details available [here](#).

Thanatology - 2-Year Term Appointment – More info [here](#).

King's University College at Western University, situated on the traditional territories of the Anishnaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples, invites applications for a **two-year, limited-term appointment in The Department of Thanatology**, effective July 1, 2025, subject to budgetary approval.

King's University College is affiliated with Western University a large, world-class university. King's students enjoy learning in smaller classes led by outstanding faculty on a small, beautiful campus while enjoying the experiences of being part of a comprehensive university. As a Catholic university, King's emphasizes the value of each individual and the importance of social justice. Faculty, employees and students from all faiths and backgrounds are welcome. Respect for the human person is behind our commitment to diversity, accessibility, social justice and to building the common good. King's is home to approximately 3500 full- and part-time students from across Canada as well as 35 other countries.

King's University College is situated in London, Ontario. With a diverse population of over 530,000 people, London is currently the 11th largest city in Canada and offers its residents and visitors big-city appeal mixed with small-town charm. To learn more about London, please visit <https://www.ledc.com>.

The successful candidate will bring/have doctoral-level graduates with research, expertise, and training in Thanatology-related areas. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a comprehensive and interdisciplinary understanding of end of life issues, current trends, demonstrate awareness of the various sociological, political, and ethical underpinnings related to the experience of death, loss, and grief, as well as knowledge of current research and trends in the field. Preference will be given to individuals with specific academic preparation and/or certification in Thanatology (i.e., CT/FT) and previous experience teaching in Thanatology-related areas.

A commitment to excellence in undergraduate teaching is expected. Demonstrated evidence of high-quality teaching at the university level in classroom, community and/or virtual environments, experiential learning, curating and/or producing digital learning resources and assessments using a range of tools and technologies from course design through to delivery will be an asset.

Salary shall be in accordance with the King's University College Faculty Association (KUCFA) Collective Agreement.

Details of the current collective agreement can be accessed [here](#).

Applications should include the following, ideally packaged into a single PDF.

1. Cover letter that explains how the candidate's qualifications align with the job description and the department, as well as how they will contribute to equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization;
2. curriculum vitae;
3. short statements of research and teaching interests;
4. evidence of effective and innovative teaching, including teaching evaluations;
5. copies of a maximum of three publications or dissertation chapters; links to other papers
6. the names and contact details of three academic referees (we will request letters for only those candidates who are considered for the interview stage)

These materials should be submitted electronically no later than **February 24, 2025**. To apply, please click [HERE](#).

For any questions regarding the position please contact:

Dr. Eunice Gorman
Chair, Department of Thanatology
King's University College
Thanatology.Chair@kings.uwo.ca

Postdoctoral Research Associate or Fellow (Better Health & Care Futures)

Location:	London
Salary:	£44,105 to £61,921 Grade 6/7, per annum, including London Weighting Allowance
Hours:	Full Time
Contract Type:	Fixed-Term/Contract
Placed On:	14th February 2025
Closes:	10th March 2025
Job Ref:	107565

About the role

Applications are now open for the Better Health & Care Futures (BHCF) Postdoctoral Fellowships. We are seeking four exceptional postdoctoral fellows with the ambition and potential to develop independent research careers in health or social science. This prestigious opportunity is open to qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods researchers from a wide range of disciplines whose projects have local, national or international focus. It is designed for clinical or non-clinical researchers eager to drive innovation, shape future health and care systems and make a meaningful impact through work aligned to the core objectives of BHCF. King's College London has an excellent track record of researcher development, coupled with a wide range of training and support systems to offer continuous growth and improvement.

This is a full time and you will be offered an a fixed term contract until 30th June 2027.

For more information about this role follow the link [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

