



Centre for Death & Society

July 2025 Newsletter

[*Director's Note*](#)

CDAS

[*News*](#)

[*Events*](#)

CDAS Community

[*News*](#)

[*Events*](#)

[*Calls*](#)

[*Jobs*](#)

[*Contact Us*](#)

Director's Note

Hello and welcome to the final newsletter of this academic and special anniversary year for CDAS. It has been an incredible year of events, funding success and publications here in the Centre, and we are grateful and thankful to everyone who has contributed to the year. Highlights include:


- [CDAS directors past and present](#) reflecting on the centre's two decades and what the future holds
- Professor Darcy Harris's international visit and [Minerva Lecture](#) in the autumn, where she also took part in a more-than-human workshop organized by Naomi Pendle;
- The publication of 'Death and Institutions' edited by Kate Woodthorpe, Helen Frisby and Bethan Michael-Fox from our 2022 conference;
- Our seminar on 'Marginalized ways of understanding death: from Fiji to Africa to Turtle Island, curated and chair by John Troyer, with Ron Vave, George Gumisiriza, and Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner
- The launch of our [Bath Death and Crime walk](#) created by Molly Conisbee and Ruth Penfold-Mounce;
- The visit by Johnna Sumiala who took part in a seminar on 'Death and AI' with colleagues here at the University of Bath
- The publication of the special issue of Mortality on Innovation at the End of Life, from our 2023 conference theme edited by Kate Woodthorpe and Jeremy Dixon;
- The welcoming of nearly 20 new visiting fellows and professors; and last but not least
- Our annual conference which featured presenters from 23 countries and 12 timezones.

What a year! We're now planning ahead for next year, and if you have an idea about an event or area you'd like us to cover in a seminar, or want to find out about [doing a PhD with us](#), or want to get involved in the centre, then email us on cdas@bath.ac.uk or look at [our webpage](#) for more info.

For now, we want to say a special thank you to placement student Sarah Wilson who has supported the Centre this year and created this monthly newsletter over the last 11 months – and to wish you well Sarah for the final year of your degree.

To everyone else, thank you for all your support and engagement with the centre, whether it is simply reading these newsletters, or sharing our social media posts, attending events, or joining the centre. We look forward to seeing you next year!

Until then
Kate and Naomi



Thank you

We start by saying a huge THANK YOU to placement student Sarah Wilson who has supported CDAS behind the scenes this year, with setting up Eventbrites and managing events, creating this monthly newsletter, and supporting members of the centre with their research. She's been an invaluable member of the team, and we wish her all the best for the final year of her degree. Thank you Sarah!!

Confirmation success

Catriona Brickel successfully passed her PhD Confirmation Exam earlier this month. Many thanks to examiners, John Troyer and Annayeh Prosser, for their thoughtful questions and suggestions. Meeting this milestone means that Catriona is officially registered as a PhD candidate at the University of Bath and her project, Exploring the creation of digital memorials through charitable giving as a contemporary ritual of remembrance, can move forwards.

That, however, will have to wait until February 2026 as she's about to embark on a new learning adventure: parenthood! Everyone here at CDAS wishes Catriona and her husband Daniel all the very best for the next few months.

The recordings of the keynote presentations at the 2025 CDAS annual conference are now available

[Mobilising social science and humanities expertise in palliative and end of life care research](#) with Erica Borgstrom and John MacArtney

[Thanatopolitics of posthumanism and human-artifice encounters](#) with Sayendri Panchadhyayi

[Whose death literacy do you want me to have?](#) With Mary Hodgson

We are also pleased to be able to share the link to Martin Krafft's film "Ain't Got Time to Die", which was shown (with some issues) at one of the evening events of the conference: [Ain't Got Time to Die](#)

Thank you again to everyone who presented, attended and participated at this year's conference. It was our biggest and best yet!

Blog post By Inka Laisi reflecting on the CDAS Conference 2025

[Read here!](#)

By Inka Laisi, doctoral researcher Small Matters, University of Oulu: In this blog I reflect on my attendance at the [CDAS \(Centre for Death and Society\)](#) conference, located at the University of Bath. This year marks CDAS's 20th anniversary and the theme Death and transitions invited papers that look back at the past 20 years of Death Studies, and research that looks ahead towards the future.

CDAS videos now available – watch as CDAS reflect on 20 years of leading death studies research

As we shared last month, to mark our 20th anniversary we have created for short promo videos about the centre. Please take a look and share with your networks!

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

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

Doing a PhD with CDAS: <https://vimeo.com/1092402245>

The future: <https://vimeo.com/1092402630>

New paper alert!

[Walter \(2025\) 'Resonance and Alienation in Dying', *Mortality*, 30\(2\): 447-465](#)

Hartmut Rosa's theory of resonance and alienation is a sociological theory of modern people's relationship to the material and social world; the article explores if and how this theory might illuminate contemporary dying. After introducing Rosa's key concepts of alienation and resonance, the article applies them first to the individual's dying (my personal death) and second to the possible dying of western modernity, or even humankind itself, due to global warming and ecological degradation (our collective death). Each section looks at how, as the end of individual or collective life approaches, people's material, social and existential worlds change, and hence how their relationships to the world change. An accustomed world that to some extent may have been resonant becomes alien; yet resonance is sometimes found in the newly alien world of the dying. Finally, resonance is compared and contrasted with some Majority World concepts of living well: Buddhism, ubuntu, and buen vivir; and with psychological concepts commonly applied in the West to both individual mortality and global warming, namely denial, awareness, anxiety and grief.

DDD Conference

A large group of CDAS members and colleagues will be attending and presenting at the upcoming [International Conference on Death, Dying and Disposal](#), on the theme of 'The Politics of Death' held in Utrecht (and online) from 27-30 August. Please do meet up with them if you are there.

Death and Culture editors at DDD Conference

Series editors Erica Borgstrom and CDAS co-director Kate Woodthorpe will also be attending DDD and will be actively scouting for potential additions to the Death and Culture book series published by the Bristol University Press. If you have an idea for a book please share it at the conference if you are there, or else contact Erica, Kate and series editor Ruth Penfold-Mounce directly. You can find out more about the series [here](#).

James Fletcher wins University of Bath Images of Research award

Congrats to James Fletcher who won the University's Images of Research competition with his image on digital disability in dementia, and how technologies can contribute to the series of losses that can be experienced after a dementia diagnosis:

Read more here: <https://blogs.bath.ac.uk/publicengagement/2025/07/07/announcing-the-winners-of-images-of-research-2025/>

James via LinkedIn:

🏆 Chuffed to win the [University of Bath](#)'s Images of Research award You can catch the story behind the winning photo and others from the same project here: <https://lnkd.in/eB9CYtra> Big thanks to [University of Bath School of Management](#) for supporting creative output and [Dessi Bocheva](#) for being me at the award ceremony!



George Gumisiriza responds to a Uganda newspaper article

[How the deceased are robbing the living | Monitor](#) (original)

Below is George's response:

[In defence of the dead: Who is fooling who? | Monitor](#)

“What you need to know: But who, really, is fooling who? The dead tell no tales. They make no demands. They hold no rights in the conventional sense”

Visiting Professor Elaine Kasket in Time Magazine article ‘The Dead Have Never Been This Talkative’: The Rise of AI Resurrection

On June 18, AI image-generation company [Midjourney](#) released a tool that lets users create short video clips using their own images as a template. Days later, Reddit cofounder Alexis Ohanian [posted](#) on X about how he used the tech to animate a photo of his late mother, which shows him as a child wrapped in her embrace.

In the artificial video, she laughs and smiles before rocking him in her arms. “Damn, I wasn't ready for how this would feel,” he wrote. “This is how she hugged me. I've rewatched it 50 times.”

Ohanian's post, viewed almost 30 million times, has reignited a longstanding debate over how technology mediates grief and memory—and whether it's magical or dystopian. TIME spoke with experts on grief and memory to understand how this latest advance in “[digital resurrection](#)” is changing our relationship with the dead.

Read the full article [here](#).

Visiting Research Fellow Molly Conisbee on ‘Thinking Allowed’ BBC Sounds

Released On: 17 Jun 2025

Laurie Taylor talks to Molly Conisbee, Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath, about her ‘people’s’ history of mortality, beyond queens and aristocrats. From the plague pits to grave-robberies and wakes, she explores how cycles of dying, death and disposal have shaped our society. What did it mean to die well in the past, what does it mean now? Also, Chao Fang, Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Liverpool, talks about his study of the meaning of a good death in China & how it differs from western notions which centre the dying person's wishes rather than family harmony.

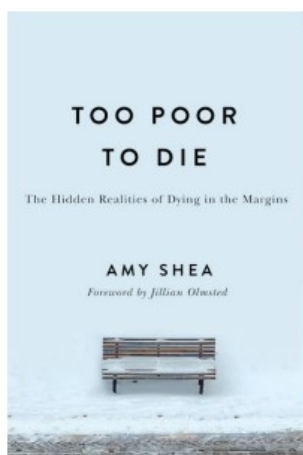
[***Listen here!***](#)

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

New book! Too Poor to Die: The Hidden Realities of Dying in the Margins

Being published September 9th by Rutgers University Press – get 30% off using code RUP30

[Click here](#) to purchase!



Paperback, 9781978843981, \$28.95
Hardcover, 9781978843998, \$69.95
eBook, 9781978844001, \$28.95

Date: September 2025
Pages: 254



Too Poor to Die

The Hidden Realities of Dying in the Margins

by Amy Shea

DESCRIPTION

Death is the great equalizer, but not all deaths are created equal. In recent years, there has been an increased interest and advocacy concerning end-of-life and after-death care. An increasing number of individuals and organizations from health care to the funeral and death care industries are working to promote and encourage people to consider their end-of-life wishes. Yet, there are limits to who these efforts reach and who can access such resources. These conversations come from a place of good intentions, but also from a place of privilege.

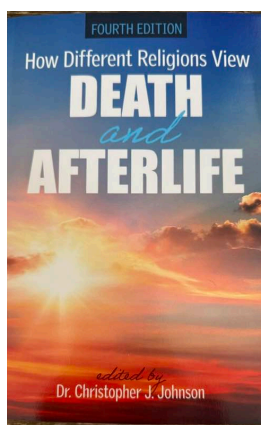
Too Poor to Die: The Hidden Realities of Dying in the Margins, a collection of closely connected essays, takes the reader on a journey into what happens to those who die while experiencing homelessness or who end up indigent or unclaimed at the end of life. *Too Poor to Die* bears witness to the disparities in death and dying faced by some of society's most vulnerable and marginalized and asks the reader to consider their own end-of-life and disposition plans within the larger context of how privilege and access plays a role in what we want versus what we get in death.

AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

Amy Shea is the writing program director for Mount Tamalpais College, a college for incarcerated people in San Quentin, CA. Her essays have appeared in *The Missouri Review*, *Portland Review*, *The Massachusetts Review*, the *Journal of Sociology of Health & Illness*, and others.

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USA & Latin America: rutgersuniversitypress.org • Canada: ubcpres.ca/rutgers • Rest of the World: combinedacademic.co.uk



New edition of book 'How Different Religions View Death and Afterlife'

4th Edition of How Different Religions View Death and Afterlife now released

By Dr Christopher J Johnson

New Podcast episode on Open Thanatology Talks

A new episode of the Open Thanatology Talks! It is titled (How) does the public engage with Advance Care Planning and is based on one of the panel discussions that were held as part of the recent Open Thanatology Conference. It is available on Spotify and Amazon Music- simply search for Open Thanatology Talks! Or use this link:

<https://open.spotify.com/show/113R81JEyBsFzZtMWPLhti?si=DORAubjHQhCEmE6-llt1cA>

You can subscribe to the podcast to ensure you don't miss out on future episodes. As with other podcasts, subscribing, liking, and sharing it helps other people find it.

Thanks to Sam Gould, who produces the podcast series.

DeathSTS Listserv and Working Group

Collaborate and share your work with a growing, international group of 60+ scholars who meet at the intersection of Death Studies and Science and Technology Studies (STS). Join the DeathSTS Network!

Connect, network, and join up with others to share news, announcements, and new work, and to find collaborators for panels, workshops, special issues, edited volumes, and more.

For more information, please contact Philip Olson at deathinsts@gmail.com

New episode alert! Disrupting Death with Ceilidh Eaton Russell

Ever wondered about how to have conversations with the "littles" in your world about dying, death, loss, grief and MAiD? Check out our conversation with the fabulous Ceilidh Eaton Russell. "In the context of any kind of illness, whether it's the child's illness, a family member's illness, somebody's sudden death or MAiD, if we recognise that children have these

rights to access information and to express themselves, it's very hard to justify not giving them a choice about having information." In this episode, Kathy and Keri-Lyn have the great pleasure and privilege of speaking with [Ceilidh Eaton Russell](#), a Certified Child Life Specialist and a Grief Counsellor with a PhD in Family Relations and Human Development from the University of Guelph. Ceilidh is a Lecturer in Child Life and Paediatric Psychosocial Care at McMaster University, a Research Fellow with the Association for Child Life Professionals, and Child Life Lead for Canadian Virtual Hospice. Listen wherever you get your podcasts!

[More information available here](#)

Mortals Autumn places available

Most people avoid thinking about death - until crisis forces them to. But what if mortality awareness could actually help you live more fully? Mortals is led by [Ivor Williams](#) - who spent 8 years designing end-of-life care at Imperial College London and is trained as a death doula. Mortals helps you transform your relationship with mortality to gain clarity on what truly matters. This autumn: 12 spots in our next cohort. 5 weeks to stop wasting time on what doesn't matter and start living with real intention. What past cohorts discovered: "I feel more agency to live intentionally now" "Through exploring death, I found surprising joy in being alive" "Being surrounded by amazing humans who created a really safe space" The experience: → 5 weekly 90-minute sessions (Wednesday evenings UK) → Structured exercises designed from years of research → Maximum 12 people for genuine intimacy → Lifetime access to our private community Investment: £160 (reduced fees available) If you've been carrying questions about meaning, purpose, or how to spend your one wild and precious life - this might be exactly what you need. Get started with our free 5-day email guide and join the waitlist for our next cohort: <https://lnkd.in/ewCGAjmW> Questions? Comment below or message us directly.

For more information [click here](#).

Grief in Action podcast looking for Podcast Guests!

Are you ready to share your expertise and provide practical tools for navigating grief? We're looking for guests for the GRIEF in Action podcast, hosted by Karyn Arnold & Kelly Daugherty, grief experts with 50+ years of combined experience.

What We're About:

GRIEF in Action is not just another podcast about feelings. We offer a practical roadmap for grief with our five-step G.R.I.E.F. framework:

Grounding – Focus on physical well-being (sleep, nutrition, movement, stress reduction).

Rebuilding – Establish routine & structure for daily life.

Interacting – Improve communication & relationships.

Evolving – Navigate complex emotions & rebuild self-esteem.

Finding – Discover purpose and move forward with intention.

☀️ We're Looking for Guests Who:

Professionals & Experts:

- Grounding Experts: Sleep specialists, wellness professionals, nutritionists, healthcare providers
- Rebuilding Experts: Time management specialists, professional organizers, habit coaches
- Interaction Experts: Family therapists, relationship coaches, communication experts, social workers
- Evolution Experts: Self-esteem coaches, trauma specialists, emotional regulation therapists
- Finding Experts: Life coaches, spiritual leaders, career transition experts, purpose coaches
- Individuals with Lived Experience:
 - People who have navigated significant loss and found practical ways to heal
 - Those with unique rituals or practices for honoring loved ones
- Individuals with inspiring stories of growth and transformation through grief

💬 If you have practical tools, powerful stories, or insights to help others take action in their grief, we'd love to hear from you!

Please complete this Google Form if you are interested in being on the podcast:

<https://lnkd.in/ei9FbxDe>

[See more on LinkedIn](#)

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Online talk – Faithful Until Death- Pet cemeteries and animal memorial on 23 July 2025

Wednesday 23rd July 2025 6.30-7.30pm UK time

About the talk

In 1881 a dog named Cherry was laid to rest on the outskirts of Hyde Park in London. This seemingly innocuous act spurred a revolution. Other pet owners would soon follow suit, adding graves alongside Cherry's, and the world's first urban pet cemetery was born. Dead pets had previously been consigned to garbage heaps, rending plants, or tossed in rivers, but no more, not after the pet owners of London stood fast in the face of often mocking public sentiment that an animal that had lived and been loved as a family deserves at the end a death with love and dignity. Their example would spread and is now found around the world in a fascinating and touching array of different traditions. Dr. Paul Koudounaris will discuss his new book on animal burials and memorials, *Faithful Unto Death*, sharing not just his insights into the history of animal burials, but stories that range from tear-jerker to outright bizarre. All ticket holders will receive a discount code for Paul's book [Faithful Unto Death](#).

About our speaker

Dr. Paul Koudounaris is a PhD in Art History from UCLA. An author and photographer, his previous books include three on death (*Empire of Death*, *Heavenly Bodies*, and *Memento Mori*) and one on feline history (*A Cat's Tale*, a Barnes and Noble book of the year in 2020). His new book combines his interest in funeral and animal history, and is the product of an exhaustive, ten year study of pet cemeteries and animal burial sites around the world.

[Click here](#) to register and find out more.

Law Commission events – New Funerary Methods

Online event

Date: Wednesday 23 July 2025

Time: 11:00 – 12:30

These events are open to anyone with an interest in this area, including potential operators of new funerary methods, those who are interested in using them, funeral directors and others involved in the death care sector.

How to Book Your Place

Free tickets to the events can be secured on Eventbrite.

23 July online event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1401554710869?aff=oddtcreator>

30 July 2025 - Finding Folklore in Burial Grounds online talk

<https://arnosvale.org.uk/finding-folklore-in-burial-grounds-online-talk/> Join Claire Slack for an exploration of the folklore you might find in your local burial grounds. In this talk, we'll explore historic and contemporary mourning traditions, the symbolism behind the carvings on headstones and the folklore of the plants and trees that you might find in burial grounds across Britain. This talk will mostly focus on the Victorian burial ground, drawing on Claire's knowledge of garden cemeteries but will include earlier examples of different types of burial grounds from the medieval period onwards.

About our speaker

Claire Slack is the Engagement Officer at [Wiltshire Museum](#) where she works on everything from neolithic burial grounds to local history. She is also a folklorist who is working on her doctorate in Heritage at the University of Hertfordshire where she explores contemporary spiritual engagements with historic sacred **sites across Britain. Find her on socials** [@mossgoblingrrl](#).

Bristol Centre for Grief Research and Engagement seminar series

To launch the start of their seminar series the Grief Centre have their first talk:

A public health perspective on grief & bereavement

Dr Christy Denckla, Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Harvard University

30th July 2025, 2-3pm

Sign up [here](#).

Webinar - Here and Not Here: Understanding and Living With Ambiguous Loss, 31st July

[Event link here!](#)

About: Ambiguous loss is one of the most challenging types of grief to experience and support. Whether it's a loved one living with dementia, mental illness, addiction or estrangement – their physical presence may remain, but their emotional or cognitive absence leaves a lingering uncertainty.

In this powerful live webinar, Dr. Carla M. Dahl will unpack the concept of ambiguous loss and offer practical guidance for professionals working with people navigating this complex space.

Upcoming talks at Arnos Vale cemetery

27 August 2025 - Willesden Jewish Cemetery: Stories from the House of Life – hybrid talk <https://arnosvale.org.uk/willesden-jewish-cemetery-stories-from-the-house-of-life-hybrid-talk/>

This virtual and in- person talk at the Spielman Centre at Arnos Vale Cemetery brings to light the extraordinary heritage of Willesden Jewish Cemetery — London's most surprising hidden gem.

Founded by the United Synagogue over 150 years ago, Willesden Jewish Cemetery is home to just under 30,000 interments, many of whom made a considerable contribution not just to their community, but to the British Society as a whole. Once a secluded place of private mourning, Willesden Jewish Cemetery is now a vibrant heritage site and a unique window into the Jewish experience in Britain.

Registered as a Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest, Willesden Jewish Cemetery is a remarkable example of Victorian funerary architecture, imbued with traditional Jewish symbolism, as well as a tranquil nature oasis in a busy suburban area of North West London.

This insightful online talk will uncover the remarkable story of the cemetery and its architectural treasures, delve into the extraordinary lives of individuals from all walks of life who now rest there and discover how this once-private space has been transformed into a dynamic centre for public engagement, education and remembrance.

About our speaker

Irina Porter is a qualified London Blue Badge Guide with a special interest in historic cemeteries. She volunteers as a guide at Willesden Jewish Cemetery and is a Trustee of the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery. Irina is currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Heritage Management at Bath Spa University.

When Life Changes: Why Ceremony and Remembrance Matter Most

We're delighted to invite you to a very special event hosted by GreenAcres Living Memorial Parks this September. *'When Life Changes'* - a powerful seminar series led by the internationally renowned grief counsellor, author and speaker, [Dr. Bill Webster BEM](#).

Dr. Webster is one of the most respected voices in the bereavement sector today. His deep expertise, both professional and personal has guided thousands through the complexities of grief. His unique ability to blend clinical insight with heartfelt and his own personal understanding makes his sessions both profoundly moving and immediately useful, whether you work directly with families or are simply looking to deepen your understanding of grief and loss.

This event is designed to offer real value to professionals:

This focused session is tailored for those working in bereavement care. It explores the evolving role of ceremony, memory, and meaning-making in today's grieving landscape. You'll leave with fresh insights and practical strategies to better support those you serve.

To book [click here](#).



Shining a Light on Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking (VSED) Public Forum – September 2025

Session Dates & Options

In Person – Exeter Library, Castle Street, Exeter EX4 3PQ

- Tues 9 Sept | 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM
- Weds 10 Sept | 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM Online via Zoom
- Thurs 11 Sept | 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Booking & Cost

To book: Email alizoun@alid.co.uk and let us know which session you'd like to attend.

Cost: There is no fee to attend. If you're able, a voluntary donation to support our work is always appreciated.

What is VSED? Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking (VSED) is a legal, end-of-life option chosen by a mentally competent adult who, without coercion, decides to stop eating and drinking to hasten death. Though practiced quietly for centuries, VSED is still largely invisible in the UK – with little support or guidance for those who choose it.

Who We Are? We are the VSED Working Group, grassroots and citizen-led. The Group is made up of - Family members who've supported loved ones through VSED - End of Life Doula - A former palliative care professional We do not promote or oppose VSED – we aim to: - Share clear evidence based information - Encourage open discussion - Call for national guidance for health and social care professionals

Facilitator Aly Dickinson – End of Life Doula and VSED Working Group member – will facilitate the sessions. Aly has supported individuals who felt they had completed their life and chose to die by VSED.

Why It Matters? VSED is happening now – often under the radar. The lack of national guidance leaves many without support. By hosting these sessions, we aim to: - Bring VSED into mainstream awareness - Foster respectful, informed dialogue - Encourage policy change and professional understanding

All are welcome to learn, reflect and have the conversation

Shining a Light on Voluntarily Stopping Eating and Drinking (VSED)

VSED is a legal, end-of-life option chosen by an adult with mental capacity who, without coercion, decides to stop eating and drinking to hasten death.

Public Forum – September 2025

Facilitated by the Citizen-Led VSED Working Group to learn, reflect and have the conversation.

Session Dates & Options

In Person Exeter Library, Castle Street, Exeter EX4 3PQ

Tues 9 Sept | 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Weds 10 Sept | 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Online via Zoom

Thurs 11 Sept | 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Booking & Cost

Email alizoun@alid.co.uk and let us know which session you would like to attend.

Cost: There is no fee to attend. If you're able, a voluntary donation to support our work is always appreciated.

17 September 2025 Post-Mortem Tattoo Preservation – online talk

<https://arnosvale.org.uk/post-mortem-tattoo-preservation-online-talk/>

Tattoos are a way of altering one's skin and, arguably, one's identity. Tattoos can be signifiers of a way of life and a culture. They also form part of the code of a person; they are literally their skin. Groups of people may share tattoo designs that signal their belonging,

individuals may be tattooed to signify their ‘difference’ from the mainstream. Whatever the reason for the tattoos, they tell a story about the person wearing them.

However, when a person dies, so does their flesh and therefore their tattoos. Post-mortem removal of these tattoos allows the tattoo to continue to exist; the question is, does it also allow the deceased to continue to exist in some way?

This talk will look at some of the practices and beliefs around tattoos and, particularly, post-mortem tattoo preservation.

Kathryn Berry, a PhD researcher in Death, Religion and Culture at the University of Winchester, explores the fascinating intersection between tattoos, identity, and death. Her primary research focuses on Victorian rural death, but her interests span a wide range of topics within death, religion, and culture.

In this talk, Kathryn will examine the cultural significance of tattoos—how they can serve as expressions of identity, belonging, and individuality. Tattoos are more than just body art; they are part of a person's story, a visible code on the skin that may signal connection to a group or a way of standing apart from the mainstream.

But what happens to this expression of identity after death? Tattoos typically perish with the body, yet in some cases, they are removed and preserved post-mortem. This talk delves into the practices and beliefs surrounding post-mortem tattoo preservation and asks a thought-provoking question: if the tattoo survives, does some part of the person live on as well?

About our speaker

Kathryn Berry is studying towards a PhD in Death, Religion and Culture with The University of Winchester. Her specialism is in Victorian rural death but her research interests encompass a range of areas across death, religion and culture.

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](#)

ICCM Learning Conference and Exhibition 2025

The ICCM Learning Conference and Exhibition 2025 is being held from Tuesday 30th September – Wednesday 1st October at the Chesford Grange Hotel.

We know your time is precious so we've maximised each day's learning opportunities and minimised time away from your site.

Previously over 3 days, this year's learning conference is packed into two – yet we've still managed to give you enough time to visit the host of suppliers in the exhibition and network with peers from across the country.

Never been? Make this year the one not to miss.

Find out more at our new dedicated [Conference website](#).

Saturday 4 October at dB's Utrecht: A NEW TATTOO | Festival with an edge

An evening full of live music, poetry, literature, and stories about living through after suicide.

A NEW TATTOO is an intimate festival that offers a safe space to feel, share and —for those who want—embrace life while dancing.

October 4, 2025, 7.30 p.m.

dB's, Vlampijpstraat 63, Utrecht



Upcoming conferences EGC

European Grief Conference 2026 - <https://bereavement.eu/upcoming-conferences/>

SAVE THE DATE Pre-Conference Workshops and welcome reception 9 September

Conference : 10 and 11 September, Venue: Super Bock Arena, Oporto, Portugal

BNE and the EGC partners look forward very much to welcoming you all in Porto

Bereavement Education Conference 2025, 11th November 2025



Save the Date: International Death Literacy Symposium – 9 & 10 March 2026 in Breda.

We are proud to announce that none other than Kerrie Noonan, Libby Sallnow and Steven Vanderstichelen will share their expertise during this special symposium on Death Literacy. Death Literacy is the ability to cope well with death and dying — practically, emotionally and socially. The concept was co-developed by Dr. Kerrie Noonan (Death Literacy institute, Australia), who contributes to a more open, involved and competent approach to the end of life worldwide.


We offer an inspiring programme, with a special focus on early career researchers, who are helping to shape the future of this field.

What can you expect?

- Deepening the Death Literacy Index
- Discussions about death, mourning and care in the community
- International speakers and innovative research
- Space for meeting, reflection and knowledge sharing

The organization is in the hands of Anne Goossensen & Marieke Groot.

 Location: Breda, near Avans

 Date: 9 & 10 March 2026



Suicide Bereavement: Practical Applications Conference 2025 [click here](#)

I wanted to share the details of the upcoming conference. It would be amazing if you could please share this information with your colleagues/teams and any bulletins/online news platforms etc that you may have.

Harmless is hosting its sixth annual online Suicide Bereavement Conference. To mark World Suicide Prevention Day, we will be presenting a day packed with live webinars examining practical applications for working in suicide bereavement. The conference will be live streamed on Wednesday 3rd September from 10am – 3pm and will host a plethora of experts in the field. Our theme for this year's event is Beyond Beginnings: Achieving Postvention Excellence. [click here](#)

This unique CPD-accredited event will take place across the day. If you are unable to attend the entire day, don't worry – we will be recording the whole conference and making sessions available for viewing via our E-Learning portal.

WEBINAR SESSIONS

Lisa Williamson & Katie Freeman (Harmless & The Tomorrow Project)
From Insight to Impact: Reviewing Evidence and Experience in Suicide Bereavement Care

Michelle Stebbings (Support After Suicide Partnership)
Suicide Bereavement Support for Racialised Groups and Communities

Cathryn Watters & Kenny Brady (NMC Watch)
The Unspoken Risk of Being a Nurse

Judith Williams & Emily Beck (Gambling with Lives)
Gambling Harm & Suicide: Support Designed By and For Those Affected

Allison Furlong (Alfie's Squad)
How Alfie's Squad Reduces Social Isolation in Children Bereaved By Suicide

PANEL DISCUSSION

From Gaps to Growth: A Panel Discussion on Transforming Bereavement Support for Children and Young People

- Lois Day (Harmless & The Tomorrow Project)
- Michelle Stebbings (Support After Suicide Partnership)
- Letizia Perna (Winston's Wish)
- Allison Furlong (Alfie's Squad)

- Matthew Smith (If U Care Share)
- Nicola Coutu-Langmead (Child Bereavement UK)

This CPD-accredited event will be fully recorded, with all content made available on our E-Learning portal for flexible, on-demand access.

Together, through shared understanding, compassion and commitment, we can make a lasting difference in the lives of those affected by suicide.

As in previous years, the conference will be shaped around the following five strategic areas:

- Collaborative partnership
- Service user representation
- Effective practice
- Driving change
- Overcoming stigma and discrimination

Tickets: £65 per delegate

We're excited to announce that sponsor spaces are available for this year's conference! To be considered, please complete all sections of the application form linked below. Our team will review applications, and successful applicants will be notified. Deadline: 1st August 2025.

Application Form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MKBGJ8B>

Please note that completing this form does not guarantee a sponsored space at this year's conference.

Imagining Extinction: Afterness, Fossils and Fiction

Deadline for submissions: August 5, 2025

full name / name of organization: Asijit Datta

contact email: kimoextraterrestrial@gmail.com

Writing about extinction is an aporetic coming together of our current geological reality and imagination that borders on speculation. It is an act that opens up the ecological, the ontological, and simultaneously interrogates the disappearance of humans from the planetary scene. The space of imagination imagining its own annihilation is a precarious zone for the writer, one that also discharges a kind of nervousness for the reader. The crisis facing us now is how to disentangle extinction as a kind of placelessness, as empty space beyond time. How do we, as a species on the edge of the Sixth Mass Extinction, make sense of Rosi Braidotti's

statement, “‘We’ are in this together, but We are not one and the same”? Is the meaning of extinction limited to the effects of extensive destruction of natural resources, widespread ecological imbalance, permeating lives of animals and vulnerable tribes, habitat and biodiversity loss, or does it extend to the uncertain conditions of existence of all lives under neoliberal capitalism, to the new social class, the ‘precariat’?

All kinds of work on extinction conventionally move toward three directions: the scientific, fact-based conviction in ending as a follow-up to the five last extinction events and its consequent thrust on acting now against this imminent threat; an interrelational approach with interconnected networks that hypothesize the harmonious co-existence of human-animal-machine; and a ‘negative’ perspective that compassionately desires the vanishing of humans to save all other species. There are two other significant routes that tries to crack the inevitable shell of extinction — the transhumanist man-machine assemblage, and the fabulatory leap through folktales and future fiction.

However, extinction also marks the limit of an inexhaustible present, an interminable sickness, a state of continuous emergency. As a border that separates two timelines, an extinction event engenders the beginning of yet another cycle of multispecies possibilities. The notion of extinction, then, is an unpredictable balance between fantasies of continuation in a non-toxic environment and anthropocentric guilt, an anxious intention to ‘save’ the earth and an utter failure to grasp nature’s otherness, boundless enjoyment now that things are ending and philosophical and reproductive detachment. The moment we are able to comprehend the experience of an apocalypse, the image of the human, as we know it, alters irreversibly. Do humans still exist in this afterness, albeit an unrecognizable remainder / in the sense of an organic amalgam / a networked existent / a cyborg-figure / fossil imprints / decomposition and humus / postnarrative memories overwritten by rocky layers and tectonic shifts?

The book invites submissions that explore ways of dealing with the urgency and exigencies of extinction, which may include (but not limited to):

Extinction and Time / Extinction and New Subjectivity / Extinction and Colonialism / Extinction and Animals / Extinction and Death Drive / Extinction and Pessimism / Extinction and Spiritualism/ Extinction and Pandemics / Extinction and Storytelling / Extinction and Reproduction / Extinction and Post /Transhumanism / Extinction and Fossil-making

Call for Chapter Proposals – The Palgrave Handbook on the Philosophy of Death

We invite chapter proposals for contributions to The Palgrave Handbook on the Philosophy of Death, a comprehensive and cutting-edge volume that aims to reflect the breadth and depth of contemporary philosophical work on death, dying, and mortality.

The Handbook is intended to serve as a key reference work for scholars, students, and practitioners engaged with death-related questions across philosophy, the humanities, and adjacent disciplines.

Deadline for Proposals: August 15, 2025
Notification of Acceptance: September 30, 2025
Full Chapter Deadline: March 1, 2026
Editorial Feedback Returned: April 30, 2026
Final Edited Chapter Deadline: August 30, 2026
Chapter Length: 7,000 words

Please submit proposals and inquiries to:

Christopher Moreman – christopher.moreman@csueastbay.edu

Tommaso Soriani – t.soriani@pgr.reading.ac.uk

Emanuele Tullio – Tullio_Emanuele@phd.ceu.edu

For more information [click here](#).

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

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/>

Death Literacy – Call for papers

Submission deadline: October 20, 2025

Description: Over the past decade, death literacy has emerged as a critical concept in understanding how individuals and communities engage with death, dying, and bereavement. Now recognized and studied globally, death literacy highlights the skills, knowledge, and networks people use to navigate end-of-life experiences. The development of the Death Literacy Index has provided a framework for measuring and a greater understanding across diverse populations. This has resulted in multiple adaptations and validations in different countries, and in turn has sparked ongoing conceptual developments and critical debates regarding its role and scope. This Special Collection aims to highlight some of the important and groundbreaking work currently being done by scholars across the world.

Key submission information:

In particular, this Special Collection aims to:

- Showcase Innovative Research: Highlight interdisciplinary research on death literacy across healthcare, public health, community development, policy, and outcome-based research
- Address Equity and Inclusion: Explore death literacy in diverse communities, including LGBTQI+ , First Nations peoples, and other historically marginalized groups, as both research participants and co-authors
- Promote Community-Led Initiatives: Emphasize research that foregrounds the role of lived experience, community development, grassroots organizations, and collective knowledge-sharing in improving death literacy

For more info [click here!](#)

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!](#)



Experiences with algorithms after miscarriage? Seeking Participants

Find out more [here](#).

experiences with algorithms after miscarriage?

why not share your story?

Maybe it was a surprise ad for baby clothes in a web browser. Or unexpected notifications from a pregnancy app. Or 'memories' of a lost pregnancy popping up on the screen of a smartphone. Whichever way it happened, if you've had experiences with algorithms after miscarriage, then we'd like to hear your story.

Based at the University of York, The Algorithms + Miscarriage Project is a pioneering PhD research study on the role of online algorithms in women's grief, and remembrance, after miscarriage.

The project is now looking for participants, who will be invited to take part in an online interview of around 1 hour.

*Defined by NHS England as the loss of pregnancy in the first 23 weeks

To take part in the study you should be:

- a woman 18 years of age or older
- based in the UK
- who has experienced miscarriage* 6 months ago or more, and no more than twice
- who would like to be interviewed about their experiences with online algorithms after miscarriage.

For more information on the project and how to take part please contact Paul Ord at paul.ord@york.ac.uk

The deadline for participation is May 2026

The project has been granted ethical approval by the University of York ELMPs Ethics Committee

Public Health Palliative Care Research position at Dalhousie University

We are hiring! Are you passionate about Public Health Palliative Care research and practice? We have two full-time positions at Dalhousie University (in beautiful [#NovaScotia!](#)). Our interdisciplinary research hub focuses on advancing research and practice in hospice palliative care across child, youth, and adult populations. We do research in palliative/end-of-life care, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), and grief. We use public health approaches, including death and grief literacy education and policy development. One of our key knowledge mobilization routes is through [Grief Matters](#). Contact Lauren Delaney for more information.

Link to post: [click here](#).

Research Assistant in Palliative Care, Policy & Rehabilitation Department

For more information: [click here](#).

Job id: 119045. Salary: £38,482-£43,249 per annum pro rata, including London Weighting Allowance.

Posted: 03 July 2025. Closing date: 17 July 2025.

Business unit: Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care.

Contact details: Dr Bethan Page. Bethan.page@kcl.ac.uk

Location: Denmark Hill Campus.

About the role

We are looking for a Research Assistant, based at the Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London, to join a newly funded Centre of Excellence in Paediatric Palliative Care, funded by Kentown Support charity.

Kentown Support are a new independent charity with the goal of improving the provision of community palliative care for children and families across the UK. This Centre of Excellence will undertake and disseminate high quality research and provide evidenced-based education and training for health and social care professionals and family members caring for children and young people with life-limiting conditions. The centre will inform policy and drive innovations in care delivery and organisation to enable all children and young people to have access to the care they require, including palliative care, when and where they need it.

The research assistant will work closely with Dr Bethan Page (Lecturer in Child Health & Palliative Care) on a project to explore priorities for improving social care for children with life-limiting conditions and their families. The project involves focus groups with professionals, interviews with parents and consensus-building workshops with stakeholders. They will also help administer and analyse a survey with parents on the education and training provision for parent-carers looking after children with life-limiting conditions.

The awardee will develop a diverse set of research skills in health services and social care research and gain experience in collaborative research of national and international significance. We are seeking an innovative, well-organised, dynamic and promising individual who is motivated to further develop their career. This is an outstanding development opportunity for a talented individual who wishes to advance excellent and

innovative research on improving care for children and young people with life limiting conditions.

This is a part time post (21 hours per week), and you will be offered a fixed term contract until 31st August 2027.

Research Assistant in Palliative Care, Policy & Rehabilitation Department

This post is subject to Disclosure and Barring Service clearances.

Grade and Salary :£38,482-£43,249 per annum, including London Weighting Allowance

Job ID :119705

Post Date : 11-Jul-2025 **Close Date** : 27-Jul-2025

Contact Person : Lesley Williamson **Contact Details** : Lesley.Williamson@kcl.ac.uk

About the role

We are delighted to invite applications for a Research Assistant to join the PALLDEM-Homecare research team at King's College London. This is a joint project between the Cicely Saunders Institute and the Health and Social Care Workforce Research Unit, integrating health and social care for people with dementia.

The PALLDEM-Homecare project aims to explore, as a proof of concept, the implementation of a complex intervention to support homecare practitioners provide person-centred care to people with dementia.

With regular supervision, the postholder will lead the day-to-day management of the project, contributing to high-quality research and ensuring key milestones are met. This will involve close liaison with homecare agencies and practitioners, data collection and analysis, and contributing to broad stakeholder engagement and dissemination activities.

The postholder will develop core research skills in integrated health and social care research and benefit from experienced colleagues and regular development activities at the Cicely Saunders Institute.

We welcome applications from self-motivated and highly organised team players, who are motivated to advance research on the care of people affected by dementia and those supporting them.

The postholder will have demonstrable commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in all activities.

This is a full time post (35 hours per week), and you will be offered a fixed term contract until 31/08/2027.

About You

To be successful in this role, we are looking for candidates to have the following skills and experience:

Essential criteria

1. MSc in a relevant subject (e.g. Health or Social Sciences)
2. Experience in qualitative data collection and analysis
3. Demonstrates commitment to, and experience of, dementia, palliative care or homecare research
4. Self-motivated with ability to work independently as well as part of a team
5. Excellent organisational skills with ability to prioritise different task demands and meet tight deadlines
6. Excellent written, verbal and digital communication skills, in all formats
7. Understands data confidentiality and research integrity
8. Commitment to promoting equality, diversity and inclusivity for staff and students

Desirable criteria

1. Track record of peer-review publication and presentations
2. Experience of research or practice in homecare settings
3. Experience of research or practice in applied dementia care

To find out more about this role [click here](#).

Contact Us

Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Web: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centrefordeath

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

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

CDAS Videos:

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

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

Doing a PhD with CDAS: <https://vimeo.com/1092402245>

The future: <https://vimeo.com/1092402630>

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

