



Centre for Death & Society

June 2025 Newsletter

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Director's Note

Hello and welcome to our June 2025 edition of our monthly newsletter, where we are fresh off the back of our annual conference and straight into planning for next year and beyond! As we approach the end of our 20th anniversary year CDAS is in better shape than ever and we are really excited and pleased to see that the wider community of people working on and in death, dying and loss are incredibly active and productive. It really does feel like a 'growth' area, as socially, politically, economically and environmentally, people are waking up to the inevitability of death, its consequences and aftermath, and to the insights gained from using death and loss as a window onto wider social and political realities from inequality to armed conflict to climatic change.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our 20th anniversary activities this year. It has been an incredible year of events, publications, funding success and collaboration. We go into our third decade as a growing, creative and innovative research centre and wider community of practitioners and academics (and simply interested people), and we are delighted that you all, as readers of our newsletter, are part of it.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the centre we have created four short promotional videos about the history, community, and future of the Centre, and how to do a PhD with us. Links to the videos can be found in this edition of the newsletter and will now be at the end of every newsletter along with our social media links. A huge thank you to PhD student Catriona Brickel for putting these together, we love them.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find details of our current job vacancy, new publications and podcasts, and death studies events around the world. Here in CDAS we are planning our events for next year, with full details to be shared in due course. In the interim, we are sponsoring an event at the International Conference on Death, Dying and Disposal in Utrecht in August, and we look forward to seeing some of you there.

As always, and especially in this 20th anniversary year, thank you for all your support for the centre. CDAS is truly a product of the people within it, collaborate with it and who support it. We know the Centre brings many people much joy, confidence and validation in their work, and we trust and hope we can continue to do so in the future.

Thank you again, everyone, for making CDAS what it is.
Naomi and Kate

We're hiring!

As part of our ESRC Dying at Home Study we are advertising for a post doctoral research associate, who will be based in CDAS and our home department at Bath, the Department of Social and Policy Sciences. Full details of the job can be found [here](#) and the closing date is 26th June.

CDAS Conference success

Thank you to all our presenters, chairs, and organisers who took part in our 20th anniversary conference last week on the theme of 'Death and Transitions'. With presenters from 23 countries and 12 timezones it was an epic organisational task behind the scenes, and we are especially grateful to our research manager Rachel Willis and AV guru Allan Houston, for all their hard and invisible work on making the conference such a successful event. If you attended please make sure to complete our feedback form, circulated to all attendees and presenters at the end of the conference.

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

To mark the 20th anniversary of the centre we commissioned PhD student Catriona Brickel to make four short promo videos to mark the history and contribution of the centre, and how to join us. We are delighted with the results – thank you Catriona and please take a look at the videos. We will be periodically sharing these on social media too, please can you share with your own networks as and when.

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>

Welcome to new CDAS Visiting Fellows and Professors

We received a bumper number of applications to become a Visiting Fellow or Professor of CDAS in this round, and we are delighted to welcome the new VFs and VP to the Centre. Look out for more details about them and their work over the next academic year, via our newsletter and event series. For now, you can listen to our new Visiting Professor Elaine Kasket talking about digital 'immortality' and posthumous digital footprints on an Audible

Originals podcast series called Future Tense, with Richard Ayoade and Warwick Davis. Elaine features on the second instalment.

[To listen to the podcast click here!](#)

Congrats to former CDAS Director Professor Allan Kellehear

We were very pleased to hear that former CDAS Director Professor Allan Kellehear has been awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) for services to palliative care in the recent King's Birthday Honors. Allan has played a significant role in developing a social and public health approach to palliative care, and this recognition is a testament to his influence. Well done Allan, from all at CDAS. Find out more [here](#).

Upcoming interview

In June we recorded an interview with Anna May and Jenni Thomas on their leadership in bereavement support, to be released in the next academic year to celebrate the publication of Jenni's new book, '[After a Child Dies](#)'. Watch this space for more details, including a giveaway for a copy of Jenni's book.



Research in South Sudan and Sudan

In May 2025, Abraham Diing Akoi (CDAS Visiting Fellow), Sudanese research colleagues Gisma Musa and Santina Sadia, Naomi Pendle (CDAS Co-Director) and Simon Wharf (University of Bath's AV Team) completed a safe and successful research trip to Sudan and South Sudan. The trip was part of longer-term research for the '[Death during Famine](#)' project. In the Sudans, conflict has produced a [dire humanitarian situation](#), with deadly famine in many areas. People have had to grapple with high infant mortality and hunger-related deaths. It was often a brutally stark reminder of the lack of 'grievability' of many people caught in war and at the ends of extractive global economies (Sudan has continued to export livestock, gum Arabic and seeds to international markets (including probably the UK) despite famine). We are now working to write up many of these findings and Simon is helping to make a film. Plus, we are exploring ways to advocate at local, national and international levels. So, do look out for future updates.



Photo taken at a hospital in Sudan

For those of us thinking about more-than-human loss, the pictures below might also interest you. They were taken as we flew over Unity State (South Sudan). The state has experienced unprecedented flooding for the last three years because of shifting rainfall patterns in Uganda and Kenya, and new dams in Uganda. There is much politically polarized debate in South Sudan over the losses and gains of such flooding and the changing landscape. For some, this additional water improves livestock grazing. The water also acts as a barrier to some armed conflict. Yet, it also destroys others' homes and farms.

The picture on the left is of [a large camp](#) of up to 120,000 war displaced people. When the camp was created in early 2014, it was surrounded by dry land. Now it is kept dry by large dams despite being lower than surrounding flood waters.

The picture on the right is scattered with trees that have failed to survive years of flooding.



Our special issue of Mortality on Innovation at the End of Life is OUT NOW

Stemming from our 2023 annual conference is this newly published special issue of Mortality, with papers from around the world and from authors at all career stages, from PhD students through to Emeritus Professors. Thank you to all those who contributed a paper, and supported the development of the issue behind the scenes including especially Bethan Michael Fox at the journal, and - last but not least - our editorial team: Chenyang Guo, Alastair Comery, Diana Teggi, Tal Morse, Mat Crawley, Polly Maxwell, Tamarin Norwood and Jana Rek. We hope you like the issue!

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cmrt20/30/2>

Supporting Loss: developing an online Toolkit to help those bereaved by substance use when the death is referred to the coroner in England and Wales

Lorna Templeton and Kate Woodthorpe, together with colleagues from Turning Point and Birkbeck University of London, have now started their 12 month Supporting Loss project,

with funding from the ESRC Impact Acceleration Fund. The aim is to develop an online Toolkit, to help staff at a range of services (such as substance use treatment, bereavement counselling) support bereaved people when an alcohol or other drug-related death is referred to the coroner for an investigation and inquest. The Toolkit will also be directly accessible to bereaved people.

To help inform the Toolkit, we are holding two online Knowledge Exchange events in July. We want to hear directly from bereaved people about their thoughts for the content and design of the Toolkit. The online events will last for 1.5hrs, and all participants will receive a £25 shopping voucher. Numbers are limited, so if you would like to find out more please contact Lorna: L.Templeton@bath.ac.uk

CDAS Visiting Professor Lucy Easthope on BBC Desert Island Discs

[Listen here!](#) Professor Lucy Easthope, emergency planner, shares the eight tracks, book and luxury item she would take with her if cast away to a desert island.

Doctoral recognition award - Congratulations Mat!

Congratulations to PhD student Mat Crawley on being awarded (for the second year running) a Doctoral Recognition Award!

These awards are to acknowledge the commitment, input and support provided by the University's doctoral students - Mat is a worthy recipient with all the energy he brings to our Institute of Policy Research and, of course, CDAS. Well done Mat!



New Paper: “Digital remains and post-mortem privacy in the UK: what do users want?”

CDAS visiting fellows Dr Tal Morse and Dr Edina Harbinja have published a new paper (together with Professor Lilian Edwards) titled “Digital remains and post-mortem privacy in the UK: what do users want?”.

The paper was granted the best paper award by the British and Irish Law, Education & Technology Association (BILETA) in 2024, and it is now published in The International Review of Law, Computers & Technology. This is the first large-scale quantitative legal

study of the UK residents' perceptions and attitudes towards postmortem privacy, digital remains and digital legacy.

It is open access and available

here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13600869.2025.2506164>

New article on The Guardian by CDAS visiting fellow Molly Conisbee

"I've studied the history of death. I know how we can better face up to our grief – and our own mortality"

How we deal with bereavement has changed enormously over the years. But not all the old traditions should be forgotten.

Available [here](#).

New podcast episode! 'I Can't Not Do it: Storytelling, Grief and Identity'

We welcome Professor **Gayle Letherby**, a pioneering sociologist whose deeply personal and academic work has transformed how we think about childlessness, grief, identity, and storytelling. Gayle reflects on her journey, beginning with a miscarriage in the 1980s that altered her life trajectory and became the foundation of a groundbreaking academic career. Her research into involuntary childlessness, pregnancy loss, and the status of parenthood spans decades and she's still going strong.

[Listen to the episode here!](#)

New article! "Navigating medicine and justice: A life history and phenomenological study of forensic doctors' experiences"

New paper published on 19th May, by (CDAS visiting PhD student) Mateus Eduardo Romão, Ilaria Setti, Gill Thomson, Giorgia Alfano and Serena Barello. [Click here](#) to read the paper.

Abstract: Forensic doctors play a crucial role at the intersection of medicine and law, offering expertise in legal matters. However, their work exposes them to significant emotional and psychological stress, increasing the risk of burnout. Despite the critical nature of their profession, little research has explored how forensic doctors construct their professional identities, cope with work-related challenges, and make sense of their professional experiences. To address this gap, we adopted a life-history approach combined with interpretative phenomenological analysis to examine the subjective career trajectories and meaning-making processes of forensic doctors in Italy. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 12 participants, capturing their personal and professional histories. An in-depth analysis identified five key themes: (1) the nature of forensic medicine—participants used metaphors to describe the complexity, artistry, and investigative nature of their work; (2) the professional identity of forensic doctors—how they develop a sense of duty, ethical commitment, and professional resilience throughout their careers; (3) core resources needed

to be a forensic doctor—the role of mentorship, specialized skills, and coping strategies in sustaining their careers; (4) what does death have to teach?—the personal impact of continuous exposure to death, shaping their perspectives on life and mortality; (5) *esse cum*—the challenges, stigma, and stereotypes forensic doctors face in their interactions with colleagues, legal professionals, and society. This study explores the professional identities and coping mechanisms of forensic doctors, revealing that despite facing stigma, emotional strain, and burnout, they find meaning in their work, emphasizing justice and resilience.

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

In these sections we include a broad range of news and future events from the CDAS and death studies community. Thank you for keeping us updated on all you are doing.

Grieving is Learning – The Grieving Body podcast episode

On the ‘Grief is a sneaky bitch’ podcast/video Mary-Frances O’Connor talks about tending to the grieving body: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vE7TxTkuBuA>

The ICCM and The Farewell Flowers Directory

Read more about the ICCM’s involvement as a sponsor of Farewell Flowers’ inaugural installation looking at funeral flowers as a first ever inclusion at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. This was a huge step towards funerary sustainability and the display won a gold award and a visit from the Queen.

Read the blog post here: <https://www.farewellflowers.co.uk/stories/championing-change-in-funeral-floristry-the-iccm-and-the-farewell-flowers-directory>

Take a look at press release from the organisation which highlights the success of the event here: [MEDIA RELEASE - RHS and Royal Visit for The Farewell Flowers Directory at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.pdf](#)

TEDx Aberdeen talk ‘What do you want to be buried with?’

In this TEDx Aberdeen talk, Dr Jennifer Riley draws on her research into contemporary grave goods, and why we need and want them.

Grave goods aren’t just for the Ancient Egyptians. Putting significant objects and items in people’s coffins or graves when they die is hugely important for many people in contemporary Britain: almost all of us will need to make a decision about them at some point in our lives.

Sometimes the objects we choose to send away with loved ones are beautiful; sometimes they’re sentimental; sometimes they’re funny; and sometimes they’re just bonkers. But they

all have stories to tell about the identity of the person who's passed away – as well as the people they've left behind.

[Click here](#) to watch.

New book! 'Supporting Bereaved Children in the Primary Classroom: Helping Children Process Death, Grief and Loss'

By Emma Palastanga, Poppy Gibson and Marie Greenhalgh. Published by [Routledge Taylor & Francis Group](#) is now available for pre-order (publication date 3/11/25) on Amazon: <https://amzn.eu/d/8E0ciOM>. To find out more [click here!](#)

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Barts Pathology Museum for a night of comedy with Steve Cross

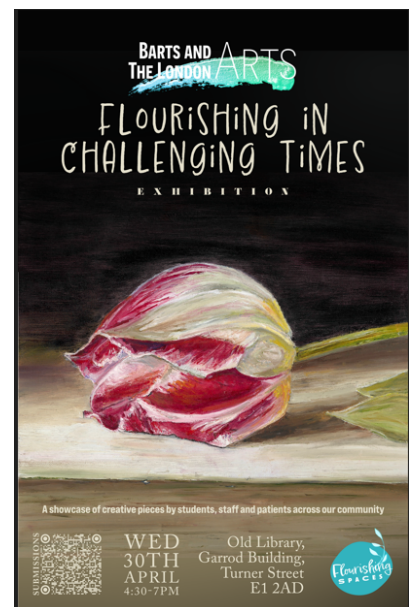
On Wednesday June 18th we're opening our doors for [Science Showoff: PathLOLogy](#) – line up TBC.

Join us for an evening of laughing and silliness about our bodies and the people who look after them when things go awry...Barts Pathology Museum is a true centre of excellence in understanding the human body and medicine, and has trained thousands of medical doctors who work across the world. But tonight, we're going to make fun of all of that with London's funniest medicine and museum people. Hear silly stories from behind the scenes of medical museums, enjoy the weirdest parts of medicine's history and hear comedians moan about their aches and pains. All while raising money for the care of this important medical resource. (Doors at the usual time of 6:30pm, the show starts at 7pm, wine and other refreshment included in the ticket price.) Also, in partnership with Barts and the London Arts, we're offering 50 free tickets for the opening of the art exhibition "[Flourishing in Challenging Times](#)". This event is at **The Old Library, Garrod Building, Whitechapel, E1 2AD**. Places are FREE but must be booked via Eventbrite – full address will be on your ticket.

****FREE EVENT - from 5:30 to 7:00pm*****

In partnership with the Barts and the London Arts, we'd like to invite you to a FREE reception for the art exhibition "Flourishing in Challenging Times" **at the Old Library (Whitechapel)**.

The exhibition will include over 35 pieces of art including quilts, sculpture, digital and audio art, paintings and poems from academic staff, students, trust staff and patients. There will also be a series of workshops.



Please note, the earlier time of 4:30 - stated on the poster , attached - is due to the first hour being open only to staff & students

See [Eventbrite](#) for full details, and more information is available on the [Barts & the London Arts website](#)

Free Workshop to Preview Our Summer 2025 Conference on Sacred Activism for Soul Care Providers

Join us for a FREE Online Workshop featuring three of Today's Leading Teachers in End-of-Life Care and Bereavement Support

Join us on Zoom, Saturday June 21, 2025

10:00 am Pacific/1:00 pm Eastern

If you can't attend in person, no worries!

The workshop will be recorded, and all registrants will receive a link to the recording.

[Click here](#) for registration and more info.

SUMMER 2025 Conference, Sacred Activism for Spiritual Care Providers: Speaking Out About Speaking Out

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN


- . How to address social justice in our public roles
- . Where are the boundaries, and who sets them?
- . Action options
- . Historical perspectives on spiritual activism

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- . Chaplains, clergy, spiritual leaders and teachers
- . Counselors, psychologists and social workers
- . Educators and administrators
- . Clinicians, healers, community organizers

ONLINE Saturday, July 12, 2025

9 am - 5 pm Pacific



Click [HERE](#) for details

Cremation & Burial Communication & Education 2025

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/>

Open Thanatology Conference 2025

For this year's Open Thanatology conference, we are delighted to say we are joining forces with the Marie Curie Palliative Care Department at University College London (UCL). The focus of the conference will be on advanced care planning (ACP), whereby individuals are encouraged to consider and document their wishes and preferences for future care, including at the end-of-life. ACP has become a central component of health care policy worldwide. The conference will take an explicitly critical look at ACP to explore what research and practice suggests to be its relative merits and the opportunities and challenges involved.

The title of the conference is: **Caught between the dream and realities: considering 'advance care planning'**. It is being held online on **Wednesday, 25th June** and is free to attend. We have an exciting line-up of speakers and think that the day will offer an opportunity to learn and think about ACP in novel ways. We are in the final stages of confirming the conference programme and full details will be shared in the near future.

You can register for the conference here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/caught-between-the-dream-and-realities-considering-advance-care-planning-tickets-1333672784199?aff=oddtcreator>. Registration will close on June 22nd 2025, and we encourage early registration to secure a place.

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

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

Date: 25 June 2025

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

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

Language: English

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

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

It will be followed by three responses and a ritual.

Lunch with sandwiches is provided.

[Link to register!](#)

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

There will be two in-person events, one held in London and one held in Leeds, and two events held online. The content of all the events will be similar so you only need to sign up to one.

London event

Date: Tuesday 1 July 2025

Time: 14:30 – 16:00

Location: Ministry of Justice, 102 Petty France, SW1H 9AJ

Online event

Date: Tuesday 8 July 2025

Time: 15:00 – 16:30

Leeds event

Date: Wednesday 16 July 2025

Time: 14:30 – 16:00

Location: G.13 Maurice Keyworth Building, Moorland Road, Leeds, LS6 1AN

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.

Event Overview

These events are part of our public consultation, following publication of the New Funerary Methods Consultation Paper. This is an important step towards our ultimate aim of making recommendations to Government about a future-proof framework which will enable the regulation of new funerary methods. Please see <https://lawcom.gov.uk/project/new-funerary-methods/> for more details.

The events will begin with a presentation from our team. The in-person events will include an interactive discussion where stakeholders can share their views on our proposals and broader issues surrounding the future regulation of new funerary methods.

The online events will be held webinar style, with the opportunity for attendees to ask questions following the presentation portion of the events.

How to Book Your Place

Free tickets to the events can be secured on Eventbrite.

London event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1401395885819?aff=oddtcreator>

8 July online event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1401460840099?aff=oddtcreator>

Leeds event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1401415093269?aff=oddtcreator>

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

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

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

DATE: September 25th 2025

VENUE: Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel

Our speakers and workshops will cover:

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

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

There will also be four workshops

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

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


More Details on the DDD Conference in 2025 have been released

DDD17 Conference: The Politics of Death

27-30 August 2025

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

The conference will be held in and around Dom Square, the vibrant heart of Utrecht's historic city center. We are currently compiling a list of recommended accommodations (including discounts) and nearby places to eat and drink, which we will share with you as soon as it's ready.



You can attend the DDD17 conference onsite (in Utrecht) or participate online. Link to register and more information: <https://ddd17.sites.uu.nl/registration/>

Bereavement Education Conference 2025, 11th November 2025

The banner features a teal header with the NHS Education for Scotland logo and the title 'Bereavement Education Conference 2025'. Below this, on a background of colorful geometric shapes, is the subtitle 'Bereavement as a kaleidoscope: An inclusive approach for all' in purple, followed by the date 'Tuesday 11th November' in teal. A purple text block invites staff to a free, one-day virtual event. To the right, a collage of diverse people's faces is shown. The footer contains contact information: a globe icon, the website 'www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/events', an email icon, 'events@nes.scot.nhs.uk', and a hashtag icon, '#NESBereavement2025'.

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

🔔 More information will follow soon!

No registration fees. Will we see you there?

Upcoming conferences European Grief Conference

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

CALLS

‘DEATH IN TOWNSHIPS’ HYBRID CONFERENCE 30-31 JULY 2025

The ‘Death in Townships’ Conference responds to the observation of how death, a central social experience for several Black communities, has received marginal attention within the humanities and social sciences. Townships have historically and constantly been confronting death, making it an embedded part of the social fabric and experience of Black life. Given that the space of death is crucial towards the creation of meaning, consciousness and continuity for any community, and even more so in societies where cultures of death dominate, makes the need to resurface death and its associated ontologies, epistemologies and practices, urgent to explore.

The University of Johannesburg, Sociology Department Centre for Sociological Research & Practice (CSRP) ‘Township Studies’ Project invites scholars, researchers, artists and writers to submit papers for the ‘Death in Townships’ Hybrid Conference based on the following themes and subjects:

- *Unaccounted deaths, premature deaths, and the living dead*
- *Black Death, Dying, Grieving and Mourning*
- *Notions of a Dignified Death*
- *Death by Massacres*
- *Demographics of Black Deaths in Townships*

- *African Cosmologies, Death and the repatriation of the Dead/Spirit*
- *Shifting Representations of Death and the Dead Black body in Media, Film, Visual Arts and Music*
- *Spatial Geographies and Architectures of Gravesites in Townships*
- *The Materiality of Death: Coffins, Graveyards and Ritual artefacts*
- *Museums and Memorialising Death in Townships*
- *Political Deaths, the Dead and Inquests*
- *Death in Mines*
- *Road Deaths*
- *Femicide in Townships*
- *Funerals and 'After Tears Practices' Popular Practices*
- *Death and Music*
- *Cultures of Saving for Death: On Burial Societies and Insurance Companies*
- *Death and Healing Practices*
- *Doing Death Research in Townships: On Methodologies, Forms and Methods*
- *Death and/in Favellas*

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

ABSTRACTS (**Max 350 words**) to be submitted by **Monday, 23 May 2025**

Inquiry into financial security and terminal illness

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Hospice and End of Life Care is launching an inquiry looking into financial security for people with a terminal illness and at the end of life.

By financial security, we mean difficulty meeting regular and other necessary bills. We recognise that financial security is about the relationship between costs and income, not just income.

We are interested in responses from people with lived, professional, or policy experience in this area.

We are interested in how answers differ between groups, including between:

- People of working age and people who have reached state pension age
- People diagnosed with different types of terminal condition
- Groups who share protected characteristics (such as disability, race, sex) under equality legislation and/or are from inclusion health groups (such as people experiencing homelessness)
- People living in different parts of the UK (in particular, in Scotland, where there is a different policy context around disability benefits)

The call for evidence will be open for three months and close on Friday 19th June 2025. You can submit evidence by [completing this form](#). We are also accepting video and voice note submissions.

We will use the evidence provided to inform a report published later this year, and might use quotes from this evidence in that report and related material like press releases or social media posts. If you would prefer your evidence to be treated anonymously, please make this clear in your submission.

If you would prefer to submit your thoughts in one of these formats, or in an alternative format (e.g. Word Document) please contact secretariat@appgforeolc.org to arrange this.

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

Marie Curie Research Grants Scheme Open 3rd June – Improving palliative and end of life care (PEoLC) in Hospitals.

Marie Curie is looking to fund research that focuses on themes identified by the [PEoLC James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership](#): Improving quality of care, and discharge, for people with palliative and end of life care needs in hospital.

Proposals are welcome from researchers with strong links to hospitals to respond to these priorities through the scope of this call.

The call opens June 3rd, and closes July 21st – more info - [Call for research: Improving hospital experiences | Marie Curie](#)

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

Based at The University of York, Paul Ord's PhD project seeks to explore the role of algorithmic technologies - pregnancy apps, social media, search engines, and more - in women's experience of grief and remembrance after miscarriage. 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.

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.

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.

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

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

The project has been granted ethical approval by the University of York ELMP2 Ethics Committee

CDAS job opening, Research Associate (fixed term)

We are currently recruiting for a post-doc on our ESRC study on dying at home. The researcher will be based in CDAS for three years.

Job title Research Associate (fixed-term)

Department Social & Policy Sciences

Salary Starting from £38,249, rising to £45,413

Grade Grade 7

Contract Type Part Time, Fixed Term

Placed on Thursday 05 June 2025

Closing date Thursday 26 June 2025

Interview date Tuesday 15 July 2025

Reference ED12758

Special Conditions A DBS check is required for this position

About the role: The Department of Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath is seeking to appoint a Research Associate to work on the ‘There’s no place like home? Exploring dying at Home in Urban Poverty’ project, funded by the ESRC (Principal Investigator: Dr Kate Woodthorpe).

Based in the Centre for Death and Society, we are looking to appoint a qualitative researcher with an interest in end of life care, poverty, and/or housing.

A parallel post is also being advertised at the University of Hull.

By 2040 home is expected to overtake hospitals to become the second most common setting for death in England and Wales.

As the preferred place of death for most people, evidence on the impact of housing on dying at home and the provision of domiciliary end of life care services is limited.

This is particularly the case for those living in urban poverty who are more likely to experience smaller homes, overcrowding, poor living conditions, and precarious rental tenancies.

This study will make distinctive interdisciplinary contributions to theory, policy, and practice from historical, social, clinical, and policy perspectives.

Working as an integral part of the project team, and alongside another researcher based in Hull, you will review literature, design data collection materials, recruit participants, and undertake and analyse qualitative interviews and associated design materials.

You will demonstrate excellent organisational and interpersonal skills and preferably have knowledge of research ethics.

You will contribute to outputs from the project, including research reports and summaries, journal articles, and conference/seminar presentations, for a variety of different audiences, including academics, policymakers, and health and social care practitioners.

Find out more and apply [here](#).

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 Associate at University of Hull - [click here](#) for full information.

Job Details

This is an excellent opportunity for an ambitious candidate who wants to further their research career at the interface of social sciences, housing, poverty, and palliative care. This post is funded through the ESRC Project: 'There is no place like home: Exploring dying at home in urban poverty'. The project is led by Dr Kate Woodthorpe, Department of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath. Professor Liz Walker and Professor Fliss Murtagh are jointly leading a workstream of the project at the University of Hull.

By 2040 home is expected to overtake hospitals to become the second most common setting for death in England and Wales. But, as the preferred place of death for most people evidence on the impact of housing on dying at home and the provision of domiciliary end of life care services is limited. This is particularly the case for those living in urban poverty who are more likely to experience smaller homes, overcrowding, poor living conditions, and precarious rental tenancies. This 30-month ESRC funded study will make distinctive interdisciplinary contributions to theory, policy, and practice from historical, social, clinical, and policy perspectives. The study is designed around the following work packages which will: (1) provide a detailed analysis on the history and evolution of policy on dying at home (2) identify the meaning of home and the role and impact of housing type and tenure on dying at home from the perspectives of patients, and family members living in urban poverty and service providers (3) make recommendations for policy and practice, identifying potential for improvements in home-based end-of-life care services, health and social care commissioning and the management of housing in areas of poverty. The study will be undertaken across 3 towns and cities in England.

Using face-to-face interviews with people with advanced illness reaching the end of their life and their families, family members who have been bereaved and health and social care professionals who care for them. You will be an integral part of an interdisciplinary research project team contributing to all aspects of the study. The study includes leading academics from the University of Hull, Durham University, York University, Cardiff University and the University of Bath.

We are looking for a highly experienced, sensitised and confident qualitative researcher.

Selection Criteria

- A PhD or equivalent experience in a relevant discipline
- Experience in project management
- Qualitative research experience including demonstrable ability to successfully recruit, consent study participants and collect and analyse data.
- An emerging track record in an appropriate research field (social sciences, social work, death studies, long-term conditions or palliative care), including scientific publications, presentations at scientific conferences and contributing to grant applications
- Working independently in the research field.
- Engaging with a wide range of professional and academic stakeholders and working collaboratively across organisational boundaries
- Experience in patient and public involvement in research particularly in working with diverse ethnic and socially disadvantaged communities
- Formation of complex networks and collaborations
- Experience of procedures for NHS ethical approvals
- Experience of NHS R&D procedures
- Knowledge of loss, death, and bereavement, poverty and health inequalities.
- High-level qualitative research skills specifically in face-to-face interviews.
- High-level qualitative analysis skills with attention to analytical rigour
- Excellent written and presentation communication skills
- Excellent organisational skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Participation in networks that seek to promote research collaboration
- Good time management skills and ability to plan and implement objectives effectively.
- Experience in patient and public involvement in research particularly in working with diverse ethnic and socially disadvantaged communities
- Formation of complex networks and collaborations
- Experience of procedures for NHS ethical approvals
- Experience of NHS R&D procedures
- Knowledge of approaches to developing an organisational research culture
- Demonstrated facilitative and negotiating skills
- Includes any specific physical requirements of the post – (subject to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010)

To discuss this role informally please contact: Professor Liz Walker
(email: e.walker@hull.ac.uk or Professor Fliss Murtagh (email: fliss.murtagh@hyms.ac.uk).

Research Manager, Marie Curie.

City of London (Hybrid)

£35530 - £39474 per annum + + £3,500 LWA if applicable

Contract (24 months)

Job description

Marie Curie is the UK's leading end-of-life charity. We are the largest non-NHS provider of end-of-life care in the UK and Marie Curie is also the UK's largest charitable funder of

palliative and end of life care research. Our Research Management & Impact team oversees a diverse and growing portfolio of funded projects, research partnerships, and knowledge mobilisation activities. You'll join a collaborative, forward-thinking team dedicated to building the evidence base that drives real-world improvements in palliative and end of life care.

As our Research Manager - Partnerships, you'll play a pivotal role in building and nurturing strategic partnerships to advance palliative and end of life care research in the UK. You will lead the setup of a new Palliative and End of Life Care Research Funders Forum, coordinate stakeholder engagement activities, and support impact planning across a select portfolio of research grants. This is a unique opportunity to help shape national research priorities and influence the future of care through collaboration, insight, and innovation.

Main responsibilities:

- Establish and manage a new Research Funders Forum for palliative and end of life care, engaging with the Government and charitable funding bodies.
- Plan and organise workshops and other activities following the identification of the top 10 research priorities in the collaborative Palliative and end of life care Priority Setting Partnership with the James Lind Alliance.
- Identify new opportunities for strategic research partnerships by reviewing databases and networks.
- Monitor a small portfolio of externally funded research projects, ensuring delivery and maximising their policy and practice impact.
- Manage partnership agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs).
- Build and maintain relationships with external stakeholders including research funders, academic collaborators, and sector bodies.
- Collaborate with internal teams (Policy, Caring Services, Comms) to amplify the reach and impact of research outputs.
- Stay informed on developments in the research and end of life care landscape to inform strategic decision-making.

Key Criteria:

- Background in research (delivery or support) and solid knowledge of the UK research funding environment.
- Educated to at least degree level in a health or research-related field or equivalent professional experience.
- Exceptional organisational skills, with the ability to coordinate multiple complex projects.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills. Confidence working across stakeholders to build and maintain engagement.
- Understanding of research impact and experience organising external-facing events or workshops.
- Research presentation experience and knowledge of qualitative/quantitative methods.
- Familiarity with the charity sector or palliative care landscape will be an asset.

Application & Interview Process

- As part of your online application, you will be asked for a CV and Cover Letter. Please review both the advert and job description and outline your most relevant skills, experience and knowledge for the role.
- Close date for applications: 27 June 2025

Salary: £35,530 - 39,474 per annum + £3,500 London Weighting Allowance if Applicable

Contract: Fixed-term contract for 24 months, full-time (35 hours per week)

Based: Hybrid. Working from home and our Embassy Gardens office in London (at least 2 days a week).

To find out more [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/company/107692913/admin/dashboard/>

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

