

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

March 2025 Newsletter

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Director's Note

Hello everyone and welcome to our March 2025 issue of our newsletter, where we are writing from a very bright and sunny city of Bath.

As always, we have lots of news and events to share with you. Here in CDAS the organization of our annual conference has gone very well, our keynotes are secured, and we're ready to start promoting it soon. We can't wait to share it with you as it looks like it will be one of our best yet. The quality of abstracts this year was very high, so thank you to everyone who submitted. In the meantime, remember to hold 12-13th June in your diaries.

Before then we have a very busy few weeks with events to celebrate our 20th anniversary on knowledge production, ways of learning, and the consequences of Artificial Intelligence for the end of life and how we understand death. We hope to see you at some of those events – full details with sign ups are in this newsletter.

Behind the scenes we've had a bumper crop of applications to become Visiting Fellows at the Centre, as part of our two application deadlines per year. We are working through these and thank you to everyone who has submitted an application. Expect to hear back from us soon. We are also intending to update the links on our webpage to other organisations and networks related to death, dying, bereavement and the dead, so please send us your links so that we can add them onto our website.

And finally, we are delighted to share that our edited collection on '[Death and Institutions](#)', published by Bristol University Press as part of the Death and Culture Series, is now out. This came from our 2022 conference, and features chapters from around the world and from colleagues at all different careers stages. Huge thanks to Visiting Fellows Helen Frisby and Bethan Michael-Fox for co-editing the book with Kate, and to Beth for creating a [special episode of The Death Studies Podcast](#) on the book itself, featuring chapter authors. We hope you enjoy listening to the episode and reading the book.

As ever, please continue to share your news and events with us and we will do our best to share them. You can keep in touch with us via social media on Facebook, X and Blue Sky.

Until next time
Kate and Naomi

CDAS Conference update

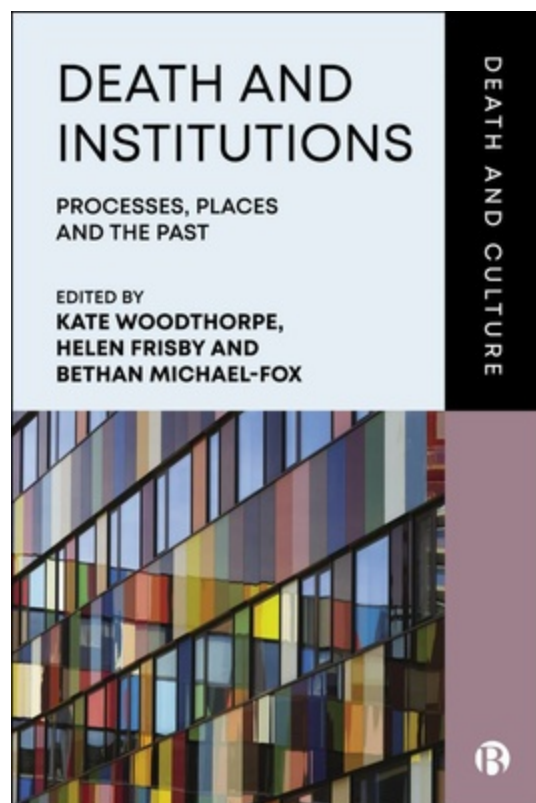
A draft programme is now being circulated, keynotes have been confirmed, and we have two terrific evening events that will be open to everyone, whether or not you are joining the conference. More details will be shared imminently.

New CDAS book published

Coming from our 2022 annual conference, we are delighted to say that our edited collection on '[Death and Institutions](#)' is now out! Edited by Kate Woodthorpe, and Visiting Fellows Helen Frisby and Bethan Michael-Fox, the book features chapters from around the world, from our wider CDAS community, and from academics at all stages of their career. Thank you to all the authors who contributed a chapter, to Helen and Beth for their fantastic editorial work, and to the Death and Culture Series at the University of Bath for publishing the book and including it in their series.

We are very pleased to say too that Beth has created a special episode of [The Death Studies Podcast](#) about the book, so if you want to learn more about it and hear more from the authors themselves.

And a special thank you to chapter contributor (and 2022 keynote) Hajar Ghorbani for the creation of [this amazing social media promo reel](#). If you have one minute to spare today, give it a look, you won't regret it.



CDAS PhD student Terumi Okaku in the news

Video of Terumi discussing 'How to address rising youth suicides in Japan':
<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/videos/20250130170043542/>

The number of minors dying by suicide in Japan reached an all-time high in 2024. NHK World spoke with Okaku Terumi, the founder and CEO of the grief support and suicide prevention organization Live on, to ask how to tackle the complicated problem.

Follow up article on the news story:

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/backstories/3809/>

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

Molly Conisbee - CDAS Visiting Fellow and creator of [CDAS's death and crime walking tours of Bath](#) – has a new book that will be published on 1st May.

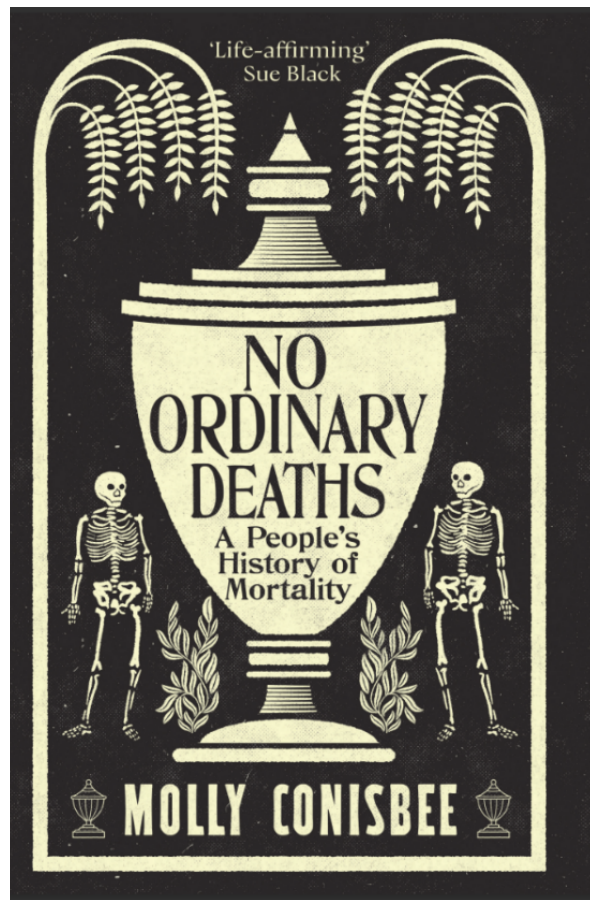
How did ordinary people depart this life and grieve for loved ones, and how can historic customs help us to prepare for our own modern ends? From the death-watchers of the Middle Ages to the pomp of Victorian funeral wear, by way of plague pits, grave-robberies and wakes, historian and bereavement counsellor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

'Beautifully written and thought provoking' Sue Black

'A captivating read' Chris Pearson

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

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



CDAS Visiting Fellow Dr Chao Fang has written a thought-provoking article for The Conversation

Dr Fang's piece focuses on how the portrayal of grief in films can deepen our understanding of its meaning and help restore the coherence of life narratives. In his analysis of the film *Cottontail*, Dr Fang explores how a man's journey through grief mirrors our universal search for peace and healing. By examining the emotional and psychological layers of cinematic storytelling, he highlights how films can serve as a reflective medium, allowing audiences to process their own experiences of loss and find meaning in the face of adversity. Dr Fang's expertise in death and grieving offers valuable insights into the therapeutic potential of art in navigating life's most challenging moments.

Read the full article [here](#).

NES Scotland 'Talking about Bereavement' podcast episode with CDAS Visiting Fellow Imogen Jones

'What does it mean to respect the dead' -Listen here: <https://www.sad.scot.nhs.uk/podcast/>

New episode of Open Thanatology Talks is out!

The next episode of the Open Thanatology Talks! podcast series is now out. It is available on Spotify and Amazon music or by using this link

<https://open.spotify.com/show/113R81JEyBsFzZtMWPLhti>. Recorded from a [live webinar](#) organised by CDAS Visiting Professor Jane Ribbens McCarthy on the 29th January 2025, this episode features a panel discussion around the question of what are the tensions in seeking to 'decolonise' 'bereavement and grief'?

New 'Voicing Loss project' publication in The Conversation

Coming from the ESRC Voicing Loss project, the team have authored an article on the coroners system in England and Wales, and bereaved families' experiences of engaging with the system.

'I'm utterly utterly despondent and disappointed.' Bereaved families describe being failed by the inquest system Published: March 11, 2025

Click [HERE](#) to read.

Paranormal Activity podcast

This month Kate Woodthorpe got to do a podcast with one of her childhood idols, (former Blue Peter presenter) Yvette Fielding, on her Paranormal Activity podcast. Together they discussed what happens when people die.

Listen here: <https://open.spotify.com/show/0kzOwRUr65pvHjT6oWzCM8>

Christopher Hood seminar

Thank you to Visiting Fellow for his fascinating talk in March on Japanese flight JL123, which crashed 40 years ago this year. His intricate and thought provoking collection and analysis of the growing number of videos and media about the crash prompted a range of new insights and questions. It was great to see Chris and CDAS colleagues in person.



Death Literacies symposium



Kate Woodthorpe attended the Death Literacy Institute symposium in Brussels to represent CDAS and learn more about the intersection of public health and the end of life – a topic that CDAS's former director Allan Kellehear has pioneered over his career. To any new subscribers to our newsletter following the symposium, welcome to the CDAS network!

Famine Voices

Naomi Pendle led an online seminar on the 'Everyday Politics of Famine' with thirty senior academics and aid practitioners from across Europe, the USA, the Middle East and Africa. A significant focus of this discussion was on dying, death and its aftermath during famine, with a range of insights from participants on the social and religious meanings of famine-time deaths. These conversations will help inform Naomi's next five years of research.

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

19th March 2025, 4pm – 5pm GMT

Sign up [here](#)

Dr. Ron Vave

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

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

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



George Gumisiriza

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

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

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

George Gumisiriza is an early career researcher who focuses on popularising Afrocentric perspectives on death through repatriationscapes studies. He is pursuing a PhD in Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath. George’s on-going PhD research concerns the



repatriation of African diaspora corpses [and human remains] from the UK to places of their heritage connection(s) in Africa. His research explores African diaspora transnational localisms, belonging and restoration for both the living and the dead. George's multidisciplinary research highlights barriers including migration and mobilities, changing social, cultural, economic, and political situations. Link: <https://vimeo.com/724961538>

Dr. Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner

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

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



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

CDAS walk launch

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

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

25th March 5pm – 6.30pm

Bath City Centre

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

Sign up [here](#)

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

25th March 7pm – 8pm

Widcombe Social Club

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

Sign up for the talk [here](#)

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

How AI is changing dying and what it means to be dead

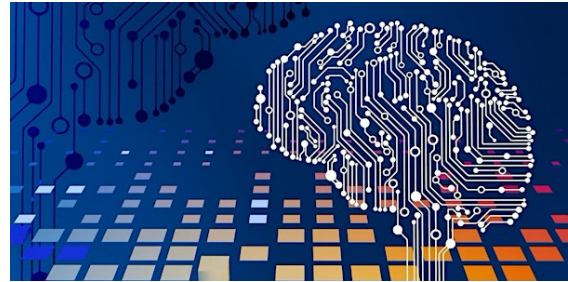
22 April, 4-5pm

University of Bath, 5 West 2.01

Join the [Centre for Death and Society](#) and the [Bath Institute for the Augmented Human](#) for a joint seminar with Visiting Professor Johanna Sumiala and colleagues from the Departments of Electronic and Electrical Engineering and Social and Policy Sciences to discuss the implications of Artificial Intelligence and technology on the end of life and what it means to be dead.

Suitable for interested staff and UG and PG students, this one-hour talk will explore how AI, and technology more broadly, is transforming the possibilities of communication at the end of life and the extent to which AI is radically shifting how we understand what it means to be dead. After all, if an autonomous ‘you’ can now continue online, and the dead can be brought back to ‘life’ to contribute to the world of the living, will we now never die?

To sign up and find out more click [here!](#)



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

8 May, 6-7pm

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

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

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Eligibility and Nomination Process

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

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

To find out more [click here](#)

‘Deathbed Etiquette’ Project

Calling bereaved adults in the UK and Ireland.

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

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

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

Contact details: dbe.research.enquiries@lancaster.ac.uk



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

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

Belgian research project Death Care has started

The Belgium-based project *Death Care*, funded by an FWO SBO-grant, officially started in Autumn 2024. Its PI Katrien Schaubroeck (University of Antwerp, Center for Ethics) has brought together researchers from the University of Antwerp, KU Leuven and the Institute for Tropical Medicine, and over the next four years an interdisciplinary team of researchers will address a range of challenges regarding the ways our society takes care of dead bodies. Researchers will collaborate closely with the Belgian funeral industry and other societal stakeholders to address juridical challenges, ethical concerns regarding the environmental impact of burial choices, burial needs in a superdiverse society, and issues related to funeral policies in times of public health crises.

If you want to find out more about our project, you can visit [its brand new website](#). There, you can learn more about the content of *Death Care* and get to know the researchers. It also features news messages and invitations to future events, such as our [online reading group](#) on *Playing Possum: How Animals Understand Death* by Susana Monso, which is open to everyone who is interested. If you want to stay in touch and receive our newsletter twice a year, please send an email to project manager Emma Moormann (emma.moormann@uantwerpen.be).

New article published “Vicarious Death: Grief, Politics, and Identity after the Flight PS752”

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

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cremation and Kensal Green Cemetery

To mark the 140th anniversary of the first cremation at Woking Crematorium (Mrs Jeanette Pickersgill was cremated on 26 March 1885), the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery (FOKGC) have arranged an event **on Sunday 23 March 2025**.

Kensal Green Cemetery holds a significant place in the history of the early cremation movement as Mrs Pickersgill's ashes are deposited in the catacombs beneath the Anglican Chapel. There are also a number of people buried in the cemetery who are connected with the Cremation Society of England (now Great Britain).

The event will comprise an illustrated lecture by Brian Parsons, a tour of West London Crematorium and a tour of graves in the cemetery. Refreshments will be provided. The talk will be available online.

The anniversary presents an opportunity for the urn containing Mrs Pickersgill's ashes to be placed in a new wooden case. This has been specially constructed to replicate the original box which has badly deteriorated.

Further details about the event (including timings and booking arrangements) are posted on the FOKGC website: [Events](#)

Closure Conference, Durham, 9-10 April 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Upcoming training sessions

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

April 4th-April 25th

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

Psilocybin Sessions for End-of-Life Care: Applications in Terminal Diagnoses (Online)

April 3rd

<https://graduate.lclark.edu/calendars/events/event/366316-psilocybin-sessions-for-end-of-life-care-applications>

ACTIVE GRIEF WEEKEND RETREAT

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

If you are bereaved following the death of a much loved son or daughter, brother or sister and are now looking for something a bit different to help you navigate your grief, then we invite you to join us for a weekend of true support and inspiration. The weekends are exclusive to bereaved parents and siblings and it matters not when your child died or how old they were. We've found them to be a valuable space that helps us acknowledge and process our grief in ways that may not be possible in normal everyday life.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Keynote Speakers include:

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

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

Research Collaboration East of England.

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

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

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

Palliative & End of Life Care theme of the NIHR Applied Research Collaborative for South London.

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

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

Date - Thursday 5th June 2025

Time - 9:30 - 16:00

Location - Dorothy House, Winsley, BA15 2LE

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

Cremation & Burial Communication & Education 2025

Save the Date!

Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th June 2025

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

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

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

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

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/>

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

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

Submitting an abstract for this special issue:

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

For more information [click here!](#)

The Ethics of Body Disposal

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

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

Such questions might include:

What responsibilities do we have to the dead and to the living in making body disposal decisions? How might any such moral obligations differ when we are making decisions for ourselves or others? Would ignoring the wishes of the deceased be morally wrong? Should their wishes be honoured even if it might offend others in society? Should laws restrict what we can and cannot have done with our own bodies after death and if so, how? Should body



disposal decisions be made with the interests of others still living, even those unknown to the deceased, in mind? In disagreements over arrangement for disposal of a loved one's body, what principles should guide how to move forwards?

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

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

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

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

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

The 26th Cemeteries Colloquium

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- The commissioned edited book aims to explore emerging theories, models and frameworks of grief and bereavement from an intersectional, interdisciplinary, global, inclusive perspective to counteract pathologisation, myth and legend.
- Grief and bereavement are not just individual but socially constructed processes in response to a significant loss; death and non death (Helton, 2017; Lloyd 2018).

- Research literature advances knowledge in disparate phenomenology within social sciences (e.g. Borgstrom & Visser, 2024), social work (e.g. Pentaris, 2022), and philosophy (e.g. Cholbi, 2021) to name examples.
- The literature has advanced knowledge in significant areas and this book seeks to consolidate and advance a compendium of theories, models and frameworks, rooted within empirical studies. The anticipated audiences are academic, professional and public: anyone with an interest in bereavement studies and providing bereavement support.

Submissions

Should be written in English and lay friendly.

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

Word limit:

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

Online submission:

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

Coming soon: The Journal of Disappearance Studies

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

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

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

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

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

Call for papers

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

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

Responsible Technology for Death and Dying

Submission deadline: 30 November 2025

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

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

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

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

Special issue information:

Key areas of inquiry could include these sub-topics:

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

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

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

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

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

Manuscript submission information:

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

Manuscript submission open date: 15/12/2024

Manuscript submission deadline: 30/11/2025

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

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

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

- Men in Grief: The Toll of Loneliness
- Loneliness in Grief for Vulnerable Populations (i.e. older adults)?
- The Loneliness in Grief for Marginalized Communities (LGBTQ+ individuals, ethnic minorities, and immigrant populations)

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

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

More info [here!](#)

Jobs/PhD Opportunities

Funded PhD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Full details available [here](#).

Contact Us

Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Web: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centrefordeath

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

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

