



Centre for Death & Society

May 2025 Newsletter

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Director's Note

Hello and welcome to our May 2025 edition of our newsletter. As ever it contains details of new publications, including a special issue of Mortality, forthcoming books, and events from the wider CDAS international community. It also includes good news for CDAS members with George passing his PhD viva (well done George!) and both directors being recently promoted.

There is clearly A LOT happening in the next couple of months with so many exciting and innovative events going on, and we hope to see you at some of them. The highlight of our own academic year is our upcoming annual conference, this year on the theme of 'Death and Transition'. Featuring speakers from 20+ countries and at all career stages, it promises to be 2.5 days of top quality papers, discussion and networking. All online, this year we include an opening plenary by Erica Borgstrom, John MacArtney and Mari Greenfield on Wednesday followed by your chance to meet with the plenary speakers over lunchtime on Thursday, as well as a keynote with Sayendri Panchadhyayi on the thanopolitics of posthumanism. On Friday we have a keynote by Head of Community Action and Learning at St Christopher's Hospice, Mary Hodgson, on the importance of differing knowledge bases, followed by a lunchtime debate on the morality of eco-friendly choices post-death with Sarah Carter-Walshaw.

If that's not enough for you, or if you cannot make the conference, on Thursday evening we have two FREE events open to all, with a film documentary presented by Martin Krafft called 'Ain't got time to die' and a hands-on workshop on 'Where Do We Die' with Virginia Rammou and Erica Borgstrom.



It promises to be a full few days, and we hope you can join us for it. Get your ticket for the CDAS Annual Conference, and find out more about our presenters, keynotes, workshops and evening events here:

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

Please continue to share your news and events with us and we will do our best to amplify them either here in the newsletter or via social media. We now have a LinkedIn profile, so join us if you are on that site. The link to our profile can be found on the final page of this newsletter.

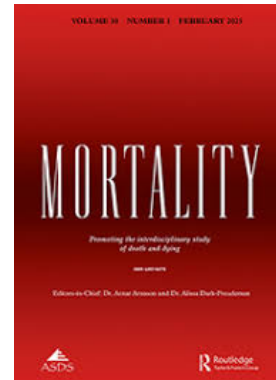
Until next time
Kate and Naomi

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

Stemming from our 2023 Annual Conference we are pleased to let you know that our special issue of Mortality is now out, 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>



Congratulations Ph.D. student George Gumisiriza



Please join CDAS in congratulating George Gumisiriza who successfully defended his PhD thesis and passed his viva on April 29, 2025.

The title of Dr. Gumisiriza's thesis is: Repatriationscapes: Death and Body Repatriation among African diaspora in the context of Ugandans in the UK

George was co-supervised by John Troyer and Naomi Pendle.

CONGRATULATIONS GEORGE!

Photo: (left to right) George, John, and Naomi after the viva

New paper by CDAS Visiting PhD student Mateus Eduardo Romao and Kate Woodthorpe, in Omega – Journal of Death and Dying

Death Education in Practice: A Scoping Review of Interventions, Strategies, and Psychosocial Impact

It is known that death education and support helps in a number of ways those people involved in end-of-life and death-related working settings. This scoping review systematically maps the existing literature on death education programs, how they are delivered, and their psychosocial outcomes within different populations. The investigation was conducted using five databases (PubMed, PsychoInf, Scopus, Web of Science, and CINAHL), and 45 studies matched the inclusion criteria for the study. The death education programs detailed in the studies were delivered online, in person, or in a hybrid way through different strategies, such as group discussions, lectures, and interactive activities. The psychosocial outcomes from the programs in the review indicated a higher willingness to discuss end-of-life decisions and decreased death anxiety, death avoidance, and fear of death.

<https://journals.sagepub.com/eprint/UGHN3G7JMTJQQ8GV7UJC/full>

New paper by Visiting Fellow Fawn Harrad-Hyde

Deteriorating care home residents as ‘matter out of place’ in both care homes and hospitals: An ethnographic study

This paper was published in ‘Social Science and Medicine’. In the paper they have used anthropologist Mary Douglas’ notion of ‘matter out of place’ to suggest that at times they experience deteriorations in their health, care home residents can be seen as ‘out of place’ in hospital and care home settings. To read this paper [click here](#).

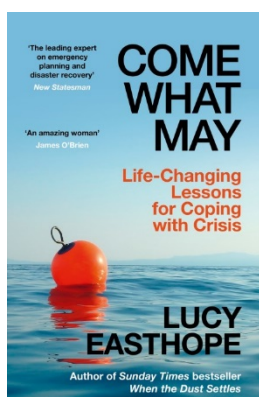
New website for Community Voices: Empowering Community Engagement and Change

[Click here to checkout the new website.](#)

This website is a hub for inspiring community engagement and driving positive change. Explore their resources, connect with like-minded individuals, and discover how they are working together to create impactful solutions and meaningful conversations. It has been created by Visiting Professor Jane Ribbens McCarthy as part of her work with [ExD/C at the Open University](#).

The website includes their submission to the Covid inquiry, and also has an extended blog on 'bereavement and grief' [Do we need to decolonise ‘bereavement and grief’? - Community Voices](#)

New Book 'Come What May' by Visiting Prof Lucy Easthope



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

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

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

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

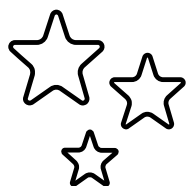
ASDS Public Engagement Award Shortlist

Well done to former PhD student and CDAS Visiting Fellow Renske Visser and Visiting Fellow Bethan Michael-Fox on being shortlisted for the ASDS Public Engagement Award, for their excellent [The Death Studies Podcast](#). We look forward to hearing the result at the DDD Conference this summer!

Congratulations too to Beth and Renske for the release of the 50th episode of their podcast.



Promotions to Reader and Professor



Last but not least, we want to share with you all the happy news that both of CDAS's co-directors have recently been promoted by the University of Bath.

Naomi Pendle becomes a Reader in International Development, and Kate Woodthorpe becomes a Professor of Sociology.

Well done to both individually. This is great news for CDAS!

CDAS EVENTS

CDAS Conference programme and ticket office NOW OPEN

11th -13th June 2025

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

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

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

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

Molly Conisbee: No Ordinary Deaths - A People's History of Mortality Upcoming Book Talks

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.

Bath, 15th May:

[Molly Conisbee | Bath - Topping & Company Booksellers of Bath, Edinburgh, Ely, and St Andrews](#)

Bristol, 11th June:

[Molly Conisbee No Ordinary Deaths - Arnos Vale](#)

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

Loneliness Awareness Week, 9-15 June

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

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

[Learn](#) about loneliness

[Choose](#) a connection activity or event

Add your connection activity to our map - coming very soon

Share your involvement using #LonelinessAwarenessWeek #MeetingLonelinessTogether

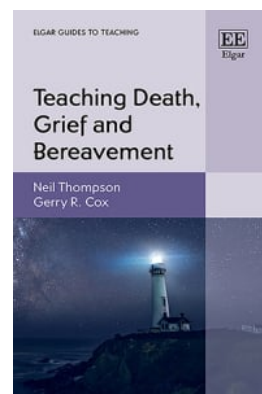
[Sign up here](#) to be the first to get access to all our toolkits and resources and our activity map. We're excited for you to join us!

New Book! Teaching Death, Grief and Bereavement

Neil Thompson, Independent writer, educator and adviser and Visiting Professor at the Open University, UK and Gerry R. Cox, Emeritus Professor, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, USA

Taking a holistic approach, Neil Thompson and Gerry R. Cox propose a rich variety of methods for teaching death, grief and bereavement. Recognizing the sensitivity and complexity of these issues, the authors have developed this guide to help teachers in higher and further education provide high-quality teaching and training around death and mortality, dying and end-of-life care and grief and bereavement.

To find out more: [click here](#).



New paper by Rachel Forrester-Jones 'Spiritual Assessment in Intellectual Disability'

Forrester-Jones, R., Raji, O. (2025). Spiritual Assessment in Intellectual Dis-ability. In: Ross, L., McSherry, W. (eds) Spiritual Assessment in Healthcare: A Resource Guide. Springer, Cham.

Abstract: Despite international and national law advocating the rights of people with intellectual dis-ability, little policy or practice has been evident in terms of supporting individuals' spiritual lives. Yet, the scant research available on the topic clearly shows that spirituality is both meaningful and important to many people with intellectual dis-ability. In this chapter, we discuss the possible barriers to spiritual support including the rising global secular viewpoint of healthcare practice, the ill-conceived wisdom that people with intellectual dis-ability are incapable of having a spiritual life, the lack of healthcare policy guidance on how to support spiritual needs, and clinical and professional staff nervousness about providing support. We then discuss the importance of providing appropriate spiritual assessments, ending with a call to not only introduce these more routinely into health and social care plans, but to provide support to meet the spiritual needs of individuals with intellectual dis-ability. To read this paper [click here](#).

Podcast episode: Let's Chat... The Adventure of Grief (With Bianca Neumann)

Listen to Sue Ryder's Assistant Director of Bereavement, [Bianca Neumann](#), on [The Silent Why Podcast](#) sharing insights on how grief is often misrepresented, the power of support groups and why learning to self-soothe in sorrow matters. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

The Skies We're Under Podcast: New episode!

I remember sitting around my dining room table as my toddler had an afternoon nap while the community palliative care team discussed what would happen should my son die in his sleep. Would the police come? What could I expect? Were there any choices available to me?

Since that day I have had various iterations of that conversation and numerous middle-of-the-night wandering about last breaths, funerals and breaking news to the family. Each time I need to face these topics, I am surprised at the physical toll of the emotional burden, and yet I am glad of the clarity, the chance to be proactive and make our values and wishes known.

Is a good death possible? Is a good death worth fighting for? As much as we try to avoid the warrior narrative for families of people with complex disabilities, we do end up fighting for so much.

Too frequently children and young people like my son are hooked up to machines and equipment as they fight for their life when facing viruses and infection the rest of the population would brush off.

This bonus episode of The Skies We're Under podcast is with Tim (the husband) and Lucy (our wonderful adopted daughter). It is a little glimpse into our complicated and beautiful family – full of love, loss and the kind of hard conversations which are the hallmark of [#dyingmattersweek](#).

<https://open.spotify.com/show/5t0VpYeABLEGA7e8sNkbuR>

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-skies-were-under/id1608217096>

DeathLab survey

DeathLab is collecting data about public perceptions of disposition practices, cemeteries, and the future of the corpse. If you are interested in sharing your thoughts, please take this 10-minute survey. Your input is greatly appreciated.

[Click here to take part!](#)

Connecting Communities Across the Globe survey

We invite you to take part in a global survey exploring community-based initiatives that support people through illness, caregiving, dying, and grief — often referred to as compassionate communities.

A community program is any organised effort within a community that helps people with experiences of illness, caregiving, death, dying, and grief. These programs can take many forms, such as support groups, awareness campaigns, or educational programs.

[Click here to take part!](#)

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Bringing Compassion to Grief - Online Workshop

Thursday, 15th May 2025 18.00-20.00 BST/13.00-15.00 EDT, with Prof Darcy Harris, 2 hours

Grief is one of the most painful human experiences, but we are all likely to experience it at points in our lifetime. Whether it is through bereavement, the ending of relationships, or significant changes that lead us to let go of something or somewhere, grief arises at these crossroads of living. In this experiential workshop, Prof Darcy Harris, an expert on grief and grieving, and will demonstrate how we can bring compassion to our grief.

This two hour workshop will include an overview of how we can understand grief, and how we can journey alongside it. Prof Harris will also guide us in how compassion based approaches and practice can support us in these times of suffering.

This workshop is for anyone who is interested in how we can support ourselves in our grief, and its focus will be on personal practice.

Registration ([click here](#) for link to register)



Tickets are priced at £29, or £15 concessionary rate (for students, those receiving benefits, etc). For those who would be unable to afford these rates, but would still like to attend, we also offer a donation rate for you to pay what you can.

Please note, due to the experiential nature of this event, this workshop will not be recorded.

***Feeling Haunted by Loss: Some Reflections on the Experience of Possibility,
19th May 16:00 - 17:00***

Talk of feeling haunted in an emotional way is widespread. It is doubtful that the relevant experiences are reducible to any combination of established emotion categories, such as regret, remorse, or guilt.

Nevertheless, what it is to feel haunted has been neglected by philosophers of emotion and by emotion theorists more generally.

In this online talk, professor Matthew Ratcliffe will focus specifically on what it is to feel haunted by loss. Here, he suggests, talk of haunting spans a variety of different experiences.

However, the majority of these share a common phenomenological structure. Being haunted by loss involves experiencing counterfactual possibilities in ways that are inextricable from how we experience the significance of our actual situation. Their effect is to diminish us and undermine our pursuit of future possibilities.

For more info and registration [click here](#).

***Death, Religion and Culture MA Online Dissertation Symposium, which
takes place on Monday 19th May from 18:00 BST.***

This event is open to academics, alumni, current students, potential future students and interested members of the public, so please feel free to share details with colleagues, friends and interested parties. Indeed, we would love to share a snapshot of the amazing research work that gets produced on this degree with as wide an audience as possible, so please do feel free to share the joining instructions with anyone who you think might be interested in attending, including to any death related networks you might be involved in.

We will have three fantastic short papers that have been selected both for their quality and to show the range of work taking place on the course:

S.J. Velasquez: "If It Bleeds, It Leads"

S.J. will present ideas from her dissertation, drawing implicitly on her rich life experience as a reporter, video producer, photographer, social media manager, editor and content curator for U.S. and global publications, including the BBC. She offers a provocative paper on the selection, framing and presentation of death related news to the public. S.J.'s research looks at the hidden world of informal algorithms and editorial guidelines that guide the collation and presentation of news stories relating to individual and mass deaths, from 9/11 to the death of Princess Diana.

Helen Corvus: "Barbie Plays Dead"

Artist Helen Corvus wrote a dissertation focused on her 2019 Play Dead artworks, in which Barbie was placed in a range of roles including pall bearer, corpse and memorial statue. Rooted in her experiences as a funeral celebrant and a visit to the Day of the Dead festival in the community of San Andrés Mixquic near Mexico City, Play Dead and its associated workshop "OMG! Barbie's Dead!" provocatively invited the public to engage in conversations around death that form the heart of this piece of research.

Stephanie McAlpine "Dissertation at Death's Door: Research, Reflection and the Right to Die"

Stephanie's dissertation drew on her 25-year career in the healthcare sector, working as an intensive care nurse, death doula and hospice chaplain. From her extensive experience of working with and caring for terminally ill patients within the NHS, she offered a timely and relevant engagement on the topic of Assisted Dying, focusing on the significant challenges to implementing a change of policy in this area in a safe and equitable manner.

All of these short papers will be followed by Q&A opportunities so you can learn more about what the studies uncovered.

There will also be a social aspect to this event, and we particularly hope that this event will provide an opportunity for alumni to come together and tell us about what they have been up to since graduating from the course.

We will also dedicate a bit of time to talking about the programme and fielding questions for those considering joining us in the future.

The direct link for the event is as follows: [click here](#)

The Cemeteries Colloquium

The Cemeteries Colloquium will be taking place on the 23rd May, 2025. The programme is available [here](#).

The Cemeteries Colloquium is an interdisciplinary gathering of academics for a full day of papers touching on burial matters from a range of perspectives. Papers this year will be covering issues relating to planning, policy, heritage and tourism and include a presentations on political and historic themes.

Tickets will be available on Eventbrite from the 29th April:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/26th-cemeteries-colloquium-tickets-1342832250409>

Understanding Death Literacy in our Welsh Context: Death Literacy measurement in the UK and Ireland and future research to understand death literacy in Wales, 23rd May 10.30-11.30

Death literacy refers to the knowledge and skills that people need to make it possible to gain access to, understand, and make informed choices about end of life and death care options. People and communities with high levels of death literacy have context specific knowledge about the death system and the ability to put that knowledge into practice (Leonard et al 2020)

The Death Literacy Research Network based at the Marie Curie Research centre at Cardiff University are hosting their first webinar for 2025.

The aim of this webinar is to explain the importance of death literacy in the UK population, hear about research which has explored and measured death literacy in the UK and discuss how we can begin to explore and measure death literacy in our Welsh context in future research.

Introduction to death Literacy and exploring death literacy in Wales delivered by Dr Michelle Edwards (Marie Curie Research Centre, Cardiff University)

Guest Speakers:

Dr Lisa Graham-Wisener (Queen's University Belfast): Measuring and benchmarking death literacy in the UK and Ireland

Stephanie Crawford (Queen's University Belfast): The appropriateness of the death literacy Index for the island of Ireland

Link for registering: [click here!](#)

Faithful until the Last: The Mourning Dog in Victorian Culture – online talk on 28 May 2025

Wednesday 28th May 6.30-7.30pm UK time

Britain has often been characterized as a “nation of dog lovers,” a love affair that began in the Victorian period when dogs became an inextricable part of the hallowed Victorian home. Dogs provided companionship, comfort, love and loyalty, and these bonds even survived the death of their human. This talk will discuss the ways the Victorians celebrated the bonds shared by dogs and their human companions by incorporating dogs into death and mourning texts and imagery.

About our speaker

Dr. Terri Sabatos is Associate Professor of Art History at Longwood University in Farmville, VA. Her area of research is death and mourning culture during the long nineteenth century. She has presented numerous papers at national and international conferences on this subject.

Select publications include: “The Power of the Dog: Caesar of Notts and the Mourning of Edward VII” in Royal Studies Journal, December 2023; “‘The Glen of Gloom’: The Massacre at Glencoe in Victorian Visual Culture” in Death in Modern Scotland, 1855-1955: beliefs, attitudes and practices. Peter Jupp, Julie Rugg, and Susan Buckham, eds. (London: Peter Lang, 2016).

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

Within & Without™ therapeutic mindful photography intro training

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

May/June 2025 10-hr Intro training

10 APA approved CEs are available

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

Where: Virtual

When: May 30th 9am-12pm

June 6th 9am-12pm

June 13th 9am-1pm

A Future Vision of Nursing in Palliative & End of Life Care, 2nd June at the Royal College of Nursing in London.

Link to register: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/83003>

A major conference on Nursing and End of Life Care will take place on 2 June at the Royal College of Nursing in London. This event aims to build a new vision for the future of nursing and palliative and end of life care.

Invited Speakers include Rt Hon Wes Streeting, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Mark Mardell, Prospect Magazine, Duncan Barton Chief Nursing Officer NHS England, Nicola Ranger, CEO Royal College of Nursing and Annette Weatherley, Chief Nursing Officer, Marie Curie.

A major conference on Nursing and End of Life Care will take place on 2 June at the Royal College of Nursing in London. This event aims to build a new vision for the future of nursing and palliative and end of life care.

Key Themes and Questions this conference will address

Workforce

- How can we attract and retain the nursing workforce that is needed for palliative and end of care?

- How can we ensure nurses have the skills they need to care for people through dying, death and bereavement?

A whole system approach to integration

- How can nursing enable step up and step down from A&E and acute settings for people at the end of life?
- What does the future of nursing for in-patient palliative care look like?

Respecting Choices at End of Life

- In light of current assisted dying debates, how can we respect and support people's choices at the end of life?
- What is the role of nurses in ensuring choice in advance care planning?

In person conference only - there will be no online sessions

DATE: Monday 2 June 2025 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (UTC+01)

Dorothy House Hospice 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](#)

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.

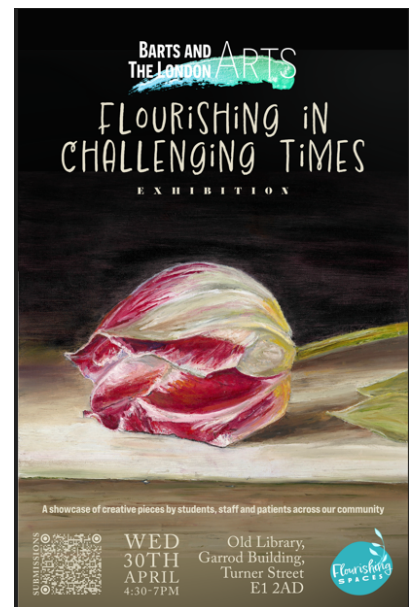
****FREE EVENT - from 5:30 to 7:00pm****

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](#)



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/>

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.

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 poster features a teal header with the NHS Education for Scotland logo and the title 'Bereavement Education Conference 2025'. Below this, a colorful geometric background contains the text 'Bereavement as a kaleidoscope: An inclusive approach for all' and 'Tuesday 11th November'. It also states 'Join us for a free, one-day virtual event for health and social care staff.' To the right of the text is a collage of diverse people's faces. At the bottom, contact information is provided: a globe icon followed by 'www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/events', an '@' icon followed by 'events@nes.scot.nhs.uk', and a hashtag '#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?

CALLS

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

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

Submitting an abstract for this special issue:

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

For more information [click here!](#)

Online focus groups – Did you care for a family member who died when you were aged 25 or under?

Did you care for a family member who died when you were aged 25 or under?*

We are conducting online focus groups to help us understand more about:

- What support is provided to young people when they are caring and in bereavement
- Their experiences of caring and becoming bereaved
- What additional support is needed during these difficult times

We hope to identify ways of improving support for current and bereaved young carers and young adult carers in the UK.

We would like to invite you to take part in one of our online focus groups.

The groups will be held in **May** and the dates set to suit the young people who are attending.

If you would like further information **please e-mail Emily Harrop:**
harrope@cardiff.ac.uk



*We are also asking that you are aged 16 or over, experienced the bereavement in the last three years and were living in the UK at the time.



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

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

Participation involves:

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

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

Inclusion criteria:

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

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

For more information:

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

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

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

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

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

Full details about the application can be found here:

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

The deadline for EOIs is May 31, 2025.

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

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.

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

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

Submissions

Should be written in English and lay friendly. Submission deadline: Please submit your paper by 30th August, 2025.

Word limit: Submissions no larger than 5,000 words (excluding appendices/references).

Multiple submissions from the same author/s will be considered.

Online submission: Please email any questions or submissions to:

backpocketteacher@gmail.com

Coming soon: The Journal of Disappearance Studies

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

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

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

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

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

Call for papers

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

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

Responsible Technology for Death and Dying

Submission deadline: 30 November 2025

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

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

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

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

Special issue information:

Key areas of inquiry could include these sub-topics:

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

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

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

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

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

Manuscript submission information:

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

Manuscript submission open date: 15/12/2024

Manuscript submission deadline: 30/11/2025

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

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

Tuesday 11 November 2025

Register by: 04 November 2025

Overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

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!](#)


Jobs

Marie Curie UK, Research Officer (Hybrid, full-time)

We're looking for a Research Officer to do research and to support research activities in the [Marie Curie UK](#) Internal Research Development Team led by my brilliant colleague [Briony Hudson](#).

This is a great opportunity for a passionate researcher to make a difference to the evidence base for palliative and end of life care and to link research to policy activities and practice!

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



Contact Us

Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Web: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centrefordeath

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

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

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

