

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

September 2025 Newsletter

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Director's Note

Welcome back to a new academic year with CDAS. The UK summer months have seen many people travel to conferences and workshops, as well as take a well earned rest. At the same time, as you will see in this newsletter, CDAS members, Visiting Professors and Fellows and CDAS friends have continued to be incredibly busy publishing articles, presenting papers, and developing new ideas. We have also celebrated the happy news that CDAS PhD student Catriona has welcomed a new addition to her family – congratulations Catriona!

At the University of Bath, in the last few months we have been very pleased to see the new Woodland Memorial Garden Mural, which has already prompted opportunities to talk about death with colleagues.

In 2025//26, CDAS is eager to entrench and build on its current strengths and anniversary year celebrations. We will be making space to continue our core work on dying, death and its aftermath, while also by growing our work that uses death as a lens to understand other global problems and puzzles from armed conflict to environmental change. Our first events for the year are already in the calendar and we hope you can join us for them: first with Amy Shea on 23rd September and then on campus in person with Ed Kirton-Darling on the 2nd October.

We look forward to all the inspiration, conversations, research and writing that is ahead this year as a Centre and community. Please do keep sharing your activities and news with us and we will do our best to amplify these via this newsletter and social media. As you can see in this newsletter, the field is blossoming and there is a lot going on! Remember, you can find us on LinkedIn, Facebook, BlueSky and X.

Until next time
Naomi and Kate

New publications

Article published on the role of the dead during humanitarian crisis by Director Naomi Pendle with the late Matot Yien.

The idea and passion for the research behind this article came from South Sudanese researcher Matot Yien. His own mother was a South Sudanese widow who lived in South Sudan and Sudan through multi humanitarian crises, and it was her story that inspired the research. We designed the research together and he carried out many of the indepth life history interviews with military widows in South Sudan and Sudan. Matot was a young husband and father, but he died of ill health during the analysis and writing phase of this article. As well as being a loved father and husband, he was a multi-lingual, sparky and enthusiastic emerging researcher. His death is a great loss to many. It is an important moment to finally have this first article by Matot published in the *Journal of Refugee Studies*.

The article discusses how, so far, scholarship social networks during humanitarian crisis has tended to ignore the continued role of the dead in social networks. It has ignored the profound socio-economic obligations to the dead that can exist and impact the living, their ability to cope, their relationships and the moral economies that shape supportive exchange. Specifically, we focus on the powerful, ongoing obligations that military widows can have to their deceased husbands, and we critically consider how this impacts these widows' abilities to cope and protect their children.

Article published on [Capital of Life in Death: How Bereaved Individuals Mobilise Cultural and Social Capital in UK Death Administration](#)

Visiting Fellow Laura Towers and Kate Reed have published a new paper using Bourdieu's concepts of cultural and social capital to critically examine death administration in the UK. Drawing on data from qualitative research, the paper shows how death administration is a relational activity which requires people to draw upon and transmit different forms of cultural capital (embodied, objectified and institutional) across life and death.

The Conversation: Gin Lane by William Hogarth is a critique of 18th-century London's growing funeral trade

Read Visiting Fellow Dan O'Brien's latest piece in The Conversation [here](#).

Undertaking in Bath and Beyond

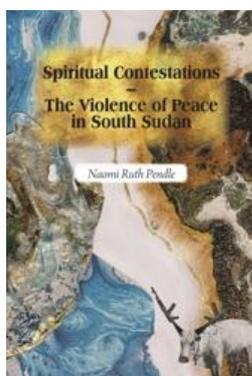
Dr Dan O'Brien has also had a chapter published on the eighteenth-century undertaking trade in Bath in *Bath and Beyond: The Social and Cultural World of the Georgian Assembly Room* part of the Routledge Studies in Eighteenth Century Cultures and Societies series. The chapter examines the early development of funerary businesses in eighteenth-century Bath, considering who became funeral workers and how did they establish themselves.

https://www.routledge.com/Bath-and-Beyond-The-Social-and-Cultural-World-of-the-Georgian-Assembly-Room/Burlock-Eagles-LeBoff/p/book/9781032494463?srsId=AfmBOoqHkktkFHwVHpl-PiEyACkxL2N_iq6fkEkUIWsWn_FT4X4TLFa8

Blog by Kate Woodthorpe: [Family Fallout and Funerals: What a Funeral Director Can Do To Help](#)

The period immediately after someone dies can be very stressful and 'high stakes', as family members and others come together to plan what will happen with the funeral.

Sometimes these are people who are intimately familiar with each other and have very positive and warm relationships; they know exactly what the deceased wanted to happen and are all in agreement about what to do. But other times these are people who are not used to spending time together, or whose roles have suddenly changed after the person has died. It is not unusual, after all, to hear of adult siblings 'taking over' after an elderly parent has died, although another sibling was providing much of their parent's personal care and meeting their day-to-day needs before they died.... Read more by clicking the link above.



Book reviewed

Naomi Pendle's book on the violence of peace in South Sudan has been reviewed in [The New York Review](#). The book can be access for [free online](#).

The University of Bath's new Woodland Memorial Garden Mural

We are delighted to announce the completion of a new mural, the final addition to the University's Woodland Memorial Garden.

Established in 2023 with the support of students, staff, The SU, alumni and the University Chaplain, the garden offers a dedicated space for quiet reflection. It is a place to sit and remember family, friends or colleagues and loved ones that have been lost, and acknowledge the contribution they made to other's lives.



In January, the University commissioned Bristol-based artist, Cai Burton of [Joyful Design](#), to create a mural for the wooden wall marking the entrance to the garden. Cai was asked to reflect the natural landscape, incorporating local beech, ash, and oak trees, memorial stones, and seasonal flowers.

After visiting the site and consulting, Cai developed mock up design ideas which were then shared with The SU, the Advancement Office, and the University's student [Bereavement Social Group](#), staff [Loss and Grief Network](#) and [Young Loss Group](#). The final design was chosen and refined before painting took place in June.

The completed mural blends seamlessly into its surroundings, incorporating elements of campus wildlife, native trees and flowers. It captures themes of reflection and remembrance and includes wording that pays tribute to the lives and contributions of those we have lost – whether students, staff, alumni or loved ones. All members of the University community are warmly invited to visit the artwork and spend some time in the beautiful space.

Workshops in East Africa on Death during Famine

Naomi Pendle hosted and co-chaired two workshops in Kenya in August 2025 with colleagues from Sudan, Uganda, South Sudan and Somalia. The first workshop discussed findings from the British Academy [Death during Famine](#) grant in South Sudan and Sudan. The second workshop started to build the ethnographic team for the new ERC-funded [Everyday Politics of Famine](#) grant. This larger famine grant will include a year of comparative ethnographic research on death during famine in Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan. The workshops included recording audio material, as well as initial autobiographical writing. It was also an important opportunity for the build to get to develop relationships and trust before the research work ahead.



Photos below: Nyabika (top left) and Benjamin Ater (bottom right) show objects that helped them tell their personal stories of famine. Researchers from Sudan, Somalia and South Sudan participate, including Safa Suliman (CDAS Member).



Forthcoming Special Issue and Events on Death during Armed Conflict

CDAS members and friends are currently developing a timely special issue on Death during Armed Conflict with articles on death and its aftermath in Israel-Palestine, Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The special issue is being edited by Fisayo Ajala, Tal Morse (CDAS Visiting Fellow) and Naomi Pendle (CDAS Co-Director), with articles also from Yumna Masarwa (CDAS Visiting Fellow), Nada Afiouni (CDAS Visiting Fellow), Sara Kopelman, Safa Suliman (CDAS member), Abraham Diing Akoi (CDAS Visiting Fellow), Loes Lijnders, Leben Moro, Jean-Benoît Falisse and Simeon Koroma. The special issue itself embodies an important collection of authors most of which have sadly had first-hand experience of living in contexts of armed conflict.

We look forward to sharing more about this special issue at a **hybrid event on the evening of the 4th November** (save the date - details will be shared shortly) and an online launch event in early 2026.

CDAS writing retreat success



Dr Yumna Masarwa attended a successful and stimulating online writing retreat organised by CDAS to support the development of the Death during Armed Conflict Special Issue. You can learn more about this [here](#).

Photo by Dr Yumna Masarwa via LinkedIn

Kate Woodthorpe on [BBC World Service Pick of the Week](#)

Hear from Kate talking about the destination of ashes on the BBC World Service, from around 12 minutes in.

Congratulations to Catriona

In August 2025 PhD student Catriona and her husband Daniel welcomed their first child, Westley. Huge congratulations to the new parents and welcome to the world Westley!

Opportunity to take part in research

Visiting Fellow Tamarin Norwood is conducting research on how parents make meaning after pregnancy and baby loss

You can take part in a research project exploring how families create meaning when they experience the loss of a baby or pregnancy at any stage of pregnancy. The study aims to help improve the support bereaved families receive in the future.

If you are interested in finding out more about taking part, please follow this [link](#).

Researcher: Dr Tamarin Norwood
Institution: Loughborough University
Funder: The Leverhulme Trust
Closing date: 30 September 2025
Email: t.g.norwood@lboro.ac.uk

What is the study about?

The purpose of this study is to help us understand how families create meaning when they experience the loss of a baby or pregnancy at any stage of gestation. The study aims to help improve the support bereaved families receive in the future.

The results of this study will help improve the support people can access after pregnancy or baby loss. It will do this by providing detailed evidence of what pregnancy and baby loss means to people who experience it, including the beliefs, symbols, rituals or stories that may arise.

Who can take part?

We would love to hear from you if you live in the UK, be over the age of 18 and have experienced the loss of a pregnancy or baby, for any reason, at any time in the past.

What will the study involve?

Completing an online questionnaire about your experience of pregnancy or baby loss, with questions about the meanings, objects, memories or activities you might associate with your loss. The survey is anonymous unless you choose to supply your email address at the end. It will take about 25 minutes to complete.

Who is doing this research?

This research is being undertaken by Dr Tamarin Norwood at Loughborough University, and is funded by the Leverhulme Trust. Tamarin is doing this research in collaboration with pregnancy and baby loss support organisations Sands, Held In Our Hearts, and Antenatal Results and Choices (ARC). (Tamarin is a parent bereaved by baby loss and is not a medical doctor.)

Reflections on DDD17

Thank you to all the organisers of the 17th bi-annual [International Death, Dying and Disposal Conference](#) held in August at Utrecht University. CDAS was well represented in person and online, and we asked first time attendee PhD student Rachel Cummings and long time attendee John Troyer to share their reflections on the conference:

Rachel: “I attended the Death, Dying and Disposal conference for the first time this year, at the University of Utrecht. At the start of the conference I was pleased to see many colleagues from Bath as well as other people from the death studies field. It was a nicely sized event with panels on a good range of subjects, including hospice care, violent deaths, spirituality and intermediaries. Stand out papers for me included those on organ donation, femicide and the ghosts of post-conflict Bosnia. Around the panels there were different activities like city tours and death meditations, as well as some good key notes. What I found most valuable was connecting with people in the field and thinking about potential future collaborations with those holding similar research interests. I look forward to becoming a DDD conference regular.”



John: “DDD17 at Utrecht was a fantastic conference. I've attended many DDD conferences since my days as a Ph.D. student, and the organisers for DDD17 did an excellent job. The conference theme on The Politics of Death produced many exciting and important presentations. I was particularly struck by a panel on Indigenous North American experiences of death and dying and how all of the speakers came from Indigenous Tribal Nations, which I think might be for a first for the DDD conferences. The conference was also a great opportunity to re-connect with longtime colleagues I do not see often enough, as well as meet new death studies academics attending a DDD conference for the very first time; their daily mantra being: Oh my god there are other people like me who study death, dying, and the dead body!”

(Photo from left to right: Kate Woodthorpe, Rachel Cummings, John Troyer and Polly Maxwell)

Too Poor to Die with Amy Shea

Tuesday 23rd September

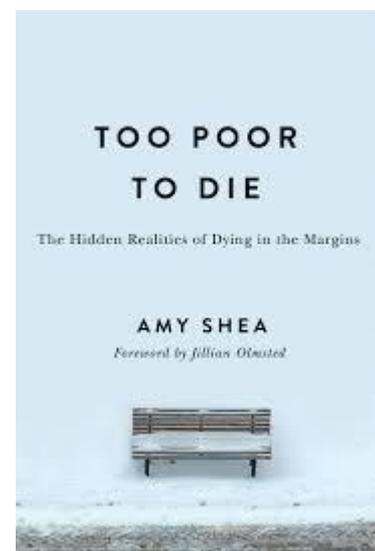
7-8pm BST

Online

Please join the Centre for Death and Society for a book talk with Amy Shea – to mark the launch of her new book [Too Poor to Die: The Hidden Realities of Dying in the Margins](#).

Death may be the great equalizer, but not all deaths are created equal. When someone dies indigent, homeless, disenfranchised from society, or without family or friends, there may be no easy path to resting in peace. With well over half a million people experiencing homelessness in the US. *Too Poor to Die: The Hidden Realities of Dying in the Margins*, bears witness to the disparities in death and dying faced by some of society's most vulnerable and marginalized and asks the reader to consider their own end-of-life and disposition plans within the larger context of how privilege and access plays a role in what we want versus what we get in death.

More information and to book tickets please go [here](#).



Investigating the deaths of people who are homeless: institutional change and how it happens

Dr Ed Kirton-Darling, University of Bristol Law School

Thursday 2nd October 5.15pm – 6pm
3E 2.2, University of Bath campus

In England and Wales, Coroners are required to investigate and hold a public hearing, called an inquest when someone dies and the cause of death is unknown, the death was violent or unnatural, or the person was in state detention. The statutory purpose of the process – which investigates around one fifth of deaths each year – is to answer key questions about the death, including how the person died.

In addition, Coroners have an secondary duty to make a report where they identify risks to the lives of *others*. This lecture focuses on those reports and, in particular, on cases where the deceased was homeless or precariously housed.

In the last seven years, there has been a 133% increase in the number of reports by Coroners which relate to people who are homeless. Perhaps more importantly than the increased numbers, analysis of these reports reveals a shift in the issues being identified, with many

now directly focused on a fundamental question of housing need rather than on the death itself.

Looking at the way in which homelessness is being talked about in these reports, this lecture will explore what these reports tell us about the contemporary death investigations and the Coronial system. I will argue that these reports are not only efforts to produce social change for people who are homeless, but also amount to efforts to change the inquest system itself, into a system focused on issues of social welfare.

This is an in person public lecture only, intended for students and staff at the University of Bath, and the local community. Seating is limited, so make sure to arrive on time.

Dr Ed Kirton-Darling is a Senior Lecturer in the University of Bristol Law School and a qualified solicitor (non-practising). His 2022 monograph [Death, Family and the Law: The Contemporary Inquest in Context](#) is published by Bristol University Press and draws on empirical, historical and conceptual research to examine the contemporary inquest, kinship and accountability, exploring how the role of family is understood, who family is perceived to be, and the ways in which their participation shapes investigation into a death. He has a particular interest in the intersection of investigations into death and social welfare and housing law, and [the role of the Coroner in this context](#).

Bluesky: @ekd.bsky.social

X: @edkirtondarling

Visiting Fellow Dan O'Brien at Serve it Forth

Dr Daniel O'Brien will be appearing at Serve it Forth a food history festival to discuss death, food, memory and the River Thames with Dr Alessandra Pino. In his session *The River Remembers*, he will discuss death, cultural memory and food in the context of London's historic waterway. The talk will range from a bottle cast adrift from a river disaster, through traces of whaling to the memento mori that were produced from meat industry scraps. The festival is virtual and takes place on 18 October.

Tickets are available from: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/serve-it-forth-food-history-festival-2025-tickets-1490885802569>

New Books and Book Series announced



Accommodating the Dead

Materialities, Rituals and Technologies

A new book series from Routledge

Series Editors:

Dr Brenda Mathijssen, Rijksuniversiteit, Groningen (NL)

Dr Julie Rugg, University of York (UK)

Accommodating the Dead will publish works explore the evolving and multifaceted subject of the dead body, and the diverse ways in which humans engage with it. The dead body has an undeniable thereness but can evade direct scrutiny. This series will provide a sharper focus on responses to the materiality of human remains. The dead body demands care, treatment, placement, and ritual. Responses to these demands evolve over time and are shaped by religion, politics, science, and economics. The book series will engage with these responses, creating a coherent yet multifaceted commentary on the core subject.

Book proposals are sought that critically interrogate foundational concepts, including what it means to be "dead," what constitutes a "dead body" in funerary practice, and how disposing the dead can and should be understood in different social, legal, and technological contexts. The series seeks monographs and edited collections that are single- or multi-disciplinary and invites submissions from across the globe.

Editorial Board

Professor Anne Allison, Duke University (US)

Dr Carlton Basmaijan, Iowa State University (US)

Dr Hannah Gould, University of Melbourne (AU)

Dr Christien Klaufus, University of Amsterdam (NL)

Dr Sonja Kmec, University of Luxembourg (Lux)

Dr Olga Nešporová, Czech Academy of Sciences (CZ)

Dr Phil Olson, Virginia Tech, US

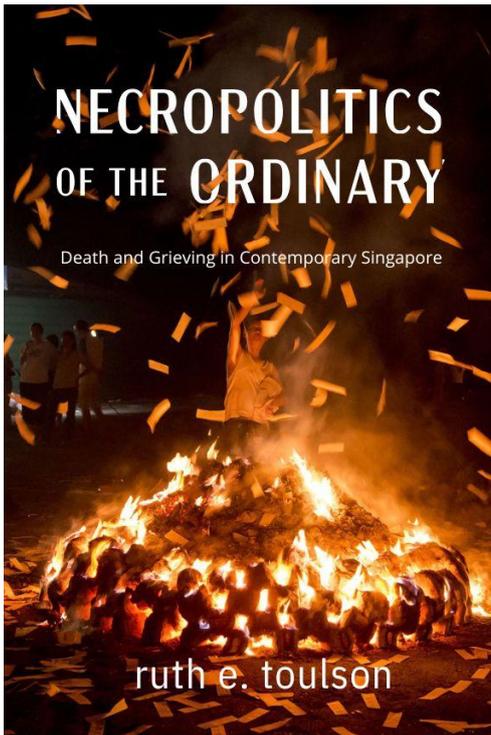
Professor Helaine Silverman, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, US

Professor Auli Vähäkangas, University of Helsinki (FI)

Dr Staci Zavattaro, University of Central Florida (US)

For further information or to request a book proposal form, please contact:

Brenda.Mathijssen@rg.nl & julie.rugg@york.ac.uk



Necropolitics of the Ordinary: Death and grieving in Contemporary Singapore: Ruth E Toulson

Can a state make its people forget the dead?

Cemeteries have become sites of acute political contestation in the city-state of Singapore. Confronted with high population density and rapid economic growth, the government has ordered the destruction of all but one burial ground, forcing people to exhume their family members. In this ethnography of Chinese funeral parlors and cemeteries, anthropologist and trained mortician Ruth E. Toulson demonstrates this as part of a larger shift to transform a Daoist-infused obsession with ancestors into a sterile, more easily controlled "Protestant" Buddhism.

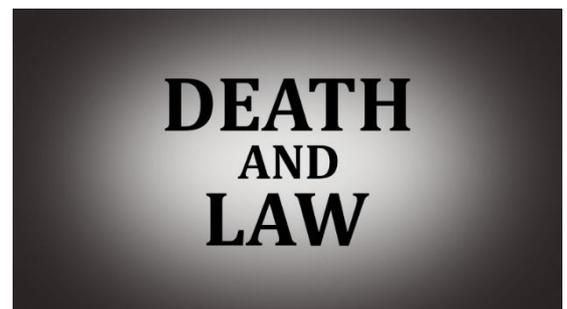
Further, in a context where the dead remain central to family life, forced exhumation tears the social fabric, turning ancestors into ghosts. Using death ritual and grieving as interrogative lenses, Toulson explores the scope of and resistance to state power over the dead, laying bare the legacies of colonialism and consequences of whirlwind capitalist development. In doing so, she offers a new anthropology of death, one both more personal and politicized. Written in accessible prose rich with ethnographic detail, the book is suitable for undergraduate teaching in anthropology, Asian studies, religious studies, sociology, and history.

Toulson, Ruth E. 2025. *Necropolitics of the Ordinary: Death and Grieving in Contemporary Singapore*. University of Washington Press.

New Podcasts

University of Aberdeen: Research Project on Death & Law – Interdisciplinary Explorations

How do we think about death in law — and how might perspectives from other disciplines transform that understanding? Based at the University of Aberdeen, the project Death & Law – Interdisciplinary Explorations brings together more than 20 academics from law, anthropology, philosophy, theology, medicine, museum studies and beyond, in various jurisdictions, to re-examine legal concepts of death and their boundaries.



The project is building towards an edited collection, which will provide the most comprehensive coverage yet undertaken of selected topics in the field. While legal perspectives on death are the starting point, the book takes an intentionally interdisciplinary approach. Each chapter will be co-authored by scholars from different disciplines and led by an editor to ensure coherence across the volume. Together, they will explore how law interacts with dignity and personhood after death, digital identities and avatars, funeral and burial practices, cultural heritage, globalised memory, succession, emotion in law, and even the question of whether the dead themselves can be wronged.

Beyond the book, the project extends to a wide range of activities, including interdisciplinary workshops, consultation responses, public engagement, and a podcast series. The Death & Law Podcast, supported by the Aberdeen Humanities Fund, features conversations with scholars and practitioners across fields to explore how law intersects with diverse perspectives on death — from theology and anthropology to technology and medical ethics. It offers accessible discussions that bring academic research into dialogue with broader societal debates on death, memory, and legacy.

Listen to the podcast: [Death & Law Podcast on Spotify](#)

Learn more about the overall project: [Death and Law Research Project](#)

The project is co-led by Dr Patricia Živković, Senior Lecturer in Law, and Dr Alisdair MacPherson, Senior Lecturer in Commercial Law, both at the University of Aberdeen. Associate leads are Dr Jonathan Ainslie, Lecturer in Private Law, Dr Nevena Jevremović, Lecturer in Law, and Dr Euan West, Lecturer in Private Law.

Jessica Thomas, PhD, LMFT- Interview on “Transforming Grief, One Conversation at a Time” podcast

“I was honored to interview [Dr. Sonya Richmond and Megan Williams from Compassion & Choices for this podcast](#). Their passion and dedication to their work were palpable, and I left our conversation feeling more inspired than ever!

We delve into topics like the personal definition of a good death, cultural considerations, and the need for options and autonomy in end-of-life care. Both emphasize the importance of curiosity, compassion, and humility in their work. The conversation aims to inspire more open discussions about end-of-life care and its various aspects.”

You can listen to the episode with the link [here](#).

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Bridging Isolation: DeathTech and Grief Support in Correctional Settings

September 17th

Join ASDS for their first of two seminars this autumn, with Rolando Nooks. To find out more, look [here](#).

Autumn Online Events



Bridging isolation: DeathTech and grief support in correctional settings
Wednesday 17 September, Rolando Nooks



Historic manipulations of American death and dying
Wednesday 22 October, Aspen Huls

Book here: deathandsociety.org/online-events-series

Dying in the margins: an online discussion

Amy Shea will be taking part in an online discussion on funeral poverty as part of the Order of the Good Death's Mortal Media on the 19th of September. She will be joined in conversation by Evie King, author of [Ashes to Admin: Tales from the Caseload of a Council Funeral Officer](#), and Beth Winegarner, author of [San Francisco's Forgotten Cemeteries: A Buried History](#).

Joining details:

Zoom:

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 826 7175 2454

Passcode: 820998

DYING IN THE MARGINS

A Closer Look at Funeral Poverty with authors
Evie King, Amy Shea & Beth Winegarner

Online Event!

FRIDAY, SEP 19th 2025 | 11a PDT, 2p EDT, 7p BST



Join authors Evie King, Amy Shea, and Beth Winegarner for a powerful conversation on funeral poverty and the stark inequalities that shape how we die and how we're remembered. Through personal narrative, investigative insight, and cultural critique, these writers explore the intersection of grief, memory, economic disparity, and end-of-life care. Come for a thoughtful, necessary dialogue on justice, remembrance, and reimagining how we care for one another through death.

Order Books Here!
[Ashes to Admin](#)
[San Francisco's Forgotten Cemeteries](#)
[Too Poor to Die](#)

ELI Annual Conference- 22-24th September 2025

Who inherits our digital lives after we are gone?

At the 2025 ELI Annual Conference, that runs from 22–24 September 2025, leading voices will examine how the law responds to the posthumous management of personal data, digital assets, and online identity.

23 September | Vienna

Speakers include: • Chair: Prof [Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell](#) (ELI President -Elect; Professor, [Universidad Carlos III de Madrid](#)); [James Norris](#) (Founder, [Digital Legacy Association](#)); [Danguolė Bublienė](#) (President, Supreme Court of Lithuania); [Régis Chatellier](#) (Innovation and Foresight Project Manager, [CNIL - Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés](#)); and Dr Edina Harbinja ([University of Birmingham](#) (Project Co-Reporter)

This session builds on ELI's Model Rules on Succession of Digital Assets, Data and Other Digital Remains, to be approved by the ELI Council in September 2025 and, subject to Membership approval, will be made available in the public domain.

Read about the project: <https://lnkd.in/e8uKRkRr>

Register for the conference: <https://lnkd.in/eqH8DjWe>

EAPC Reference Group Public Health & Palliative Care

On Sept 24th 2025 at 10h00 CEST, the EAPC Reference Group Public Health & Palliative Care is organizing its 6th webinar.

This webinar will cover the theme of death literacy, with talks by:

- Michelle Edwards (Cardiff University, Wales (UK) - Multiple literacy concepts in dying, death and grief: findings from a scoping review
- Astrid Verhue (Vrije Universiteit Brussel (BE) - How do people become death literate? Developing a theoretical causal model
- Panel discussion and Q&A | Moderator Kerrie Noonan (Death Literacy Institute (AUS)

The webinar is free to attend, but registration is obligated. More information and the link to register can be found [here](#).

24th September: Hopeshow in Manchester

We've got something really special planned the day before this year's Suicide Bereavement UK International Conference — and it would be great if you were part of it.

We're excited to host a **HOPESHOW** in Manchester on 24th September – a national initiative created by Professor Pooja Saini (Liverpool John Moores University) in partnership with Grassroots Suicide Prevention.

We will be holding a panel discussion. The panellists and the issues discussed are noted below

- **Prof. Pooja Saini** – Chairing the session
- **Joanna Johnson (Grassroots)** – Supporting children and schools
- **Dr Sharon McDonnell** (me) – Sharing Suicide Bereavement UK's research and training journey
- **Angela Samata** – Why training matters
- **Dr Corinna Priest** – Leadership in postvention (i.e. care of those bereaved by suicide) and the work of Postvention Trust CIC
- **Barry McGale** – Reflections of setting up the first postvention service in the UK
- **Madeleine Moon** – Former MP and founder of the APPG for Suicide Prevention

Event Information

- **Title of event:** *Suicide Bereavement: Reflecting on Progress and Generating Hope*
- **When:** 24th September
- **Where:** Manchester (details shared on booking)
- **Who can attend?:** **Only those registered for the SBUK International Conference the following day (25th September)**

Want to come along?

Just email debbie.wilson@suicidebereavementuk.com to reserve your free place — but be quick, we only have 50 spaces available!

If you have not yet registered for the Suicide Bereavement UK's international hybrid conference on 25th September, now's the time! It's shaping up to be our most powerful and engaging one yet.

For more information about the conference, [CLICK HERE](#)

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

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

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



WILLOW URN COURSE

I'm an independent willow coffin maker in the South West, and I'm putting on a willow urn workshop - I'm the only person in the UK teaching willow urn making to the public.

Date: 27-28th September 2025

Location: Dunkeswell, East Devon

Price: £150

Learn the art of crafting willow urns in this unique weaving course. The only urn weaving workshop in the UK, tutor Sophia has been running a willow coffin and urn business since 2018, and teaching basketry for over a decade. Spaces are very limited.



ICCM Learning Conference and Exhibition 2025

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

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

Previously over 3 days, this year's learning conference is packed into two – yet we've still managed to give you enough time to visit the host of suppliers in the exhibition and network with peers from across the country. **Find out more at our new dedicated [Conference website](#).**

Mindful photography training with Jessica Thomas, PhF, LMFT

Within & Without™ therapeutic mindful photography training is open for registration! Discounts available for students, NEDA members, and those in general need of assistance. (Additionally, check out my podcast [Transforming Grief, One Conversation at a Time](#)) Please use the [application link](#) to apply for my October 2025 Within & Without™ therapeutic mindful photography training. Once I receive your application, I will get back to you with next steps. Review [this page](#) for details and reach out with any additional questions!

OCTOBER 2025 8-hr Intro training program for professionals working with grievers.

Where: Virtual

When: Oct 3rd 9am-11am PT
Oct 10th 9am-11am PT
Oct 17th 9am-11am PT
Oct 24th 9am-11am PT

Saturday 4th October at dB's Utrecht: A NEW TATTOO

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

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

October 4, 2025, 7.30 p.m.
dB's, Vlampijpstraat 63, Utrecht



Unique PhD-course in Aalborg- 22-24th and 31st October

From 22-24 and 31 October 2025, Mai-Britt Guldin and Carlo Leget from the Center for Grief and Existential Values will teach a unique PhD-course in Aalborg (Denmark) together with philosophers Finn Thorbjørn Hansen (Aalborg University) and Rasmus Dyring (Aarhus University). The course focuses on how to research 'delicate matters' (the existential, ethical, aesthetical, and phenomenological dimensions) in healthcare, education and welfare, and is especially relevant for PhD-students from different disciplines working in these areas.

We will teach a full day on the interdisciplinary background of the Integrative Process Model for loss and grief and we will do a Wonder Lab led by Finn Thorbjørn Hansen himself.

If you are interested or want to subscribe, more information can be found [here](#).

Bereavement Education Conference 2025, 11th November 2025



The poster features the NHS Education for Scotland logo in the top left corner. The main title 'Bereavement Education Conference 2025' is displayed in white text on a dark teal background. Below this, the theme 'Bereavement as a kaleidoscope: An inclusive approach for all' is written in purple and blue. The date 'Tuesday 11th November' is highlighted in blue. A central graphic shows a collage of diverse human figures. The text 'Join us for a free, one-day virtual event for health and social care staff.' is positioned to the left of the collage. At the bottom, contact information is provided: a website URL, an email address, and a hashtag.

NHS
Education
for
Scotland

Bereavement Education Conference 2025

**Bereavement as a kaleidoscope:
An inclusive approach for all**

Tuesday 11th November

Join us for a free, one-day
virtual event for health and
social care staff.

www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/events events@nes.scot.nhs.uk #NESBereavement2025

Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care Conference: From System Holes to Whole System taking place in Edinburgh on 12 November 2025.

This conference will be useful for anyone involved in providing or improving care towards the end of life. From System Holes to Whole System, and the event will explore how the different elements of the system can work together more effectively to improve people's experiences of living with serious illness, dying and bereavement.

View the programme so far and book your tickets here: [Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care Annual Conference](#) A Call for Posters is currently underway. If you are interested in presenting a poster or bringing along your display stands, please contact Pauline Ellison for a proposal form at pauline@palliativecarescotland.org.uk, to be submitted by Monday 29 September 2025.

Save the Date: International Death Literacy Symposium

9 & 10 March 2026 in Breda

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

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

What can you expect?

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

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

Location: Breda, near Avans

Date: 9 & 10 March 2026

Third Virtual Colloquium

The third Virtual Colloquium will take place on the 21st November 2025 and the call for papers is now open. We invite papers on places and practices relating to disposing the dead including burial, cremation and other technologies. Papers are expected to fall within social science and humanities disciplines, demonstrate theoretical engagement and include empirical data. As always, with the Colloquium, this is a particularly supportive environment for postgraduate students and postdocs. Each paper will have a thirty-minute time slot: presenters are expected to speak for around twenty minutes, to allow time for questions. We encourage submissions from around the world, and panels will be organised to accommodate a range of time zones. All presentations must be in English.

Please submit your abstract using the google form [here](#). The deadline for submission is 1st October 2025. Tickets will be available via the CRG website from 11th October.

Furthermore, the keynote speaker for this event will be Ruth E. Toulson (Maryland Institute College of Art).

Call for Editor for “Illness, Crisis and Loss”

Application Deadline: September 19th, 2025

Sage announces the search for a new Editor-in-Chief (EiC) for our journal, *Illness, Crisis & Loss* (ICL). We are currently accepting applications for an initial term of 3 years starting on January 1st, 2026, or sooner if available. ICL is a premier refereed and international journal. It furthers an understanding and knowledge of the social scientific, psychosocial and ethical issues associated with life-threatening illness, traumatic human crises, grief, and loss. The broad and unique focus of the journal makes it relevant to a wide range of social scientists, qualitative and quantitative researchers as well as students, grief counselors, therapists, social workers, thanatologists, physicians and nurses, medical ethicists, and anyone else who works with people in crisis situations across the world. The journal is famed for its interdisciplinary and global focus.

Please see: <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/ICL>

Applicants should send a letter of application which includes their vision for the future of the journal and a description of their qualifications for the editorship. Applicants should also include copies of their CV. Applications, nominations, and requests for additional information should be sent electronically to Julia Slater at Julia.Slater@sagepub.com. Please put “ICL Editor-in-Chief Application” in the subject line of your email

For more information about this role, follow the link [here](#).

Responsible Technology for Death and Dying

Submission deadline: 30 November 2025

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

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

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

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

Special issue information:

Key areas of inquiry could include these sub-topics:

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

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

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

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

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

Manuscript submission information:

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

Manuscript submission open date: 15/12/2024

Manuscript submission deadline: 30/11/2025

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

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

Tuesday 11 November 2025

Register by: 04 November 2025

Overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

Death Literacy – Call for papers

Submission deadline: October 20, 2025

Description: Over the past decade, death literacy has emerged as a critical concept in understanding how individuals and communities engage with death, dying, and bereavement. Now recognized and studied globally, death literacy highlights the skills, knowledge, and networks people use to navigate end-of-life experiences. The development of the Death Literacy Index has provided a framework for measuring and a greater understanding across

diverse populations. This has resulted in multiple adaptations and validations in different countries, and in turn has sparked ongoing conceptual developments and critical debates regarding its role and scope. This Special Collection aims to highlight some of the important and groundbreaking work currently being done by scholars across the world.

Key submission information:

In particular, this Special Collection aims to:

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

For more info [click here!](#)

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

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

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

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

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

Notification date: December 11, 2025

More info [here!](#)

Experiences with algorithms after miscarriage? Seeking Participants

Find out more [here](#).

experiences with algorithms after miscarriage?

why not share your story?

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

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

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

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

To take part in the study you should be:

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

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

The deadline for participation is May 2026

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



Contact Us

Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Web: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centrefordeath

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

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

CDAS Videos:

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

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

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

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

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

