

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

February 2026 Newsletter

[Director's Note](#)

CDAS

[News](#)

[Events](#)

CDAS Community

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Calls](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Director's Note

Welcome to our February 2026 issue of our monthly newsletter, where we start this month by extending our congratulations to John Troyer who has become a Professor of Death Studies. Well done John!

This is not our only celebratory news, this has been a month of celebration here with the award of two honorary doctorates at the University of Bath winter graduations, to Jenni Thomas and posthumously to Simon Boas. We are sure you will join us in congratulating Jenni and Simon's family on their awards and in thanking them for all they have done to promote and improve public education, policy and practice in the end of life.

We also want to bring to your attention a series of upcoming CDAS events that will have local, national and international resonance, and which are all detailed in this newsletter:

- 5th March with the Bereavement Network Europe, a seminar on the impact of traumatic death on networks, with Georgie Akehurst
- 11th March at the Bath Royal Literacy and Scientific Institute, a public lecture by Ylva Hard af Segerstand on Digital Remains, in conversation with Khadiza Lakor from the University of Bristol. This will be preceded by an in person death walk with Molly Conisbee around the city of Bath, ending at BRLSI with a reception.
- 2nd April an online seminar to mark the launch of Caroline Sharple's new book entitled '[The Long Death of Adolf Hitler: an investigate history](#)', chaired by Visiting Fellow Helen Frisby.

After those events look out for our annual Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture in May, and our CDAS Conference in June. Thank you to everyone who submitted an abstract for the conference – we had submissions from 32 countries! We are now reviewing the abstracts and will be back in touch with those who submitted in the next few weeks.

It will be a busy few months for sure.

As always, please continue to share your news and updates with us, and remember to follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, BlueSky and X.

See you next month
Kate and Naomi

CDAS Honorary doctorates

At the University of Bath winter graduations in January we were honoured to be able to present two honorary doctorates to outstanding individuals who have made a significant contribution to their respective fields.

The first was to [Jenni Thomas OBE](#), for her work with bereaved families. You can find out more about Jenni's work and influence [in her conversation with Anna May](#) from the Student Grief Network, recorded last year at the University. You can also see a recording of Jenni receiving her honorary doctorate, including the oration from our colleague Emily Richards and Jenni's response, [here](#), from around 35 minutes in.

Our second honorary doctorate was awarded posthumously to [Simon Boas](#), who was an alumni of our department at the University and during his career had made substantial contributions to the field of international development. Simon was diagnosed with throat cancer in 2023 and died in the summer of 2024 aged 47. Before he died Simon wrote a bestselling book called *A Beginner's Guide to Dying*, which we would thoroughly recommend and should be available from all good bookshops. Simon's degree was accepted on his behalf by his sister Julia, who along with CDAS co-director Kate Woodthorpe got to meet The Duke of Edinburgh, who oversaw the ceremony.



You can watch Kate's oration about Simon's influence and impact, and Julia's response, [here](#).

Congratulations to our new Professor of Death Studies

Congratulations to John Troyer who has been promoted to Professor of Death Studies, we hope you enjoy this moment of recognition John!

New paper alert: Is Human Body Disposal an Environmental Issue?

By Kate Woodthorpe, Philip Olson, Dan Robins, Georgina Robinson, Katie McClymont and Simon Cox

Despite growing global commitments to addressing climate change, the environmental impacts of human body disposal (HBD) remain poorly understood. In both the UK and the US, the contexts from which this paper is written, HBD is typically framed as a matter of personal choice shaped by preference, tradition, or belief rather than as a cumulative social or environmental concern. Given the relatively small emissions generated by an individual's disposal, this framing is perhaps unsurprising. Yet when considered collectively, and when broader environmental consequences are included, the environmental impacts of HBD become significantly more substantial. This paper critically examines whether, and how, HBD can be measured, conceptualised, and addressed as a collective environmental issue. In doing so, it identifies the changes required to make the cumulative environmental consequences of HBD more visible to policymakers, industry providers, and the public.

[Full article: Is human body disposal an environmental issue?](#)

New Special Issue the Finnish Death Studies journal Thantos

CDAS Visiting Fellow and alumni Renske Visser has edited a new special issue of Thantos, focusing on Digital Death. It is completely open access and the issue is available [here](#).

Listen to James Fletcher's interview with Laurie Taylor.

In this interview, CDAS Visiting Fellow and University of Bath Institute for Digital Security and Behaviour member [James Fletcher](#) talks about his research into how people living with dementia navigate everyday journeys and why getting around can be far more challenging than it seems.

To better understand these lived experiences, James uses creative 'go-along' research methods, inviting participants to document their lives in ways that feel natural to them — through film, photography, sketching and even knitting.

James then accompanies people with dementia on their local bus and tram journeys across Greater Manchester, capturing first-hand the practical and emotional challenges they face along the way.

Listen to the full interview [here](#).

Christopher Lyon publishes paper

CDAS Visiting Research Fellow recently published a paper in *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*. "Life on New Earth: biodiversity change and humanity in a novel future" explores new and constructive ways to think about more-than-human loss, the loss or extinction of ecosystems and species, under rapid global environmental change. This paper will serve as a springboard for research that Chris is developing in collaboration with CDAS co-director Dr Naomi Pendle, visiting research fellow Dr Jesse Peterson and their colleague Dr Sarah Bezan, as well as others following an earlier workshop on more-than-human loss held at CDAS. The full reference for the paper is: Christopher Lyon, Jonathan D. Gordon, Brennen Fagan, Lindsey Gillson, Jack H. Hatfield, Tabitha K. Kabora, Inês S. Martins, Hanna L. Pettersson, Kelly R. Redeker, Lindsay C. Stringer, Chris D. Thomas, Thomas P. Timberlake, Guoen Wei; Life on New Earth: biodiversity change and humanity in a novel future. *Philos Trans R Soc Lond B Biol Sci* 22 January 2026; 381 (1942): 20240426. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2024.0426>

Chinese translation of John Troyer's MIT Press book released

[The Chinese translation](#) of John's MIT Press book *Technologies of the Human Corpse* was published in December. This is a product of CDAS's ongoing and years-long work across China and with Chinese colleagues working in Death Studies.

Chinese title:身体的价值, ISBN: 9787108080639



Fisayo Ajala publishes opinion piece on Armed Forces Remembrance

Visiting Fellow Fisayo Ajala recently published an opinion piece on the celebration and commemoration of Nigeria's Armed Forces Remembrance Day, which was observed on January 15, 2026, in major national dailies in Nigeria. The article advocates for that beyond the wreath laying and other ceremonial activities, the Armed Forces Remembrance and Celebration Day (AFRCD) deserve to be elevated to the status of a national public holiday. Such recognition would engender greater national and civic participation in the act of celebrating our serving members of the armed forces, veterans, and wider military community, and honouring Nigeria's fallen heroes. The links to the article can be found here:

[Why Nigerian Armed Forces Remembrance Day should be a public holiday](#). The Guardian. Jan 15, 2026.

[Don urges Federal Government to declare January 15 public holiday](#). The Nation. Jan 15, 2026.

[Why Nigerian Armed Forces Remembrance Day should be a public holiday](#). The Cable. Jan 15, 2026.

[Fallen heroes: Nigerian Armed Forces Remembrance Day holiday overdue](#). Punch Newspapers. Jan 15, 2026.

The Unquiet Dead – The lively burial grounds of the eighteenth century with Dr Daniel O’Brien- Wednesday 25th February 2026. 6.30pm

Hybrid talk. In-person at Arnos Vale Cemetery and online.

CDAS Visiting fellow Dr Dan O’Brien presents a talk on the unpredictable world of eighteenth-century burial grounds. Before modern cemeteries existed, these long-used community spaces were practical places for dealing with the inevitable problem of death - but they were also far from quiet. Burials, mourners, and everyday life all mixed together, and the dead didn’t always rest peacefully.

In this talk, you’ll learn about the many people connected to a burial ground and the unexpected activities that took place there - from games and animals to crime. You’ll hear stories of undertakers at work, mourners gathered by candlelight, and sextons digging graves in dangerous conditions. Drawing on evidence from many sources, Dr O’Brien reveals how burial grounds were lively public spaces that frequently brought the living close to the dead.

To book: <https://arnosvale.org.uk/the-unquiet-dead-eighteenth-century-burial-grounds-dan-obrien>

The impact of traumatic death on social networks: Reflecting on grief and bereavement support in the context of sudden deaths

Bereavement Network Europe/CDAS co-organised seminar

5th March 5pm – 6pm GMT, 6pm – 7pm CET, Online

Sign up [here](#).

When someone dies suddenly or unexpectedly, the impact on multiple individuals within a social network can be profound. This webinar makes a case for a more relational understanding of bereavement within this context of loss, arguing that such an approach helps us to recognise the value of one and other’s grief being acknowledged, validated and supported, and how loss is mediated *between* people.

Drawing on qualitative evidence generated from a three-year study into the impact of traumatic deaths on social networks, the webinar will explore the extent to which social networks bereaved by a sudden or traumatic death attempt to remedy public disenfranchisement and stigma (Doka, 1989; Guy and Holloway, 2007). Given that the majority of bereavement support is informal and carried out by close others (Jakoby, 2014; Logan et al, 2018), it will examine the ways in which grief is negotiated from multiple perspectives within a network and how any stigma is, or can be, mitigated.

This is a jointly organised webinar by [Bereavement Network Europe](#) and the [Centre for Death and Society](#) (CDAS) at the University of Bath. It is free to attend.

Speaker biography

Dr Georgie Akehurst is a Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. Her PhD thesis at the University of Sussex focused on grief negotiation among social networks following traumatic bereavement. Her current work in critical suicide studies focuses on how meanings of suicide are culturally embedded and negotiated, and how we can explore what it means to live a 'liveable' life.

Links to publications:

[Out of the blue and into it: Autoethnography, emotions and complicated grief - Georgie Akehurst, Susie Scott, 2023](#)

[No-Body Relations and Negative Negotiations: Selfhood after Traumatic Loss \(Chapter 9\) - Interpreting Identities](#)

Digital Remains: Grief and Mourning in a Digitally Entangled World and Death and Crime walk- 11th March- 5-8:30pm

When someone dies today, they leave behind far more than physical belongings. Phones, messages, playlists, photos, and social media traces often remain — and these digital remains can come to play a powerful role in the everyday lives of those who mourn. In this public lecture, Visiting Professor Ylva Hård af Segerstad explores why the digital traces left behind by the deceased matter so deeply for those who live on. Drawing on her earlier research on digital remains and posthuman encounters with death, the talk shows how bereaved people engage with digital remains to maintain a sense of closeness, make sense of loss, and continue everyday routines and relationships after death.

Ylva Hård af Segerstad will be in conversation with [Khadiza Lakor from the University of Bristol](#) from 6:30-7pm.

The talk is preceded by a Death and Crime walk around the City of Bath (5-6.15pm), which you would be very welcome to join, please sign up here: [CDAS Death and Crime walk around the City of Bath – Fill in form](#).

There will be drinks and nibbles followed by the talk between 7-8.30pm

Tickets to the main event can be found [here](#).

The long death of Adolf Hitler: the negotiation of memory over time

2nd April, 6:00-7:00pm

Online

Marking the publication of Caroline Sharples' new book '[The long death of Adolf Hitler: an investigative history](#)' this CDAS seminar explores the vacuum of myth and survival conspiracies that resulted from there being no witnesses to his death nor public display of his body. At a time in the twenty first century when conspiracy is rife, in this seminar in conversation with Germany history and memory specialist [Professor Bill Niven](#), we will reflect on how memory is created and contested over time, and what we can learn from the case of Adolf Hitler.

Free tickets to the event can be found [here](#).

Picturing the Dead: Spirit Photography c.1860-1940 with Helen Frisby- 21st April, 7-8:30pm

Hosted by the folklore society. Mortality, religion, folklore, art and technology collide in this history of spirit photography during the period c.1860-1940.

This talk explores the curious history of spirit photography; whereby, in a distinctly Victorian technological twist upon much older ghost beliefs, deceased 'extras' mysteriously returned to haunt photographs of their loved ones. The craze for spirit photography peaked in Britain after the 1914-18 Great War, but had been conclusively debunked by 1940. Or had it ...?

On one level the story of spirit photography is one of fraud, profiteering, and exploitation; however it also highlights the human capacity for ritual creativity in the face of grief and loss.

Please note that this presentation includes examples of spirit and postmortem photographs.

Dr Helen Frisby is Hon. Secretary of The Folklore Society, a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Bath, and an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Bristol. She's an internationally recognised expert on the history and folklore of death and dying, funeral customs and burial grounds.

Tickets £6.00 (£4.00 for Folklore Society members with the Promo Code)

Every ticket sold helps to support the work of The Folklore Society

Tickets can be found [here](#).

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

Zoë Ghyselinck and Elena Fabietti coedit book on Necrodialogues and Media

This volume is an original contribution to the understanding of the various forms of communication with the dead. Terming them "necrodialogues", it examines these forms of communication in relation to cultural and ritual practices of necromancy and mediumism on the one hand, and to the development of technologies for establishing contact with the beyond on the other. While recent scholarship in media and cultural studies rejects the narrative that technological progress in modernity eclipsed religious experiences and occult practices, twentieth- and twenty-first-century literary studies, holding on to the secularization paradigm, still largely dismiss practices of communication with the dead as anti-modern. By bringing together perspectives from different disciplines, this volume emphasizes the interconnectedness of literary necrodialogues and other cultural and media practices of communicating with the dead. The main aim of the collection is to explore the cultural, historical, anthropological, and media contexts in which modern necrodialogues are produced and invested with different meanings.

More information and access to the book can be found [here](#).

New Postgraduate degree in Palliative and End-of-Life Care at Northumbria University

Northumbria University in Newcastle upon Tyne invites applications for its new Master of Public Health (MPH - *Palliative & End-of-Life Care*) to commence in September 2026. This MPH will be the first UK MPH degree in public health approaches to palliative care. Unlike similar degrees in the UK with a palliative care interest, this degree emphasizes training in policy and practice development – especially in health promotion, community working, and end-of-life literacy. It is the first degree that acknowledges dying, caregiving, and loss as lifestyles with their own social and physical co-morbidities and premature death risks, and presents students an opportunity to train for the public health interventions that specifically address these.

It is also the first UK degree that incorporates substantial training in interdisciplinary studies of death, dying, and grief, and includes several world-renown leaders in palliative and bereavement care among its teachers: Allan Kellehear, Julian Abel, Joanne Atkinson, and Wallace Chan.

Because building a community's capacity for supporting people with life-limiting illness, caregiving, and loss is a national priority this program will prepare you for employment opportunities in local hospice services, palliative care services, hospital services, nursing and care home programs, bereavement care services, as well as public health and rural health services in local government that offer support services in end-of-life care.

For more information and instructions on how to apply, please refer to the [university's website](#).

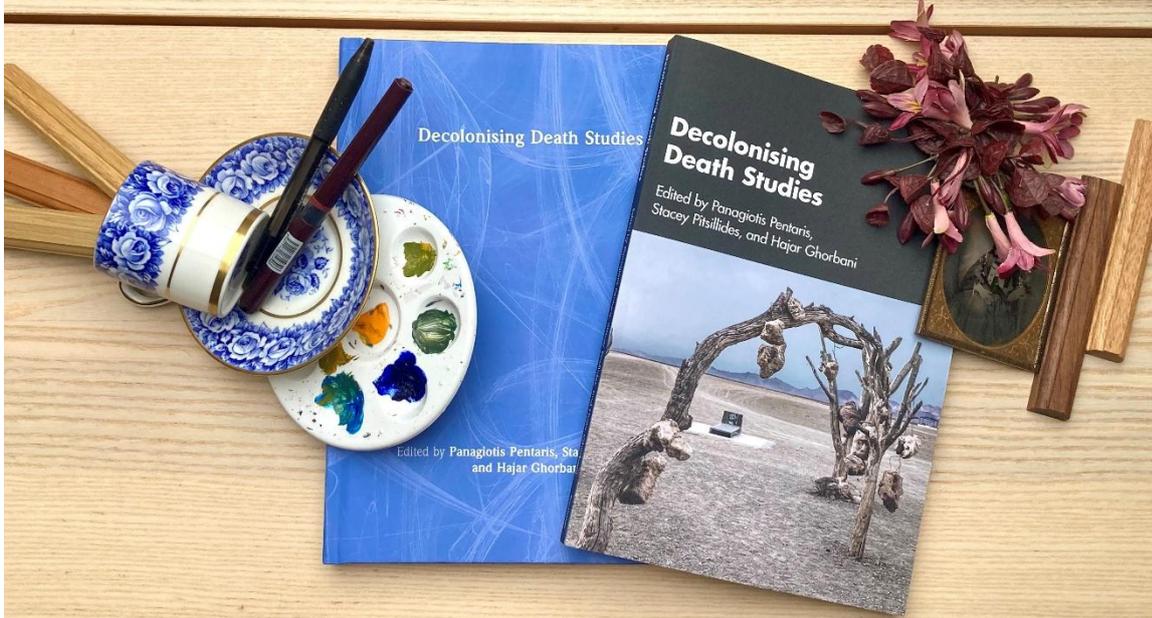
This course is offered as a one-year full-time course, or it can be taken part-time. In either mode, it is offered as an on-campus study opportunity only. Inquiries may be directed to Professor Allan Kellehear as the current program lead at: allan.kellehear@northumbria.ac.uk

Learn about the work of Companion Voices- singing for the end of life

Companion Voices are a choir that sign to accompany people at the end of life. Their latest newsletter can be found [here](#).

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Free webinars on death, grief and mourning through a decolonial lens



Join leading scholars as they explore death, grief, and mourning through a decolonial lens in the Decolonising Death Studies webinar series.

From rituals to repatriations, this series examines how death reflects culture, power, and resistance across the world.

Webinar 1: Death Rituals Woven with Colonialism, Law & Media

23rd Feb 2026, 09:00 - 10:30 (GMT timezone)

Explore Māori cremation, funeral law in Italy, and death in popular media. Discover how rituals, law, and culture shape who and what we mourn.

Live webinar + Q&A

Speakers: [Averil Martin](#), [Giorgio Scalici](#), Sanghita Dey & [Agnidh Baruah](#)

Book Your Free Ticket: <https://lnkd.in/eFttqqw3>

Webinar 2: Meaning Making, Death Politics in Post-Colonial Spaces

6th March 2026, 16:00 - 17:30 (GMT timezone)

Dive into grief, mourning, and resistance in Latin American, Druze, and other post-colonial contexts. Learn how communities reclaim agency in the politics of death and the everyday experiences of the 'reality' of 'bereavement' in the UK, shaped by colonial histories.

Speakers: [Joshua Hurtado Hurtado](#), Stacey Pitsillides & [Reem Talhouk](#) & [Sena Çerçi](#), [Jane McCarthy](#) & Sukhbinder Hamilton

Live webinar + Q&A, Book Your Free Ticket: <https://lnkd.in/e9-kRtqV>

Webinar 3: Mapping Deathways — Environment, Digital & Repatriation

20th March 2026, 08:00 - 09:30 (GMT timezone)

Explore eco-grief, digital afterlives, and cross-border repatriation. See how technology, environment, and migration shape contemporary death practices and cultural memory.

Speakers: [Tamara Borovica](#), Lionel Obadia, [Dr. George Gumisiriza](#)

Live webinar + Q&A

Book Your Free Ticket: <https://lnkd.in/ePN-S8X7>

Supported and co-run with [Panagiotis Pentaris, PhD](#), [Hajar Ghorbani](#) and the [Association for the Study of Death and Society \(ASDS\)](#)

Link to purchase book: <https://lnkd.in/eHmjn4Aj>

Bereavement at work: How to support employees experiencing loss with care, intention and understanding- February 25th 10am

In this webinar, we'll explore how organisations and managers can support employees experiencing loss with care, intention and understanding. Joined by Lucy Carpenter, Compassionate Employers Lead at Hospice UK, we'll have an open and honest discussion about grief at work, the realities of bereavement and caring responsibilities, and how to approach difficult conversations with humanity and confidence. This session will cover: - Why bereavement still feels difficult to talk about at work -Bereavement, caring responsibilities and hidden vulnerability -What helps, what harms, and how to recover if you get it wrong -Having the conversations managers are often afraid of -Normalising grief as part of working life -The legal context and evolving employee rights For HR professionals, leaders and people managers, this is a practical, human conversation about how to show up for people when they're going through some of life's hardest moments.

Registration is [here](#).

Palliative Research Incubator Virtual Event

25th February 12:00-12:45

How the Palliative Care Research Society (PCRS) can help you build your research skills

Palliative Research Incubator Virtual Event

How the Palliative Care Research Society (PCRS) can Help you Build your Research Skills

Dr Nicola White, University College London and
Dr Emma Chapman University of Leeds

 **Who is it for?**

- Anyonewishing to build their research skills in Palliative and End of Life Care Research

 **You'll get an insight into:**

- How the PCRS can support non-clinical and clinical palliative care research careers nationally
- How the PCRS works with other key organisations
- Exciting opportunities available to PCRS members, including bursary schemes for 2026

FREE Online
Wednesday 25th February
12:00-12:45

[> BOOK NOW](#) 

 **Palliative Research Incubator**

SUPPORTED BY
NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

 **Palliative Care Research Society**

FREE webinar on out-of-hours palliative and end of life care

Thursday 5th March 1.00-2.30pm

Online via Teams

Short talks on the latest research and evidence plus a cross-sector panel discussion - with [Dr Ben Bowers](#) [Kate Heaps](#) [Therese Johansson](#) [Joanna Davies](#) and [Dr Alice Firth](#)

Sign up: <https://lnkd.in/eFEZfaqF>

The Impact Centre for Palliative and End-of-Life Care Webinar on Out-of-Hours Care



Date Thursday 5th March 2026, 13.00-14.30 GMT

Location Online via Microsoft Teams

Free link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/3raxjdwp>



13:00 – 13:10 Welcome & Introduction to the Impact Centre for Palliative and End-of-Life Care

Professor Katherine Sleeman | Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London

Session 1 Chair: Professor Katherine Sleeman | Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London

13:10 – 13:20 Do Out-of-Hours Palliative Care Telephone Advice Lines Work? Insights from a Rapid Systematic Review

Dr Therese Johansson | Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London

13:20 – 13:40 Out-of-Hours Community-Based Care: What Works for Patients, Families, and Healthcare Professionals?

Dr Alice Firth | Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London, and Research Lead at Princess Alice Hospice

13:40 – 13:50 Optimising Access to Injectable Medication for Symptom Relief

Dr Ben Bowers | University of Cambridge

13:50 – 14:00 Inequalities in Out-of-Hours Emergency Department Visits

Dr Joanna Davies | Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London

Session 2 Chair: Professor Katherine Sleeman | Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London

14:00 – 14:30 Panel discussion

Dr Therese Johansson | Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London

Dr Alice Firth | Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London, and Research Lead at Princess Alice Hospice

Dr Joanna Davies | Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London

Dr Ben Bowers | University of Cambridge

Kate Heaps | Chief Executive of Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice, and Palliative and End-of-Life Clinical Lead for Southeast London ICS

www.csi.kcl.ac.uk

[@CSI_KCL](https://twitter.com/CSI_KCL)

csi.events@kcl.ac.uk

Registration for the 3rd International Death Literacies Symposium in Breda is now open- 9th and 10th of March

On 9 and 10 March 2026, the End-of-Life Care Research Group (Avans) is hosting an inspiring two-day event on Death Literacy, Grief Literacy in practice and research. As in previous versions of this symposium, Kerrie Noonan from Australia will be attending, and Libby Sallnow from London will also be present, as well as Steven Vanderstichelen from Ghent.

The programme includes:

- keynotes on innovative approaches of death literacy and end-of-life care
- special sessions for Early Career Researchers
- space to explore research and practical developments together

General information: <https://lnkd.in/evy7kP>

You can register here: <https://lnkd.in/ewriRVBv>

Information about hotels, restaurants, and transport in Breda will be provided in the confirmation email after booking. More specific information about the programme will follow soon.

Palliative Care Research Conference- 4th June 9:30-16:00

Thursday 4th June | Dorothy House Hospice, Winsley | 09:30 – 16:00

We're delighted to invite you to our second collaborative Palliative Care Research Conference, hosted at Dorothy House Hospice in Winsley. This event brings together leading researchers and practitioners to share the latest insights, innovations, and best practices in residential and community settings within palliative care.

Why attend?

- Keynote talks from experts in the field
- Poster presentations and oral abstracts
- Interactive Q&A panels
- Networking opportunities
- Free parking & lunch provided!

Tickets: Early Bird: £70 (limited time)

General Admission: £85

[Reserve Your Spot Now](#)

Call for Abstracts:

Submit your abstract for poster and oral presentation consideration by Friday 27 February 2026. Email completed forms to research@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk

Cremation and Burial Communication and Education Conference and Exhibition- 23rd-25th June

Join us for the Cremation & Burial Communication & Education Conference and Exhibition which is returning to the Hilton Southampton - Utilita Bowl 2026. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for this important event!

The Cremation Society and the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities are delighted to be working together again to bring you this year's CBCE.

2025 sees another year of challenge for the burial and cremation sector, as the ever increasing complexity and diversity of death care requires innovation from all involved in funerals. CBCE covers the main topics relevant to all professionals within the sector and as the only CPD accredited educational event in the calendar this is a must attend for those wishing to stay ahead in their respective field.

Keynote topics include Law Commission updates, Environmental Permitting changes, technological innovation, and educational updates to help meet your continuing professional development objectives. There is also an opportunity to grow your network and visit the exhibition to discuss the latest products and services with all the leading sector providers.

More information can be found [here](#).

Suicide Bereavement UK's 15th international hybrid conference in Liverpool: 16th September

Suicide Bereavement UK's 15th international hybrid conference is going to be our biggest and boldest yet.

Theme: Suicide Bereavement: Silence Isn't Always Golden

Date: 16th September 2026

Venue: Titanic Hotel, Liverpool (and online)

Time: 9:00am – 4:30pm

Join us for an inspiring and thought-provoking day where new research findings will be presented for the first time.

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

Invitation to contribute: Thanatos special issue 2026

Every year Thanatos launches a special issue in the field of thanatology on a timely theme that calls for attention. This year, we welcome scholars from diverse disciplines to collaborate on the 2026 special issue, which focuses on “death and ecology”.

There are two possible categories of articles to which authors can contribute. Peer-reviewed original research articles (max. 8000 words) and discussion papers (3000 words) that comment on or elaborate on some aspects of the special issue theme in an academic or societal manner.

The research articles are sent to two external reviewers, the discussion papers are reviewed by the editorial board. For this special issue, we welcome papers from both scientific and artistic research perspectives that touch upon death, grief, and ecology. The theme of ecology can be broadly interpreted as relating to questions of sustainability in social and/or “natural” environments. Here, ecological crisis can refer to different aspects of the contemporary polycrisis, which tend to be entangled in multiple ways with death and destruction.

Submission deadline for full articles to be considered for the special issue is the 10th of May.

More information about the journal and the submission guidelines can be found at <https://journal.fi/thanatos/information/authors>.

Papers in English and Finnish languages are welcome! Any questions about the issue, please get in touch via thanatos.fdsa@gmail.com.

Call for research participants



Call for Research Participants

I am looking to interview people who believe their sibling/s died by suicide to learn more about, and raise awareness of, sibling suicide bereavement.

Participants must be at least 18 years of age and bereaved more than 3 months ago.

All participants will be reimbursed for their time.



For more information, please contact Dr Laura Towers (lead researcher). Email laura.towers@manchester.ac.uk

Call for papers for the 27th Cemeteries Colloquium- 8th May 2026

The 27th Cemeteries Colloquium will be taking place on 8th May 2026 at the University of York, UK. We are now seeking abstract submissions. The Colloquium is an essential forum for the discussion of new and emerging cemetery scholarship and is multi-disciplinary, accepting papers from across the humanities and social sciences. The Colloquium has an emphasis on discussion, and its international and interdisciplinary nature makes the meeting particularly thought-provoking.

Papers will each be given a timeslot of 30 minutes.

The deadline for abstracts is 27th March 2026.

Please send your abstract using [this link](#). If you have any questions, contact Julie Rugg at julierugg36@gmail.com

Call for papers from all bereavement and global researchers!

The [American Journal of Public Health](#) is soliciting papers on bereavement as a global health concern.

This Call for Papers seeks original research, analytic essays, history essays, notes from the field, and opinion editorials that address the central question:

👉 “Considering current global events, how does bereavement function differently across subgroups, either as a cause or a consequence of population health outcomes?”

👉 Submissions are due March 1, 2026.

If you are not yet aware of the [University of Southern California's Emily Smith-Greenaway's](#) work, you should do so prior to conceptualizing your papers.

The European Grief Conference - Call for Abstracts Open for EGC 2026 in Oporto & Bereavement Network Europe 7th webinar

The European Grief Conference 2026 Call For Abstracts Is Now Open.

EGC welcomes a broad range of abstracts on bereavement and grief-related topics with a focus on research, education/policy or practice aligned to levels of the public health model of bereavement. For the 2026 conference we especially welcome abstracts aligned with the conference theme: Bereavement, grief, and loss: Responding collaboratively to local and global challenges.

Full details on the abstract call are available here <https://europeangriefconference.org/call-for-abstracts>

The European Grief Conference will be held in Porto, Portugal, September 9th to 11th 2026.

Save the date for the third European Grief Conference 9th-11th September 2026 in O’Porto, Portugal. Read more: <https://europeangriefconference.org/>

Call for speakers at Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust

Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust runs a regular talk series for the public online and sometime in person and we have a wide range of talks that are broadly on the themes of death, dying, interment, bereavement, human remains, and cemeteries (and anything else we think fits). As a charity, it is a way for us to make a small income for the continuing care of the site, spread the word about Arnos Vale Cemetery and share research and knowledge to a non-academic audience. We welcome the suggestions for presentations of around 45-50 mins from a wide range of speakers and disciplines. We are creating the 2026 programme at the moment and

would love to hear from any researchers who'd like to share what they are interested in or working on. A number of previous talks have been delivered by CDAS staff, visiting fellows, and students but we are interested in presentations from all sorts of disciplines, research areas and levels of study.

If you are keen to support us then contact janine.marriott@arnosvale.org.uk

Check out the programme of events at arnosvale.org.uk

Unsung Heroes in Death Care, A Global Analysis

Editors: Drs. Kami Fletcher & Bulelwa Maphela

During the COVID-19 outbreak and its immediate aftermath, we saw death care professionals thrust from the margins to the center. In Ghana, pall bearers went viral for showing how significant ornate last rites are to guiding loved ones to the ancestral plane. In the United States, death doulas made TIME's "Top 100 Photos of 2022" as well as received a featured article. Even still, they were positioned as last responders, appropriately titled since they were last to receive PPE. The social and cultural value of their work to our communities, our nations, our world went unnoticed. These professionals play a critical role in our communities and do not appear in the developmental agenda. They remain as unsung heroes.

There is an urgent need to start appreciating the work done by these unsung heroes in the death care sector - globally. This volume aims to highlight the contributions of death care professionals - the funeral directors, the embalmers, the mortuary workers, the death doulas; and others death care workers - who all play a critical role in supporting bereaved families and communities during the period of losing a loved one. These death care laborers, as individuals and as group, play vital roles in the care and support of the deceased and their families, yet often go unnoticed or underappreciated in broader narratives about death and dying. This international call aims to attract scholars, researchers, and practitioners from around the world to submit abstracts that explore the experiences, challenges, and contributions of death care professionals.

Suggested themes

- The role of death care professionals in supporting bereaved communities.
- The role of government in supporting the death care professionals.
- The impact of death care work on the mental state of the professionals in the death care industries.
- Societal and cultural perceptions of death care professionals across time and space
- Historical and contemporary perspectives on death care practices.
- Comparative country practices in the death care activities. Innovative and best practices in death care work.
- Challenges affecting sustainability of the death work and within the death care professional circles.
- The role of death care workers in removing trauma in communities and treating the unbereaved.

Editors are asking all interested to please send in a 300-word abstract as well as a working bibliography (primary and secondary sources), no later than August 1, 2026 to kamif2311@gmail.com and bmaphela@uj.ac.za.

For all other queries concerning our volume, please do not hesitate to reach out through the same channels.

The 300-word abstract must include:

- Perspective contributors' name, affiliation, job title
- Essay's (working) title
- Clear argument/thesis statement

Open University funded PhD

The OU welcomes PhD proposals for the project ‘Co-Creation of Creative Writing Interventions for acute care, hospice and palliative care environments’.

This PhD project, in co-operation with those in the caring professions and in the palliative care environment, will work to develop the ethical, methodological and evaluation processes necessary to establish Creative Writing Interventions as a key tool in the promotion of mental welfare within the caring community.

You will research how, and in what ways co-created arts-based projects informed by Creative Writing practice can provide effective and low-cost approaches to supporting agency and occupational wellbeing among frontline care-providers.

You will also explore how such interventions, informed by tailored joint-analysis workshops, can provide new frameworks for generating and evaluating participatory practice in ways that can be replicated in other pressurised social support arenas.

You, and the team, will ensure that the researched community is a vital part of the research project as experts in their own lived experience as a key goal of participatory action research (PAR) is to enable capacity-building within the researched community through an iterative process of ‘research, learning and action’, in which the foundation is ‘relationships of mutual trust’ (Grant, 2008, p. 591).

Working with supervisors, who are experts in participatory arts research and in ethical co-design, you will acquire skills in community-based facilitation, archival research and critical ethnographical methods. The PhD will equip you as an effective participatory arts researcher with a suite of skills to redeploy in welfare, community, and care-giving settings.

You will be supported by a supervisory team consisting of Professor Siobhan Campbell, Dr Sally Blackburn-Daniels, and Dr Bethan Michael-Fox. You will be based in the Department of English and Creative Writing in the OU’s Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. You will benefit from the resources of the OU’s main campus in Milton Keynes as well as the office of Open University in Wales, in Cardiff.

For more information, please use this [link](#).

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

