

Centre for  
Death & Society  
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

## Centre for Death & Society

### May 2026 Newsletter

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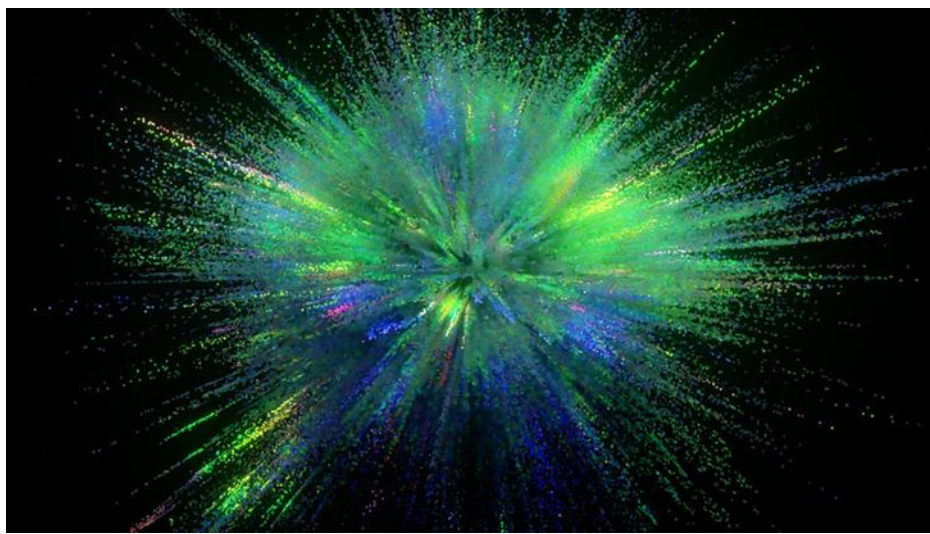
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## Director's Note

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Welcome to the May 2026 issue of our monthly newsletter, where we bring you news of what we've been up to, and announcements and news from our wider community. Clearly, our shared field is in rude health, evidenced by the sheer volume of stimulating and original work and activities being conducted.

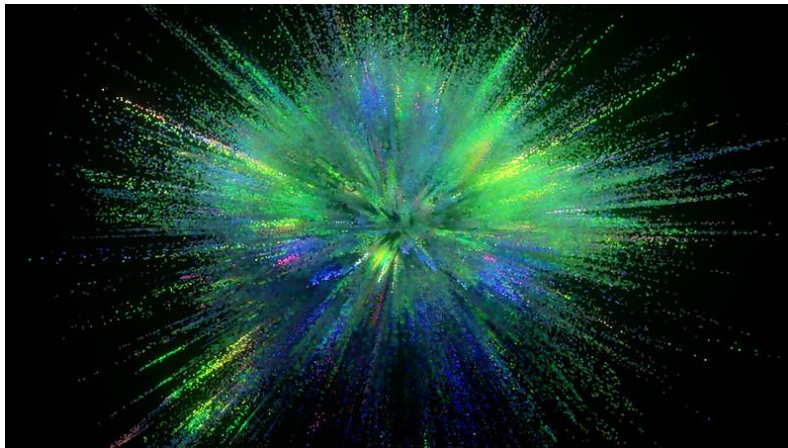
Our own major upcoming contribution this coming month is our annual conference, for which we cannot wait. Held online over three days 17-19<sup>th</sup> June, our conference theme this year is 'Death and Power' and we confidently feel it is the most exciting conference programme we have put together. We have three keynotes featuring speakers from around the world, workshops and roundtables and over 40 individual papers. If you cannot join us (and even if you can!) we have an event each evening, which are free and open to all. Evening one sees a workshop on the use of (and creation of) comic books in death and dying, and evening two sees a workshop on the power of movement in the end of life. Details of how to sign up for the whole conference, or even just the evening events, can be found in the next few pages of this newsletter.

Happily, our 2023 conference theme of Innovation at the End of Life continues to endure, with news this month of the book publication of the special issue of papers for Mortality that came from our conference to celebrate CDAS's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. We are delighted to see this in print, thank you to all the authors who wrote such brilliant papers that resulted in not one, but two outputs!

As ever, please continue to send us your updates and news and we will do our best to share these. You can find us on LinkedIn, Facebook and BlueSky.

Until next time

Kate and Naomi



### *Death and Power*

#### ***The CDAS Annual Conference: get your ticket now!***

Join us on 17-19 June for our annual conference that will explore the relationships between death and power.

In all its forms, power is central to the human condition, people's relationships to others, the planet's future, and how endings are experienced. Theorised across many, if not all, disciplines, power is inherent in professions, care, associations with others, policy and politics, perspectives and approaches, rationales and logic. Whether it is something possessed or negotiated, practiced, or rejected, power in all its guises is part of life, and of death.

The conference will feature nearly 100 speakers from around the world to explore these juxtapositions and the many and varied ways death and power intersect.

There will be keynote sessions, research paper discussions, workshops, and interactive sessions, hosted by a wide-ranging selection of speakers and contributors.

If you are unable to join us for the whole three-day conference, free tickets are available to attend the two evening sessions

- Wednesday 17 June: [Power in Health and Care research: a case for epistemic injustice](#)
- Thursday 18 June: [Agency and empowerment through embodied grief companionship](#)

Please note: Full ticket holders will have access to these sessions.

***Full details of the conference including keynote speakers and how to buy tickets are available [here](#).***

## ***Thanks to Lorna Templeton***

Our big thank you this month goes to Lorna Templeton, who has just completed a year long post working with [Turning Point](#), Jessica Jacobsen from Birkbeck and Kate Woodthorpe on an ESRC Impact Acceleration Account project, turning the findings from the two ESRC projects she was involved in, [one on bereavement from alcohol and drug dependency](#), and one on support for bereaved people going through the coronial process called [Voicing Loss](#), into an actionable toolkit for people bereaved by alcohol, drugs, and gambling. We will be launching the details of the toolkit imminently, and if you have interests in this area and want to learn more about it or be involved in sharing it with your audiences, please email Kate on [k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk](mailto:k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk).

## ***Thanks to Simon Allen***

Thank you also goes to Simon Allen who has generously donated part of his personal library on death, dying and bereavement to the University. These books will now go into our University collection. Thank you Simon, for donating them and dropping them off in person to the library at the University of Bath campus.

## ***2023 CDAS conference papers published as an edited collection***

The 2023 CDAS conference on Innovation at the End of Life resulted in a special issue of the Mortality journal in 2025 that has since been turned in to an edited collection. Edited by Kate Woodthorpe and Jeremy Dixon, it features chapters on digital afterlife leaders by Katarzyna Nowaczyk-Basińska, sociopolitical grief by Darcy Harris and decolonising the aftermath of death by Sukh Hamilton plus much more. Order a copy for your library today!



[Innovation at the End of Life | Kate Woodthorpe, JEREMY DIXON | Taylor](#)

## ***Visiting fellow Khyati Tripathi co-publishes article***

CDAS Visiting Fellow Khyati Tripathi, line De Vleminck, Lieve Van den Block and Lara Pivodic have published a systematic review on the experience of older people with living with chronic illness towards the end of life, in Social Science and Medicine.

The results of this review underscore older people's pursuit of continuity across personal, relational, and behavioural dimensions of the illness experience in older age.

They conducted the review as part of [TRAJECT- Uncovering the shared and the specific](#), which aims to better understand the different ways in which older people with serious chronic illnesses experience the last months of life. You can read the article [here](#).

## ***BBC Radio 4 runs a special series called 'Doing Death Differently',***

Co-Director Kate Woodthorpe featured on the BBC Radio 4 Last Word special series of Last Word, to mark the programme's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Kate can be heard in the second and third episodes, talking about burial and cremation, and funerals and direct cremation.

[BBC Radio 4 - Last Word: Doing Death Differently - Available now](#)

## ***Stacey Pitsillides's long term research on Death and Design selected by the World Design Organisation to feature in their April Newsletter***

We were delighted to learn that CDAS Visiting Fellow Stacey Pitsillides's work has been recognised by its selection by the World Design Organisation for coverage in their April newsletter. Working at the intersection of design, technology and end-of-life studies, Stacey has emerged as a leading voice in the growing Design for Death field. As an Associate Professor in the School of Design at Northumbria University, her practice spans immersive installations, participatory research and critical writing, all grounded in an ethics of care and a commitment to rethinking how we engage with mortality, mourning and legacy.

From collaborative projects in hospices to speculative explorations of digital afterlives, Stacey's work invites us to confront death not as a distant inevitability, but as a deeply human experience shaped by ritual, culture and design. In this newsletter conversation, she reflects on the evolving role of design in mediating loss, the ethical complexities of digital death and the importance of creating more inclusive, dignified spaces for grief and remembrance.

You can learn more about her work [here](#).

## ***Visiting Fellow Christopher Lyon attends committee on assisted dying***

On 21 April 2026, CDAS Visiting Research Fellow Dr Christopher Lyon testified at the Canadian parliamentary [Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying](#) to inform its review of Canada's pending expansion of euthanasia access to persons with only a mental illness in 2027.

## ***New blog from Visiting Professor Jane Ribbens McCarthy on the political language of grief:***

[The Political Language of Grief](#) by Visiting Professor Jane Ribbens McCarthy, Korina Giaxoglou and Lystra Hagley Dickinson, has been published by the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs the blog series the Berkley Forum.

“Words are never neutral. “Grief” is no exception, but here we seek to unsettle its meaning and its powerful, politically embedded implications. In the past fifty years or so, the term has seen a rise [in its everyday use](#) in the Anglophone world, including the United States,

compared to other possible terms such as “mourning.” It has also been widened to encompass further domains of losses in life, such as [political grief](#) and [climate grief](#), or forms of grief, such as [disenfranchised grief](#) and [suffocated grief](#). But even in these developments, while diversifying its potential, its usage highlights the power and prevalence of this language while the limitations of the term grief remain, its meaning largely left intact, re-inscribed rather than challenged or unsettled.....”

Read more from the blog [here](#).

### ***Johanna Sumiala co-author in research ethics project***

Visiting professor Johanna Sumiala was a team member and a co-author in a research ethics project titled: [Community Research Ethics Initiative \(CREI\)](#) funded by CHANSE/EU.

With colleagues Joshua Edelman, Avi Astor and Katarzyna Górak-Sosnowska the team published an accessible and short report for scholars, funders and ethics committee members to help them to tackle issues related to studying sensitive topics (such as death and dying) in today's digitally immersed societal and cultural settings and international project contexts.

The report is open access and available [online](#). Well done Johanna and team for this valuable work.

### ***Brocher Fondation global workshop on ageing and dying***

Earlier this month co-director Kate Woodthorpe was invited to attend a global workshop held at the Brocher Fondation by Lake Geneva, Switzerland, on ageing and the end of life, organised by Radboudumc and the World Health Organisation. Invited academics and clinicians from around the world and across disciplines came together to scope future collaboration in the relationship and transition between ageing and the end of life. Watch this space for more info coming out from the workshop.



## ***Visiting Fellow Laura Towers co-authors paper on care and work when someone is dying***

CDAS Visiting Fellow Laura Towers and Kate Reed have co-authored a paper titled 'Beyond individual illness: using illness narratives to explore the navigation of care and work when a relative is dying' in the journal *Sociology of Health & Illness*,

Drawing on qualitative data collected using in-depth interviews and analysed thematically, the article explores how individuals manage paid work commitments when they are informally caring for a relative who is terminally ill. Informed by illness narratives as retold by bereaved relatives, the article examines the impact that illness can have on a 'carer's' ability to engage in paid work.

You can access the paper [here](#).

## ***Panel on Funerary Capitalism attended by CDAS Visiting Fellow***

Julie Rugg (University of York), Jan Logemann (University of Bonn), Sophia Wigglesworth (Ph.D. Candidate, University of York), and CDAS Visiting Fellow Jennifer Ford (University of Mississippi) recently participated in a panel during the [Business History Conference at the Imperial College, London](#). Entitled "The Co-Creation of Funerary Capitalism: Doing Business in a Taboo Market," the panel members offered different perspectives on capitalism's presence within the funeral industry. For more information and individual paper abstracts you can find the info [here](#).

## ***Visiting Fellow Imogen Jones in "Dead Honest with Natasha"***

What if the systems we trust most are the very ones we need to question?

Most people never think about death investigation systems... until they are forced into them during one of the worst moments of their lives.

In Episode 2 of [Future Medicine](#) TV's *Dead Honest with Natasha*, Visiting Fellow Imogen Jones sat down with Natasha to discuss death investigations:

Watch the whole episode [here](#).

## ***Visiting Fellow Edward Kirton-Darling is published in the MJ***

Relationships between coroners and Safeguarding Adults Boards are often inconsistent and unclear, say [Edward Kirton-Darling](#) and [Gill Taylor](#). They look at what a national oversight mechanism following homeless deaths could achieve.

The article can be found [here](#).

## The Value of a Sociological Perspective on Palliative Care

Earlier this year Diana Teggi and Kate Woodthorpe did a webinar for the NIHR Palliative Research Incubator. The recording of the event is now available and can be found [here](#). The webinar summary can be found [here](#).

## Emma Gilbert publishes new paper on living with cancer in prison

Published in the International Journal of Prison Health CDAS Visiting Fellow Emma Gilbert's paper documents exploring the experiences of people in the UK who have supported a person in prison living with a serious illness, including family members, friends and staff working in third-sector prison support organisations. The authors' aim was to uncover systemic barriers to care, understand the challenges families face, highlight examples of good practice and use these insights to inform practical recommendations for improving prison health care and support.

The full article can be found [here](#).

## Ron Vave Infographic released on Indigenous Fijian funerals in Fiji

Based on Ron's presentation at a CDAS seminar he has kindly sent us a follow up infographic on the socioeconomics of Indigenous Fijian funerals in Fiji. Thank you Ron!



### *CDAS Conference Evening Events: open to all*

#### *Power in health and care research: a case of epistemic injustice*

Amanda Roberts

17<sup>th</sup> June 7pm - 8pm BST, online, sign up [here](#)

The first of our two evening sessions as part of our CDAS Annual Conference, this workshop is open to both conference participants and external attendees.

Patient involvement in research is often constrained to the role of data provider or advisor on pre-set agendas (Mader et al., 2018). Although collaborative approaches to health research challenge this restricted view of patients' worth in knowledge creation (Beresford, 2013), patients living with a life-limiting illness are rarely involved. It is suggested this results from low confidence in how such involvement would benefit individual or research team (Johnson et al., 2021). However, it could be argued that individual patients are denied the opportunity to contribute effectively to an understanding of end of life by a failure to recognise the legitimacy of their lived experience (Barker et al., 2020). This workshop will explore the proposition that in some health and care research teams, some forms of knowledge are valued more than others, making the research less effective.

Graphic medicine uses comics to communicate the experiences of multiple actors - patients, carers, families and healthcare providers (Wombles, 2021) – including issues of power imbalance (Glazer, 2015). Taking the comic book 'Anyone can co-produce health and care research ... A little book about knowledge and justice' (Roberts, 2025) as an example, this workshop will explore how comics can be used to challenge the belief that one person's way of understanding and talking about a subject is more valid or worth more someone else's. The workshop will also support participants to create their own short comic to illustrate their beliefs and experience around power and death in their particular context.

#### **The Facilitator**

Amanda Roberts is director of BEING MORTAL, a campaign which encourages us to celebrate life and acknowledge, talk about and plan for death, dying and grieving. Doing this helps to reduce fear, promotes wellbeing and empowers us to engage in end-of-life decision-making which fully reflects what matters to us as individuals.

# *Agency and empowerment through embodied grief companionship*

Eleanora Ramsby Herrera

18<sup>th</sup> June 7pm – 8pm, online, sign up [here](#)

An interactive event exploring agency and empowerment through embodied grief companionship. This is the second evening workshop in the 2026 CDAS Annual Conference. It is open to both conference participants and external attendees.

Join Dr Eleonora Ramsby Herrera for this 60-minute session that will include:

- A short movement exercise
- Presentation of our film "What Lies Beyond"
- Reference to our published work
- Time for reflection on the experience of doing, watching and making sense

## **Background**

It is pithily said that 'power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely'. Perhaps this maxim is incomplete and needs a suffix, such as 'abuse of power', or 'unconscious use of power'.

Power is also a neutral concept; it just is, power is power. In human communication, however, it can be problematic, and this difficulty is compounded when there is a meeting between one who is thought to be in need and one designated as a care provider. In my work as a grief companion, published in both print and moving images, I have been guided by the foundational qualities of attunement and trust. These qualities enabled me, using my own autonomy and authority, to first explore and then express the impact of grief on my inner and outer self.

Thus, the power I brought to my collaboration with others was both invisible and apparent. The strength of this power manifested as an expanded version of each of us, one neither could have created alone. It was a classic case of the sum of the parts being greater than the individual components.





## **The Facilitator**

Dr Eleonora Ramsby Herrera is a collaborator exploring loss and grief through embodied, relational practice. Drawing on dance movement, reflective dialogue, and writing, her work attends to attunement, trust, and companionship, offering practice-based insights into grief as a lived, shared human experience.

## *CDAS speakers heading out: Grief Lab online seminar*

*18<sup>th</sup> May, 15:30-16:45*

Join us for the next Grief Lab online seminar! We are very excited to have [Catriona Brickel](#) (University of Bath) with us, who will give the talk “In-memorial charitable giving as contemporary mourning practice”

-  Date: 18 May 2026
-  Time: 15:30 – 16:45 CEST
-  Location: Online (Free registration)
-  Register [here](#).

Whether you're returning or joining for the first time, we look forward to welcoming you!

The series is open to the public and welcomes academics, professionals, and others interested in the topics of loss and grief. Please see below for more information about the talk and the Grief Lab.



### --- ABOUT THE TALK ---

In-memorial giving is worth approximately £2.4billion to UK charities, with 31% of adults giving to charity as an act of remembrance each year. In addition to contributions at funerals, with two-thirds of UK funerals including a charitable collection, this figure also includes donations given through online fundraising pages (‘tribute funds’) and online walls of remembrance (dedication pages’). In-memorial charitable giving is therefore a highly prevalent and highly valuable practice in the UK. Despite this, it has received minimal academic attention.

In contrast to existing approaches that focus on the psychological motivations for and impact of such giving, this talk will contextualise in-memorial charitable giving through digital platforms as a social mourning practice. Specifically, it will relate it to broader questions of public mourning, digital mourning and commercialised mourning. This will frame a discussion as to whether and how this practice might be adopted in other cultures, and the extent to which the affordances of digital memorial platforms enable, shape or constrain mourning behaviours.

### ---ABOUT THE SPEAKER---

Catriona is a PhD researcher at the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath. Her research investigates the creation of charitable digital memorials as a contemporary mourning ritual by considering the perspectives of bereaved memorial creators, charity fundraisers and third-party mediators (including funeral directors and digital platform hosts). With five years as a professional fundraiser, including time leading the in-memorial giving programme at a UK mental health charity, her research is informed by her experience within the fundraising sector and continues to be shaped by practitioners through the use of participatory methods.

# CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

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## ***Death Online Research Network launches new mailing list***

DORN brings together researchers interested in death in the digital age—how grief, mourning, and commemoration are shaped, structured, and sometimes constrained by digital technologies. It's an intentionally interdisciplinary and international network, and we meet twice a year. Despite (or perhaps because of) the topic, these gatherings tend to be lively, curious, and unexpectedly fun.

The mailing list is meant as a quieter, less platform-driven space to share calls, publications, events, and opportunities in this area.

If you're working on (or thinking about) death online, you're very welcome to join.

You can sign up [here](#).

## ***Overcoat Media and Morbid Anatomy Launch new podcast 'Memento Morbid'- Exploring Death, Ritual, and Beauty in the Finite***

The series explores mortality, ritual, and the curious ways humans confront the inevitable. Hosted by Joanna Ebenstein, founder and Creative Director of Morbid Anatomy, Memento Morbid takes listeners on an illuminating journey through the cultural, spiritual, and personal dimensions of death. Recorded across continents, with Ebenstein contributing from Mexico, production from the UK, and a global roster of guests, the podcast blends rigorous scholarship, storytelling, and curiosity to examine how mortality shapes meaning, creativity, and belief.

For more information and to listen, click [here](#).

## ***Participate in PhD study on Digital Death***

Title of Study: Digital Goodbyes: Meaning-making, connection and disconnection at the End of Life During COVID-19

Principal Researcher: Annabel Howell, PhD Student, University of Hull.

Email: [A.Howell2020@hull.ac.uk](mailto:A.Howell2020@hull.ac.uk)

Would you like to share your experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic?

My name is Annabel Howell, and I am doing a PhD study as part of the COVID-19 and University of Hull sponsored and funded research project Digital Goodbyes: Meaning-making, connection and disconnection at the End of Life During COVID-19.

I'm inviting you to take part in this study if:

- Someone close to you died during the pandemic and you were unable to be with them in person, and you had to say goodbye using technology such as video calls

- OR you were previously a healthcare worker during the pandemic, who helped someone say goodbye to a loved one using digital technology.

What is the purpose of the study?

My study is about how people used technology such as phones, laptops or tablets to stay connected at the end of life during the pandemic- and what those experiences meant to them. I want to understand:

- What these moments were like for you
- How you made sense of them
- And how they affected your grief, your emotions and your process of saying goodbye.

Your story can help us learn more about digital technologies and how they can support people in difficult times, how they could supplement being in person in certain circumstances- and how it may affect grieving and closure when someone dies.

### ***The Good Death Society Blog***

This blog is a handy resource for you with many short, reader-friendly articles on virtually all aspects of the desire for a "Good Death." The archive contains dozens of blog posts that can be easily accessed by category and discussed and shared students.

The blog can be found [here](#).

### **Everyone Dies Podcast: Real Talk About Life, Illness, and What Matters**

Talking about serious illness, dying, and grief is not easy, but avoiding these conversations often makes things harder when they matter most.

The Everyone Dies podcast is a public education resource designed to make these topics more understandable, less overwhelming, and easier to talk about. Each weekly episode offers clear, research-informed information about what happens during serious illness, what to expect at the end of life, and how to navigate grief and caregiving.

The information is not abstract or theoretical. It is practical, real-world guidance for people, their families, caregivers, and anyone who wants to better understand what may be ahead. The information is written by a nurse practitioner with 48 years of experience and based on facts, not opinion.

By helping people learn how to talk about death, understand their options, and communicate their wishes, Everyone Dies works to reduce fear, confusion, and isolation, so individuals and families can make informed decisions with greater confidence and clarity. And for those with young children in their lives, there is a book available (Amazon, Barnes & Nobel, [www.everyonediesthebook.com](http://www.everyonediesthebook.com)) that answers the question "why did they die".

The podcast can be found [here](#).

# CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

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## *Death and politics in Latin America*

*18<sup>th</sup> May 1pm CST / 8PM BST*

This international event, involving researchers from various Latin American universities, aims to gather research that can be categorized under the heading of "Latin American Studies of Death." To this end, two panels are proposed: one focused on the relationship between death and politics in Latin America, and the other centered on the link between death and culture in Latin America. The intertwining of death with community life is a distinctive aspect of our Latin American history, but the concept of "death studies" has, so far, mainly originated from the North. The question of how much this multidisciplinary field belongs to us, or whether it can offer insights into our Latin American specificity, is only one of the issues that guide the direction for these two panels. More information about the event can be found [here](#).

## *Death Rituals and Death Technologies: Questioning the Old and the New*

*28-29 May 2026, University College Cork*

Death is the great unifying force for all life — human and non-human. Death shapes our experiences of life as it signals materially and culturally that our existence is finite. In response, human societies have developed complex death, disposal, and mourning rituals over millennia to cope with the temporal reality of death and the corpse it is represented by. However, we are living in a time of flux — environmental degradation, economic precarity, and migrating populations are all upending how we respond to and subsequently ritualise death and the dead body. So-called ‘new’ death technologies such as pyro- and hydro-cremation, body composting, eco burial, and cryopreservation are challenging traditional concepts of deathly rituals. In the traditional narrative of society’s unilineal development, the role of ritual and history is framed as being antithetical to these new technologies (and vice-versa). **This symposium disrupts this notion.** Its aim is to locate the emerging rituals that come with new death technologies, as well as consider the unique value that new death technologies can bring to old rituals.

Highlights of this international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral event include:

- Keynotes from [Professor Ciara Breathnach](#) (School of History, UCC) and [Associate Professor Marietta Radomska](#) (Department of Thematic Studies, Linköping University); papers given by presenters from Ireland, Australia, the US, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Nigeria; and a panel of death care industry professionals that speaks to the past, present, and future of Ireland's funerary landscape.

A full programme is available on the event registration page. This event will be held in person. Please [register](#) for catering and accessibility purposes. Tickets can be found [here](#).

## *Bereavement Network Europe- 28th May 2026*

**A digital stepped-care model for grief and bereavement-From fragmented services to an integrated, evidence-based grief and bereavement care ecosystem**

Bianca Neumann is a Clinical Director of Grief and Bereavement at Sue Ryder UK, a researcher and psychologist with extensive experience across hospice, hospital, and palliative care settings, combining professional expertise with lived experience of loss and is member of national and international grief steering groups. She has presented on her work on international stages and UK Parliament.

She leads work to transform bereavement support through public health approaches such as improving grief literacy, expanding digital and community-based support, and building evidence-based, needs-led care pathways across the UK.

40-minute talk, 15-minute Q&A  
May 28th 4pm Greenwich Mean Time /  
5pm Central European Time



**Bereavement Network Europe Webinar series 2026**

**SIGN UP NOW!**

**To register for webinar:**  
**1. Become a BNE Member (€35 per year)**  
<https://bereavement.eu/membership/>  
**2. Webinar link sent via email to all BNE members: ZOOM LINK SENT TO YOUR EMAIL**



**Bereavement Network Europe Webinar series 2026**  
Live translation via zoom possible



**May 28th, 2026**  
4 pm Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) (London)  
5 pm Central European Time (CET) (Zurich)  
11 am Eastern Standard Time (EST) (New York)  
12 pm Chile Standard Time (CLST) (Santiago)

## *The Open University Inaugural Lectures- Including Fellow Professor Erica Borgstrom*

*Wednesday 3 June 2026*

*16:30-18:00 UK/GMT*

Berrill Theatre, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA

We invite you to join Professors Rebecca L. Jones and Erica Borgstrom for two inaugural lectures exploring how we understand sexuality and ageing, death and grief. Through research, personal experience and creative reimagining, they challenge taken for granted assumptions and invite new ways of thinking about queer joy, academic life, inclusive futures and end-of-life care.

Rebecca L. Jones is Professor of Sociology, Sexuality and Ageing. Her research and teaching interests centre on sociological approaches to later life, sexuality and especially sexuality in later life, often using creative methods.

[Read more about Professor Rebecca L. Jones](#)

Erica Borgstrom is Professor of Medical Anthropology. She is internationally renowned for her research and teaching on palliative and end-of-life care and her leadership in death studies, showcasing the value of social science perspectives and contributions in this field.

[Read more about Professor Erica Borgstrom](#)

To read the abstracts of their lectures and to register please click [here](#).

## *Palliative Care Research Conference*

*Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

[Reserve Your Spot Now](#)

## *Launch of The Centre for Open Thanatology: Dialogue and Engagement with Death and Loss , 23rd June 9:00-17:00*

You're invited to join us on **June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026** for the **Launch of The Centre for Open Thanatology**, The Open University's interdisciplinary research centre dedicated to the study and education of death, dying, loss, and grief across the life course. The event theme, **Dialogue and Engagement with Death and Loss**, reflects the Centre's commitment to fostering open, critical conversations through research and education.

Highlights include:

- Keynote by Professor Neil Thompson
- Live podcast recording with Dr Bethan Michael-Fox interviewing Dr Korina Giaxoglou.
- Short talks and discussions showcasing research across areas including health and social care, bereavement support, funeral practices, climate change, and histories and archives
- Networking opportunities and exhibits of Centre members' work

The event is open to all — including members of the public, practitioners, researchers, and students.

In-person places are limited; online attendance via live stream is also available.

Sign up [here](#).

## ***Cremation and Burial Communication and Education Conference and Exhibition- 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

### ***Death Literacy in the UK: policy and practice***

***29<sup>th</sup> June, 14:00-15:00***

This will explore how death literacy is currently described and framed in the UK's four countries' policies, as well as the tensions between policy and practice. Opportunities for questions will be provided.

Sign up [here](#).

### ***PEOLC Southwest research Network meeting- 30<sup>th</sup> June, 13:15-17:00***

Meeting location: Humanities Building, 7 Woodland Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 1TB (room to be confirmed)

Programme

**13:15-13:45:** Arrival and Lunch

**13:45-13:50:** Prof Lucy Selman (Professor of Palliative and End of Life Care, University of Bristol), Welcome and News

**13:50-14:10:** Dr Shaun Peter Qureshi (Palliative medicine physician and Churchill Fellow, Sobell House Hospice, Oxford University Hospitals), Equitable palliative care through

trauma-informed approaches: an investigation of North American practice and lessons for the UK

**14:10-14:30:** Prof Jenny Kitzinger (Director of Research: Impact and Engagement and Co-Director of the Coma and Disorders of Consciousness Research Centre, Cardiff University), Patients in Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness: palliative care following withdrawal of clinically-assisted nutrition and hydration - evaluating online training

**14:30-14:50:** Dr Lucy Pocock (NIHR Doctoral Research Fellow, University of Bristol), The SHIPS Study: SHaring Information at the Primary / Secondary care interface when patients with life-limiting illness are discharged from hospital

**14:50-15:10:** Dr Edward Richfield (Consultant in Elderly Medicine, Academic Director of the Parkinson's Advanced Master Class and Palliative Care Academy, North Bristol Trust), Preparing for late stage Parkinson's disease: projects targeting palliative care and ACP

**15:10-15:30:** Prof Lucy Selman (Professor of Palliative and End of Life Care, University of Bristol), The Coastal Community & Creative Health project update: The role of community assets

**15:30-15:50:** Dr Natasha Bradley (Marie Curie Senior Research Fellow, University College London), Connection, Compassion, Action: Impact towards integrated palliative care through knowledge mobilisation

**15:50-16:10:** Tea/coffee break

**16:10-16:55:** End of Life Matters (ELM) HIT follow on meeting

- Dr Sophy Gretton (Consultant in Palliative Medicine, University Hospitals Bristol & Weston NHS Foundation Trust): Introduction to the ELM HIT
- Dr Alison Lewellyn (Associate Professor, Clinical Research, and Supportive, Palliative & End of Life Care Research Theme Lead, University of West of England) & Prof Lucy Selman (Professor of Palliative and End of Life Care, University of Bristol): Research plans

**16:55-17:00:** Professor Lucy Selman (Professor of Palliative and End of Life Care, University of Bristol), Close

To sign up to this event, fill in this [form](#).

## ***Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre Biennial Conference***

### ***Meeting the Challenges in Palliative Care: Data, Delivery and Diversity***

***8<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 9:30am-16:00pm***

Hear about new and engaging evidence to support your practice and research

Registration is now open. More information can be found [here](#).

### ***Online workshop: The Ethics of Body Disposal- 9<sup>th</sup> July***

Following the success of last year's event, IDEA The Ethics Centre at the University of Leeds is pleased to announce the return of the online workshop event: The Ethics of Body Disposal. This event will be held online on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (timings tbc but last year the event ran 10am-3:15pm UK time).

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

Such questions might include:

What responsibilities do we have to the dead and to the living in making body disposal decisions? How might any such moral obligations differ when we are making decisions for ourselves or others? Would ignoring the wishes of the deceased be morally wrong? Should their wishes be honoured even if it might offend others in society? Should laws restrict what we can and cannot have done with our own bodies after death and if so, how? Should body disposal decisions be made with the interests of others still living, even those unknown to the deceased, in mind? In disagreements over arrangement for disposal of a loved one's body, what principles should guide how to move forwards?

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

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

***The conference on Death, Grief and Belief presents: Spiritual Bypassing: Counseling and Support Perspectives- 25<sup>th</sup> July- Online***

Religious belief as a strategy for coping with painful life events can be both helpful and harmful; positive religious coping has generally been found to support healthful outcomes, while the negative form has been linked to increased distress.

Spiritual bypassing is described as a form of negative religious coping in which religion or spirituality is used as a psychological defense mechanism to avoid facing painful situations. The term was coined in the mid-1980s by John Welwood, a Buddhist teacher and psychotherapist who described it as a coping device through which people use spirituality as a defense mechanism.

DETAILS AND REGISTRATION HERE:

<https://deathgriefandbelief.com/2026-symposium-on-spiritual-bypassing/>

Contact:

[office@deathgriefandbelief.com](mailto:office@deathgriefandbelief.com)

***Suicide Bereavement UK's 15<sup>th</sup> international hybrid conference in Liverpool: 16<sup>th</sup> 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

To view our interactive flyer and to register [Click here.](#)

### ***New book series: Studies in Death and Literature looking for submissions***

Under the editorship of Dr Nicholas Taylor-Collins (CDAS Visiting Research Fellow), Anthem Press are pleased to announce the inauguration of a new book series, Studies in Death and Literature [[here](#)].

The international editorial board invites proposals on a range of intersecting topics, and generously welcomes literary-critical approaches, creative-critical writing, and narrative nonfiction.

Proposals can be for a monograph (mid- and full-length), edited collection, handbook, course book or essential introductions written by scholars for a general audience.

### ***Call for speakers at Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust***

Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust runs a regular talk series for the public online and sometimes 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](mailto:janine.marriott@arnosvale.org.uk)

Check out the programme of events at [arnosvale.org.uk](http://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](mailto:kamif2311@gmail.com) and [bmaphela@uj.ac.za](mailto: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

### *Associate Director of Internal Research Development (18-month FTC)*

We have a rare opportunity for an Associate Director of Internal Research Development to join our senior leadership team and shape our internal research vision – ensuring Marie Curie remains at the forefront of evidence-based end of life care.

In this role, you'll lead impactful internal research, work closely with colleagues across all four UK nations, strengthen academic partnerships, and ensure research evidence is used to influence policy, practice and public debate.

If you're an experienced researcher with strong leadership skills, deep methodological expertise, and a passion for improving outcomes for people affected by dying, death and bereavement, we'd love to hear from you.

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

## Contact Us

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