

September 2026

Centre for Death and Society



[CDAS News](#)

[CDAS Events](#)

[CDAS Community News](#)

[CDAS Community Events](#)

[Calls](#)

[Jobs](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Highlights

**The Commercialisation of
Death: contemporary
perspectives on mortality,
memory and money**
[Call for chapters](#)

**Molly Conisbee features
on The Death Studies
Podcast**

**Meeting HRH Princess
Anne**

Directors Note

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2026-2027 academic year, where we share lots of news from the Centre and our wider community. We have a busy month ahead in CDAS, with two professorial inaugural lectures, along with PhD vivas and much more. We are also really excited to share two seminars planned for next year, which we expect to be insightful, provocative and a call to action.

The wider CDAS community is incredibly active too, as you can see from the events listings and calls. We really enjoy seeing how the field is growing, expanding and morphing, so please do continue to share with us news of your activities, publications, events and more, so that we can share here in our newsletter or on social media. You can find us these days mainly on LinkedIn.

Until next time

Naomi and Kate



Upcoming events

CDAS events

17th September: On the impact of conspiracy: the long death of Hitler

29th September: Kate Woodthorpe's inaugural lecture

15th October: John Troyer's inaugural lecture

27th October: Writing Day for postgraduate and early-career researchers

CDAS community events

24th September: Funeral heritage and the challenges to sustainability

25th September: The Cambridge Handbook for the Anthropology of Death – Virtual Book Launch

19th October: Libraries, Archives and Collective Grief – Virtual Book Launch

27th October: International online conference on asylum burial grounds

6-7 November: 5th Annual End-of-Life Doula International Research Symposium

7th November: Initiation to Accompaniment at the End-of-Life

CDAS News

Conference feedback

Thank you to everyone who came to our annual conference in June on the theme of Death and Power, and took the time to share feedback. Comments from participants included: “I feel that I have discovered a whole new beautiful vital community”, “a timely topic” and

“An excellent, highly expansive theme. It allowed for a brilliant bridge between high-level political/social structures and the intimate, everyday power dynamics negotiated at the bedside, in grief spaces, and within marginalised communities.”

Discussions within CDAS will soon turn to our 2027 conference and if you have any ideas for the theme, please do let us know by emailing cdas@bath.ac.uk. We are always open to your suggestions!

Molly Consibee on The Death Studies Podcast

Our visiting fellow and creator of the [Bath Death and Crime Walk](#), Molly Consibee, featured in the July 2026 episode of [The Death Studies Podcast](#), where with the hosts she discussed the social histories of death and mourning, liberation thanatology and much more.



CDAS meets HRH Princess Anne

Co-director Kate Woodthorpe met royalty in July at the 50th anniversary event for Dorothy House Hospice, where plans for a partnership between the hospice and University were shared with HRH Princess Anne.



[Princess Royal attends Dorothy House's 50th anniversary celebrations - Dorothy House](#)

We will be sharing more about this partnership in due course, watch this space!

Uncovering Hidden Inequality: Developing New Ways of Doing Death Administration

As part of a large ESRC study based at the University of Manchester and with CDAS we're currently recruiting participants to take part in two surveys, one with those who are bereaved and one with professionals who are involved in death admin as part of their role. Please share widely with your networks.

MANCHESTER 1824 The University of Manchester
Economic and Social Research Council

Call for participants

Uncovering Hidden Inequality: Developing New Ways of Doing Death Administration

What is the research?
This project aims to understand how different groups of people experience death administration in the UK and what could be done to improve the process

Death administration: tasks that are required when a person dies. We understand death administration to be broad and can include tasks such as registering the death, organising the funeral, managing assets, social media accounts and many more

What will I be asked to do?
An online survey (approx 20 minutes)

Who can take part:

- Aged 16+
- Experience of undertaking any aspect of death administration in the UK in the **past 3 years**

More information about the project:
<https://www.socialsciences.manchester.ac.uk/morgan-centre/research/projects/>

Here's the link to the survey:
https://www.qualtrics.manchester.ac.uk/jfe/form/SV_3INxUlgZbh2PIYj

Contact details: sophie.atherton@manchester.ac.uk
Version 1.0 27/03/2026

MANCHESTER 1824 The University of Manchester
Economic and Social Research Council

Call For Participants

Working in Death Administration

Uncovering Hidden Inequality: Developing New Ways of Doing Death Administration

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Contact details: sophie.atherton@manchester.ac.uk
Version 1.0 27/03/2026

[More information](#)

[Link to survey](#)

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New paper from 2026 Conference evening keynote

For those that came to our powerful and very moving evening session with Eleanora Ramsby Herrera at our 2026 CDAS Conference, we're delighted to let you know that Eleanora has a new paper out based on her work on embodied movement. It is not open access, so please contact cdas@bath.ac.uk if you're interested in reading it. Well done Eleanora on your publication and thank you again for a deeply connecting event, on behalf of everyone who attended.

Ramsby Herrera, E. (2026). Engaging with the felt sense through embodied movement: An existential approach to trauma work. *Existential Analysis: Journal of the Society for Existential Analysis*, 37(2), 301–315. <https://doi.org/10.65828/4nqv618>

Congratulations to Mat

Our huge congratulations to PhD student Mat Crawley on his wedding and marriage to Suzanne. We wish you both a lifetime of happy memories together!

Twilight Grief

CDAS Visiting Fellow Amelia Derr and Elizabeth Schandelmeier met at the CDAS conference, where they were speaking about a similar space of grief, and realised that their efforts combined could create a framework for recognising a very specific and disenfranchised area of grief, to encourage healthcare professionals and other clinicians to recognise the need for support in this most vulnerable space.

It was not until meeting each other that these ideas could be more thoughtfully and thoroughly developed, combining their respective work and perspectives. You can read their article here: [Read article](#)

Presenters at European Grief Conference 2026

At the European Grief Conference 2026 in Porto, Portugal, PhD student Terumi Okaku presented her work at the conference, entitled Falling Between Systems: Institutional Invisibility Following Parental Death in Emerging Adulthood

Co-director Kate Woodthorpe also delivered a keynote at the conference, where as you can see from the slide she was plugging CDAS!



New Model Rules on Succession and Access to Digital Remains co-led by CDAS Visiting Fellow Dr Edina Harbinja

The European Law Institute is pleased to announce that its Model Rules on Succession and Access to Digital Remains, approved by ELI bodies in summer, are now available online here:

[ELI Model Rules on Succession and Access to Digital Remains](#)

The Model Rules were drafted under the leadership of visiting fellow Dr Edina Harbinja and Prof Antoine Eigenmann, with contributions from the project team and advisors.

To mark the launch of this important publication, ELI is pleased to invite all interested stakeholders to its webinar introducing and exploring key aspects of the Model Rules:

8 October 2026 (12:30–14:00 CET)

Registration: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

New publication from CDAS Visiting Fellow Imogen Jones: *The medico-legal autopsy: medicine, expertise, and death investigation*

Imogen's latest article is available Open Access. The paper examines medico-legal autopsies and the unique position pathologists fill between medicine and law. Drawing on data from interviews with pathologists, she explores how expertise, authority, and professional judgement are understood and communicated in this space.

She argues that a gap can exist between law's request for objective 'facts' and the reality that expert medical evidence is often shaped by interpretation, experience and professional opinion. It is an important area to consider, especially given increasing resource pressures on the death investigation system. You can read it here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jols.70077>

An imminent arrival!

We are looking forward to welcoming [Professor Emma Kirby](#) from UNSW, Australia, who will be with us from October – December 2026 and April – June 2027 as part of the University of Bath David Parkin Visiting Professorship. Please get in touch if you want to have contact with Emma while she's with us.

No Kidding Network: 5 years

The No Kidding Network at the University of Bath marked its 5th anniversary this summer. To mark the anniversary the network hosted an event on 16th September led by our visiting Professor Gayle Letherby.

[Staff network spotlight: five years of No Kidding | Safety, Health & Employee Wellbeing](#)

Call for chapters in new CDAS collection: *The Commercialisation of Death: contemporary perspectives on mortality, memory and money*

Editors: Catriona Brickel, Elaine Kasket and Kate Woodthorpe

As the global population peaks and more people than ever before encounter dying and loss, the profile of death, dying and bereavement is entering something of a golden age. At the same time, in recent decades death has acquired a new character due to multiple cultural phenomena, including (but not limited to): the rise of AI and techno-optimism; the expansion of choice in the funeral sector; the increased diversity of death mediators; the authority of social media influencers; the growth in and consumption of pathographies; and the augmentation of therapeutic approaches to (and pathologisation of) grief. Today's networked world has introduced multiple opportunities for money-making at the end of life, ranging from care and the process of ending life, to memorialisation products and bereavement therapy, to the massive expansion in applications of and proposed use cases for deceased people's data.

In response, this new and innovative edited collection for submission to the [Death and Culture Series published by Bristol University Press](#) will seek to broaden engagement with issues of commercialisation by considering the multitude of ways in which money and mortality relate before, during and long after death. Given the speed at which much of these products and services are growing, this is a crucial moment to critically engage with the causes and implications of such provision, including issues of value extraction from the dead, consumer vulnerability and exploitation, and the role of state intervention and regulation. This new edited collection will create an international and interdisciplinary dialogue across the chapters to document, analyse, and critique the commercialisation of death, in examining what is happening, why, and what - if anything - to do about it.

Further details and including how to submit a proposal for a chapter can be found later in this newsletter.

CDAS Events

The Long Death of Adolf Hitler: the negotiation of memory over time

September 17th 7pm – 8pm BST

Online free

Sign up [here](#).

Marking the publication of Caroline's 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. The seminar will be chaired by CDAS Visiting Fellow, historian Helen Frisby.

Biographies

Dr Caroline Sharples specialises in modern German history, specifically memories of National Socialism and representations of the Holocaust. She has published on the resonance of war crimes trials in 1960s West Germany, as well as the remembrance of the Kindertransport within Britain. She is currently working on a major study of death, burial practices, memorials and commemorative rituals before, during and after the Third Reich, from which her new book has emerged.

Professor Niven gained his MA and PhD from the University of St. Andrews. From 1984 to 1985, he worked at the University of Klagenfurt (Austria), before moving to Munich where he worked for Siemens until 1993. From 1993 to 1998, he was a lecturer in the German Department of Aberdeen University, before becoming Reader in History at NTU in 1998. He became Professor of Contemporary German History at NTU in 2005.

Professorial inaugural lectures

A reminder that we have two professorial inaugural lectures planned for the autumn. First for CDAS co-director Kate Woodthorpe on 29th September and then on 15th October for former CDAS director John Troyer. Both lectures are hybrid so you can join us in person or online. Details of both lectures can be found below.

**Humanities & Social Sciences
Inaugural Lecture Series**

Professor Kate Woodthorpe
Department of Social & Policy Sciences

'We all know how this ends: how death can help us make the most of life'

Followed by a drinks reception

Claverton Down Campus, University of Bath

Tuesday 29th September 2026 | 6pm - 7pm

Free event
Register now

Humanities & Social Sciences Inaugural Lecture Series

'Death! Exciting and New: Reflections on Postmortem Politics'

Attend Professor John Troyer's Inaugural Lecture

This event is free to attend and will be followed by a drinks reception.

Claverton Down Campus

Book your place

15 October 2026 | 18:00-19:00

Writing days for postgraduate and early-career researchers

Following the success of the summer series of writing days for postgraduate and early-career researchers, CDAS will be hosting two writing days during the upcoming semester. They will both be offered hybrid, so you may join us in-person or online. We are pleased to extend the invitation for these writing days to death studies researchers at any career stage. The first will be held on Tuesday 27th October and the second will be held during the week commencing 14th December (day TBC).

If you are interested in attending, please email CDAS PhD researcher, Catriona Brickel (cb2795@bath.ac.uk)

SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING CDAS SEMINARS

Coloniality, plurality and the politics of death and its aftermath

January 20th 7pm – 8.30pm GMT

Death, Mutualism and Social Inequality in Keralam

February 23rd 7pm – 8pm GMT

CDAS Community News

New (to us!) podcast: Dead Honest

Here in CDAS we've just come across a podcast series that we think our community will be very interested in. Called Dead Honest, it features conversations with people who work with the dying and the dead. It looks fascinating, sharing some of the most hidden work there is: [Dead Honest – A podcast about working with the Dead & the Dying](#)

Lessons from Canada on assisted dying

Following the vote in the House of Commons not to pass the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, Dr Bethany Simmonds has shared a timely article on assisted dying:

“Personal choice remains central to the case for assisted dying. Parliament should also consider how care shortages, isolation and fear of dependence may shape that choice before changing the law”

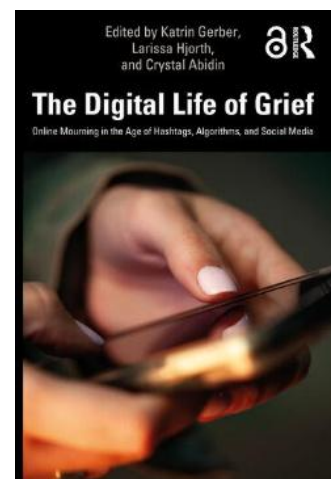
Read the full article here: [Full article](#)

The Digital Life of Grief: Online Mourning in the Age of Hashtags, Algorithms, and Social Media

New book out and it's open access.

The Digital Life of Grief: Online Mourning in the Age of Hashtags, Algorithms, and social media explores what happens when mourning takes place on platforms built around visibility, engagement, and algorithms.

From TikTok memorials and grief influencers to the politicisation of loss, the collection asks: Whose grief gets amplified? Whose is overlooked or erased? And how does the design of digital platforms shape the ways we remember, mourn, and connect? Read the full book here: [The Digital Life of Grief](#)



Report on how recording inequalities can reduce prisoner deaths

A lack of data on prisoner characteristics is providing an incomplete picture of who dies in prison and why, which may be contributing to preventable deaths in custody. Equality data, including characteristics of prisoners such as disability and indicators of socioeconomic deprivation, is an essential foundation for evidence-based action to prevent deaths in custody.

Yet, official Ministry of Justice and Prisons and Probation Ombudsman datasets provide an incomplete picture of who dies in prison and why.

The report is being released alongside a touring production of [Woodhill](#), the multi-award-winning documentary play by theatre company LUNG. The production tells the true stories of three families seeking answers following the deaths of their loved ones at HMP Woodhill between 2013 and 2018, highlighting the human impact behind the report's findings.

The official press release can be found [Here](#)

The report can be found here: [How recording inequalities can reduce prisoner deaths](#)

CDAS Community Events

Funeral Heritage and the Challenges of Sustainability- 24th September 2026

An in-person/on-line lecture by Julie Rugg, on 'Funeral Heritage and the Challenges of Sustainability', at the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague.

Further details are available on the [CRG homepage](#).

The Cambridge Handbook for the Anthropology of Death – Virtual Book Launch 25th September 2026

The Handbook was officially published on July 30, 2026, and the editorial team will be hosting this casual virtual celebration of the volume's publication on Friday, September 25, from 12:00–1:00 PM EDT via Zoom. The event is open to the public.

The launch will also feature brief remarks from contributors Thomas W. Laqueur, Abou Farman, and Andreia Vicente da Silva, who will each share a few words.

Companion website: <https://blogs.gwu.edu/ccas-cupanthropologyofdeath/>

RSVP: <https://blogs.gwu.edu/ccas-cupanthropologyofdeath/virtual-launch/>



Association for the Study of Death and Society – Autumn Online Events Series

The Association for the Study of Death and Society warmly invites you to join our Autumn Online Events Series. This programme of talks explores death and dying across a range of cultural, social and geographical contexts.

The autumn season commences with Jessica Young's talk, *Designing Death: Assisted Dying Systems and Their Consequences*, on Tuesday 29 September at 10:00 BST (UTC+1), followed by Doris Zhu's *The Loss and Grief of the "Only-one-Child Family" in Mainland China* on Monday 12 October at 17:00 BST (UTC+1).

All events are free, held online and open to everyone. [Find out more and book your tickets here.](#)

A promotional poster for the Association for the Study of Death and Society (ASDS) Autumn Online Events. The poster has a blue border and a white background. At the top left, it says 'ASDS Autumn Online Events' in blue. At the top right is the ASDS logo, a circular emblem with a cross and the letters 'A', 'S', 'D', 'S'. Below this, there are three event listings, each with a small portrait photo of the speaker on the left and the event details on the right. The first event is 'Designing Death: Assisted Dying Systems and Their Consequences' by Jessica Young on Tuesday 29th September. The second is 'The Loss and Grief of the "Only-one-Child Family" in Mainland China' by Doris Zhu on Monday 12th October. The third is 'Death, Dignity, and Ubuntu: Rethinking End-of-Life Care in Rwanda' by Christian Ntuzimira on Monday, 9 November. At the bottom, it says 'Book here: deathandsociety.org/online-events-series'.

Libraries, Archives and Collective Grief – Virtual Book Launch – 19th October 2026

Libraries, Archives and Collective Grief (Bristol University Press and Policy Press), co-edited by Kaylee Alexander and Robert Spinelli, has been published in the UK as of today and will be released on October 6 in the US.

To celebrate, they would love for you to join them for a virtual book launch on October 19. The event will feature the contributors introducing their chapters, discussing their research, and reflecting on the questions that shaped this interdisciplinary volume.

Bringing together scholars and practitioners from across the spectrum of library and information science, this volume explores how cultural heritage institutions document, preserve, and respond to grief, loss, and remembrance.

10:00 AM EDT | 7:00 AM PDT | 3:00 PM BST | Online via Zoom

[Register here](#)

If you'd like to pick up a copy of the book, Bristol University Press is also offering 50% off through December 31, 2026, with the code CNF26.

Centre for Open Thanatology Online Conference – 21st October 2026

The Centre for Open Thanatology online conference will take place on **21st October 2026 (9.30am–2pm UK time)**.

The Centre for Open Thanatology is The Open University's interdisciplinary research centre dedicated to the study and education of death, dying, loss, and grief across the life course and in diverse contexts. The theme for the day is ***Dialogue and Engagement with Death and Loss***, reflecting the Centre's vision to use research and education to foster open dialogue and critical engagement with death and loss.

The conference includes eight presentations from Centre members, ranging from criminology, palliative care, and cremation and burial studies. Plus a panel discussion on death and decolonisation, and a keynote from Prof Neil Thompson entitled "*A Career in Grief*".

Register for your place now via Eventbrite: [Register](#)

If you have any questions, please email Open-Thanatology-Admin@open.ac.uk

This conference is open to everyone – interested members of the public, practitioners, academic and community researchers, students, and service providers. Registration is open now until October 20th (although it may close early if the tickets sell out).

International online conference on asylum burial grounds – 27th October 2026

An international online conference on asylum burial grounds taking place on the 27th of October 2026. Further details are available on the [CRG homepage](#)

5th Annual End-of-Life Doula International Research Symposium

6–7 November 2026 | Online

Please join us online on 6–7 November 2026 for the 5th Annual End-of-Life Doula International Research Symposium: *Producing Knowledge, Shaping Practice*.



Hosted by the End-of-Life Doula International Research Group (EOLD-IRG), the symposium brings together end-of-life doulas, researchers, practitioners and community members from different parts of the world to share emerging research, exchange ideas and explore how knowledge can help shape the future of end-of-life doula support.

The symposium is designed for everyone with an interest in end-of-life doula work - you do not need to identify as a researcher to take part. Research begins with curiosity about practice, experience and the questions that matter to us, and the symposium offers a space to connect that curiosity with emerging knowledge from across different cultural and practice contexts. We hope you will join us and be part of the conversation. Find out more and register here: [EOLD upcoming events](#)

Initiation to Accompaniment at the End-of-Life

This workshop offers a space to step back from the theoretical and sit with the practice of accompaniment itself, explore, through embodied and reflective exercises, what it means to be truly present with someone as they approach the end of life. It's designed for academics, practitioners, or anyone who want to deepen their own capacity to accompany, not only to study it.

Initiation to Accompaniment at the End-of-Life is a 1-day intensive training workshop.

When: Saturday 7th November

Where: School of Computer Science, Jubilee Campus, Nottingham University

Cost: £120 with lunch, learning materials, and certificate included (20 places max.)

Places are limited to keep the group small enough for genuine reflection and exchange.

Book here: [Book Here](#)

Description: This experiential workshop is designed for those seeking to support a loved one, as well as for professionals in the social, healthcare, educational, or therapeutic fields, and anyone interested in their own personal growth and how to support others dealing with loss and grief.

This is a training program developed by a team with extensive experience in death, dying and end-of-life care, scientific research, and mental health. It integrates contemporary knowledge with ancestral techniques and a secular, accessible, and respectful way to engage with spirituality.

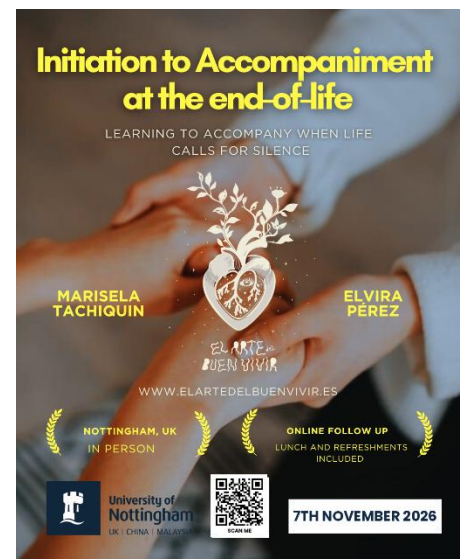
Initiation to Accompaniment is facilitated by Marisela Tachiquin (Psychologist and Gerontologist) and Elvira Perez (Professor of Mental Health and Digital Technology at the University of Nottingham). Marisela and Elvira are members of the Spanish Cooperative El Arte del Buen Vivir.

The course includes learning materials and 8-hrs training certification.

Lunch and refreshments are included and there is free parking on site.

If you need accommodation we recommend the Jubilee Conference Centre Hotel.

For more information please contact: elvira.perez@nottingham.ac.uk



Registration is open for the 11th Annual Conference of the International Collaborative for Best Care for the Dying Person.

17–18 November 2026

Lund, Sweden

[Register](#)

International Collaborative for Best Care for the Dying Person is an innovative global network of clinicians and researchers working together towards a shared vision: “A world where all people experience a good death as an integral part of their individual life, supported by the very best personalised care.” [More information](#)

Within & Without™ therapeutic mindful photography training

Registration is open for the next **Within & Without™ therapeutic mindful photography training**. Discounts are available for students, NEDA members, and those in general need of assistance.

Fall 2026 8-hr Intro training program Where: Virtual

When: 18 September, 9am–11am PT , 25 September, 9am–11am PT, 2 October, 9am–11am PT , and 9 October, 9am–11am PT

[Application link](#) and [Further details](#)

The Association for the Study of Death & Society and The Death Care Research Project

We are happy to announce the dates for the 2027 edition of the Death, Dying & Disposal conference!

On Friday 17 September 2027, we will host an online conference day for everyone, particularly those who are unable to travel to Antwerp.

From Wednesday 22 September until Friday 24 September 2027, we welcome the death studies research community in the historic city centre of Antwerp, Belgium. We hope to create a diverse programme with a mix of academic elements (such as paper sessions, keynotes and panel conversations) as well as inspiring social and cultural events. Be sure to block those dates in your agenda. More information will follow soon!

We are really excited about our collaboration with Association for the Study of Death and Society (ASDS), Compassionate Communities Centre of Expertise (COCO), End-of-Life Care Research Group, An Hooghe, Britt Pellens, Bert Leysen, AHLEC Leerstoel Gezondheidsrecht en Gezondheidsethiek and UAntwerp - Faculty of Arts. We are still looking to expand our organizational team. Are you a Belgian-based researcher working on death-related issues? Or are you part of a research group working on death studies topics? Feel free to reach out to us by emailing Emma (emma.moormann@uantwerpen.be)



Calls

Cemetery Research Group Virtual Colloquium – 20th November

There is still time to submit an abstract to this year's online Virtual Colloquium, which is taking place on the 20th November. Please submit your abstract using the google form [HERE](#). The deadline for submission is 2nd October 2026. The event is free to attend, and tickets will be available via the CRG website from 9th October.

New CDAS edited collection: The Commercialisation of Death: contemporary perspectives on mortality, memory and money

Editors: Catriona Brickel, Elaine Kasket and Kate Woodthorpe (Centre for Death & Society, University of Bath)

As the global population peaks and more people than ever before encounter dying and loss, the profile of death, dying and bereavement is entering something of a golden age. At the same time, in recent decades death has acquired a new character due to multiple cultural phenomena, including (but not limited to): the rise of AI and techno-optimism; the expansion of choice in the funeral sector; the increased diversity of death mediators; the authority of social media influencers; the growth in and consumption of pathographies; and the augmentation of therapeutic approaches to (and pathologisation of) grief. Today's networked world has introduced multiple opportunities for money-making at the end of life, ranging from care and the process of ending life, to memorialisation products and bereavement therapy, to the massive expansion in applications of and proposed use cases for deceased people's data.

In response, this new and innovative edited collection for submission to the [Death and Culture Series published by Bristol University Press](#) will seek to broaden engagement with issues of commercialisation by considering the multitude of ways in which money and mortality relate before, during and long after death. Given the speed at which much of these products and services are growing, this is a crucial moment to critically engage with the causes and implications of such provision, including issues of value extraction from the dead, consumer vulnerability and exploitation, and the role of state intervention and regulation. This new edited collection will create an international and interdisciplinary dialogue across the chapters to document, analyse, and critique the commercialisation of death, in examining what is happening, why, and what - if anything - to do about it.

By bringing together scholars from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, this edited collection will thus showcase and problematise the variety of ways in which death is commercialised today, its risks and its potential. It will explore the ways in which the end of life and its aftermath have been, and can be, utilised to make profit and claim expertise, asking what the consequences of this are, for individuals, communities, and societies around the world. We are now inviting proposals for chapter contributions.

Suggested topics might include:

- The price at the end of life: the industrial complex of 'care', care home and end-of-life care funding models, such as private equity and charity fundraising, the rise in death doulas and commercial practices around doula education, commercialisation around creating wills, powers of attorney and advance care plans, and the price of ending life.
- (Financial) cost of body disposal: contemporary methods of funding funerals via crowdfunding and pre-payment plans, the short-term costs of funerals, the costs of 'international' or geographically distanced bereavement experiences, the price of land for burial, the trade-off between environmental and financial costs.
- Commercialising bereavement: physical memorial products, from ashes diamonds to memorial benches, digital memorial products, the use of professional mourners and the rise of social media influencers monetising grief narratives.
- Sustained profit from death: profiteering from mass death events, grief therapy, digital death, including grief apps and AI reanimation, and the wider commercialisation of the data of the dead.

We are particularly interested in receiving chapter proposals from early career researchers and scholars, such as those from the Global South, whose voices are underrepresented in the field.

Please submit a chapter abstract of between 300–500 words and a 100-word author biography including location and institutional affiliations(s) if appropriate to the editorial team by Friday 6th November 2026.

The collection editors will review all submitted proposals and notify applicants of their status by the end of November. We will then submit the book proposal to the publisher and go through the publisher's editorial process.

If the collection is accepted, chapters will be around 5,000 words (including notes and bibliography), with first drafts of manuscripts due in October 2027. All chapters will be subject to peer review; chapter proposal acceptance does not guarantee publication.

Expected publication will be mid-end 2028.

Please email your proposal and author biography to cb2795@bath.ac.uk by 6th November 2026

Digital Death in Context and Practice: Care, Legacy, Culture and Society

27–28 May 2027 | University of Birmingham

The Digital Legacy Conference (DLC) and the Death Online Research Symposium (DORS) will come together in Birmingham on the 27–28 May 2027. Through a new collaboration and in partnership with University of Birmingham, the conference will explore how digital technologies are reshaping death, dying, bereavement, memory, legacy and relationships with the dead.

We invite contributions that examine both the contexts through which digital death acquires meaning and the practices through which individuals, communities, professionals, institutions and technologies respond to it.

We particularly welcome contributions that cross disciplinary or professional boundaries and create dialogue between research, policy and practice.

Submission deadline: **27 November 2026**

Notification of decisions: 18 December 2026

[Further details and submissions](#)

The STRENGTH Study

STRENGTH (Supporting Resilience for Unpaid Carers of Older People Going Through Anticipatory Grief) is an 18-month NIHR-funded study exploring anticipatory grief, the distress people can experience when someone in their life is experiencing worsening health and losing part of who they are, as well as the anticipation of losing that person, which can begin long before bereavement and be just as intense.

The study focuses on unpaid adult carers of older people (aged 65+) living with complex health conditions such as frailty or complex multimorbidity and aims to better understand their experiences of anticipatory grief, current sources of support they receive, and their unmet needs. The aim is to develop an evidence-informed model to guide future support for carers in this situation.

The study is being delivered in three stages: a literature review synthesising existing evidence; a national survey of unpaid carers followed by in-depth interviews with a smaller group; and a final stage bringing everything together with carers and service providers to shape practical next steps.

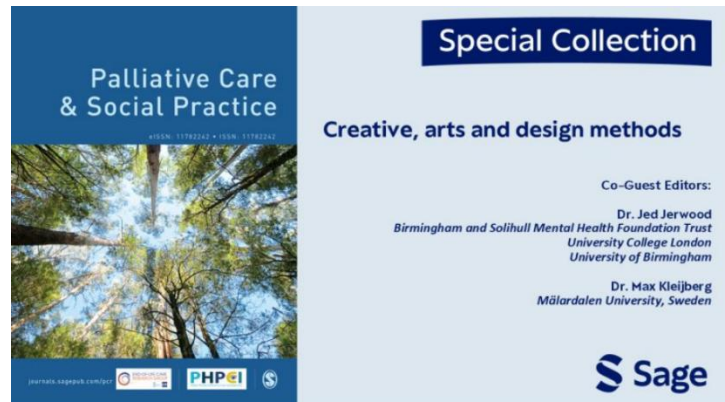
We're excited to say that the next stage of the study, our national survey of unpaid carers, launches in September. If you're interested in finding out more, taking part, or helping us to share the survey, please get in touch with the team at strength@surrey.ac.uk.

Creative, Arts and Design Methods – Special Collection

Dr Jed Jerwood (PhD, FRSA) and Max Kleijberg are guest editing a special collection for *Palliative Care and Social Practice* on Creative, Arts and Design Methods in research, clinical and social practice across death, dying, grief and bereavement.

Please see the link here and consider submitting: <https://lnkd.in/dtGB3VCx>

Submission deadline: February 1, 2027



The Marie Curie Research into Practice Conference returns for 2027. Abstract and spotlight session submissions are now open.

The Marie Curie Research into Practice Conference 2027 will run on week commencing 22 February 2027. The conference, which is online and free for all, will showcase the latest research and its potential translation into policy and practice. Visit the [website](#) to stay up to date.



We're seeking submissions for abstracts and spotlight sessions from 3 August. For more information on the scope, key dates and how to apply, visit the [website](#).

Governing the Dead in the Megacities of the Global South (working title)

Routledge, book series *Accommodating the Dead*
Editors: Dr Christien Klaufus and Dr Julie Rugg

The proposed edited collection draws together cutting-edge international theoretically and empirically informed research on the ways in which cities and city authorities grapple with dead disposal spaces and death services. It focuses on so-called megacities (over 10 million inhabitants) and on high-density cities (over 1,000 inhabitants per square kilometre) experiencing an excessive pressure on dead disposal infrastructures in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia.

Much scholarly debate has addressed the increasing urbanization levels worldwide. Theoretical debates and models have explored pathways towards sustainable urban futures, but predominantly with a focus on the living. How does the governance of the dead articulate with ideas and ideologies of sustainable, liveable and just societies, especially in large, high-density and socio-culturally superdiverse megacities? How can cities already confronted with land scarcity, aging populations, or a rise in mortality rates from other causes (e.g.

violence) solve the gridlock between the need for socio-environmentally sustainable deathscape development, contingent notions of dignity for the dead, and spatial scarcity resulting in high burial costs? Which knowledge is needed to improve dead disposal infrastructures and deathspace governance in non-western cities? Which approaches can innovate that field of knowledge?

These questions are at the core of this volume.

The volume aims to contribute, first of all, to the field of death studies, offering illustrative case studies from a variety of cities across the globe, in which the treatment of dead bodies, access to cemeteries, or a decent burial need to be problematized. The volume equally contributes to the debate on sustainable urban futures by examining dilemmas and repercussions of dead disposal governance in selected Global South megacities, where urban planning and socio-spatial governance are a challenge by default. Analytically, this volume particularly invites contributions on the governance of dead disposal infrastructures that expressing one of the following liabilities: social and cultural (ethnic) inequality; environmental unsustainability; uncertain and fractured local governance structures; and tensions regarding the spatial distance of cemeteries and crematoriums.

In short, this publication aims to:

- 1) Theoretically articulate the fields of death studies with that of urban studies, especially in the context of pressing claims that both fields (urban studies as well as death theories) need to decentre epistemologies.
- 2) Theoretically unpack the specific challenges of large, socio-culturally extremely diverse metropolises in accommodating the dead in culturally appropriate ways.
- 3) Empirically juxtapose state-of-the-art knowledge on dead disposal regimes and governance from different megacities in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia, especially in light of increasing problems with overpopulated and/or underattended cemeteries, morgues, and crematoriums, to allow for comparisons and complementary policy ideas.
- 4) Methodologically innovate epistemologies with specific attention for new approaches coming from Global South-based scholars and also allowing for mixed methods approaches.

The chapters will have a 8,000-word limit. We will be expecting the submission of a 250-word abstract by the end of October 2026, and the completion of the chapter by the end of March 2027. The text will include academic contributions from across the globe but, unfortunately, all submissions will have to be in English.

Contact:

Christien Klaufus — c.i.klaufus@uva.nl

Julie Rugg — julie.rugg@york.ac.uk

Jobs

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