

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

Newsletter

July 2020

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Director's Note

July 2020

Normally, the July Director's Note discusses the June CDAS conference and relates witty anecdotes about how well it went in order to thank everyone for attending and to especially thank the organizing team. Indeed, the July Director's Note always wrote itself without me having to lift a finger.



Well. That was then. But don't despair – we are planning to hold the CDAS 2020 Conference in June 2021 and will send out further details come the autumn. Right now, we've booked June 11 and 12, 2021, so keep those dates on hand.

I laughed as I prepared to write this Director's Note (look out – a witty anecdote cometh!) because of an early March conversation I had with a colleague about the conference. This all happened in the corridor between our office doors and the colleague asked me if CDAS had any conferences or events we might need to re-schedule. I said, "Yes. We've got our annual conference, but it is scheduled for June 26-27 so maybe it could still happen." The colleague agreed and said, "Oh yeah. That's a way away. We'll be back by then, I'm sure."

Maybe, I thought. Maybe.

But we are where we are, and I want to be serious for a moment about everything we've all been through since March. If you can – take a break of some kind this summer. If even for a day. I realized last week that I had been going non-stop since March and it has finally caught up to me. So, I'm telling everyone on the CDAS mailing list (who actually reads these Director's Notes) to find some time and chill. And lo, we've moved from witty anecdotes to straight-up paternalism.

The main reason I am saying take a break of any kind possible is this – I have a strong hunch based on all the available evidence that come the autumn and winter things are going to become a lot worse with COVID-19 and the politics of death. I can only hope that the current vacuum in political leadership inflicting different kinds of damage in both the UK and America is remedied, but I do not expect it. Into that leadership void many of us will need to step as it becomes clearer and clearer that we are on our own to make sure our local death infrastructures work. I am an optimist by nature, but I cannot ignore these more recent systemic failures in the countries I know best.

I want to be wrong. I hope I'm wrong.

This is the final newsletter for the summer, but we will be back in September. CDAS will continue publishing new information on its [COVID-19 webpage](#) and in the COVID-19 section of the newsletter. I want to also end on a more upbeat note, so I am very pleased to announce that CDAS has two new Ph.D. students starting in the autumn, Samantha Hooker and George Gumisiriza, both of whom received

very prestigious South West Doctoral Training Partnership (SWDTP) fellowships. Sam is working with Kate Woodthorpe and George is working with me. We will save the proper introductions for September.

Until then.

CDAS COVID-19 Resources, Events and Updates

Our [Centre for Death and Society \(CDAS\) team members](#) curate a monthly collection of resources relating to the effects of Covid-19 on death and society.

We include guidance relating to Covid-19 for:

- grief and bereavement support;
- funeral practices;
- social policy implications.

These resources are both written work produced by CDAS staff and general information on Covid-19 from other organisations. All the resources will be listed on our website [here](#), and the most recent month's will also be shared in the newsletter.

June 2020 Covid-19 Information

Publications

Stone, P., [Dark tourism memorial sites will help us heal from the trauma of coronavirus](#)

Bear, L., et al, ['A Good Death' During the Covid-19 Pandemic in the UK A Report of Key Findings and Recommendations](#)

Wynne, K., et al, [Dying individuals and suffering populations: applying a population-level bioethics lens to palliative care in humanitarian contexts: before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Forrester-Jones, R., [We had a lockdown choice - care for Amy or never see her](#)

Troyer, J., COVID-19: [Too Many Bodies to bury?](#)

Troyer, J., [Remote, Restricted, and Redesigned: Funerals in the time of Coronavirus](#)

Troyer, J., [In the time of AIDS in the age of COVID-19](#)

Event Information

[FutureLearn Free Courses](#)

FutureLearn is offering a number of free online courses in themes related to Covid-19. Visit their [website](#) to find out more.

[#BeforeTheirTime](#)

COVID-19 is going to mean some people dying before their time, or funerals taking place without the usual opportunities to say goodbye. It's going to affect us in ways we're only just starting to understand, but we know it's more important than ever that everyone makes their plans.



To acknowledge this, Dying Matters have launched the **#BeforeTheirTime** campaign. As well as the hashtag, we will also be using the sunflower image shown, which [you can download if you wish here](#). You can use the sunflower emoji on your phone if you are posting messages from there or want to send messages of solidarity. Please do follow along and contribute on social media.

These are unprecedented times and we want to hear from people their advice and suggestions about how to cope with difficult situations, such as not being able to say a proper goodbye to someone you cared about. If you have anything you wouldn't mind sharing, please contact [Stephanie](#).



suicidebereavement*

[Suicide Bereavement UK's 9th International Conference and Unique Opportunity to attend a half day Covid-19 Seminar](#)

Date: Wednesday November 18th - 19th 2020.

Now, more than ever, we need to come together, recharge our batteries, learn from each other, in preparation for what might be ahead during the next few months.

I am also mindful that many friendships are made at this annual event and you all look forward to meeting up. We will be your lighthouse, shining brightly and excited to welcome you all to Manchester.

This year we are also hosting a Covid-19 seminar the following day (Thursday 19th November 2020) at the same venue <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/covid-19-seminar>.

We expect high demand for this event and have limited places. Therefore, those attending Suicide Bereavement UK's conference (Wednesday 18th November 2020) will be given priority to attend the Covid-19 seminar along with a 25% discount, to thank you for attending.

We have a fantastic line up of speakers for the conference, covering diverse issues, so please take a look at the conference flyer on our website, where you will be able to book a place <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/suicide-bereavement-conference>.

We know some of you might be apprehensive about attending. However, please be reassured that if the government guidelines restrict us from hosting the conference, you will be offered either a full refund or an automatic place on Suicide Bereavement UK's 2021 conference.

For more information contact: Paul Higham
Email: paul.higham@suicidebereavementuk.com
Tel: [01706 827359](tel:01706827359)
Mob: [07850 710 555](tel:07850710555)

Call for Papers, Information & Funding Proposals

[Public Health Research in Palliative Care: Towards Solutions for Global Challenges](#)

Abstracts for an online event to be held 17 and 18 November 2020 are requested. Themes include public health palliative care – response to COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and its consequences. For full information please see the main 'Call for Papers' section on page 14.

[Death and Mourning Processes in the Times of the Coronavirus Pandemic \(COVID-19\)](#)

Frontiers in Psychiatry has launched a new research topic: Death and Mourning Processes in the Times of the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19). As a leading expert in your field, they would like you to participate by submitting your research. Find out more in our 'Call for Papers' section on page 14.

[Death in a time of Corona: Call for Contributions](#)

Do you work in the deathcare sector? Have you recently experienced a death? Help us understand how COVID-19 is changing deathcare, funerals, and

memorialisation worldwide by contributing to this collaborative, open research platform. For full information please see the main Call for Papers section on page 14.

[Bereavement Network Europe call for information on dealing with bereavement during the Covid-19 pandemic](#)

The Bereavement Network Europe (BNE) sees that the Coronavirus epidemic requires an immediate and continuous response, and we would like to call on you for your support. We have started gathering resources regarding Covid-19 and bereavement and we will update the [BNE website](#) with resources as we receive them.

If you have any information for the bereaved or health professionals on how to deal with bereavement in the current situation from your European country, please do let us know by providing a link to it. All different languages are welcome. Please send it to the following two addresses: info@bereavement.eu and tgo@sorgcenter.dk

[AHRC funding call – research & innovative ideas to address Covid-19](#)

UK Research and Innovation recently launched an open call for research addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. AHRC is now inviting proposals through this call for arts and humanities approaches in the COVID-19 research response.

Full details about the call can be found [here](#).

[CDAS NEWS](#)

[Early Careers Visiting Fellowship](#)

Applications have been coming in for the NEW CDAS Early Career Visiting Fellow's Programme. This opportunity extends our programme of welcoming visiting scholars from around the world. Applicants must be an ECR in Death Studies (broadly defined) **without permanent employment** in a University.

To apply please send a one-page research proposal (no more) and a current CV to cdas@bath.ac.uk.

CDAS Community News

New book by Sarah Wootton and Lloyd Riley, Dignity in Dying

In their new book, [*Last Rights*](#), Sarah Wootton, Chief Executive, and Lloyd Riley from [*Dignity in Dying*](#), argue that our laws and culture governing death and dying need radical reform.

From votes for women to equal marriage, campaigners have had to fight for rights that now seem sacrosanct. As the pandemic now forces us to re-examine how we die, Wootton and Riley show how choice at the end of life is a right whose time has come.

Bringing to light the heart-breaking testimony of those who have witnessed unimaginable suffering at the end of life and exposing the hypocrisy of the arguments put forward to oppose progress, *Last Rights* questions how future generations will judge us if we fail to take action and issues a call to arms for people to unlock their power and demand change.

New article by Sharon McDonnell, Managing Director of Suicide Bereavement UK

In this article, [*Suicide Bereavement, the Importance of Investing in Lived Experience*](#), Sharon McDonnell talks about her own loss, PABBS training and the importance of including people with lived experience in research projects.

Online courses available from the Glasgow End of Life Studies Group

Recruitment has opened for the new [*fully online programme of postgraduate study in End of Life Studies*](#). The first intake is January 2021, but there will be 3 intakes in total throughout the year (in April and September). Learners can work towards a postgraduate certificate, diploma or MSc, and can be based anywhere in the world as it's fully online.

The third run of the free MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) is now completed. It's called [*End of Life Care: Challenges and Innovations*](#) and on this run there were 1431 learners enrolled from 99 countries! This MOOC will keep running at intervals throughout 2020.

Events

Quaker Social Action - Funeral training for end of life professionals

10 September 2020

Funeral funding, costs and legalities, a professional's guide

A day course that will enable you to better support clients to avoid the debt and distress of high funeral costs. A collaboration with the National Bereavement Service, who will bring their expertise of the legalities around a death such as wills, executors, probate and legal representation. [Find out more here.](#)

Death and Dying: Medical, Cultural and Environmental Perspectives

25-26 September 2020, Online

An international conference organized by the Department of Philosophy and Bioethics, Institute of Health Sciences and Pain and Palliative Care Clinic, Faculty of Medicine, Jagiellonian University Medical College. More information about the event and abstract submission guidelines can be found on the [conference website](#).

Active Grief Weekend

25 – 27 September 2020, Manifold Farm, Derbyshire

Registrations for our next ACTIVE GRIEF WEEKEND are now open.

Run by and for the bereaved, these retreats are available to all who have suffered the death of a child of any age, from any cause and no matter how long ago. They are also extremely popular and we recommend early booking. For more information, please visit our [website](#).



Postvention Assisting those Bereaved By Suicide

Dates released for September, November and December 2020 in Manchester

Postvention Assisting those Bereaved By Suicide (PABBS), one day training is evidence-based and evaluated suicide bereavement training and has been informed by a three-year study, conducted by Dr. Sharon McDonnell and her team,

at the University of Manchester. Funded (£243K) by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the first of its kind internationally.

This training will help those implementing:

- the suicide prevention strategy (locally, regionally and nationally);
- developing postvention services;
- NICE postvention guidelines in the community and custodial settings; and
- key objectives in the NHS Long term plan etc

Dates released for PABBS one day training:

- 15th September 2020
- 17th November 2020
- 2nd December 2020

The research team have recently published four papers, which are directly associated with the PABBS training and can be viewed at <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/pabbs-training> and are noted below:

1. GPs' Experiences - GP's experiences responding to and dealing with parents bereaved by suicide
2. Parents' Experiences - Parents bereaved by suicide experiences and perceived support from primary care
3. Evaluation - An evaluation of PABBS evidence-based suicide bereavement training
4. Ambulance - Ambulance staff experience in responding to a (suspected) suicide and the bereaved family.

Over 150 testimonials: <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/testimonials>

Cost: £299 +VAT per person

Please note, we also deliver in-house training, upon request, across the UK.

For more information or to register contact: Paul Higham

Email: paul.higham@suicidebereavementuk.com, Tel: [01706 827359](tel:01706827359)



suicidebereavement*

[Suicide Bereavement UK's 9th International Conference and Unique Opportunity to attend a half day Covid-19 Seminar](#)

18th November 2020

After much deliberation we decided that we will host this event and the date has now been changed to **Wednesday November 18th 2020.**

Now, more than ever, we need to come together, recharge our batteries, learn from each other, in preparation for what might be ahead during the next few months.

I am also mindful that many friendships are made at this annual event and you all look forward to meeting up. We will be your lighthouse, shining brightly and excited to welcome you all to Manchester.

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We have a fantastic line up of speakers for the conference, covering diverse issues, so please take a look at the conference flyer on our website, where you will be able to book a place <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/suicide-bereavement-conference>.

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[Covid-19: Exploring Resilience, Recovery and Lessons Learnt Internationally](#)

Date: November 19th 2020

Choice of TWO sessions

1. 09:00hrs to 12:00hrs OR
2. 13:00hrs to 16:00hrs

Unique Opportunity to attend a half day Covid-19 Seminar. The seminar will focus on the impact on the following:

- Front line staff who worked during the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Patients who were hospitalised from Covid-19 and survived;
- Those who lost 'significant others' including colleagues to Covid-19; and
- Bereavement and rituals during a time of uncertainty and high risk.

Learning outcomes:

- International good practice associated with covid-19 response;
- Incident management (techniques to help stabilise the workforce, specifically management of staff and their well-being);
- Post Intensive Care Syndrome PICS (impact on the patient and their family); and
- Impact on staff (coping and managing risk, ethical dilemmas, and moral injury etc).

Who should attend this seminar?

- NHS management and policy makers
- Medical and mental health staff
- First responders
- Social workers
- Those working in care homes etc.

Cost per person:

£59.99 +VAT (for those attending the Suicide Bereavement UK (SBUK) conference); and

£79.99 +VAT for those who do not attend the SBUK conference.

For more information <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/covid-19-seminar>

Paul Higham

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Tel: [01706 827359](tel:01706827359)

Mob: [07850 710 555](tel:07850710555)

[Public Health Research in Palliative Care: Towards Solutions for Global Challenges](#)

Online, 17 and 18 November 2020

Registration fee: €55

The Scientific Committee for the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) Public Health and Palliative Care Research Seminar planned for October in Belfast, has decided to postpone the event to **17 and 18 November 2020** and to hold this important event online.

The online programme, focussing on public health palliative care research, will be delivered at various time slots on Tuesday 17 November and Wednesday 18 November 2020, rather than two full days online. It will aim to ensure that the identity of the conference is maintained and that there will be plenty of opportunities for exchange, and for learning from each other.

The date for abstract submissions has now been extended to **Friday 24 July 2020**, please see the [following link](#) for more information.

More details on the conference can be found [here](#).

We are looking forward to welcoming you to this important international event. It will be an opportunity for researchers, policy makers and clinicians from academic institutions, hospice and palliative care providers, government and health agencies and people with palliative care needs and their family carers, to come together, who are focused on developing solutions to inform and improve the delivery of palliative care globally.

[Palliative Care, Women's Health and Gynecology – Building Patient Care for Prolonging the Life Span of Individuals](#)

Rome, Italy – November 23-25, 2020

The Conference will be organized around the theme “Building Patient Care for Prolonging the Life Span of Individuals” Palliative Care 2020 anticipates more than 500 participants around the globe to experience thought provoking Keynote lectures, Oral & Poster presentations. This year conference will offer ample opportunities for all stakeholders working on Palliative Care to expose their research work. Our conference aims to gather the Researchers, principal investigators, experts, Professors and researchers working on Palliative Care from both academia and health care industry, Business Delegates, Scientists and students across the globe to provide an international forum for the dissemination of original research results, new ideas and practical development experiences.

Goals

- The conference program emphasizes evidence-based practice, educational innovation, practical application, and peer to peer networking and collaboration.
- The goals of the conference is to provide a transformative professional development experience through
- Bringing together the world's scientific experts to catalyze and advance scientific knowledge about Palliative Care to present the most recent research findings, and promote and enhance scientific collaborations around the world.

- Bringing together community leaders, scientists, and policy leaders to promote and enhance programmatic collaborations to more effectively address Palliative Care Research and Quality in Healthcare and overcome barriers that limit access to care and services.

Objectives

After participating in this meeting, attendees should be able to

- Discuss emerging issues in Palliative Care;
- Discuss and apply recent research findings related to Palliative Care;
- Disseminate the diverse voices of breakthrough innovators with visionary and practical solutions.

For more information please visit: <https://palliative.alliedacademies.com/>



Attention all active' first responders **Launch of Emergency Services Postvention Response (ESPR) Training**

26 November 2020

Andrea Walraven-Thissen and Dr Sharon McDonnell, from Suicide Bereavement UK have now launched an exciting and new evidence-based Emergency Services Postvention Response (ESPR) training. This training is evidence-based, theory-driven one day workshop and has been informed by research, which explored the perceived needs of first responders responding to suicide, in several European countries.

An international study was specifically designed to inform the development of the ESPR training and ESPR is first of its kind internationally.

Aims of the training

- To provide 'active' first responders with knowledge and skills to respond effectively after a (suspected) suicide;
- To assist first responders in effective incident management;
- To empower and enable/promote resilience, when responding after suicide; and
- Improve the quality of both psychosocial and peer support services.

Target audience

- Only 'active duty' first responders are permitted to attend (e.g. police, ambulance, fire, air sea and rescue etc).

Training date: November 26th 2020

Cost per person: £299 + VAT

Venue: Royal Exchange Theatre, St Ann's Square, Manchester, M2 7DH

<https://suicidebereavementuk.com/emergency-services-postvention-response>

ESPR in-house training is delivered upon request.

For more information or to register contact: Paul Higham

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Mob: [07850 710 555](tel:07850710555)

Call for Papers

Death in a time of Corona: Call for Contributions

Do you work in the deathcare sector? Have you recently experienced a death? Help us understand how COVID-19 is changing deathcare, funerals, and memorialisation worldwide by contributing to this collaborative, open research platform.

We have established a platform to share accounts of how the COVID-19 pandemic is changing deathcare, including end-of-life and mortuary care, arranging funerals, and ongoing memorialisation. This information is of interest to us as part of research into death and technology in the 21st century led by the DeathTech Research Team at The University of Melbourne. We'd like to know what you are experiencing now – e.g. how are funerals happening, how are bodies being handled, what is different?

Please upload your reflections to the interactive map [here](https://padlet.com/hannahgould/deathduringcorona). (https://padlet.com/hannahgould/deathduringcorona). To add a reflection, click on the large plus sign, select a location, and then add your text. You can also email deathtech-research@unimelb.edu.au if you would prefer that we upload your contribution.

We're particularly interested in first-person accounts, reflections on new technologies being use and new rituals, and the emotional, professional, and social impact of these changes. You can include links to news articles, images, or videos. The researchers will also add published articles about death during COVID-19 to the map.

You can choose to upload anonymously if you wish. You can also choose to identify yourself and/or your company in the post. The location you set for the post can be as specific or general as you wish.

[Public Health Research in Palliative Care: Towards Solutions for Global Challenges](#)

Online, 17 and 18 November 2020

The date for abstract submissions is **Friday 24 July 2020**.

Abstracts accepted will be published in the journal *Palliative Care and Social Practice*. The themes for the Public Health Research in Palliative Care: Towards Solutions for Global Challenges Research Seminar are as follows:

- Public Health Palliative Care – Response to COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic and its consequences
- Compassionate communities
- Citizen death education
- Empowerment of people with palliative care needs, carers and citizens around palliative and end of life care, caregiving and bereavement
- Collaborations between health and social care professionals and family carers
- Health promotion around palliative care
- Bereavement - End-of-Life care and bereavement care policies or public health interventions
- Population health models for palliative care around the world
- Issues of equity in palliative and end of life care and bereavement

Abstracts are invited which present research findings or methodological contributions on the themes identified above. Professionals from all disciplines, students and trainees are encouraged to submit. Abstract submission deadline is **Friday 24 July 2020 to info@aiahpc.org**. For further guidance on abstract submission please follow this [link](#).

[Death and Mourning Processes in the Times of the Coronavirus Pandemic \(COVID-19\)](#)

Frontiers in Psychiatry has launched a new research topic: Death and Mourning Processes in the Times of the Coronavirus Pandemic (COVID-19). As a leading expert in your field, they would like you to participate by submitting your research.

This is a great opportunity to have your research published in Frontiers in Psychiatry, the fifth most cited open access journal in its field with an Impact Factor of 3.161. Led by Professor Stefan Borgward, it brings a 'bench-to-bedside' approach to communicate translational progress and innovations to clinicians,

scholars and research scientists. The submission deadline is **7 November 2020**. To participate [please visit the website](#).

As a contributing author, you will benefit from:

- high visibility with a freely downloadable e-book
- rigorous, transparent and fast peer review
- advanced impact metrics
- collaboration with other leading researchers around the world.

[The Sustainable Dead](#)

Call for book chapter submissions for The Sustainable Dead by Ruth McManus, Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Ruth is happy to have an informal chat with anybody interested in submitting a chapter to this collection – email ruth.mcmanus@canterbury.ac.nz

Abstract

While eco-lightbulbs, tiny homes and bans on single use plastic bags nibble at the edges of our profligate ways, ecological and social sustainability is beginning to profoundly challenge long-standing conventions in end-of-life care, grieving, bodily disposal and memorialisation. This collection brings together scholarship on the different ways that all the aspects of dying, death, and memorialisation are influencing and being influenced by the global turn to ecological and social sustainability.

About the Editor - Ruth McManus is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. She researches on social aspects of death and dying, and is inaugural President of the New Zealand Society for Death Studies. Her current projects include disaster memorialisation and new technologies for body disposal. Her books include *Death in a Global Age* (2012), *Death Down Under* (Cambridge Scholars 2019), and *Exploring Society* (2019).

Keywords

global crisis; ecological sustainability; social sustainability; cadaver disposal; memorialisation; end of life care; green cemeteries; eco-funerals

Chapter submission form

http://cambridgescholars.com/edited_collections/sustainable-dead-chapter-submission.docx

Visit the [CDAS website](#) to view a full calendar of events

Contact us

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