



Centre for Death & Society

Newsletter

May 2020

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Director's Note

May 2020

It seems impossible that one-month has passed since I wrote the April Director's Note. *Impossible*. How did thirty-days already slide by(?) – but that's exactly how blurred all time and space feels right now. For me at least.



Indeed, an American colleague asked me if I was finding things to do since the University of Bath closed campus and I dryly noted – It's a global pandemic. I've never been busier.

And I think that for most of us who work in death and dying at all levels and in all professions – this has been one of the busiest, most full-on periods of our professional lives. This is also my way of saying: hang in there. Help each other out. Let CDAS know what's happening. Look after yourself.

In order to help capture the current torrent of Coronavirus information, CDAS created a new COVID-19 resources webpage. You can access it from the CDAS [homepage](#), or click [here](#). We'll update the page with the links everyone continues to send us for the monthly newsletter's COVID-19 section alongside new work by CDAS colleagues. I want to take a minute and flag up the excellent work CDAS colleagues have done over the last month in response to COVID-19.

Kate Woodthorpe: [We need practical guidance for dealing with serious illness at home](#) in *The Times*

Kate Woodthorpe and Hannah Rumble: [We're here to talk about death, bereavement and funerals during the global Covid-19 pandemic. Please ask us anything!](#) on Reddit

Kate Woodthorpe: [A mini-lecture live on Facebook about death and dying, and how it might relate to this extraordinary moment in our lives as we grapple with Covid-19](#) on Facebook Live for the University of Bath

Tony Walter: [Five things coronavirus can teach us about life and death](#) in *The Conversation*

Tony Walter: [Lockdown-era Zoom funerals are upending religious traditions—and they may change the way we grieve forever](#) an interview in *Prospect Magazine*

So, like I said, hang in there. CDAS will be organizing COVID-19 events in the coming months if for any reason to give everyone a chance to talk and decompress and explain what happened to them during the pandemic's first wave. And if you're struggling in the least, then reach out to someone who will listen and let loose. We're all losing track of time, but we can't lose track of ourselves.

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.

May 2020 Covid-19 Information

Publications

["A good death" during the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.K.: A report on key findings and recommendations](#) – London School of Economics & Political Science

[Pandemic palliative care: Beyond ventilators and saving lives](#) – Canadian Medical Association Journal

[Technologies of the Human Corpse](#) – new book by John Troyer

Dr John Troyer - [Coronavirus is showing us how we've failed to manage the logistics of death](#)

[The role and response of palliative care and hospice services in epidemics and pandemics: A rapid review to inform practice during the COVID-19 pandemic](#) – Journal of Pain and Symptom Management

[In the time of COVID - 'April is the cruellest month'](#) – David Clark, University of Glasgow

Kate Woodthorpe: [We need practical guidance for dealing with serious illness at home](#) in *The Times*

Kate Woodthorpe and Hannah Rumble: [We're here to talk about death, bereavement and funerals during the global Covid-19 pandemic. Please ask us anything!](#) on Reddit

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Tony Walter: [Five things coronavirus can teach us about life and death](#) in *The Conversation*

Tony Walter: [Lockdown-era Zoom funerals are upending religious traditions—and they may change the way we grieve forever](#) an interview in *Prospect Magazine*

Professor Tony Walter - [COVID-19: We need a new craft of dying](#)

Event Information

[CDAS 2020 Conference](#)

CDAS is moving its June 2020 conference to June 2021. The dates will be June 11/12, 2021 and we'll re-confirm everything later in 2020. The CDAS office will also contact everyone who submitted an abstract later in the year about attending the 2021 conference.

[Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture](#)

The Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture scheduled for May 13, 2020 is cancelled. We're looking at possibly rescheduling the talk for Autumn 2020 but will likely move it to May 2021. Some good news – we can announce that Professor Fiona Poland at East Anglia University will deliver the Memorial Lecture. The title of her talk is: "Researching on the edge: Beatrice Godwin's contribution to recognizing, retrieving and how people may deploy their senses of self when living with later stage dementia."

[#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](#).

Call for Papers, Information & Funding Proposals

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 pages 10-11.

Bereavement Network Europe call for information on dealing with bereavement during the Covid-19 pandemic

The Bereavement Network Europe (BNE) sees that the Corona virus 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 http://bereavement.eu/](http://bereavement.eu/) 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

Last week, UK Research and Innovation 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 - <https://ahrc.ukri.org/funding/apply-for-funding/current-opportunities/research-and-innovation-ideas-to-address-covid-19/>

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

Mortality's 25th Anniversary

This year marks the 25th anniversary for Mortality. To help celebrate this occasion, we are making 10 articles free to access. But which ones should we chose? Help us decide by nominating an article below. You can complete this form more than once to nominate more than one article.

You can search the archives of Mortality here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cmrt20>

Nominations close 10 May 2020. Fill out the nomination form [here](#). Final selection will be made by the editors – Arnar Arnason and Erica Borgstrom. Free to access is being supported by the publishers Taylor and Francis.

Events

Dying Matters Awareness Week 2020 – Dying to be Heard

11 – 13 May 2020

This event is still going ahead in some form. However, there will be changes to the original format and programme. Please visit the website [here](#) for more information.

Cremation and Burial Communication Education (CBCE)

29 June – 1 July 2020

The Cremation and Burial Communication and Education (CBCE) event is the national forum which brings together local councils and Private companies from across the UK. CBCE is jointly organised by The Cremation Society of Great Britain and the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities.

As the bereavement sector continues to grow, this key annual event provides a unique opportunity to acquire the most up-to-date and relevant information.

Keynote speakers will equip you with insights into the issues facing your services, exhibitors will show you the latest services and products available and networking opportunities will provide the space to engage with fellow professionals.

Who should attend?

- Managers and staff of local authority cemeteries and crematoria.
- Owners and operators of private sector cemeteries and crematoria.
- Funeral directors, bereavement related charities and representatives from other kindred organisations wishing to have a better understanding of the services provided at cemeteries and crematoria.

Why should you attend?

- **Learn** - Hear about new legislation that will bring about **Death Certification** changes and amendments to the **Cremation Regulations** that are to be introduced. These legislative changes will impact upon all local authority service providers and the private sector and we want you to be fully prepared.
- **Connect** - Network with industry-leading practitioners, share views with the most experienced service providers in the UK to learn from their insights and forge new partnerships.
- **Discover** - Explore the most effective way of providing your service by seeing and discussing the most up-to-date technology and tools available within the sector
- **Professional Development** - The Cremation and Burial Communication and Education 2018 Event offered all attendees evidence of **Continuous Professional Development**, with certificates from the CPD Certification Service awarded to all attendees.

For more information, please visit: <http://cbce.org.uk/>

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: <https://thegoodgriefproject.co.uk/active/>

[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 >](#)

[Suicide Bereavement UK's 9th International Conference 'Suicide Bereavement: Using Our Collective Voice'](#)

24 September 2020, Manchester

Suicide Bereavement UK and Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust are collaborating for the 9th year running to host Suicide Bereavement UK's International Conference. This conference will focus on vulnerable subgroups amongst those bereaved by suicide and taboo issues directly associated with such deaths. Please note, over 400 people from 9 countries usually attend this annual event and it is always over-subscribed.

Registration is now open for the 2020 Conference. Programme and Speakers: TBC

Cost - £140 + Booking Fee + VAT – To book, please visit

<https://suicidebereavementuk.com/suicide-bereavement-conference>



May & July dates cancelled due to Covid-19.

Limited availability for September and November 2020 in Manchester

PABBS evidence-based and evaluated suicide bereavement training, 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

Available dates for PABBS one day training:

- 15th September 2020
- 17th November 2020

The research team have recently published three papers, which are directly associated with the PABBS training and are noted below (please click [on blue text](#) to take you to the article).

1. [GPs' Experiences](#) - GP's experiences responding to parents bereaved by suicide. This paper was used as evidence in NICE guidelines (NICE, 2018)
2. [Parents' Experiences](#) - Parents bereaved by suicide experiences of support received from primary care
3. [Evaluation](#) - Evaluation of PABBS Suicide Bereavement Training

Our fourth PABBS paper, focuses on ambulance staff perspective of responding to suicide, and will be published later this year.

Cost: £299 +VAT per person

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

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

To book a place, contact Paul Higham, on 07850 710555 or email paul.higham@suicidebereavementuk.com and visit: <https://suicidebereavementuk.com/pabbs-training> for more information.

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/>

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.

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

Public Health Research in Palliative Care: Towards Solutions for Global Challenges, 2nd International Seminar of the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) Research Network and the EAPC Reference Group on Public Health and Palliative Care

15-16 October 2020

This research seminar will take place in the Titanic Hotel, Belfast, Northern Ireland. It is organised by All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care (AIIHPC), the EAPC Research Network and the EAPC Reference Group on Public Health and Palliative Care.

The call for abstracts is open until Monday 1 June 2020. Please visit www.professionalpalliativehub.com/research/events/seminar2020 for further information including the seminar's research themes and guidance on submitting abstracts. Please note the early bird rate for registration is available until 4 September 2020.

This international seminar will bring together an audience of 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; all focused on developing solutions to inform and improve the delivery of palliative care globally.

The invited speakers for the research seminar include:

Mark Hazelwood, Chief Executive, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care

- Rebecca Patterson, Director of Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
- Prof Sonja McIlpatrick, Head of School of Nursing and Professor of Nursing and Palliative Care, Ulster University
- Sally Paul, Lecturer in the School of Social Work and Social Policy, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
- Prof Samar Aoun, Professor of Palliative Care, La Trobe University, Australia
- Prof Joachim Cohen, Professor of Public Health and Palliative Care, End-of-Life Care Research Group of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and Ghent University

Visit the [CDAS website](http://cdas.bath.ac.uk) to view a full calendar of events

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