

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

May 2024 Newsletter

[Director's Note](#)

CDAS

[News](#)

[Events](#)

CDAS Community

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Call for Papers](#)

[PhD and job vacancies](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Director's Note

Hello and welcome to the May 2024 issue of our newsletter, from the increasingly sunny and warm city of Bath. We start this issue with a final advert for our annual conference on the theme of **'Death and Communities (5th – 7th June)**. The conference will feature panel plenaries from Irene Tuffrey-Wijne and Stuart Todd on research co-production with people with learning disabilities, and a keynote from Stefan Timmermans on funeral support for people living on the margins of communities and families. The conference takes place entirely online, with people attending from 15 different time zones. We have also sought to keep costs as low as possible this year. Details of how to buy your ticket are on the next page, but if you have issues with accessing the conference based on costs please contact cdas@bath.ac.uk in confidence and we will see what we can do. **You are also very welcome to join the aforementioned plenary and keynote for free without coming to the rest of the conference.** We look forward to seeing you there.

As normal, in this issue we bring you news about upcoming events, new publications and calls for papers. From CDAS we say congratulations to Diana Teggi who has won a British Science Award, and similar congratulations to Visiting Fellows Edina Harbinja and Tal Morse whose article on digital remains and postmortem privacy has won a best paper prize. We welcome new Visiting Fellow Khyati Tripathi, who will be working with co-director Naomi to increase our inclusion on perspectives on death from around the globe. We also say goodbye but not farewell to Lorna Templeton as she comes to the end of the ESRC funded 'Voicing Loss' project with Jessica Jacobsen at Birkbeck. Lorna has worked on multiple research projects over the years at CDAS, and we will be hearing a lot about the findings from her current Voicing Loss project on coroners services in the next few months as Lorna will become a Visiting Fellow with the Centre.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture on loneliness towards the end of life with Sam Carr earlier this month. To mark the publication of his new book ['All the Lonely People'](#) (which features quite a few CDAS people and their reflections, namely Jana Rek, Chao Fang and Malcolm Johnson) we have two copies to give away to our CDAS community, anywhere in the world. Please email Kate at k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk by the 5th June and we will pick two lucky winners later in the month. On that note, thank you to all those who entered the draw for Tamarin Norwood's new book ['The Song of the Whole Wide World'](#), we will be sending the books out soon.

Thank you for your continued support for the centre, and make sure to send us your news, publications, events and call for papers. Make sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date in between newsletters.

See you at the conference
Kate and Naomi

2024 CDAS Conference 'Death and Communities'

[Tickets are now live for the CDAS Conference 2024 - Death and Communities](#)

We hope you will join us for the 2024 CDAS Conference, which this year is organised around the theme of Death and Community.

In keeping with the theme we have decided this year to have panel plenaries rather than individual speakers, and we open the conference with an opening plenary on Wednesday 5 June at 4pm (BST) - "Make it fun!" Experiences of co-researching death and dying with people with learning disabilities with Professor Stuart Todd and Professor Irene Tuffrey-Wijne.

The opening plenary will be followed by two full days of papers and workshops, and an In Conversation on Thursday evening with Professor Stefan Timmermans. We have organised two streams to facilitate attendance throughout the conference, and have an additional support session on Thursday lunchtime, on publishing in the death studies community. This promises to be an engaging and supportive conference with the CDAS community, we look forward to seeing you there!

[Click here to view the full programme](#)

If you are unable to join us for the whole conference, then free tickets are available to the opening plenary on Wednesday 5 June here: ["Make it fun!" Experiences of co-researching death and dying with people with learning disabilities](#) and the Thursday 6 June evening In Conversation event here: [The Unclaimed: Abandonment and Hope - In Conversation with Professor Stefan Timmermans](#)

Full ticket holders will get access to these sessions, so no need to book twice if you're buying a ticket.

Book your tickets [HERE!](#)

Diana Teggi wins prestigious British Science Award

Congratulations to Diana Teggi, who has been awarded a prestigious British Science Association Award. She will receive the award at the British Science Festival 2024 in September, where she will present a lecture on her work on end-of-life care practices within care homes. One of seven winners across the UK and across disciplines, the awards recognise academic breakthroughs and pioneering research. Find out more about her award [here](#).

John Troyer's book 'Technologies of the Human Corpse' has been translated into Japanese



John Troyer's book 'Technologies of the Human Corpse' has been translated into Japanese! Here is the link to the Japanese bookseller:

<https://www.hanmoto.com/bd/isbn/9784562073511>

New article by CDAS Visiting Fellow and alum Dr Renske Visser: 'Prisoners with cancer in England more likely to die of it than other patients'

Prisoners diagnosed with cancer are more likely than people in the general population to die of the disease, according to [research](#).

A study has calculated that compared with cancer patients in the general population, patients in English prisons are 28% less likely to receive treatment for cancer, particularly surgery to remove tumours, and have a 9% increased risk of death – half of which is due to treatment differences.



It is believed to be the first study of cancer incidence, treatment and survival in an entire national prison population.

[Read the full article here](#)

Best Paper Prize awarded to ‘Digital Remains and Postmortem Privacy in the UK: What do users want?’ by the International Review of Law Computers and Technology T&F Social Sciences and Humanities

Well done to CDAS Visiting Fellows Dr Edina Harbinja and Dr Tal Morse who along with Lilian Edwards have been awarded this best paper prize. The paper is now [available here](#)

New [#NoBarriersHere](#) report out featuring CDAS PhD student Polly Maxwell



This resource includes the diverse voices of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) people who engaged in the ‘*It’s more than rainbows in receptions*’ project and shared their own experiences, values and opinions. It does not aim to include or collectively represent all LGBTQ+ people but is intended to act as a resource to prompt reflection and to help individuals and organisations listen more closely, think more inclusively and take action to make positive change.

Working with LGBTQ+ People in
Palliative and End-of-Life Care



Whether you work at an individual, organisational or leadership level, and/or provide hands-on care or commission services, this resource will help us all to consider the services that we provide through a lens of LGBTQ+ inclusion. We hope this resource acts as

a prompt to consider LGBTQ+ people in your own context, enabling each of us to contribute to safer, more equitable palliative care.

The project developed from a reflection from an LGBTQ+ person who noticed an increasing tendency for organisations to make efforts to display the rainbow flag (or progress flag) as a sign of LGBTQ+ inclusivity, but without deeper thought, culture change, training or improvements in care delivery. It formed the first provocation for the co-production group to consider: how does real LGBTQ+ inclusive care happen beyond just ‘rainbows in receptions’?

[Read the full report here](#)

Welcome to new CDAS visiting fellow Khyati Tripathi

We are excited to welcome Khyati Tripathi as a new Visiting Fellow. Khyati is a psychologist and anthropologist from India, and approaches death studies from a multi-disciplinary lens spanning psychology, anthropology, and psychoanalysis. Through her interdisciplinary approach, she delves into the intricate psychosocial significance and connections between events, emotions, and practices related to death. Her work thus frames larger discussions on

palliative care, bereavement, and funerary and post-funerary rituals. She deals with death both at the level of the individual and larger mass trauma events, which has enabled her work on memory.

She is a Postdoctoral researcher with the End-of-Life Care Research Group at Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and is working with Prof. Dr. Lara Pivodic on the ERC-funded project 'TRAJECT,' which aims to create a novel framework for identifying the end-of-life trajectories of older people with serious chronic illness.

In 2022, Khyati was selected as the Bajaj Visiting Research Fellow at the South Asia Institute, Harvard University. Currently, she is an Honorary Research Associate at the South Asia Institute, Harvard University, and a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Death and Society (CDAS), University of Bath.

Khyati secured her B.A.(Honors) and M.A. degrees in Psychology and an M.Phil. degree in Anthropology from the University of Delhi. She completed her PhD from the Department of Psychology at the University of Delhi, India, and was awarded the Commonwealth scholarship funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to pursue a split-site PhD in collaboration with the Department of Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck College, University of London. Her PhD project, psychosocial in its nature, focused on the cultural construction of the dead in Hinduism and Judaism through culture-specific death rituals and mortuary techniques.

CDAS EVENTS

Crisis, What Crisis? In conversation with Amanda Coleman and CDAS Visiting Professor Lucy Easthope

21st May 2024 – 6:30pm-8pm

Online



In a world of disasters, emergencies and crises we have to be ready to respond quickly and effectively at a moment's notice. But what does this mean?

After decades of working in disaster management and crisis communication Lucy and Amanda will chat about their experiences, the learning and what has driven them on.

This relaxed conversation will share both the positive and the ugly moments dealing with some of the most significant crises in recent years. What is behind the approach they take? What are the biggest challenges? And how do they stay optimistic in the trying times?

After the conversation there will be a chance to put questions to them both.

[Book here](#)

Our attention is now turning to the annual conference in June (see earlier in this issue) and our anniversary plans for the next academic year when the centre will be TWENTY years old! We will be holding a series of events throughout the 2024-2025 UK academic year, to mark the past, present and future of the centre.

Watch this space for further details of the anniversary year.

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

SUPPORTED BY
NIHR National Institute for Health and Care Research

HULL UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH WOLFSON PALLIATIVE CARE RESEARCH CENTRE

Palliative and End-of-life care in the Intensive Care Unit

Do you have experience of receiving care on an Intensive Care Unit, either as a patient or family member?

We have funding for a 3 year project to improve how Intensive Care Units support patients and families through difficult and uncertain times.

We are looking for people with personal experience to join a panel to advise and support our project.

Training and learning opportunities available
We offer payment for expenses and your time

For more information email:
stephanie.meddick-dyson@nhs.net

Thank you, Stephanie Meddick-Dyson
(Academic Palliative Care Doctor with ICU experience)

CAN YOU HELP?

Palliative and End-of-life care in the Intensive Care Unit

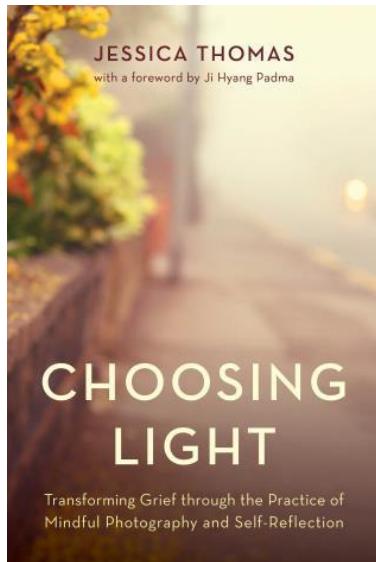
Stephanie Meddick-Dyson has been awarded an NIHR research Doctoral Fellowship to continue her work around implementation of ICU palliative care with the University of Hull and Wolfson Palliative Care.

Stephanie is looking to build a PPI panel to advise and support the project

For more information please email: stephanie.meddick-dyson@nhs.net

New book by Jessica Thomas ‘Choosing Light: Transforming Grief through the Practice of Mindful Photography and Self-Reflection’

Jessica presented her research for the CDAS conference in 2019 and via a full presentation in 2023, and she is excited to announce that her book ‘Choosing light: Transforming Grief through the practice of Mindful Photography and Self-Reflection’ is coming out in July and currently [available for pre-order HERE](#)



Mindful photography and self-reflection can be invaluable tools for grievers struggling to create meaning from loss. Learning to slow down, notice, create, and reflect inspires a sense of confidence, inner strength, gratitude, meaningful insight, and wisdom. Written for death and grief practitioners and educators as well as for those experiencing grief, *Choosing Light* teaches the Within and Without therapeutic method and how it can be transformative for individuals, groups, and communities. Guided steps and real-life exemplars guide readers through a healing journey to find authentic meaning and peace.

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Keening – A Festival Celebrating the Irish Wake

With special guests
Caitríona Ní Cheannabháin,
Kevin Toolis and Violinist Lisa Fuk’a’da.

Saturday 18th May 2024
The Oratory of The Old Covent, Muranny

Explore the traditions and ancient arts of the Irish Wake in Ireland's only Festival dedicated to celebrating the wonders of the Irish Wake.



Rediscover for yourself how our ancestors used keening, song, Sean Nós, poetry and storytelling to heal the wounds of mortality, overcome their grief and celebrate the sweet joys of life.

[**Find the full programme of events here**](#)

Fringe Arts Bath – Fallacious Memory

Venue: Walcot Chapel • BA1 5UG

Opening night: 6pm until late • Fri 24 May 2024

Open 12noon - 5pm daily • 25 May to 8 June 2024

Fully accessible, for full details see map : fringeartsbath.co.uk/map

*“I remember freedom, I remember love. I remember how I wanted it to be.
But it wasn't like that, my stories are made up, my memories are false”.*

A dynamic, eclectic, collection of multi-disciplinary works in which local and international artists explore the conception of memory - but not just memory in the conventional sense, here we delve deeper!!!

Fallacious Memory brings together the work of over 30 artists, from many different countries, exhibiting a tantalising mix of media including painting, photography, ceramics, textiles and video as well as live art performance. Creating a thought-provoking multi-sensual experience that explores, debates and tinkers with the process of remembering.

Fallacious Memory: <https://www.fringeartsbath.co.uk/memory> the film explores themes of immortality, consent and the use of dead woman's biological and digital bodies, which may be of interest to some CDAS folks. There are also a couple of other themes that may be of interest in the festival like the Children of Gaza Names Project, The Personal Shrine Project and Who Cares? (which explores artists as caregivers.)

Caught Between Slides of Screen

In both scientific and digital spaces women's bodies are divided, distributed and re-constructed, networked and summoned into being...

Caught Between Slides of Screen is a 7-minute video essay and filmic bricolage that explores how posthuman feminism can provide a lens for exploring distributed personhoods, cellular and digital immortality. Through examining fragility and the desire for control it aims to engage publics, drawing from posthuman feminisms and new materialism in ways that disrupt practices which commercialise immortality, and through both algorithmic selection and the proliferation of the AI gaze, flatten the social category of woman. The move towards digital/ bio genealogy practices, owned by large corporations, has created a convergence where DNA and personal digital data are being positioned as tools for immortality. In turning our gaze towards these practices, in which science fictions and technology corporations meet to form speculative products and patents – which market or promise immortality – this position piece, thinks about how posthuman feminism can offer alternate, if speculative, forms of immortality.

Exhibiting Artists:

Abi Pert, Carol-lyn, Catherine Gregg, Claudia Roma O'Brien, Dan Wood, David Block, Fionula Machale, Helen Jury, Irene Makarov, James Elsewhere, Joanna Walter, Jocelyn

Brett, Joe Black Ardy, Kai Kai, Konstantin Kaufman, Lara Bell, Laura Fisher, Lauren Mc Dougall, Lily Marvin, Lina A, Marina Belikova, Michaela Smart, Olga Ast, Olja Simic, Parul Bouvart, Pip Woolf, Ren Wolfe, Richard Bowers, Seraphine Dolphins, Stacey Pitsillides, Theo Weywood, Valerie Ellis, Victoria Bone, Wenshai Harman.

[Find more info here](#)

The Cemetery Research Group Colloquium

Full details of the colloquium in York, UK on 24th May are now available [here](#).

Scholars with an interest in disposing the dead will find an engaged and expert audience. The event is international and interdisciplinary, covering subjects across the social sciences and humanities. Indeed, the very interdisciplinary nature of the papers and the audience makes for particularly fruitful dialogue. [Past conference abstracts](#) give a good indication of the breadth of interest represented here. This is an informal event with a strong emphasis on discussion, and is a particularly supportive environment for scholars new to this field.

The Collective for Radical Death Studies (CRDS) – Care, Cure & Survival: A Look at the Visual AIDS Archive



Curated by Amelie Foumena Nkodo

In her 2022 work, “Viral Cultures: Activist Archiving in the Age of AIDS”, feminist archivist & scholar **Marika Cifor** describes the power of the archive as a “prodigiously holistic cure” for HIV/AIDS. The archival cure heals the collective body, mind and spirit in contrast to medical curative practices which locate care in the elimination of disability. This understanding of the politicized community archive as a remedy for social death provides us with a framework for exploration for our June Rad Death Reads (also in honor of Pride Month).

Over the course of 4 weeks, we will examine archival materials paired with multidisciplinary scholarly work in history, sociology, anthropology, and public health, in order to connect historical political art activism to contemporary movements that use artistic language to advocate for HIV/AIDS destigmatization, healthcare access, and disability justice. Along with Marika Cifor, we will encounter the work of **artists in the VISUAL AIDS collection**, along with theory by **Robert Atkins, Marty Fink, Jules Gill-Peterson, Benji Hart, Robb Hernandez, Alexandra Juhasz, Theodore Kerr, Joshua Lubin-Levy, Cindy Milstein, Ricardo Montez, David Wojnarowicz**, to steer our discussions of the relationships between the archive, cultural production and death.

We will journey through the Visual AIDS Archive, a rich repository that spans photography, art, and multimedia, capturing the diverse and evolving narratives of HIV/AIDS globally. This archive will allow us to piece together the legacies of HIV/AIDS activism that continue to shape our understanding of experiences of collective illness, disability and loss as a call to action.

[Book here](#)

International Death, Grief and Bereavement Conference

Diversity Throughout the Lifespan

Pre-conference: 2nd June 2024

Conference: 3rd - 5th June 2024

Student Union, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 521 East Avenue N, La Crosse WI 54601

In our diverse and rich world, it is important to explore global, cultural and ethical contexts of the death, dying and grief experience among dying persons, family members, healthcare providers and within support circles and systems.

Death, dying, grief and bereavement are impacted by a multitude of factors including age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, society, religion, sexuality and more.

2024 Conference topics will explore:

- How these factors impact end of life care and the grieving process
- How our relationship to grief changes throughout the lifespan
- How to better understand the intersection between diversity, in all its forms, and death, dying and bereavement

Full conference details can be [found here](#)

A Social History of Sudden Death: The Victorian Inquest

Online

Tuesday 18th June 2024 – 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Sophie Michell investigates nineteenth century inquests and the revelatory window they open onto Victorian life, death, and social mores.

Sudden fatalities often excited great social and medical curiosity in the nineteenth century. In fact, public inquests into suspicious deaths regularly became community events, drawing people from all social classes together in the investigation. Inquest proceedings, which were often reported verbatim in local press, offer a remarkable insight into Victorian life, death and society, lifting the curtain on domestic life, working practices, and interpersonal relationships.

[Curious Histories](#) is very pleased to introduce Sophie Michell, whose talk will examine the unusual role of the inquest in nineteenth century Britain. It features cases both celebrated and obscure - including that of Sidney Barker, victim of Brighton's notorious Chocolate Cream Poisoner!

[Book here](#)

3RD ANNUAL END-OF-LIFE DOULA INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM – BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Glasgow, Scotland (Online and in-person)

July 1st – 2nd

Join for two days of cutting edge research, public discussions, and a practitioner workshop! This year we will be hosting nine speakers from five countries, each who will be sharing some of the first innovative research about end-of-life doulas that is beginning to emerge from different parts of the world. On Day Two we will be hosting a Discussion Forum with a range of health and social care stakeholders about what they are interested in learning about (and from) end-of-life doulas. We will also offer a practitioner workshop that employs a series of case studies to delve into the issues and different ways in which end-of-life doulas can support people with dementia, multi-generational households, and those who request assisted dying, among other concerns. More generally, we have ensured time for Symposium participants to connect through our in-person and online socials, and finally, we've organized for a public event to share national and international perspectives about what end-of-life doulas do.

The Symposium is free and open to anyone who is interested in this topic, but there are a limited number of spaces and registration is required. Registration links are below.

[Book here](#)

Suicide Bereavement UK's international conference

26th September 2024

Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel



Keynote speaker:

Dr Frank Campbell (USA); Internationally recognised leader in suicide bereavement for over 30 years. Frank developed the Active Postvention Model (APM), which supports families bereaved by suicide at the scene. He is also a US Army veteran and has been a contributor to the Tragedy Assistance Programme for Survivors (TAPS) for military families bereaved by suicide.

Suicide Bereavement UK's hybrid conference will discuss the following issues:

- The development of an Active Postvention Model in the USA
- Lived experience of losing more than one family member
- The development of the first postvention support pack for primary care
- Suicide bereavement research
- Depression and its impact
- Suicide clusters
- The importance of language when engaging with those bereaved by suicide
- The experience of finding a stranger who has died by suicide

Workshops

- Laughter Yoga (an actual 60 minute laughter yoga session). Those that attend are required to engage in the whole activity. **Limited numbers available**
- Suicide bereavement and self compassion
- The Forcer Protocol for missing veterans (presented by Gtr Manchester Police and the founder of the Forcer Protocol) wife whose veteran husband died by suicide
- Evidence-based postvention guidelines when a colleague dies by suicide
- Suicide prevention in Punjabi communities

For more information about the event, [CLICK HERE](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Call for Papers: Crime, Death and the Gothic Imagination

Cfp online symposium: 'Crime, Death and the Gothic Imagination'

9 September 2024

Organisers: Professor Ruth Penfold-Mounce, University of York
Professor Lizzie Seal, University of Sussex

Mysterious deaths suggesting foul play, unexplained occurrences surrounding the dead and gloom filled environments suggestive of suffering and violence. The relationship between death, crime and the gothic is a well-established trope in literature and gothic studies. However, the relationship has much potential for insight and debate from engaging a broad interdisciplinary approach.

We invite short abstracts for presentations, panels and roundtables for an online symposium on interdisciplinary aspects of crime, death and the gothic imagination.

We aim to put scholars into dialogue from criminology, death studies, gothic studies, literature, film and media studies, history, sociology, cultural studies and beyond. We are interested in contributions that address this topic in relation to 'fact', 'fiction' and the liminal space in-between.



Please send abstracts of around 100 words by **15 July 2024** stating your name, affiliation and the title of the presentation to e.c.seal@sussex.ac.uk

Panel and roundtable proposals are also welcome. Panels consist of four presentations; roundtables can adopt a flexible format. Please include all abstracts for panels. State the key contact for correspondence and include names and contact details for all participants.

Special Issue of Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences "Grief in the Digital Age"

The Special Issue aims to explore the role of digital technologies for grief experiences

Grief is a complex phenomenon that can be characterised as an emotional process in response to the irrevocable loss of a significant person. In recent years, research at the intersection of phenomenology and empirically informed philosophy of mind has gained momentum (e.g., Cholbi, 2021; Fuchs, 2018; Markovic, 2022; Millar & Lopez-Cantero, 2022; Ratcliffe, 2023). This research has identified and analysed key aspects of the phenomenology and emotional structure of bereavement responses. However, the influence of socio-cultural practices and technologies on the structure and quality of grief experiences deserves further exploration and scrutiny. This is particularly true for death technologies (*deathtech*). Death technologies can be defined as personalized and individualized artificial intelligence (AI) systems, which are marketed as effective resources for the regulation of grief experiences and commemoration. Recently, death technologies have received considerable philosophical attention (e.g., Buben, 2015; Krueger & Osler, 2022; Lindemann, 2022; Stokes, 2021). However, this research has largely focussed on the ethical and moral implications of death technologies, rather than the systematic development of descriptive accounts of interactions between grieving agents and death technologies. This special issue aims to bring together research in phenomenology, philosophy of mind, the cognitive sciences, and the philosophy of AI to help better understand the impact of death technologies on the structure, quality, and temporal unfolding of grief within and across agents, situational contexts, and cultures.

Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- How can agent-deathtech interactions be described from a phenomenological perspective?
- To what extent can accounts of 4E cognition and situated affectivity help understand agent-deathtech interactions?
- How do death technologies influence and shape grief experiences?
- To what extent does the wide availability of death technologies change our attitudes towards our own mortality?
- To what extent does the wide availability of death technologies change how we anticipate the death of significant persons?
- What are the phenomenological and moral implications of the actual or anticipated impact of death technologies on grief?

Invited contributors:

- Adam Buben
- Robert Brooks
- Nora Lindemann
- Mianna Lotz
- Thomas Montefiore
- Katarzyna Nowaczyk-Basińska
- Paul-Mikhail Catapang Podosky
- Patrick Stokes

Guest Editors:

- Regina E. Fabry, Department of Philosophy, Macquarie University, regina.fabry@mq.edu.au
- Marilyn Stendera, School of Humanities and Social Inquiry, University of Wollongong, mstendera@uow.edu.au.

Submission deadline:

Please submit your paper by **February 1 2025**.

Word limit:

Submissions larger than 10,000 words (including references) are discouraged.

Online submission:

Please use the journal's Online Manuscript Submission System (Editorial Manager®).

Author Submission's Guidelines:

Authors are asked to prepare their manuscripts according to the journal's standard Submissions Guidelines.

Please access the Collection Page for further information. For any questions, feel free to contact the Lead Guest Editor Regina Fabry (regina.fabry@mq.edu.au).

4th Lifting The Lid International Festival of Death and Dying 15th – 17th November 2024



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF DEATH & DYING

If you are interested in joining us as a presenter or workshop facilitator, [please submit a proposal via this form](#) below by July 30th

They will be making selections by mid-August so that the event can be publicised a bit earlier this year.

Grief Care: Religion and Spiritual Support in Times of Loss

Deadline for manuscript submissions: 30th September 2024

More info and submission point here:

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/9CSTES3W15

This Special Issue exploring how grief care integrates religion and spiritual identities. Understanding the complexities of grief within the contexts of care and religion/spirituality is paramount for several reasons. First, the field of caregiving, whether in healthcare or end of life care settings or informal networks, recognising the manifestations of grief is crucial for providing effective support to those who are grieving. Moreover, delving into the religious and spiritual aspects of grief unveils unique coping mechanisms, rituals and belief systems that influence individual's experiences of loss and healing.

Furthermore, exploring the interface between religion/spirituality and grief care enriches our understanding of human resilience, existential meaning-making, and the ways individuals navigates life's most profound challenges. By fostering of an interdisciplinary dialogue this Special Issue aims to advance knowledge, stimulate critical reflection, and contribute to the development of innovative practices that honour the complexity of grief within diverse religious and spiritual landscapes.

Fresh developments in the disciplines that consistently make significant contributions to our understanding of religious personality, authority, devotion, and community - disciplines ranging from psychology, sociology, and anthropology to history, art history, philosophy, literary criticism, and political science – fuel general, as well as scholarly, interest in the world's religions.

Religions is inviting innovative and comparative contributions. Please consider Religions as an exceptional, exciting enterprise ready to reward your trust, attention, and participation.

DeathTechTeam is recruiting for a FULLY FUNDED PhD

PhD position for the DeathTech Research Initiative

Project Summary

We have a fully-funded PhD scholarship to support high-quality research training opportunities for emerging scholars in the interdisciplinary field of death studies, and are seeking exceptional applicants who are interested in pursuing graduate research study under the direction of our world-leading

View full summary

Degrees Available for this project

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Available Scholarships

Melbourne Research Scholarship The scholarship benefits include: - Full fee offset for up to four years - A stipend of \$37,000 per year pro rata (2024 full time study rate) for up to 3.5 years. - Benefits as per the Graduate Research Scholarship Terms and Conditions

Stipend Amount

AUD 37,000 p.a. pro rata

Project Details

The PhD Project

The DeathTech Research Team invites prospective applicants with an interest in projects aligned with our research focus to submit an Expression of Interest for a PhD. Project proposals are invited from a broad range of disciplines in one or more areas that align with the research focus of our team. These include but are not limited to:

- Digital technologies and death, memorialising, and afterlives.
- Death Spaces and Design (e.g. cemeteries, crematoria, etc.).
- Personalisation in deathcare practices.
- Funerals and memorialisation practices.
- The dead body and material remains.

Anticipated project start date

Mon Mar 03 2025

[Find more info and apply here](#)

Pre-need Funeral Market and Social Justice

Investigating the structure and regulation of the pre-need funeral market and its contribution to social justice. The School for Business and Society is delighted to offer this postgraduate research studentship opportunity.

- **Funding:** A yearly stipend of £19,237 (in line with current UKRI rates) and fee waiver at home student fee rates for three years
- **Academic year:** 2024/25
- **Open to:** UK (home) students
- **Qualification level:** Postgraduate research

Applications for 2024/25 are open until Friday 31 May 2024, 5pm BST

The School for Business and Society was formed in 2022 through a merger between The York Management School and the Department of Social Policy and Social Work. Our research is cross-disciplinary and draws together activities that other universities normally locate in separate Business Schools and Schools of Public Policy. Reflecting York's long-standing strengths in both of these areas we are the largest organisational unit at the University, and we are at the forefront of the University's mission to be a University for public good.

As part of our investment in the next generation of academic researchers, we are pleased to offer this PhD Project studentship. The successful candidate will join a large and diverse postgraduate research community in the School for Business and Society.

[Find more info and apply here](#)

AI and the Post-Mortem: Shaping Legal Frameworks for Digital Remains

Department: College of Business and Social Sciences

Contract Type: Fixed Term

Basis: Full Time

Closing Date: Monday 3rd June at 23.59 (UK time)

Supervisor: Dr Edina Harbinja

Applications are invited for a three-year PhD studentship, supported by the College of Business and Social Sciences to be undertaken within the Aston Law School at Aston University.

The position is available to start in October 2024.

Financial Support

This studentship includes a bursary to cover the fees rate, plus an annual maintenance allowance of £19,237.

Background to the Project

In the digital era, where 98% of UK adults were internet users by 2023, the inevitability of leaving behind a digital footprint has become a significant legal and societal concern. The surge in online presence, amplified during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, has elevated the volume and value of digital legacy and digital remains. Holograms and chatbots, which revive the deceased in virtual form, are now a reality, prompting ethical and legal dilemmas related to autonomy, identity, privacy, personhood and dignity.

Currently, the UK legal landscape lacks provisions for the management of digital remains, with existing data protection laws in the UK protecting the living only. Although individuals typically have the ability to determine the destiny of their wealth after their passing, a similar level of control is not granted to their digital remains. This issue is a central concern in the context of this research project.

The study aims to address this legal and social challenge by advancing theoretical and legal frameworks, introducing novel conceptualisations and taxonomies of digital legacy, digital remains, post-mortem privacy, dignity, and personality. The central technological focus lies in investigating how AI systems can grapple with the complexities of one's digital afterlife and the protection of personal data.

The project unfolds through three critical tasks:

1. **Conceptualising Digital Remains:** A novel legal conceptualisation and taxonomy of digital remains, adapting to the nuances introduced by AI, virtual realities, and emerging technologies.
2. **Reimagining Normative and Legal Protections:** Evaluating and redefining normative and legal requirements for safeguarding digital remains, ensuring their dignified post-mortem treatment.
3. **Building Compatible Legal Frameworks:** Exploring legal (and ethical) frameworks where AI systems have the potential to integrate seamlessly, encompassing the interpretation of wills, disposition and management of digital legacy, protection of the deceased's personality interest post-mortem, and aiding in end-of-life and diminishing capacity issues.

The outcome of this research project is a novel legal and conceptual framework designed to develop AI systems in this field. This framework addresses the legal intricacies surrounding

end-of-life considerations and post-mortem protection of digital remains. The interdisciplinary approach, including a comparative legal perspective, not only contributes to the international research agenda but also paves the way for a more comprehensive understanding of the evolving dynamics at the intersection of AI and legal frameworks.

Person Specification

The successful candidate should hold a Masters degree in law, business, management, the social sciences, or related disciplines, with a Merit overall (or equivalent) with a dissertation/research element, PLUS a First or Upper Second Class Honours degree (or an equivalent qualification from an overseas institution).

Contact information

For formal enquiries about this project please contact Dr Edina Harbinja
e.harbinja@aston.ac.uk

Submitting an application

Your application must include:

1. English language copies of the **transcripts and certificates** for all your higher education degrees, including any Bachelor degrees.
2. A **Research Proposal Statement** detailing your understanding of the research area, how you would approach the project, and a brief review of relevant literature. Be sure to use the title of the research project you are applying for. There is no set format or word count.
3. A **personal statement** which outlines any further information which you think is relevant to your application, such as your personal suitability for research, career aspirations, possible future research interests, and further description of relevant employment experience.
4. **Two academic referees** who can discuss your suitability for independent research. References must be on headed paper, signed and dated no more than 2 years old. At least one reference should be from your most recent University. You can submit your references at a later date if necessary.
5. Evidence that you meet the **English Language requirements**. If you do not currently meet the language requirements, you can submit this at a later stage.
6. A copy of your **passport**. Where relevant, include evidence of settled or pre-settled status.

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