



Centre for Death & Society

Newsletter

December 2020

[Director's Note](#)

[CDAS COVID Resources](#)

- [Publications](#)
- [Events](#)
- [Calls for Papers](#)

[CDAS News](#)

[CDAS Community News](#)

[Events](#)

[Call for Papers](#)

Director's Note

December 2020

2020. Oh my god. What a year.

But if I am honest about this past year, it actually started for me on November 29, 2019. A year ago right now is when my father was in a St. Paul, Minnesota Intensive Care Unit after a massive cardiac arrest at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. He and my mom had just returned from a cruise in the Bahamas, whereupon he decided to suddenly collapse onto my mom at the top of an escalator as they went to the car rental counter. He was resuscitated by airport first responders and then spent the next two-months recovering in an ICU, the same hospital's neurology ward, and then a rehabilitation care facility in my hometown. Right before my father's cardiac arrest, my mother was diagnosed with very early stage colon cancer that could be remedied with surgery. We all agreed mom's cancer would be 2020's most pressing issue. Well...



I have written before about these experiences in my Director's Notes but I wanted to end 2020 with this personal reflection: Both my parents are still alive in good health. My dad lived and in the face of known medical science recovered (even his Doctors can't really explain it). So did my Mom even though she required multiple hospital stays to manage her post-surgery recovery during the pandemic's first-wave and never once did she contract COVID-19.

Still, the relief I feel knowing my parents survived 2020 remains tempered by the fact that many friends saw loved ones die (especially parents) from COVID-19; years before they needed to die. That part of 2020 will stick with me for the rest of my life, especially as vaccines begin to take hold and the world will collectively watch individuals die entirely preventable and truly unnecessary COVID-19 related deaths.

Here's to hoping everyone will end 2021 bursting with antibodies from a successful global vaccination programme. My parents will roll-up their sleeves for their shots as soon as they can and I will do the same.

CDAS will be launching a series of online seminars in the New Year after I spent way too time devising overly-complicated plans that then became far more manageable after I saw the error of my ways. We'll make sure and announce a schedule as soon as it is finalised. As well, more information about the CDAS 2021 conference will hit these pages and e-mail inboxes in early 2021, most likely in February.

Finally, a note of thanks to Dr. Hannah Rumble, who is leaving CDAS as a research fellow after putting in much hard work on the Direct Cremation research project over the last few years. Hannah will remain a Centre for Death and Society Associate, however, and continue to make valuable contributions to CDAS in the coming years.

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](#).

December 2020 Covid-19 Information

Publications

Hefel, Johanna & Randall Matthew: "[Life is now quiet and calm, during these days sometimes too quiet.](#)" A diary dialogue.
Austria, Vorarlberg, 25 March – 27 April 2020

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.

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 **page 12**.

[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

[National Bereavement Network](#)

The pandemic has highlighted crucial research questions that are directly related to COVID-19 and the impact of lockdown on all bereaved adults and children. At the National Bereavement Alliance and the Childhood Bereavement Network, we have been approached by a number of research teams over the last three months, and are aware of several studies underway and others planned. Inspired by the work of the NIHR cross-ARC Palliative and End of Life Care collaboration co-chaired by Professor Irene Higginson and Professor Stephen Barclay, at which bereavement emerged as a key theme at the most recent meeting, we have:

- Set up a [public database](#) for bereavement researchers to list current studies or those that are planned (whether COVID-19 specific or broader) – please do upload details of your current or planned studies here if you are happy for these to be publicly available;
- Published a [discussion paper](#) summarising findings from three projects that have explored bereavement research gaps and priorities in the UK. It's not exhaustive, but we hope it will be a useful prompt for further discussion.

CDAS NEWS

Recent publications

Immerse UK teamed up with Barclays Eagle Labs for a free webinar on 25 November to explore how immersive technologies can play a role in palliative care and addressing grief

[Watch the webinar recording here](#)

In Dialogue: How Writing to the Dead and the Living Can Increase Self-Awareness in Those Bereaved by Addiction.

Dr Christina Thatcher recently published a [research article in the *OMEGA – Journal of Death and Dying*](#) which explores how writing can increase self-awareness in those bereaved by addiction and cites both Christine Valentine and Tony Walter.

CDAS Community News

Dr Claire Moon (Sociology, London School of Economics) is looking for a fixed term Research Officer (6 months full time, or 12 months part time) to work with her on her Wellcome Trust funded project 'Human Rights, Human Remains'. Ideally, applicants should have a background in science, technology and society studies (STS) with an interest/expertise in death studies, humanitarianism and/or human rights. Vacancy details are [here](#) and the project website [here](#). Applications must be in by 4 January 2021.

There is an exciting opportunity to take on the Editor-in-Chief role for Bereavement Care, as the journal transitions to open access publishing by the charity Cruse. The deadline for applications of interest is 4th January 2021. Details can be found here: <https://www.cruse.org.uk/about-cruse/work-us/editor-chief-bereavement-care-journal>

Before I Go Solutions® Accredited Intensive Training in End of Life Plan Facilitation

Applications from every country are invited for the next intake of this online course to become a licensed facilitator, beginning 8th February.

As a result of Covid-19, this accredited course has been re-organised and is now available in an Intensive format, over 3 months. Divided into 3 parts, you begin with creating your own end of life plan. Part 2 covers the practicals of doing death differently, and part 3, the practicing of facilitating others in both an offline and online setting.

It will be primarily of interest to health professionals, counsellors, coaches, educators, celebrants or others interested in helping people to prepare well for a good end of life, no matter how it happens, and to take this planning beyond the conversation stage to getting decisions taken and written down.

By the end of the course, graduates will be able to successfully support others in creating their own plans. Ongoing mentoring and support resources are then available.

For more information, see <https://beforeigosolutions.com/big-training-intensive/>

Postgraduate study opportunities at the Open University

There are several ways to study at postgraduate level at the Open University if you are interested in pursuing doctoral level training, especially in the field of death, dying and bereavement. These include, for example, ESRC-funded PhDs as part of the Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership with a deadline of 12 Jan 2021. <https://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/CCS452/esrc-funded-grand-union-doctoral-training-partnership-studentship>

Also, the OU offers Professional Doctorates in Education as well as Health and Social Care with a deadline of 31 Jan 2021. http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/professional-doctorates_process These are open to both those with professional experience or those who are experts by experience. These are part-time.

General information about research degrees at the Open University can be found here: <http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees>

Events

Round Table - The Future of Death

On the 11th December there was a round table at the UNESCO Futures Literacy Summit about the Future of Death. It discussed How will we face it, embrace it, delay it, avoid it, and mourn it in the times to come?

This is Envisioning's landing page with the list of all events from the Summit:
<https://www.envisioning.io/futures-literacy>

To watch the round table on the Future of Death click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1XVBwEcuRQ&list=PLGEhrekBJSK5SaQkY2397dzetb1FDKmtQ&index=10>

Birth and Death: relations and connections Morgan Centre seminar with Kath Woodward and Sophie Woodward

Thursday 17th December 2-3pm

Birth and death are usually conceived in opposition: birth as a beginning, death an end, birth as a source of hope and optimism and death the cause of grief. In this talk we will outline our approach taken in our book Birth and Death, by thinking about birth and death in relation to each other to problematise these oppositions by highlighting how birth and death as part of life and living and their profound and routine connections.

Kath Woodward is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the Open University.

Sophie Woodward is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Manchester.

For more information and to register for the event click [here](#)



Evidence-based Suicide
Bereavement Training

Evidence-based • Evaluated • Engaging • Effective

Postvention Assisting those Bereaved By Suicide

Dates released for September, November and December 2020 in Manchester

- **More dates added for 2021**

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

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>

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)



EMERGENCY
SERVICES
POSTVENTION
RESPONSE

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

January 2021

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).

ESPR training will be launched January 2021

Cost per person: £299 + VAT*

Venue: TBC

To register on ESPR training or to enquire about in-house ESPR training, please contact: paul.higham@suicidebereavementuk.com

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

Call for Papers

Call for short contributions (500-2000 words): What do we talk about when we talk about queer death? (Whatever Journal)

Whatever. A Transdisciplinary Journal of Queer Theories and Studies (<https://whatever.cirque.unipi.it>) is inviting submissions for short contributions (500-2000 words) to be collected in a multi-authored article entitled “What do we talk about when we talk about queer death?”. The article will introduce the themed section *Queer thanatologies* (edited by A.C. Corradino, C. Dell’Aversano, R. Langhi and M. Petricola) that will appear in *Whatever’s* next issue in summer 2021.

Queer death studies has recently emerged as a transdisciplinary field of inquiry investigating the cultural performances related to death, dying, grief, and disposal from the perspective of queer theory, defined as a hermeneutical stance whose premises could be summed up as follows: «queer states that any construction of identity (including LGBT ones) is a performance constituting a subject which does not “exist” prior to it, and encourages to bring into being (both as objects of desire, of fantasy and of theoretical reflection and as concrete existential and political possibilities) alternative modes of performance» (Dell’Aversano 2010: 74-75). Driven by the will to «reconceptualis[e] death, dying and mourning in relentlessly norm-critical ways» (Radomska, Mehrabi, and Lykke 2020: 82), the field of queer death studies is developing and expanding in a number of directions. Some center on an «overall attention to necropolitics and necropowers» (*ibidem*: 85); some focus on peripheral, non-normative, and anti-normative identities, among which are those falling within the LGBT+ spectrum; some devote to non-humans as both subjects and objects of grief; some explore the construction of corpses as objects of desire in literature and the arts, as well as their position in spiritual and other kinds of political activism; some are grounded in category theory and the social sciences and aimed at the theoretical deconstruction of the life/death polarity itself, considered as one of the most fundamental constructs for the development of every human culture; some critically-affirmatively take a posthuman and/or decolonial point of departure in life/death, considered as a spiritual-material continuum, encouraging an ecophilosophical focus on the vibrancies of all non/living matter beyond the dualisms (mind-soul/body, culture/nature, human/non-human), cherished by Western modernity.

We encourage scholars, activists, thanatologists, and other queer death friends working in any field to contribute to the ongoing development of queer death studies by answering the question “what do we talk about when we talk about queer death?” in a bite-sized format. Your theoretical reflections, case studies, notes, and thoughts are invaluable for mapping this ever-expanding field.

Short contributions should be sent to Mattia Petricola (mattia.petricola@gmail.com) by **January 15, 2021**. For any question or information, for expressing your interest in this publication or discussing your contribution, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Postgraduate Bioethics Conference 2021 - call for abstracts

24th June 2021 - 25th June 2021. School of Law and Social Justice Building, University of Liverpool.

The University of Liverpool is excited to welcome delegates and presenters to the annual Postgraduate Bioethics Conference. The theme of PGBC 2021 is 'Voices and Values in Bioethics'.

Bioethical principles can provide a steer on the most contentious of issues, and we see bioethics being deployed in the courtroom, in clinical practice, in policy, in academic thinking, and in decision-making at the level of the individual. Our theme invites papers that discuss how bioethical principles are interpreted and applied in different settings and disciplines, and the conflict or coherence between interpretations.

For example:

- Why is value placed on certain principles over others?
- Whose voice is most prominent?
- How can voices that have traditionally been marginalised help to enrich our understanding of bioethics?
- What can the voices of bioethics learn from one another?

It also welcomes papers that use theories such as feminist theory, queer theory, and disability studies to disrupt traditional assumptions of bioethics, and provide a new voice on bioethical issue and values.

The conference welcomes applications from both postgraduate research students and postgraduate taught students to present a paper, poster, or take part in a soapbox debate.

For more information on abstract requirements and to submit an abstract, please visit:

<https://www.postgradbioethics.com/pgbc-2021>

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

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.

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

Contact us

Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Web: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centrefordeath

Twitter: [@cendeathsociety](https://twitter.com/cendeathsociety)

To unsubscribe, please email cdas@bath.ac.uk