



Centre for Death & Society

Newsletter

November 2020

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Director's Note

November 2020

The following **official** Centre for Death and Society announcement should surprise exactly no one, but the CDAS 2021 Annual Conference will go online June 11 and 12.



A quick recap: last spring we cancelled the 2020 conference because of, well...and decided to hold said conference in June 2021. I was waiting to see if it might be possible to hold the 2021 conference in person but it looks unlikely. It's also important for potential conference attendees to know what they will be attending!

So, anyone who submitted an abstract for 2020 will automatically be eligible to attend and present at the 2021 conference.

Team CDAS is working on setting up the virtual conference platform and we will send out more information on that as soon as we can.

The 2020 conference information is below, updated, you will note, for 2021....

It is a bit jarring to re-read the 2020 conference description, given that we posted it months before COVID-19. This is my way of saying we welcome engagement with pandemic topics at the June 2021 conference.

Because I mean, honestly, what could possibly go wrong in 2021?!?!

In the Year 2021: Death, Dying, Technology and Human Mortality

In a world...

Where over the last twenty-years, first world popular culture's interest in human mortality significantly expanded and death and dying achieved new levels of media attention. What has the last twenty-years of death, dying, and technology produced for human mortality?

And what might the next twenty-years hold?

What role does technology now play in the everyday experiences of human mortality?

The June 2021 Centre for Death and Society Annual Conference will focus on Death, Dying, Technology and Human Mortality and what the discovery and re-discovery of human technology means for power, sovereignty, bioethics, the rule of law, global pandemics old and new, and most importantly – death and dying.

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](#).

November 2020 Covid-19 Information

Publications

Frisby, H., [When circumstances allow ...': funerals in the time of Covid-19](#)

Hanson, L., [We Will All Be Changed: Palliative Care Transformation in the Time of COVID-19](#)

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

Fang, C., Wilson, J., & Smith, P., [End of life care and bereavement support amid COVID-19](#)

Troyer, J., [Five Lessons that Dead Bodies can Teach Us](#)

Vicente da Silva, A., [Funerals during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Teggi, D., [Care homes as hospices: the problem with long-term care provision towards the end of life in England](#)

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.

Covid-19: Exploring Resilience, Recovery and Lessons Learnt Internationally

It is with deep regret that Suicide Bereavement UK have had to cancel the face to face COVID-19 seminar on the 19th November.

This is due to the combination of government restrictions and the fact that this seminar had been specifically designed for those working on the frontline, caring for those with COVID-19.

We are mindful that professionals will have to focus all their attention on responding to the second wave and will not have time to attend this seminar.

However, we will look at delivering the face to face seminar later next year (date not confirmed). **Please note, this event will not be transferred online.**

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 13**.

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

“*Funeral Practices and Grief*” Birrell, J., Schut, H., Stroebe, M., Anadria, D., Newsom, C., Woodthorpe, K., Rumble H. Corden A. and Smith, Y. has been accepted for publication in what will be the last ever edition of *Bereavement Care*. DOI: 10.1080/02682621.2020.1828774

This is a more accessible article based on our Omega article “[Cremation and grief: Are ways of commemorating the dead related to adjustment over time?](#)” *OMEGA: Journal of Death and Dying*, 81, 370–392.

CDAS Community News

Designs on Death: The Architecture of Scottish Crematoria

ASDS President Professor Hilary Grainger has a new book out, entitled *Designs on Death: The Architecture of Scottish Crematoria*.

The book has just been published by Birlinn (Edinburgh) and includes a Foreword by Professor Dame Sue Black, who was a plenary speaker at the DDD conference organised by CDAS in 2019.

Outside the Box: Everyday Stories of Death, Bereavement and Life

New book edited by Liz Rothschild. The best way to buy the book is from the publishers [PCCS](#). Also available from Waterstones and Amazon.

Launch event on **November 26th** to celebrate the publication with Liz Rothschild and other Guests. The event is FREE but you must register [here](#) to be sent the zoom link on the night.

Things we need to know and do before we die

A free, online recorded talk by Dr Barbara Gale (CEO St Nicholas Hospice Care) & Dr Erica Borgstrom (Lecturer in End of Life Care & Medical Anthropology, The Open University) as part of the Ageing Well Seminar Series at the Open University.

The talk and related resources can be accessed [here](#).

Spring Hill Recovery: Coping With Grief Following The Unexpected Death Of A Loved One From Drugs And/or Alcohol: A Step-By-Step Guide

"[Spring Hill Recovery](#) Centres offers a personalized addiction treatment approach to individuals struggling with addiction. We also offer an extensive, online database of article and guides related to mental health and substance abuse. Below is a link to our free grief guide to assist those in dealing with the loss of a loved one to drugs and alcohol. This guide, <https://springhillrecovery.com/coping-with-grief/> explains:

- How To Process The Loss Of A Loved One To Substance Abuse.
- Steps For Healing From The Loss of A Loved One Due To Addiction.
- Taking Care Of Yourself After The Death Of A Loved One.
- & much more."

Cruse Bereavement Care Online Volunteer Opportunity

Are you passionate about supporting bereaved people? An Online Volunteer position has arisen at Cruse Bereavement Care, the leading national charity for bereaved people.

As an Online Volunteer you will provide emotional support, information and signposting over email and/or social media to bereaved people and anyone else contacting Cruse's National Helpline.

We're looking for empathetic, warm candidates who are able to communicate with a diverse range of clients online and who have competent IT skills and a willingness to learn to use new systems

Full training and support will be provided and the commitment post-training is 2 hours per week for a minimum of 6 months.

To register your interest and to ask questions about the role, please email calum.kinsella@cruse.org.uk

Events

Suicide Bereavement: Using Our Collective Voice

DATE: Wednesday November 18th 2020

WHEN: 9am – 1.30pm (GMT)

Over 700 people from 18 countries across 3 continents are registered to attend Suicide Bereavement UK's international ONLINE conference on 18th Nov.



We will be launching the national suicide bereavement report, which is a collaboration between the University of Manchester and Support After Suicide Partnership.

Findings from the report will generate media, national and international interest.

Don't miss out on this international conversation.

More information: https://suicidebereavementuk.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SBUK_Conference_2020_flyer_online_v2.pdf

Please note that the conference will now be recorded and be available for 48 hours after the event, to allow you to watch it at your convenience.

The Good Grief Project: A Love That Never Dies – Charitable screening

Special online screening at 8pm 21st November.

All proceeds will be going to Children with Cancer UK and The Good Grief Project.

This is a live streamed event. It will be introduced by bereaved parents Deirdre & Liam Nolan and co-founders of the Good Grief Project, Jane Harris & Jimmy Edmonds. The film will be followed by a question and answer session.

Livestream ticket will provide you with a link (to be sent 3h before the show) to watch the film being streamed live from the Sundial Theatre including the post film Q&A.

[Register here](#)

25 NOVEMBER :: 17:00-18:30 (GMT)

End of Life, Grief + XR webinar

www.immerseuk.org/resources/end-of-life-grief-xr-webinar/



End of Life, Grief + XR Webinar

25th November 17:00-18:30

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.

This webinar is free to join, but [sign up](#) in advance is essential.

Confirmed speakers include:

Dr Sheila Popert | Medical Director of Prospect Hospice in Swindon

Dr John Troyer | Director of the Centre for Death and Society | University of Bath

Kelly Sinclair Vicars | Northern California-based Artist & Creative Producer

Sarah Ticho | Healthcare Lead | Immerse UK (moderator)



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

- **2nd December 2020**
- **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)

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.

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



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

Email: paul.higham@suicidebereavementuk.com

Tel: 01706 827359

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

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

Call for Papers

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

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