

Centre for  
Death & Society  
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

# Centre for Death & Society

## February 2023 Newsletter

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## Director's Note

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Welcome to the February 2023 edition of the CDAS newsletter. This month we bring you news of conferences, seminars, learning opportunities, and the announcement of our CDAS Conference keynote speakers, Dr Ruth Penfold Mounce and Professor Darcy Harris. Thank you to everyone who submitted an abstract to the conference; as with last year we had many more abstracts than we could accommodate and were delighted that the conference theme resonated with so many people. Whether or not you are a presenter at the conference, we hope you can join us on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May for what promises to be a really engaging and informative couple of days. Full details of the programme will be announced imminently.

In this paper we also share the 2025 Mortality Special Issue call for papers, on the theme of Innovation at the end of life. We hope to include some papers from the conference in the special issue, but also welcome original abstracts submissions by May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023. In the special issue call we have also shared some guidance on how to write a good abstract, so please take a look. Thanks too to those CDAS members who have volunteered to join the editorial board for the special issue: Jana Kralova, Mat Crawley, Diana Teggi, Alastair Comery and Chenyang Guo.

As always, we have events lined up in the calendar, with a CDAS InConversation between Visiting Fellow Tal Morse and former CDAS director John Troyer on 28<sup>th</sup> February, and a hybrid research seminar led by new(ish) director Jeremy on 28<sup>th</sup> March on deprivation of liberty in care settings, including palliative care. We hope you can join us online or in person for those.

Finally, we say congratulations to CDAS PhD student Alastair Comery for passing his confirmation and progressing onto his PhD study, and we welcome new CDAS members Dr Sarah Moore and Dr Peter Manning, and new CDAS Visiting Fellow Sibylle Erle. If you're interested in becoming a Visiting Fellow or Visiting Professor at the Centre, you can find out more [here](#).

Until next month

Kate and Jeremy

### **CDAS Conference keynotes announced**

We're delighted to let you know that we have two fantastic keynotes at the upcoming CDAS Conference. On day one Dr Ruth Penfold-Mounce from the University of York and organiser of the Death and Culture Network will talk about innovation in teaching and pedagogy, specifically about 'learning on the move'. On day two we welcome Professor Darcy Harris from King's University College at Western University, Canada, who will talk about sociopolitical grief - that is, conceptualising grief on a different scale, for example in the loss of policies, resources, ideologies and at a structural level.

More details about Ruth and Darcy's keynotes can be found [here](#). Both promise to be of interest to our CDAS community and beyond, so please share widely with your networks.

### **New CDAS members**

Welcome to new CDAS members Dr Sarah Moore and Dr Peter Manning, both sociologists in the Department of Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath. Sarah specialises in public narratives and accountability, and has written most recently about the Grenfell Inquiry here in the UK. Peter specialises in memory studies and atrocities, and with Sarah, Jordan and Kate co-authored a paper on remembering COVID-19, which has just been published in the journal *Sociology* (details below).

We also welcome new Visiting Fellow Sibylle Erle, who will be working with John Troyer.

### **New CDAS Publications**

#### ***Remembering and Narrativizing COVID-19: an early sociological take***

***Peter Manning, Sarah Moore, Jordan Tchilingirian and Kate Woodthorpe***

In this short paper, CDAS sociologists and sociologists of our department centre counterpart, the Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy and Society, come together to write about the UK Government's consultation on COVID commemoration and the upcoming COVID Inquiry. The paper reflects on conditions of memory making, the politics of blame, and how particular deaths are represented and 'consumed'.

## ***Social Epistemology Review: John Troyer's Technologies of the Human Corpse, Mark D. West***

Read [a new review](#) of CDAS member and former-director John Troyer's most recent book.

*"Technologies of the Human Corpse is an excellent introduction to those beginning their studies in thanatology; and a fine reminder to those who have been doing such work for a while that they come to the subject with a very personal, and truly embodied, set of concerns."*

## ***Death and Culture book series***

Following the move of the Death and Culture book series to the University of Bristol Press, the editorial leadership team has changed. With thanks to Jack Denham and Julie Rugg for all their work on the series to date, Ruth Penfold-Mounce is now joined by Open Thanatology lead Erica Borgstrom and CDAS's Kate Woodthorpe as series editors. As well as welcoming speculative proposals from authors, the editors will be actively seeking book proposals over the next few years and are very happy to have early conversations about topics and scope of potential publications.

You can visit their website [here](#).

## ***Learning opportunities***

### ***Ernest Becker's Pulitzer Prize Winning "The Denial of Death:"***

#### ***A Live, Online Reading & Discussion Group with Dr John Troyer***

Dates: Saturdays, May 27<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023

Time: 14:00 – 15:30 ET

Admission \$100 (Patreon Members) / \$125 General Admission

Winner of the Pulitzer prize in 1974, *The Denial of Death* was American cultural anthropologist Ernest Becker's attempt to develop a unified theory of human behavior. He argued that it was our capacity to grasp and contemplate our own mortality—and our need to suppress this knowledge—that was at the root of human culture and behavior, from genocide to altruism, religion to philosophy.

*The Denial of Death* was an unlikely phenomena in its time, even appearing in Woody Allen's classic film *Annie Hall*. Its legacy has been immense, impacting the humanities and the way we think about death awareness today. It also left its mark in the social sciences, where it inspired what is called Terror Management Theory (TMT), a much-contested psychological theory developed by social psychologists interested in testing Becker's assertions about death as a core motivator of human behavior.

In this six week reading group—led by Dr John Troyer, Death Studies Scholar-at-Large and Former Director of the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath—we will engage in a close reading of Becker’s seminal book, which this year is celebrating its 50th anniversary. We will situate it within the life history of the author, a Jewish American whose infantry group helped liberate a Nazi concentration camp. We also will examine the book as part of its cultural milieu, comparing it to similar titles published around the same time, and investigate its legacy in the humanities, the social sciences, the positive death movement, and more.

Find out more [here](#).

## **Upcoming CDAS events**

### ***InConversation***

#### ***Digital Necromancy: Users’ Perceptions of Digital Afterlife***

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

19:00 GMT

Location: online

Technologies of digital afterlife and posthumous communication are more developed than ever, and the possibilities for communicating with digital representations of people who perished are coming to fruition. Studies about digital engagement with death reveals contradicting trends. Whereas technologies designed for interacting with the dead have thus far failed, users reappropriate means of online communication that were not intended to facilitate communication with the dead – to facilitate precisely this practice.

This presentation searches for a fuller understanding of the changing attitudes toward death in light of emerging posthumous communication technologies (PCTs). Drawing on a national survey of Israeli Internet users, the study explores contemporary attitudes toward death and the digital afterlife and analyses users’ perceptions of emerging PCTs. Findings indicate that whereas the general public is still reluctant to adopt such technologies, digital literacy and willingness to access digital remains are significant predictors for considering the use of PCTs.

Register [here](#).

### ***Research Seminar***

#### ***Deprivation of Liberty in Care Homes***

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023

14:00 – 16:00 GMT

Location: HYBRID online and at University of Bath 3E 2.1, Claverton Down BA2 7AY

Please join us for this CDAS seminar, organised in conjunction with the Healthy Later Living Network and Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy and Society. Dr Lucy Series from the University of Bristol and Barry Graves - the Southwest Implementation Lead for Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and Colette O'Neil – Designated Professional for Safeguarding Adults at BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board, will be sharing their reflections on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards and their impact within care settings, including palliative care.

Register [here](#).

## ***CDAS Conference***

We had a terrific response to our call for abstracts and the programme is being finalised to be released in the next couple of weeks. With speakers from 15 countries, a mixture of presentations, panels, workshops, In Conversations, and performances, it promises to be an excellent couple of days. Watch our social media for the programme announcement.

For now, **save the dates: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May, all online.**

## ***Other events***

### ***International Symposium: Transparency in Healthcare***

Tuesday 7th March 2023

10:00 BST

Location: online and in-person

Transparency is a key aspiration and benchmark of the modern-day healthcare sector globally. It is meant to safeguard the interests of patients, researchers, taxpayers, and the public more broadly. Transparent conduct and decisions are therefore expected of individual clinicians, healthcare managers, policymakers, and private sector employees, to name a few. Transparency expectations are also formulated in relation to healthcare organisations, such as hospitals and professional associations, as well as decision-making processes, such as commissioning and priority setting. Nevertheless, the meaning, necessary ingredients, purpose, and unintended consequences of transparency are rarely discussed. Consequently, key healthcare actors may have divergent or conflicting expectations regarding transparency. In addition, unique approaches to enhancing transparency may be pursued in isolation by different organisations within a healthcare system, which sometimes results in important activities slipping through the “transparency net”. This international CASPS policy symposium will contribute to addressing these challenges by bringing together diverse research and practical perspectives on transparency with the overall aim of starting to develop

a shared understanding of what transparency is and what are the necessary preconditions for it to occur. Register [here](#).

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## CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

### **New Publications**

#### ***Talking About Death – A Pastoral Guide***

By Susan Walker

Final words are precious, yet many people never get to say or hear them. When the dying try to express what is important to them, fear and denial can make their families and friends steer the talk towards more cheerful topics. Honest conversation is often left to the professionals and grieving is made harder by regret and missed opportunity.

This empathetic book aims to equip ministers and pastoral carers to enable individuals overcome their fear, learn to talk about death openly, articulate what they most want to say and, in doing so, deepen the bonds of love and participate in what the Christian tradition calls ‘a good death’. Using examples and stories from the author’s own experience as a hospice chaplain, it explores:

- ❖ How the medicalisation of death has shaped contemporary attitudes
- ❖ Understanding theories of loss to engage with the strong feelings around death
- ❖ Societal and Christian approaches to talking about death and dying
- ❖ The benefits of good pastoral practice in this area
- ❖ Contemplating our own deaths.

In addition it offers a range of practical helps and further resources for talking about death.

Susan Walker is a minister in the United Reformed Church. Previously, Susan worked as a hospice chaplain. She gained a PhD for research into the attitudes and experiences of hospice patients and is the author of *Talking About End-of-Life Wishes* published by Grove Books.

Also available as an e-book.

**ISBN: 978 1 78622 463 7**

### **Participants Wanted**

#### **Exploring Attitudes About Death and Approaches to Dementia Care**

Are you a healthcare professional?

If yes we would like to invite you to complete a survey about approaches to care.

You will be asked to anonymously complete some questionnaires online. This should take about 15-20 minutes.

You will have the chance to be entered in a draw to win a £50 amazon voucher.

Interested? Please use the link to participate [here](#).

The poster and QR code can be found at the end of the newsletter.

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## CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

### ***Australian Death Studies Society: Mortality crises, funeral crises? Necropolitics in contemporary mass death contexts***

*Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 18:00 ACDT*

Episodes of mass death directly or indirectly related to human activity including but not limited to wars, mass crimes, terrorism, epidemics, earthquakes, floods and tsunamis leave societies to face a sudden and massive influx of corpses, both complete and dismembered. These paroxysmal situations immediately render visible the limitations of the grammars underlying ordinary funerals and rituals. Dead bodies *en masse* thus prove to be highly problematic at many levels, all the more so when they are fragmented or remain unidentified.

This public lecture investigates the various challenges raised by the funerary treatment of unidentified human remains and dead bodies' fragments in the aftermath of several examples of contemporary mortality crises. In these situations, human remains and cadaver fragments indeed co-exist with the living, often for a long time, and require each society to answer essential (philosophical or moral, but also legal and practical) questions about the status they are granted (from simple pieces of waste to sanctified relics), about the chain of custody they are submitted to, and about what funeral or burial arrangements can be organised. Indeed, in some cases, mortuary and funerary practices, as well as collective representations of death and the dead, have to be reshaped, while in other instances they have to be radically (re)invented in order to be able to deal with such problematic objects in such high volume.

Building on the works of philosopher Achille Mbembé (2006), political scientist Finn Stepputat (2014) and social anthropologists Katherine Verdery (1999), Francisco Ferrandiz and Tony Robben (2015), and focusing on the issue of dead body governance in contemporary mass death contexts, this public lecture sheds light on the treatment of incomplete bodies and cadaver fragments to reveal their powerful political dimension and the way they challenge the very capacity of each society to symbolically perpetuate itself.

**Elisabeth Anstett** is a social anthropologist, and a tenured Directrice de Recherche at the CNRS, a French state organisation that is also Europe's largest fundamental science agency. Elisabeth is a member of Adès (Anthropologie bio-culturelle, Droit, Ethique et Santé), an



interdisciplinary research unit based at the faculty of medical and paramedical sciences of Aix-Marseille University that produces interdisciplinary works on dead bodies and human remains management and care in mass violence or crisis contexts. Elisabeth is also co-editor of the Human Remains and Violence book series and an interdisciplinary full free Open Access academic journal with Manchester University Press. She has published widely on human remains and received funding from French and European organisations. A trained anthropologist, Elisabeth has considerable experience working with scholars of other disciplines, including but not limited to history, archaeology, law, political sciences and the medical sciences.

For more information about this event, feel free to liaise with joint organisers Romain Fathi and Kate Falconer at [romain.fathi@flinders.edu.au](mailto:romain.fathi@flinders.edu.au) and [k.falconer@uq.edu.au](mailto:k.falconer@uq.edu.au).

**This event will be held both in person at Flinders University, Adelaide, and online. Doors will open at 17:45 for a 18:00 start. Please register via [Eventbrite](#).**

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***Does the workplace understand grief?***

***This can happen webinar***

**9<sup>th</sup> March 14:00 – 15:00 GMT**

Most employees will suffer a bereavement during their working career.

We at This Can Happen are bringing together a panel of experts and those with personal stories to discuss this often ignored topic and how it affects mental wellbeing at work.

**Our speakers are:**

Dipti Solanki, Grief and Wellbeing Specialist

Tim Moye, CEO and Manager of Delta Air Lines Nonprofit, The Delta Care and Scholarship Funds Inc.

Lucy Dennis, Project Manager, Cruse Bereavement Support

How can colleagues and communities support each other better and how can grief policies help or hinder the workplace?

For more details and to register, please use [this link](#).

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## ***When Words are Not Enough: Creative Responses to Grief***

An Online Author's Talk; Jane Harris in conversation with Dr. Kathryn Mannix

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> March

Time: 18:00 – 19:30 GMT

Venue: Online

The Freud Museum is pleased to welcome authors Jane Harris to discuss *The Good Grief* publication [\*When Words are Not Enough: Creative Responses to Grief\*](#), with Dr Kathryn Mannix.

This first publication from The Good Grief Project explores the many ways that bereaved families find to express their loss. The authors' son was killed in a traffic accident in 2011. Ten years on they reflect on their journey and how they have used their creativity to survive their grief and maintain an on-going relationship with their son Josh.

In the years that followed Joshua's death, Jane Harris and Jimmy Edmonds founded The Good Grief Project, a UK based charity to support other bereaved families and to promote their understanding of grief as creative and active process. This book follows their journey. It also tells the story of 13 other bereaved people who have also found a creative response to their grief.

The emphasis on 'continuing bonds' and their own way of maintaining a relationship with Josh, is both emotional and practical. Echoed in the other case studies they illustrate how creativity can shape a future where the deceased still play a part even while physically absent and how this is a normal and restorative aspect of the grieving process. Grief can also be a wonderful educator with new discoveries to be had.

Throughout history people have needed to talk about their grief, but much in contemporary society tells us that grief is a depressing, morbid subject. *When Words Are Not Enough* is a necessary counterweight to those who would have us hide grief away. In both word and image, all the stories told here, from visual story tellers who reimagine their loved ones depicted in their own lives now, to artists who have taken their children's artworks as a basis for their own creations, to those who have found peace in their music and their poetry, to some who relish the challenge of diving into cold waters as a way of connecting with their children. All are very different and uniquely creative responses to trauma following the death of a loved one and testament to the value of a shared and more openly expressed grief.

**Jane Harris** is a psychotherapist and bereavement specialist with over 30 years of experience in the NHS and private practice. She is also a grief educator, supervisor and public speaker, regularly appearing in podcasts and radio.

**Jimmy Edmonds** is a photographer and documentary film editor with over 100 TV credits. He is also a Winston Churchill Fellow and BAFTA award-winning filmmaker with several critically-acclaimed documentaries to his name, including *Chosen* for Channel 4 and *Breaking the Silence* for BBC1.

**Dr Kathryn Mannix** worked as a palliative care doctor (and Cognitive Behavioural Therapist) for 30 years before taking early retirement to campaign for better public understanding of dying. She writes, broadcasts and speaks around the world, and finds people are hungry for better information everywhere she goes. She believes we need to reclaim dying as a personal, social and intimate time in our lives rather than a medical event, and her campaigning tool is stories. She lives in Northumberland with her husband and a small flock of hens.

### **About The Good Grief Project**

After the death of their son at the age of 22 in 2011, they created [The Good Grief Project](#), a charity dedicated to a proactive approach to grief. Using ideas that flow from the concept of 'continuing bonds', as opposed to society's expectation of detachment from the deceased, they developed their Active Grief programme, comprising a series of residential retreats and workshops. Here, bereaved parents and siblings are helped to discover new and imaginative ways of expressing their grief, through activities such as creative writing, photography, physical challenges (swimming, boxing), self-care and the sharing of good food.

Their films, workshops and retreats speak to a new appreciation of what it means to grieve in a society that often has difficulty talking openly about death, dying and bereavement.

Tickets for this online event are offered on a pay-what-you-can basis, with a suggested donation of £10. All ticket holders will receive access to the recording 24 hours after the event and can playback for a month.

## ***Network Mortuary Ritual***

***22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023***

How did people deal with the loss of a loved one? Which acts were set in motion when someone died? Which commemorative rituals were carried out after burial? And what kind of monuments were set up and how did the bereaved interact with those monuments? If you are interested in these and other questions surrounding death and the disposal of the dead in modern and past societies and you are based in Groningen (at the UG or the PThU), consider joining our local research network initiative on 'Mortuary Ritual: Textuality and (Im)Materiality'.

Our first meeting, on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, will consist of short research pitches so that we can get to know each other and each other's work, followed by an exploration of the possibilities and wishes for future activities of the research network.

Date: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Time: 13:00-17:00, followed by drinks

Venue: Collaboratory A, Harmony Building. University of Gronigen

Registration: Required, via this link: [www.tinyurl.com/mortuary-ritual](http://www.tinyurl.com/mortuary-ritual) (by 12 March)

Contact: Dr Tamara M. Dijkstra (t.m.dijkstra@rug.nl); Caroline van Toor (c.j.toor@rug.nl);  
Paula Kalkman ([p.g.kalkman@rug.nl](mailto:p.g.kalkman@rug.nl))

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## ***Tending the Dead***

Dates: Every Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> April

Time: 19:00 – 21:00 EST

In December 2022, Institute founder Amy Wright Glenn supported the beloved friendship and family community that surrounded her sister Anna May Wright in crafting and caring for Anna's body after her unexpected death at the age of 40. Part of this process involved taking an active role in the crematorium and participating with death workers in supporting, honoring, and saying goodbye to Anna's body in a way that offered great care to her memory.

This event ~ featured in the December 2022 Institute webinar ~ continues to inspire Institute members and friends to reimagine what can be with regard to how we care for our dead. This event is one of a multitude of cultural-shifting practices that embody the best of what it means to hold space for life ~ and death. Join Amy Wright Glenn for a 12-hour study based upon the newly published text *Corpse Care ~ Ethics for Tending the Dead*

### **Course topics include:**

- ❖ Historical overview of corpse care beginning in Antiquity
- ❖ The industrialization of tending to the dead
- ❖ \*Reimagined and renewed practices of corpse care
- ❖ The role of death doulas

*"Seeing the corpse as a part of the web of life can help end our destructive assault on that web."*  
~ Billy Campbell, cofounder and codirector of [Ramsey Creek Preserve](#)

You can find out more [here](#).

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## ***Cremation & Burial Communication & Education 2023***

Dates: 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2023

Venue: Hilton at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton, SO30 3XH

## **Who should attend?**

Managers and staff of local authority cemeteries and crematoria.

Councillors, 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 from keynote speakers covering a wide range of relevant topics that will be of interest to delegates from both the public and private sectors – ensuring that delegates leave with an up to date knowledge of burial and cremation issues.

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 2023 Event offers all attendees evidence of Continuous Professional Development, with certificates from the CPD Certification Service awarded to all attendees.

Find out more [here](#).

## **New Grant Scheme**

### ***Small Grants Available: Demystifying Death Week***

A small grants fund has been set up to support organisations in Scotland to put on events as part of Demystifying Death Week. [Demystifying Death Week](#) is about shining a light on death, dying and bereavement in Scotland. The grant scheme is designed to support organisations and community groups to undertake activities that give people knowledge, skills and opportunities to plan and support each other with death, dying, loss and care. We're seeking applications of up to £250 from people who want to put on an event during DD Week. In previous years, events have included lunchtime get-togethers, information stands, film screenings, workshops, discussion groups, planning sessions, crematorium tours, craft sessions, lectures, art exhibitions, and death cafes.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is **12pm on Wednesday 15 March 2023**. More information including an application form is available here: [DD Week Small Grants](#)

## **Demystifying Death Awards**

The Demystifying Death Awards celebrate those working to make Scotland a place where everyone can help when someone is caring, dying and grieving.

The award categories are:

- ❖ Inspiring Community
- ❖ Promoting Planning
- ❖ Creative Innovation
- ❖ Progressive Policy
- ❖ Increasing Understanding
- ❖ Celebrity Champion

Nominations can be for an individual or organisation or specific project or piece of work. Awards will be given for work that is based in Scotland or has had an impact in Scotland. The closing date for nominations is 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023. More information is available here: [https://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk/content/demystifying\\_death\\_awards\\_2023/](https://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk/content/demystifying_death_awards_2023/)

## **Professional Training Opportunity**

### ***‘ON THE GO’ Suicide Bereavement Online Modules***

Bespoke Training tailored to your organisational/professional needs.

Suicide Bereavement UK, understand the importance of blended learning and offer both face-to-face one-day suicide bereavement workshops (‘PABBS’ and ‘RTS’ training) and a range of brief (90 minutes) ‘ON THE GO’ LIVE online modules focusing on discrete aspects of suicide bereavement.

‘ON THE GO’ CPD accredited online modules complement our face-to-face training, enabling employers/individuals, through blended learning, to build a bespoke training programme in the aspects of suicide bereavement that are most relevant to their organisational or professional needs.

We deliver four online modules and they are noted below.

Level 1 – is for those with no knowledge, a basic understanding of postvention or have an interest in a specific module

1. Suicide Bereavement & Language
2. Talking with Children and Young People When There Has Been a Suicide
3. Introduction to Post-Traumatic Growth and Suicide Bereavement

Level 2 – is more specialised (e.g. working with therapeutic tools). NB: appropriate qualifications required to attend the following module

1. Applying the ‘Grief Map’ Model to Support People Bereaved by Suicide

Cost of each 'ON THE GO' 90 minute online training module is £80 + VAT  
To access ON THE GO webpage and to register [here](#).  
More information about each module [here](#).

Please contact Paul Higham for in-house training:  
Email: [paul.ghigham@suicidebereavementuk.com](mailto:paul.ghigham@suicidebereavementuk.com)  
Mobile: 07850 710555

### ***Postvention Assisting those Bereaved By Suicide (PABBS) Training***

The 'Postvention Assisting those Bereaved By Suicide' (PABBS) Training is now CPD Accredited and aims to increase the knowledge, skills and confidence of health and care professionals so that they can appropriately respond to and care for those bereaved or affected after a suicide. Providing this type of 'postvention' support after suicide is recognised internationally as a key aspect of suicide prevention.

PABBS training is the only **evidence-based** suicide bereavement postvention training internationally. It is based on direct research evidence, via a three-year study funded by the NHS National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). This training has been evaluated at the University of Manchester and found to be both **effective** and **highly rated/acceptable** to a wide variety of health and care professionals. Professionals from a wide variety of professional backgrounds have attended PABBS training (e.g. GPs, mental health professionals, funeral directors, social workers, faith leaders, teachers, prison staff, housing association staff, military personnel).

This one-day highly interactive workshop is delivered by two facilitators with extensive knowledge and practical experience of working in the field of suicide prevention and postvention. (While the sessions are interactive, the training does not include any role-play). Training days run throughout the year and can be booked directly. Suicide Bereavement UK also delivers PABBS training in-house for organisations that may wish to train discrete groups of professionals.

To register on PABBS training or to enquire about in-house PABBS training, please contact our admin:

Email: [debbie.wilson@suicidebereavementuk.com](mailto:debbie.wilson@suicidebereavementuk.com)  
Tel: 01706 827359

You can view their website or find out more about this opportunity [here](#).

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## **CALL FOR PAPERS**



## ***Call for Journal Papers***

### ***Special Issue of Mortality: Innovation at the End of Life February 2023***

This special issue of Mortality will commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Centre for Death and Society (CDAS) in the Department of Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath. The theme of the special issue originates from a principle that has underpinned CDAS since its inception by Dr Glennys Howarth in 2005, namely of being innovative in topic, approach, dissemination and collaboration. It is anticipated that this special issue will be an eclectic range of papers that will address these different facets of innovation, being about death studies as a topic but also how you ‘do’ teaching and research in death studies, the potential and/or products from collaboration, and the future of the end of life. As you may know, innovation at the end of life is the theme of the 2023 CDAS Conference and we anticipate that this special issue, to be published in 2025, will include papers from the 2023 conference and original submissions.

#### ***Why innovation?***

In recent years innovation has become a recurrent theme and driver in policy, the environment, health, public services and academia. Simply put it can be something new (policy, product, service, practice or organisational change) or an existing intervention or idea applied in a new setting. At the same time it may represent a radical departure from existing practice (rare events which transform societal paradigms of production) or a smaller incremental or discontinuous levels of change, which build upon existing skills or needs (Osborne & Brown, 2013). Whilst attention has been given to the way in which innovation might help address social needs (OECD, 2010; Santoro, Ferraris, & Vrontis, 2018), discussion about how innovation might be generated, implemented and utilised is much less common. Of the work that does exist, innovation has been considered through mapping change in the hospice movement and the funeral industry (Abel, 1986; Beard & Burger, 2017), ‘digital death’ (Moncur, 2016), the development of public health approaches to the end of life and bereavement (Aoun et al, 2018), and the effects of technological innovations on ageing and death (Bishop, 2019). Consequently, there is scope for exploring how innovation might be applied more broadly, such as in end of life care, deathcare practices, and in the academy.

To this end, we invite 200 word original abstracts on the theme of innovation, to be submitted to editor Kate Woodthorpe ([k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk](mailto:k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk)) by Monday 22nd May 2023. If your paper is selected for the special issue we will send full details of the timeline for submission. At this early stage, we expect first drafts of 8000 word papers to be submitted by the beginning of December 2023, with the second (and final) drafts submitted by the beginning of May 2024. Please bear in the mind the need to commit to this timeline when you submit your abstract.

Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ End of life care, provision, and support



- ❖ Disposal technology
- ❖ Risk management practices within death-related industries and sectors
- ❖ Entrepreneurialism and enterprise
- ❖ Creative policy making and innovative approaches to policy implementation
- ❖ Innovative practices in relation to interdisciplinary collaboration
- ❖ Theoretical innovation
- ❖ Capacity and community building
- ❖ Families, relationships, communities and networks
- ❖ Pedagogy and education
- ❖ Digital innovation
- ❖ Research methodologies and knowledge exchange
- ❖ Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies
- ❖ Re-thinking bereavement
- ❖ Socio-legal decision making within end-of-life care
- ❖ International examples or comparisons of innovation in end of life care
- ❖ Environmental innovation

In this special issue we will be open to different definitions of the term innovation if these are clearly explained and applied. We are also open to papers which take a critical stance towards innovation, failed innovation, or papers that highlight barriers to innovative practice such as resources, managing risk or tensions between innovative approaches and regulatory frameworks. We seek a rich mix of international authors at different career stages and from different disciplines, to ensure theoretical, empirical and conceptual diversity, and welcome abstracts that propose alternative forms and styles of writing as an example of innovation in dissemination of knowledge, for example through memoir, fiction or poetry.

As part of our commitment to this special issue we are providing advice on writing for peer reviewed publications, reviewing, and editing journals. For those new to academia, or who would like to publish in a peer reviewed journal, here is some guidance on how to write a good abstract:

#### How to write a good abstract

- ❖ Address the theme of the special issue explicitly (this applies to conferences too!)
- ❖ Remember that for an interdisciplinary journal such as *Mortality* those reading the abstract (and your eventual paper) will come from a wide range of disciplines and from practice. You cannot assume prior knowledge about topics, concepts or theories.
- ❖ Clarity and brevity (being clear and succinct) is as important – if not more important – than ‘sounding academic’. Your reader should not be having to do any work to understand your argument.
- ❖ For a short abstract such as this, you can conceptualise it as having four points:
  1. To introduce the reader to the topic and define any key concepts
  2. Define a gap in the literature (in theory or research)

3. To provide a very clear overview of what the paper will argue, outlining the specifics of your project (your theories, research design, or case study)
4. To conclude what the paper will show overall and its contribution to (at least one of the following) the journal, knowledge, theory, evidence, policy, or practice.

## Contact Us

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# PARTICIPANTS WANTED!

Exploring attitudes about death and approaches to dementia care

Department of Psychology



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