

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



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Centre for Death & Society

December 2024 Newsletter

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Director's Note

Welcome to our last newsletter edition of 2024, where we are sharing the news of our 2025 annual conference on the theme of 'Death in Transition'. In keeping with our anniversary year this theme has been chosen to represent and include questions about where we're been as a field, and where we are going. The full call for papers is in this issue and available [here](#). We cannot wait to receive your abstract!



It has been another busy month for us here in Bath, with our University of Bath Minerva Public Lecture as part of Naomi Pendle's More Than Human Loss week of events. Thank you to all those who watched live on the night; if you missed it and want to catch up the link to the lecture is in the next section.

We were also very pleased to host the Law Commission as part of their public consultation on burial and cremation, thank you to all who came to campus and managed our rather obscure building and room identification to find us! Earlier in the day we hosted an academic roundtable with the Law Commission and it was truly CDAS at its best – and a very proud moment for us. Thank you colleagues for representing the centre so well and with such generosity of both spirit and intellectual ideas.

As always, this issue is full of details of events and calls. Please do remember to share yours with us and we will do our best to promote it either here in the newsletter or via social media. Thank you to those who send us their information, we always get many more requests than we can accommodate and are grateful to receive updates. As well as having profiles on X and Facebook, we now have a Blue Sky account. Please follow us on @cendeathsociety there, and we will do our best to share your news via that channel along with all our others.

Wishing you all the best for the remainder of 2024 and thank you for all your support this year. We look forward to seeing you in 2025!

Kate and Naomi
CDAS co-directors

Celebrating CDAS @ 20

Let's celebrate together in marking **20 years** as a **global death studies community**, producing world-leading research.

25
September

Growing a community

Join CDAS directors, past and present, as they discuss the evolution of death studies during our 20 year history.

Which deaths count?

Bringing together academics from across the globe, this panel discussion will explore issues of death and social (in)justice.

10
October

1
November

Reddit: Ask me anything!

CDAS visiting fellow Bethany Simmons and member Chao Fang invite questions on ageism, end-of-life care and digital exclusion.

The Minerva Lecture

Join Darcy Harris to explore a death studies perspective on more-than-human-loss, including environmental destruction.

13
November

13
February

Decolonising death

Co-hosted with the Centre for Decolonising Knowledge, we discuss two forthcoming *Mortality* articles on decolonising death.

Knowing about death

A panel discussion, hosted by John Troyer, exploring how contemporary death studies may marginalise ways of knowing.

27
February

12
March

Mass death

Contrasting the examples of famine and plane crashes, this panel examines questions of dealing with mass death.

Book launch: *Death & Institutions*

A conversation between co-authors, Kate Woodthorpe, Bethan Michael-Fox and Helen Frisby.

April

May

Mortality Special Issue on innovation at the end of life &

The Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture

The CDAS Conference

Our annual event with a celebratory anniversary twist.

June

... and a series of career-development events, including workshops and writing retreats.



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CDAS Conference call for papers now open!

Death in transition

We are delighted to share news of our annual conference with our call for submissions to the 2025 Conference on the theme of ‘Death in transition’.

12 – 13 June 2025 – Online

As part of CDAS’s 20th anniversary year we invite abstracts to our annual conference on the theme of ‘Death in transition’. An intentionally open theme, we welcome papers that address the theoretical, empirical, conceptual, practical, ethical, and methodological issues and consequences of death and dying, and their aftermath. Transitions bring precarity and uncertainty, but also new opportunities or unexpected stability. Abstracts could address the following questions:

- **Transitions in death studies:** What new themes, theories, methods, voices and ontological perspectives will or should dominate death studies? CDAS is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. What will death studies be discussing in 20 years’ time?
- **Transitioning hierarchies:** How can the geographies and knowledges that dominate death studies evolve? How is knowledge produced and what ontologies and cosmologies are included or dismissed? How can we transition over interdisciplinarity and disciplinary boundaries?
- **Death and the transitioning world:** The world is changing and experiencing overlapping crises, from conflict to pandemics to ecological change. How are death and loss playing a part in these shifts? How can death studies help us understand environmental and ecological loss and grief? Can this give us insights into how adaption and new systems can be just, fair and inclusive?
- **Death, dying and its aftermath in transition:** With changes happening to how people die and what happens afterwards, how are death and its aftermath being impacted by digital tools and artificial intelligence? What are the new thanatological imaginations, renewed debates about assisted dying, and new technologies in relation to death and dying, as well as new laws and regulations in relation to death and dying? How is death experienced between people at the start of life, within familism, networks and communities, and across the life course?

The 2025 CDAS Conference will be on the 12 and 13 June and will be entirely online to ensure we can keep costs down for attendees, can be accessible to as many people as possible, and to make sure we are able to welcome a truly international audience.

To ensure the event is manageable and so that participants can attend as many papers as possible we cap the two days at around 50-60 papers and 3-4 roundtables/interactive sessions in total.

We welcome abstracts for presentations in the following formats:

- **Individual paper** - 20-25 minutes including questions, to be put into a 60-90 minute session according to theme and/or time zone
- **Roundtable** - 60-90 minutes, we recommend a maximum of 4 presenters recruited and coordinated by the roundtable organiser, and detailed in the submission, including agreement to contribute by all
- **Interactive sessions or workshops** - 60-90 minute sessions, using creative and/or visual methods, or with tasks for audience participants

You will be asked to specify the type of presentation in your submission. Please submit your 200 word abstract by **12pm GMT on 31 January 2025.**

Please make sure to explicitly address the conference theme in your abstract submission to give yourself the best chance of being selected by the conference organising team.

You can find out further details about the conference and the link to abstract submission [here](#).

Congratulations to Catriona Brickel!

Catriona Brickel, first year PhD student with CDAS, won the MRes Programmes Dissertation Prize for her paper: “It’s quite messy”: a reflexive thematic analysis investigating professional fundraisers’ perspectives on in-memoriam charitable support. She also won the MRes Overall Performance Prize. Well done, Catriona!

University of Bath Minerva Lecture

On 13th November we hosted a public lecture on Ecological Loss and Grieving the Non-Human with Darcy Harris, Caroline Hickman, Emily Malik and Caleb Parkin. The recording of the event is now available [here](#).



Law Commission come to Bath

We were very pleased to host Law Commissioner Professor Nick Hopkins and his team of Andrew Bazeley and Guy Cabral on 26th November. On the day we had a roundtable with CDAS colleagues and academic friends from the South West of England on phase three of the Law Commission's review, followed by a public consultation hosted by Professor Hopkins and his team. Thank you to everyone who came and contributed.

There is still time to complete the Law Commission's consultation on burial and cremation, full details are available [here](#).



CDAS roundtable participants, left to right:

Kate Woodthorpe, Guy Cabral, Sam Hooker, Diana Teggi, Helen Frisby, Andrew Bazeley, Nick Hopkins, Katie McClymont, Lorna Templeton, Mat Crawley and Catriona Brickel

Forthcoming CDAS Special Issue

As part of CDAS's 20th Anniversary, Naomi Pendle and others are putting together a special issue titled "Death and its changing aftermath during contemporary armed conflict". To support the development of this special issue, in January 2025 (from the 13th – 17th) we will hold a writing workshop in Bath. If you or anyone you know might be interested in contributing to the special issue and participating in the workshop, do contact Naomi Pendle (nrp36@bath.ac.uk).

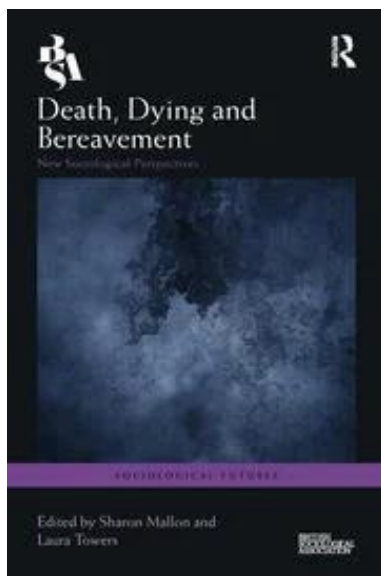
Overview of special issue theme:

Armed conflict is synonymous with excess mortality, with ACLED recording 167,800 conflict-related fatalities in 2023. People do not only die of direct violence, but they also die of conflict-induced lack of access to food, water and health care. Therefore, for those living through times of armed conflict, dealing with death and its aftermath is an unavoidable reality. In this special issue, we pay attention to how those actually living through contemporary armed conflict deal with the dead and death's aftermath. The bodies,

memories and ghosts of the dead are not just present, they also become a key site of politics in which the value of the living, and the politics of war and peace, are negotiated.

The special issue also explores how dealing with the dead is changing because of the changing nature of armed conflict and death. Armed conflicts are now often protracted, include majority civilian casualties, and use new technologies and weapons, as well as new patterns of violence. The aftermath of death is also changing, being reshaped by advances in science (such as forensic science) and technology, as well as changes in the law, and moral and cosmological norms.

New book



'Death, Dying and Bereavement: New Sociological Perspectives'

A new co-edited book by CDAS Visiting Fellow Laura Towers and Sharon Mallon has just been released.

Bringing together contributors from around the world, this collection of chapters provides sociological insights into death, dying and bereavement.

Drawing upon a range of sociological theorists, including Émile Durkheim, Zygmunt Bauman and C. Wright Mills, the book reviews the historical contribution of sociology to the field of thanatology. In doing so, the book challenges individualistic psychological approaches to death, dying and bereavement and demonstrates how sociological approaches can shape, constrain and empower experiences by imbuing them with both collective and individual meaning. Chapter-length case studies explore a wide range of issues, from digital aspects of remembrance and memorialisation and continued threats to liberties that permit life and death decisions to discussions of the impact and likely legacy of COVID-19 and climate change.

For more information about the book [click here](#).

Bethany Simmonds invited to present paper

Entitled 'Precarity and Risk in the fourth age: Reframing the end of life using life course and political economic theory' Bethany will be presenting at the British Sociological Association's Death, Dying and Bereavement Study Group Annual Symposium, 12 December.

This symposium seeks to explore the relationships between ageing and dying, encouraging a more integrated approach to these connected life stages within the life course. Presentations will critically engage with these themes, shedding light on the social, economic, institutional, and cultural dimensions at the intersections between ageing, dying, loss and bereavement.

For more information about this event [click here](#).

CDAS Annual Conference call for papers

As you've seen earlier in this issue of the newsletter, the call for papers for the CDAS annual conference for 2025 is now LIVE. Full details can be found [here](#).

Future events

We have a calendar of events in the making for 2025, including:

January: writing workshop organised by Naomi Pendle (see previous section)

February: Knowing about death hosted by John Troyer

March: Mass death seminar

March: CDAS Walk Launch

April: 'Death and Institutions' collection edited by Kate Woodthorpe, Helen Frisby and Bethan Michael-Fox launch

May: Special Issue of Mortality edited by Kate Woodthorpe and Jeremy Dixon launch

May: Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture chaired by Diana Teggi

June: Annual Conference

Full details of these events will be in future issues of the newsletter and shared on social media.

Call for participants

Baggage for the Beyond? Contemporary UK grave goods practices and their meanings

This study explores 'grave goods' in the contemporary UK context.

Grave goods are any items placed with the dead when they are buried or cremated.

This study is being conducted by Dr Jennifer Riley at the University of Aberdeen, supported by The Leverhulme Trust early career fellowship scheme.

Interviews are an important part of this study.

Are you...?

- Someone who has experienced a bereavement since the year 2000, who is willing to discuss what place grave goods had (or did not have) in mourning that loss?; And/or
- A death professional working in the UK?

What's involved?

Completing a short expression of interest questionnaire

Reading some information about the study, and signing a consent form

A 1:1 interview with Dr Jennie Riley, on the subject of grave goods (Interviews typically last 45 minutes, and take place on Microsoft Teams)

When?

Interviews will take place in late 2024 and throughout 2025.

Please note

You should:

- Be over 18
- Be based in the UK (or talking about a UK-based bereavement, burial or cremation)
- Feel able to reflect on your experiences of bereavement and associated funerals and rituals

I advise that if your bereavement is quite recent, you may wish to think carefully about whether or not now is the right time for you to volunteer. Please feel free to contact Jennie to

discuss whether or not you might like to participate – and thank you very much for considering participating.

Get Involved: January training for professionals in the death and grief industry

If you would like more information, please contact jennifer.riley@abdn.ac.uk

Dr Jennie Riley – Research Fellow – Divinity and Religious Studies – University of Aberdeen

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/sdhp/divinity-religious-studies/baggage-for-the-beyond-3068.php>

Dr. Jessica Thomas is excited to announce that [applications](#) are open for her January training for professionals in the death and grief industry and those working directly with grievers.

Dr. Jessica Thomas, is a therapist, researcher, educator, author and creator of the Within & Without™ therapeutic mindful photography program. This program is based on her original research published in 2016 and subsequent developments such as her book, *Choosing Light: Transforming Grief Through Mindful Photography and Self-Reflection*.

Please check out [the training page](#) on her website where you will find the application link and more details. Also, feel free to reach out directly to her with any additional questions: mindfulphotogrief@gmail.com

<https://drjessicathomas.com/therapeutic-mindful-photography-training/>

Survey of UK-based palliative and end-of-life care researchers

An invitation to participate in an online survey relevant to those who conduct palliative and end of life care research in the UK.

By ‘palliative and end-of-life care researcher’, we include anyone who view themselves as being currently or recently engaged in research on palliative and end-of-life care, advanced/life-limiting illness, death/dying, and bereavement.

- In any workplace in the UK (e.g., University, Hospital, Hospice, Community-based)
- All types of researchers (e.g., University researchers, Clinicians, Freelancers)
- All types of research involvement (e.g., Full-time/Part-time, those who are taking a career break)
- At any career level (e.g., from PhD students to Professors)

You can view the information and survey here:

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/edinburgh/uk-based-peolc>

New Papers

Between epistemic injustice and therapeutic jurisprudence: Coronial processes involving families of autistic people, people with learning disabilities and/or mental ill health

Sara Ryan, Francesca Ribenfors, Magdalena Mikulak, Deborah Coles

Abstract: Understanding how and why someone dies unexpectedly is key to bereaved family members. The coronial process in England investigates instances where the cause of death is unknown, violent or unnatural and/or occurred in state detention. Families are held to be at the centre of this process and the coroner's role has extended to concern about therapeutic jurisprudence, that is, how legal processes can minimise negative consequences for participants without jeopardising due process. Therapeutic jurisprudence involves unresolved tensions, however, and an epistemic power imbalance. Within the inquest, knowledge is produced, evaluated and contested, and epistemic privilege may be unevenly distributed. The inquest is also a process that, as we demonstrate, requires epistemic courage and resistance on the part of families. Families with relatives who are autistic, have learning disabilities and/or mental ill health can experience epistemic and structural injustice before an unexpected death which makes the distinctiveness of their experiences important to understand. Here, we report on a qualitative interview project which focused on how bereaved families experience the coronial process after their relative died in receipt of health and/or social care support.

Full paper available [here](#).

Continuing Personhood and the increasing bureaucratisation of death: 'my Dad doesn't need electricity in heaven'

Kate Reed and Anna Balazs

Abstract: Bureaucracy has been a core sociological concern since the discipline's inception. While sociologists have explored the impact of bureaucracy on many areas of social life (from work to immigration policy), less is known about how bereaved individuals navigate the bureaucracy of death. After a loved one dies a range of time-consuming and time-sensitive hidden bureaucratic tasks must be completed – such as notifying officials and managing the estate – across public, private and third sector organisations. How do individuals experience and navigate such bureaucracy at a time of extreme sadness and vulnerability? Drawing on data from a qualitative study on death administration, this article explores people's encounters with bureaucratic processes after bereavement. The article illuminates the challenging nature and ultimate failure of bureaucratic procedures in death administration. Such procedures create insensitivity around issues of personhood, often compounding emotional distress and vulnerability. Our analysis illuminates the ways in which this can lead to the operation of bureaucratic violence, a specific type of domination in

which citizen subjectivities are affected by abstract rules and hostile organisational structures. By shedding light on death administration processes the article extends sociological understandings of bureaucracy and offers an innovative contribution to literature on grief.

Full paper available [here](#).

Discount available for Death and Culture Series

Accompanying the newsletter this month is a flyer for the Death and Culture Book series published by Bristol University Press and led by Ruth Penfold-Mounce, Erica Borgstrom and Kate Woodthorpe. Throughout the month of December 2024 you can get 50% off books in the series!

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

ABC's of Victorian Mourning

4th December 2024 6.30-7.30pm The ABC's of Victorian Mourning. This talk with Chris Woodyard, author of *The Victorian Book of the Dead* and *A is for Arsenic: An ABC of Victorian Death* explores Victorian mourning conventions through a long-lost vocabulary of death. Woodyard will explain such things as the difference between full and half mourning, the functions of funeral feathermen, and essential products for mourning such as coffin furniture, hairwork, and immortelles. This talk will unveil some of the secrets of the Victorian undertaker and help you tell your bombazine from your crepe.

About our speaker

Chris Woodyard, is an writer and historian from Ohio, USA. She took her BA degree in Medieval and Renaissance Studies from The Ohio State University. In addition to nine books on Ohio ghost-lore, she is the author of *The Victorian Book of the Dead* and *A is for Arsenic: The ABCs of Victorian Death*.

She has given presentations at the [Costume Society of America](#) on such topics as “Making Shrouds: Mode, Memory, and Memento Mori,” and “Grief and Grievance: Mourning Crape as a Symbol of Protest.” She has also presented on topics such as “Dreaming of Crape: Funerary Omens of Death,” and “Putting the Nursery Into Mourning: Children in Crape” for various organizations of dress or death historians.

<https://arnosvale.org.uk/abcs-of-victorian-mourning/>

Symposium on Grief Literacy

Jesus College, Cambridge is running a series of six panels and lectures at the [Intellectual Forum](#) this autumn on the topic of death and dying. The aim is to explore this fundamental human experience from cultural, spiritual, legal, and technological perspectives.

Sessions will consider questions such as:

- Can we combat inequalities in death and dying?
- How are developments in technology changing our experience of death?
- What is a ‘good death’?

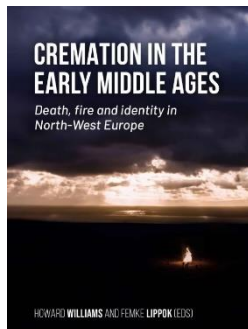
More information can be found here: <https://www.jesus.cam.ac.uk/events/death-and-dying-lecture-series>

***British Sociological Association Death, Dying and Bereavement Study Group
annual symposium: Dying and Ageing***

12th December 2024

The study group have announced the programme for their upcoming symposium, full details and to contact the convenors for more information can be found [here](#).

***‘Cremation in the Early Middle Ages’ Book Launch, 5pm-7pm GMT
Thursday 12 December 2024***



Running from 5pm-7pm GMT, Thursday 12th December, to book for FREE for the book launch.

I'm delighted to be able to invite all of you to the online book launch via Microsoft Teams to celebrate the publication of *Cremation in the Early Middle Ages* edited by Femke Lippok and Howard Williams by Sidestone Press.

When, where, how and why did early medieval people cremate their dead? The brand-new edited collection published with Sidestone – *Cremation in the Early Middle Ages* – draws together the latest research and thinking on early medieval cremation practices.

[Click here](#) for more information on the event and registration.

Frailty, Illness and Health in Deep Old Age

Frailty, Illness and Health in Deep Old Age: Perspectives from Medical Sociology and Social Gerontology Symposium at the University of Liverpool on the 12th of December.

This conference aims bring together researchers working in social gerontology and/or medical sociology to discuss concepts, methods and empirical research on the topic of ageing and frailty. We are particularly keen to engage with empirical and theoretical research in progress as well as the work of new and emerging global scholars.

To find out more and register for the event [click here](#).

***Crisis Prevention not Crisis Management: the health and wellbeing of parents
and children with life-limiting conditions.***

There are growing numbers of children with life-limiting conditions which will either ultimately shorten their life, or conditions for which treatment may be available but may fail. It is often expected that parents of these children, become healthcare providers as well as parents, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The health of these parents is important, both in terms of caring for their

child but also in their own right to health and well-being. Many healthcare services focus on individual patients and not the whole family, therefore ignoring the needs of parents.

We will present findings from quantitative and qualitative studies of the health and wellbeing of parents before also highlighting the mental health needs of the children themselves.

You are invited to sign up to the following webinar, to take place 12.30-2pm on 17th January 2025: Crisis Prevention not Crisis Management: the health and wellbeing of parents and children with life-limiting conditions.

[Click here](#) to sign up!

Ars Morendi in seven selected pieces

29th January 2025 6.30-7.30pm Ars Morendi in seven selected pieces:

<https://arnosvale.org.uk/ars-mordendi-in-seven-selected-pieces-online-talk/>

In medieval Europe there sprang up the popular Ars Moriendi literary genre, which instructed ordinary people on how to die well. The notion of ‘a good death’ has persisted ever since, and arguably still informs how, where and when we die nowadays.

In this talk, funeral historian Dr Helen Frisby explores ‘the art of dying’ in its both its senses: how to die well, and also how death and dying have been represented in Western art over time. What might Helen’s seven carefully chosen pieces tell us about both change and continuity in the art of dying? And what lessons could they potentially hold for the future, as attitudes to death continue to change in response to social mores and ever-developing technologies?

About the speaker

Helen obtained her PhD on Victorian funeral customs from the University of Leeds in 2009, and is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Death & Society, University of Bath. She continues to research, publish and speak widely on the history and folklore of death, dying and bereavement, including appearances on the History Channel and BBC radio. Other research, conducted with the University of Bristol, investigates the tools, techniques and wider informal occupational culture of frontline cemetery staff. Helen is a Council Member and Trustee of The Folklore Society. She has previously taught British and European history at UWE Bristol, and on the University of Bath’s Foundation Degree in Funeral Services.

Marie Curie Research into Practice Conference 2025

Registration is now open for the Marie Curie Research into Practice Conference 2025.

The conference will run from **Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 February**.

Prominent presenters from across palliative and end of life care will be joining us for four days of thematic and spotlight sessions, and abstract presentations. Our priority is to bring you the latest research evidence to inform practice and policy, with the aim of improving

support for everyone affected by dying, death or bereavement. This is in line with Marie Curie's mission to close the gap in end of life care.

Last year, we received over 2100 registrations from 66 countries. To ensure continued accessibility and connection making, the 2025 conference will again be held online and free for all.

[Click here](#) to register!

The Ethics of Body Disposal

As part of the celebrations for its 20th anniversary, IDEA The Ethics Centre at the University of Leeds is pleased to announce the online workshop event: The Ethics of Body Disposal. This will be held online on **Thursday 3rd July 2025**.

Deciding what should be done with our own bodies or those of a loved one after death can be difficult decisions with sometimes significant ethical implications. Deciding what to do, what you would like to be done, and what others should be permitted to do, raises a number of ethical questions – at this workshop, we would like to offer a space to explore and discuss some of these.

Such questions might include:

What responsibilities do we have to the dead and to the living in making body disposal decisions? How might any such moral obligations differ when we are making decisions for ourselves or others? Would ignoring the wishes of the deceased be morally wrong? Should their wishes be honoured even if it might offend others in society? Should laws restrict what we can and cannot have done with our own bodies after death and if so, how? Should body disposal decisions be made with the interests of others still living, even those unknown to the deceased, in mind? In disagreements over arrangement for disposal of a loved one's body, what principles should guide how to move forwards?

This list is not exhaustive but is meant to be indicative of some of the issues and questions that can be raised by this topic.

If you have a paper or idea that you feel would fit this theme and would like to present at this online workshop, please submit the title and an abstract via this link as well. IDEA is committed

IDEA
The Ethics Centre
Bringing Ethics to Life

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

The Ethics of Body Disposal

Online Workshop. 3rd July 2025

Deciding what should be done with our own bodies or those of a loved one after death can be difficult decisions with sometimes significant ethical implications. Deciding what to do, what you would like to be done, and what others should be permitted to do, raises a number of ethical questions – at this **free, online workshop**, we offer a space to explore and discuss some of these.

To register to attend or to submit an abstract, scan the QR code below.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

If you have a paper or idea that you feel would fit this theme and would like to present at this online workshop event, please submit the title and an abstract.

IDEA is committed to interdisciplinary applied ethics and so academics and professionals from other disciplines and related industries are encouraged to submit relevant abstracts for this event.

The deadline for abstracts is 5pm Friday 25th April 2025.

to interdisciplinary applied ethics and so academics and professionals from other disciplines and related industries are encouraged to submit relevant abstracts for this event.

The deadline for abstracts is 5pm Friday 25th April 2025.

If you have any questions, you can reach the event organiser Dr Sarah Carter-Walshaw at this address: s.carter-walshaw@leeds.ac.uk

[You can register to attend this workshop through this link](#) ; this will be a free event.

Cremation & Burial Communication & Education 2025

Save the Date!

Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th June 2025

Join us for the Cremation & Burial Communication & Education Conference and Exhibition is returning to the Hilton Southampton - Utilita Bowl 2025. Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for this important event!

The burial and cremation sector faces a time of considerable structural and operational change. With the work of the Law Commission looking at the law surrounding the disposal of the dead, the review of the Process Guidance notes for crematoria, the ongoing monitoring of the funeral sector by the CMA, a significant increase in direct cremations, the ongoing development of new means of disposal and the ever increasing to address environmental issues. These issues alone mean that the sector needs to be prepared to deal with new and demanding challenges.

CBCE 2025 brings together experts and keynote speakers to discuss some of the significant developments that the sector will have to tackle. This key annual event provides a unique opportunity to acquire the most up-to-date information, as well as provide you with the opportunity to meet with exhibitors to discuss their latest services and products.

Follow the link for more information: <https://cbce.org.uk/>

‘The 2025 Socio-Legal Studies Association (SLSA) Conference features a new current topic stream ‘Defining, Defying, and Desiring Death’

This Current Topic brings together scholars and practitioners to consider the legal, social, political, and scientific developments pertaining to our perception of death and its meanings. It will provide a space to interrogate what death is precisely, why/if we should fear it, to what extent the law should be involved in the death of the individual, and to what extent technologies transform these challenges. Some of the themes and questions that the papers might want to explore include:

- When does death occur, and according to what criteria is it identified (total brain, higher brain, info-theoretical, cardiopulmonary, etc.)?
- Responses to the Nuffield Council on Bioethics’ Citizens’ Jury on assisted dying. Should assisted dying remain prohibited, or should it be permitted within part or all of the UK?
- What is a good death, and is it a matter of Law to promote or protect such states of dying?
- Is the legal interpretation of life and death being binary still fit for purpose, or does a more nuanced understanding need to be developed?
- How do technological advancements (cryopreservation, BrainEx, AI, etc.) challenge the contemporary understanding and definition of death and the postmortem?
- How do/should we regulate technologies designed to alleviate grief and/or replace the deceased’s persona? Is this a concern of law, policy and regulation?

Convenors: Richard B. Gibson (Aston Law School) r.gibson2@aston.ac.uk and Edina Harbinja (Aston Law School) e.harbinja@aston.ac.uk .

Call for Papers Deadline: **18 December 2024**.

Please find more at: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/slsa-2025/call-for-papers/>

2025 conference of The Roles of the Agency of the Dead in the Lives of Individuals in Contemporary Society project

International interdisciplinary conference, July 2 – 4, 2025

Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Aškerčeva 2, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Organised by

ERC project *The Roles of the Agency of the Dead in the Lives of Individuals in Contemporary Society*

Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia (DEAGENCY, ERC № 101095729)

Contrary to pre-modern European societies, and many contemporary non-Western societies, where the dead were considered members of the community and continued to be significantly involved in people's everyday lives, the dominant Western ontology nowadays does not integrate communication and exchange between the living and the dead. However, as a bulk

of quantitative as well as qualitative research testify, for people in many contemporary Western societies, social interactions do not necessarily cease after death but are merely transformed. The dead continue to be involved in our lives, affecting our thoughts, emotions, values, behaviour, and social relations. While scholars have often treated the accounts of the agency of the dead as expressions of “folk belief”, and ghosts as symbols and metaphors of larger cultural and social problems and changes, our aim is to take the effects of the agency of the dead in the lives of individuals seriously, as people themselves experience them.

The aim of this conference is to gain an insight into the situations in which the agency of the dead manifests itself and the presence of the dead is experienced. What are the reasons, the triggers and the contexts in which the dead affect the living? The violation of social norms of behaviour and cultural and religious values is generally seen in traditional cultures as a typical reason for the manifestation of the agency of the dead. Temporal contexts traditionally regarded as triggers for unwanted interaction with the dead as ghosts, were usually critical, liminal periods in the daily, annual and life cycle. The same applies to the spatial context: boundary sites within the social construction of space, but also places associated with death (where people died or were buried), buildings with particular physical features and history, as well as places associated with mourning and the commemoration of the dead, were typical locations where the encounters with the dead were expected and where the agency of the dead was invoked. But do such “traditional” reasons and contexts still have meaning for people today? Or have new reasons and triggers emerged for the dead to affect the living? And how have new platforms for post-mortem communication - such as social media and the digital space - influenced the interactions between the living and the dead?

We invite folklorists, ethnologists and anthropologists, sociologists, psychologists, thanatologists, but also scholars from other disciplines who deal with the dead in contemporary society to submit an abstract and participate in the conference. Papers may be based on a variety of sources – ethnographic, archival, digital, media, etc. The conference language is English; the expected length of papers is 20 minutes. There is no conference fee, but you will have to cover your own travel, accommodation and catering costs. Please use the [this link](#) to submit your application.

In case of questions, contact Marja.Kovanda@ff.uni-lj.si.

The deadline for submission of applications is 31 December 2024. Acceptance of papers will be confirmed by 31 January 2025.

Symbols of Mortality Online Conference In Conjunction With Orkney Museum - Call For Papers

Mortality symbolism is an important part of our heritage, and deserves to be treated as such. It resides in a landscape of both poignancy and sadness, complete with a wide variety of inscriptions and carvings that reflect the lives, the beliefs and the attitudes to death of communities now past. As part of the Symbols of Mortality Exhibition, opening in Orkney Museum (February 2025), this online conference aims to bring about an interdisciplinary and wide-ranging approach to the study of mortality symbolism, in all its many guises, thus providing an engaging space to people from all backgrounds to share their research with others.

We welcome papers from a wide variety of topics and subjects, including but not limited to Archaeology, Architecture, Art History, Folklore, Cemeteries and Graveyards, Church History, Historiography, Literature, Material Culture, Museum and Heritage Studies, Social History and Victorian Studies.

Please send an abstract of no more than 250 words, together with a short biography to: symbolsofmortality@gmail.com by 10th January 2025

New insights into Scottish deathways: a digital conference
24th - 25th April 2025

This multi-disciplinary conference aims to connect academics and practitioners to share insights and ideas across a range of topics, periods and perspectives relating to death and Scotland. It is intended to facilitate learning from recent and current research and to stimulate further research, including by supporting the development of new connections and networks between people working in different academic disciplines and areas of policy and practice. This two-day online conference centres primarily around the presentation and discussion of (a) papers reporting research insights and (b) summaries (with or without accompanying posters) of work in progress or areas of research interest. The programme includes two invited presentations from:

Professor Michael Brown, Chair in Irish, Scottish & Enlightenment History,
University of Aberdeen
Dr Naomi Richards, Director of the Glasgow End of Life Studies Group, University
of Glasgow

There will also be opportunities to discuss ideas about research need and scope for collaborative research development.

Call for papers:

Presentations are invited from people researching Scottish deathways from any disciplinary or theoretical perspective, and from anywhere in the world. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Death, grief and mourning
- Burial and cremation
- Violent death including war
- Plague, pestilence and famine
- Death poverty, age, gender and status
- Death in literature and the visual arts
- Death and identity
- Folklore, custom and rituals
- Legal and medical aspects of death
- Theology, liturgy and funeral ministry
- Architecture, landscape and monuments

Proposed titles, together with abstracts of no more than 200 words and the names of the presenting author and any co-authors, should be sent via [New insights into Scottish Deathways website](#) by no later than Sunday 12 January 2025. Decisions on acceptance will be notified by Friday 24 January 2025.

You will be asked to indicate whether your abstract should be considered for presentation as (a) a 20 minute research paper, (b) a 5 minute presentation of work in progress or area of research interest (with or without an accompanying poster), or (c) either.

Registration:

All speakers must register for the conference. The registration fee (for access to all sessions) is £50. You can register, in due course, at: [New insights into Scottish Deathways website](#) When you register, you will be asked to indicate interest in a local in-person ‘get together’ around the conference. This is entirely optional. It will require you to indicate where you will be attending the online conference from and whether you are willing for the conference organisers to share your email address with others attending from the same area.

As the conference is intended to facilitate networking and collaboration beyond the event, you will also be invited to indicate if you are willing for your name, a short description of your research area (e.g. disciplinary perspective and/or key topics relating to Scottish Deathways) to be shared with other conference participants who have also expressed willingness.

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?

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)

Dorothy House Palliative Care Research Conference

Using Research to Optimise Care in Community Settings

Located at the Hospice in Winsley on **Thursday 5 June 2025**, we're delighted to be hosting a collaborative Palliative Care Research Conference focusing on palliative care research in residential and community settings.

Learn about the latest research and best practices in providing palliative care in both residential and community settings.

Registration for the conference will open soon and further information will be found on the Dorothy House Research and Innovation webpage: <https://dev.dorothyhouse.org.uk/what-we-do/centre-for-education-and-research/research-and-innovation/>

The call for abstracts is now open: particularly welcoming early researcher abstracts posters. **Please download our Abstract Submission Form [here](#) and email your completed form to research@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk by Friday 28 February 2025.**

Research Associate (Fixed Term), University of Cambridge

This exciting post is an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic, motivated individual who is keen to strengthen their qualitative and palliative and end of life care research skills and expertise.

We are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic colleague to work with Dr Ben Bowers, Wellcome Post-Doctoral Fellow and Palliative Care Nurse Consultant, and Professor Stephen Barclay, Professor of Palliative Care and colleagues. The post-holder will lead on three complimentary research projects:

- 1) A qualitative interview study investigating General Practitioners' perspectives on their current and future role in palliative and end of life care.
- 2) Stakeholder engagement to understand how multiprofessional community health and care teams can effectively work together to deliver seamless and timely primary palliative care.
- 3) Develop a study of how inequalities in end-of-life care service provision can best be addressed. These projects will build the foundations for interdisciplinary research grant applications that the post holder will help develop and write.

We are looking for someone with qualitative/mixed-methods research skills and knowledge of the current landscape of UK palliative and end of life care, primary care and health and social care. The post-holder will be a member of PELiCam, a friendly, dynamic and inclusive leading Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group. Funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) East of England, the post-holder will work with colleagues in the NIHR ARC East of England PEOLC Theme and nationally in delivering inclusive high-quality research. They will have access to a community of researchers and supported to advance their expertise and competences in this exciting interdisciplinary field.

The ideal candidate will have practical experience of qualitative research methods and conducting sensitive research, a PhD in a relevant social science or health discipline or an equivalent level of professional qualifications and experience. They will be skilled in working collaboratively as part of a team, planning and prioritising their workload, communicating with members of the public and research colleagues, presenting research and engaging with diverse audiences, leading the writing of journal papers and developing collaborative grant proposals.

We welcome informal conversations concerning this post to Dr Ben Bowers bb527@cam.ac.uk

Appointment at Research Associate level is dependent on having a PhD (or equivalent experience), including those who have submitted but not yet received their PhD. Where a PhD has yet to be awarded appointment will initially be made at research assistant and amended to research associate when the PhD is awarded (PhD needs to be awarded within 6 months of the start date).

For information about how your personal data is used as an applicant, please see the section on <https://www.hr.admin.cam.ac.uk/hr-staff/hr-data/applicant-data> on our HR web pages.

Closing date: 9 December 2024

Interview date: 19 December 2024

For more information follow the link: <https://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/job/49229/>

Senior Research Fellow - King's College London - Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care

Location: London

Salary: £63,596 to £72,757 per annum, including London Weighting Allowance

Hours: Part Time

Contract Type: Fixed-Term/Contract

Placed On: 26th November 2024

Closes: 5th January 2025

Job Ref: 100886

About Us

The Florence Nightingale Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery & Palliative Care (NMPC) is based in the heart of central and south London. It includes the Cicely Saunders Institute for Palliative Care, Policy & Rehabilitation, the premier Institute for Palliative Care, bringing together clinical, research and education teams.

Our applied clinical and health multidisciplinary research transforms therapies, the healthcare experience and outcomes for patients and those important to them, wherever they are cared for. Our award-winning NMPC education programmes span pre-registration nursing and midwifery, and multidisciplinary post-graduate taught and research programmes.

We are committed to staff development, and offer opportunities to identify and access appropriate training and professional growth.

About the role

This is an outstanding development opportunity for a talented and experienced researcher who wishes to advance excellent and innovative research on the care and support of children and young people with life limiting conditions and their families.

This research post will be working with our Chair of Palliative Care and Child Health, Lorna Fraser on an NIHR funded programme - Improving Care for children with life-limiting Conditions: developing, adapting, implementing and Evaluating interventions (ICICLE). You will also have the opportunity to be a senior member of the CHILDS research group.

The post holder will be responsible for overseeing the protocol development, study setup activities (i.e. obtaining ethical approval) and conducting data collection, and evaluation across several studies within this programme. They will conduct the following tasks: lead PPI activities; recruit for studies; undertake qualitative data analysis; facilitate co-production workshops; lead further grant applications; disseminate findings.

Expertise, knowledge, and experience of children with life-limiting conditions, complex medical or palliative care needs are necessary, and qualitative research experience is essential. Enthusiasm in

developing/ continuing a career in palliative care or child health research will be beneficial and we are a supportive team that can assist with developing future grants and fellowship applications.

This is a part time post (28 hours per week), and you will be offered a fixed term contract until 30/11/2029.

Follow the link for more information: <https://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/DKV509/senior-research-fellow>

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

