

Centre for  
Death & Society  
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

# Centre for Death & Society

## July 2024 Newsletter

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## Director's Note

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Welcome to the latest edition of the CDAS Newsletter – the last for the 2023/24 academic year. It has been another year of community, innovation and incredible research from CDAS members. We are excited by the range of fellows that have joined us this year and those who remain active in CDAS. Many of us have been busy on our own or collective work, and we have achieved so much. Projects have been completed and have gained incredible media responses (see, for example, the [Voicing Loss Project](#)), books have been published (see, for example, [The Song of the Whole Wide World](#) or [All the Lonely People](#)) and translated (such as the Japanese translation of *Technologies of the Human Corpse*), articles have been written (see, for example, [an article by Diana and Kate](#) and this article by [Bethany](#)) and cited ('[Heading for Extinction](#)' is already well cited), and presentations have been given. The CDAS events and the conference have also seen another rich and truly global year. Thank you to everyone for continuing to be an incredible community and for supporting each other towards these great feats of productivity.

2024/25 is CDAS's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we are excited about our celebratory plans, with events starting from September 2024. So do get ready to make the most of a year when we can collectively reflect on the contribution and future vision of CDAS and death studies. A key theme for us through the year will be making space for the active inclusion of new voices and perspectives to strengthen the rich and important work of the death studies community.

The anniversary year will launch with a talk by former and current CDAS Directors (including Tony Walter, John Troyer, Jeremy Dixon) on CDAS's own story, titled '[Growing a Death Studies Hub](#)' on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024. The sign up details of this event are now released and included in this newsletter issue. Following events include a panel on 'Which Deaths Count?' in October, a week of events on More-Than-Human-Loss in November, a Reddit Ask Me Anything on ageing, dying and digital exclusion, and so much more. We are also gearing up to launch our audio walk in Bath on death and crime created by Visiting Fellow Molly Coinsbee, and the publication of our CDAS edited collection on Death and Institutions, and our Mortality Special issue on Innovation at the End of Life, all as part of our celebrations. It will be a busy year! Full details of events are to follow.

For now, we wish you all a restful couple of months and will see you in September with our next newsletter.

Naomi and Kate  
CDAS Co-Directors

### ***BBC News covers the Voicing Loss project, from CDAS & Birbeck, University of London***

Congratulations to our colleagues on the ESRC Voicing Loss project, who launched their [findings and webpage](#) amidst the UK's general election campaign period and received excellent media coverage, an example of which is below from the BBC:

Inquests lack 'humanity', says bereaved father

Lee Fryatt's 19-year-old son Daniel died by suicide while at university in 2018 and the inquest into his death took place one year later.

The former police officer from Bournemouth was part of a study that looked at the psychological toll inquests take on grieving families. He said his son's inquest made the families' situation "even worse", and described the wait for answers as "all-encompassing, the longer it takes, the worse it gets".

Mr Fryatt said: "When families like ours are sucked into a coroner's inquest, it happens when chaos is in your brain and turmoil is in your heart."

His comments form part of a three-year research project, called Voicing Loss, published by Birkbeck, University of London and the University of Bath. The universities interviewed 89 grieving relatives and found most had hoped for truth and justice from the inquest process, as well as and also for lessons to be learnt to prevent future deaths.

[Read the full article here](#)

### ***Award of funding to support participation of scholars from conflict contexts***

Co-Director Naomi Pendle has received initial funding to support research colleagues from contexts of armed conflict and in October 2024, CDAS will co-host its first event in Africa at the Rotary Peace Centre at Makerere University (Uganda). The funding will support colleagues to participate both in death and loss-related research, as well as to be active in agenda setting. The funds will support research by three colleagues in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as funding a workshop at the Rotary Peace Centre, which will be co-hosted by CDAS. The funds will also support the participation of colleagues from contexts of armed conflict to participate at a workshop in Bath during CDAS's anniversary year. These funds have been provided by the University of Bath's funds from the Economic and Social Science Research Council to support Overseas Development Aid work.

## *Minerva Public Lecture with Sam Carr*

On July 9th Dr Sam Carr delivered his Minerva Public Lecture to a packed audience at the Mission Theatre in Bath.

In case you missed it, Sam has a [new book](#) out on conversations about loneliness, featuring stories of working with CDAS colleagues no less!



## *ERC grant writing workshop*



This month we welcomed CDAS Visiting Fellows Tal Morse, Stacey Pitsillides and Edina Harbinja to Bath for a two day writing retreat with CDAS Co-Director Kate Woodthorpe and policy colleague Emma Carmel, to work on an ERC grant led by our Visiting Professor Johanna Sumiala. Thank you to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Bath for the faculty grant that enabled us to bring Edina, Stacey and Tal to Bath. As part of their visit we held an In Conversation and had a summer end of the academic year social, where there was much laughter and talk about marathon running and iron men challenges!

## *Wellbeing Award*

Congratulations to John Troyer who, as part of a group of University of Bath colleagues, received a Team Award for Community and Inclusion for our collective work in the Staff Wellbeing Champions Network. John runs the Staff Loss & Grief Network. Congrats and thanks for all you do to support our colleagues John!



## ***New creative coaching initiative***

Our Visiting Professor Gayle Letherby, who has with Tamarin Norwood, Bethan Michael-Fox and Kate Woodthorpe, led the CDAS Writing Initiative over the last few years has taken the exciting leap to launch herself a creative academic coach! We wish you all the best with this new endeavour Gayle.

[www.gayle-letherby.co.uk](http://www.gayle-letherby.co.uk)

[Gayle Letherby - Creative Academic Coaching | Gayle Letherby \(gayle-letherby.co.uk\)](#)

## ***New article: ‘Considerations of Taiwanese Working Carers on Choosing Long-Term Care Services for Relatives with Disabilities’ by CDAS PhD student Yu-Ching Liu***

Unpaid carers are a significant support for dependent people with chronic illnesses in most countries. Working carers have specific needs because they face a conflict between employment and care. This study reports on the views of seven working carers in Taiwan to discover the factors they might have considered when arranging publicly funded Long-Term Care (LTC) services for the person they care for to reconcile their work and care. According to the testimony of working carers, the issue of safety for care recipients motivates the application for LTC services. However, LTC services in Taiwan, while affordable, are limited. Working carers have a positive attitude towards home care due to its low price and flexible service time. The constructed barriers to accessing daycare make it difficult for families to use daycare, even though it may be the most suitable service for care recipients. The findings have implications for improvements in LTC services. They show that an extension of opening hours of daycare is needed to meet the employment needs of working carers and that care skill training should be offered for providers of LTC services.

[Read the full article here](#)

## ***CDAS social: want to be part of our community?***

Thank you to everyone who has supported and contributed to the Centre over the last academic year.

We love working in CDAS and hope you similarly value your connection to the Centre.

Do you want to get more involved with us and join this happy crew? Find out ways to do so via [our webpage](#).



# CDAS EVENTS

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## *Celebrating CDAS @ 20*

Later this year, CDAS is marking an important milestone: our 20-year anniversary.

That's 20 years ...

... of producing and sharing world-leading death studies research

... of bringing together death studies academics from across the globe in a supportive, uplifting community

...of working in partnership with professionals from the end-of-life, social care and funeral industries, to better understand death and dying

We are excited bring you a year of celebratory events that showcase CDAS at its very best.

You'll hear from CDAS directors, past and present, along with academic colleagues from across the globe as they explore key questions in death studies. And we'll ask how thinking about and researching death can inform issues of contemporary life too.

For a taste of what's to come, take a look at our anniversary year 'termcard' and keep an eye on your inbox for more details of specific events, including how to get your tickets.

We'd love for you to join us in celebrating CDAS @ 20.

Our first event to launch the anniversary year is:

## *CDAS @ 20: Growing a Death Studies Hub*

**September 25<sup>th</sup> 7pm – 8pm BST, online**

**Sign up [here](#)**

Join CDAS Directors past and present as they reflect on the history of the field, its evolution over the last 20 years and their predictions for what the future holds in the study of death, dying, bereavement, the dead, loss, and more. Hear from Tony Walter, John Troyer, Jeremy Dixon, Kate Woodthorpe and Naomi Pendle in our panel conversation. All are welcome, and we extend a special invite to our CDAS alumni from the last two decades, including students from our Masters and Foundation Degrees, former and current PhD students, research colleagues and previous visiting fellows.

# CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

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## *New Book with Launch!*

### **Religion, Death and the Senses**

This edited collection brings together academics and practitioners to explore 6 physical and 3 socio-cultural senses in relation to death and dying: the senses of sight, of smell, of sound, of taste, of touch, of movement, of decency, of humour, and of loss. Each sense section will comprise two chapters to provide differing examples of how death and dying can be viewed through the lens of human physical and cultural senses. Chapters will include historical and contemporary examples of ways in which death, dying and grieving are inextricable from their physical sensual expressions and socio-cultural mores. Most books about death explore how death can be theorised, theologised, and philosophised, or attend to the particular needs of health professionals working in palliative or pastoral care, with little attention to how people engage with and attend to, death, dying and grief sensually. The uniqueness of this collection lies in two areas, firstly its deep engagement with a range of physical and socio-cultural sensual responses to death and dying, and secondly, through its contributors who are drawn from a wide spectrum of professional, practical, and theoretical expertise and scholarship in fields which continue to redefine our understanding of mortality.

Full details about the book can be found [here](#). Please join the editors and chapter authors for their book launch on 12<sup>th</sup> September 6-7.30pm [on Teams](#)

# CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

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## *Suicide Bereavement UK's international conference*

26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel



## ***Palliative Care research in Residential and Community Settings***

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dorothy House Hospice, Winsley, BA15 2LE

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

Come join us at Dorothy House Hospice for an exciting collaborative event focusing on palliative care research in residential and community settings. This in-person event will bring together experts in the field to discuss the latest findings and innovations. Don't miss this opportunity to network with fellow professionals and learn from leading researchers. Register now to secure your spot!

Note: we have launched an [abstract call](#) for posters and presentations. We particularly welcome early researcher abstracts. The deadline for submission is July 2nd. Please follow this link for the form: [abstract call submission form](#)

## **Digital Legacy Conference as part of Public Health Palliative Care International 2024**

25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Location: Bern, Switzerland

Free to attend



This year, the Digital Legacy Conference (#DLC2024) will be heading to Switzerland and taking place as part of the [Public Health Palliative Care International Conference 2024](#) (#PHPCI2024). The Digital Legacy Conference is a not for profit conference organised by the [Digital Legacy Association](#).

Digital Legacy Conference attendees will learn about emerging best practices in areas relating to digital assets planning and digital legacy safeguarding. The conference theme for the PHPCI 2024 Conference is '*building bridges between science and people*'. The theme for the DLC2024 will align to the wider conference theme and also be '*building bridges between science and people*'.



The Digital Legacy Conference 2024 will welcome nearly 150 attendees and it is free to attend for all PHPCI badge-holders. If you are not a badgeholder, we have a limited amount of free tickets. Simply, [get in touch with us](#)


Find more information on the conference [here](#)

# CALL FOR PAPERS

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## *1<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Pedagogy of Death and Improvement of Education*

 Dates: April 2, 3 and 4, 2025

 Venue: Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain).

This conference, bilingual Spanish-English, is a meeting point to share theoretical advances and research on the Pedagogy of Death and Educational Improvement. It is an opportunity to collaborate, establish international networks and contribute to social and educational research and innovation.


Key topics:

1. Research in the Pedagogy of Death and Death Education.
2. Innovation, practice and social and educational transfer in schools and curricular change.
3. Training and resources in the Pedagogy of Death for educators and professionals in social and health sciences.
4. Radical pedagogy and curriculum with other fundamental issues for the improvement of education.

 The first deadline for the proposal of oral communications is October 31, 2024 (only an abstract will be required).

This conference is part of the Spanish state R&D project 'Pedagogy of Death, Pandemic and Improvement of Education' (Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities), with an attendance certification of 15 hours of training (1.5 ECTS).

We are waiting for you at the Assembly Hall of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid for an event that promises to be enriching and inspiring. Register now and be part of the change in education.

 Register, send your oral communications and more here: <https://eventos.uam.es/112658/detail/i-congreso-internacional-de-pedagogia-de-la-muerte-y-mejora-de-la-educacion.html>

(the language can be changed to English-Spanish at the top right of the web page, in the "Idioma" icon)

***Life Writing***  
For a Special Issue on  
***Birth and Death: Writing the Edges of Life***

Abstract deadline: 01 August 2024

Manuscript deadline: 02 February 2025

Special Issue Editor:

**Tamarin Norwood**, Loughborough University

t.g.norwood@lboro.ac.uk

### Birth and Death: Writing the Edges of Life

Birth and death may be the only certainties in life. Yet in life writing, the task of representing birth and death is an uncertain one. They are fundamental events but are also, in many ways, quite untellable. This is no less true of the mid-life event of giving birth.

In their own way, each of these stations in the life-course happens outside of language. The world of the newborn is pre-verbal, with all the conceptual unknowns this implies. For those *giving* birth, language and attendant frameworks of logical thought are often felt to fall away when labour peaks, so that birth itself may proceed without or beyond words. First-person 'birth stories' may have at their core the curious absence of the protagonist, depending upon third person accounts, fragmentary impressions, metaphor and imagery to fill gaps in the evidence. Of course, individuals cannot tell the tale of their own birth or death (although the author's mortality—or hopes of immortality—may shadow an autobiography). On their death bed, a subject may not speak at all. If they do, the weight of their last words may present a challenge all its own. And because these are often intimate events with few witnesses, there may be few accounts beyond the obligatory recording of time and place.

But even if accounts are plentiful, for the biographer, the strange presence-but-absence of the protagonist in birth, death and giving birth sit uneasily with other events that tell the story of a life. Might these moments of *extremis* offer premonition or confirmation of a subject's character, in the way of a hagiography? As Berman asked, did they die 'in character', their last words a summation of their life's meaning? (To borrow from Winnicott, were they alive when they died?) Or is the detail of these events quite irrelevant to the narrative under construction in the writing of a biography; necessary but incidental prefaces or interruptions from the thrust of a life and a life's work? If life writing is a field preoccupied by limits, where are the limits of a subject's life?

Finally, the beginnings and ends of life are profoundly unknowable, and bring with them the weight of spiritual, religious or other symbolic beliefs about their meaning. In the moment of death, the subject becomes ontologically new, turning from somebody who can speak into somebody who can only be spoken about. How can the craft of life writing offer forms adequate to rendering these moments on the cusp of change, which are both incidental and momentous?

Thus birth, death and giving birth present unique practical, formal and symbolic challenges for the auto/biographer. As individual phenomena, scholarship across fields as diverse as

theology, reproductive ethics and disability studies attests to how intimately our beliefs around these events mirror and reveal the concerns of the social worlds of which they are part. But when considered together—as three instances of life slipping away from language when at its most poignant—they can reveal new insight into how life writing can address evidence gaps big or small, epistemic uncertainty, and ontological change.

At this time, as tragic international events make death ever-present, as choices in pregnancy, birth and dying share ever-more contested ground, as reproduction studies takes a critical turn, and as illness and disability literature foreground the body in biography, **we are looking for papers on how life writing attends to the challenges presented by writing the edges of life.** Themes and issues include, but are not limited to:

- The absence or un/reliability of language around birth, birthing and death
- The ir/relevance birth, birthing and death to the life story
- Writing at the edges of life in healthcare, hospice and bereavement care
- Parallels between birth, birthing and death
- The problem or opportunity of evidence gaps at the edges of life
- The concept of ‘dying in character’ or being born in character
- Language and the body during birth, birthing and death
- Voicing, othering or silencing the body at the edges of life
- Ethical dimensions of telling the untellable
- Speaking through death: last words, resistance and activism
- Figuring birth or death as the beginning or end of the text
- Birth, birthing and death as narrative devices
- Life before birth, life after death

### Submission Instructions

Abstracts should be submitted via the following form: <https://forms.office.com/e/cc5KriFd7k>

The issue welcomes both research articles (analysing works of auto/biography) and autoethnography (making links between experience and theoretical analysis), but Life Writing does not publish purely creative essays, ficto-criticism, or memoir. More about Life Writing’s policy can be found here:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=aimsScope&journalCode=rlwr20>

To view or share this CFP online:

[https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special\\_issues/birth-and-death-writing-the-edges-of-life/](https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special_issues/birth-and-death-writing-the-edges-of-life/)

## ***Call for Papers: Crime, Death and the Gothic Imagination***

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

**9 September 2024**

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

**Possible topics include (but are not limited to):**

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

**Invited contributors:**

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

**Guest Editors:**

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

**Submission deadline:**

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

**Word limit:**

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

**Online submission:**

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

**Author Submission's Guidelines:**

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

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

## ***4<sup>th</sup> Lifting The Lid International Festival of Death and Dying 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024***



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF DEATH & DYING

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

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

### ***Grief Care: Religion and Spiritual Support in Times of Loss***

Deadline for manuscript submissions: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

More info and submission point here:

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special\\_issues/9CSTES3W15](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/religions/special_issues/9CSTES3W15)

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

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

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

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

## ***Journal for Religion, Film and Media (JRFM) 2026, 12/1 – Death, Loss and Mourning in Film and Media***

Today, death is both something very absent and very present. When people die, they often do so hidden away in care homes and hospitals. Death is dealt with by professionals, making it something absent in most people's lives. At the same time, death is all around us via media images and popular cultural narratives. Whether in media reports from sites of war, televised royal funerals, gruesome murders in true crime podcasts or fictional stories in films, death would seem to be everywhere. The pandemic also influenced our thinking about death. While the dead and dying were often even more separated from the living – with care homes being closed and funerals limited to only a few people – death was very present in news reports and online spaces provided new ways of mourning and remembering those we had lost.

When death and mourning move online or become the topic of media, different modes of production, representation, and distribution are applied. Death and mourning become commercialized and marketized. Still, media can offer different narratives about death and mourning, and online spaces allow for alternative ways to relate to loss and grief. However, media and digital spaces can also uphold norms and strengthen traditional views on death. As with research on religion and media in general, the connection between the online and the offline when exploring grief must not be ignored. Death and mourning online are connected on diverse levels to offline practices. These processes can be subsumed under the term of mediatisation that scrutinizes changes in the field of media and religion.

What are then the narratives the media and popular culture offer us about death? How can media, online spaces, influencers, and popular culture be a part of loss and mourning? What notions of an afterlife do films and the online world provide? How are religious imaginaries about death reinvented in media representations? These are some of the questions we encourage authors to explore in this upcoming issue of the Journal for Religion, Film and Media. Though focusing on death, this issue is also very much about life. It aims to highlight how death, loss, and mourning is also a part of what it means to be human, a notion not always acknowledged in today's culture.

Suggested topics:

- Notions of an afterlife in popular culture
- The ritualization of death in media
- Online sites as places of mourning and memory
- Experiences of online funerals
- Online pastoral care
- Theological perspectives on online death rituals and practices
- Theorizing religion and death online
- Online deaths and afterlives
- Grief practices online and offline
- Mourning processes in media and popular culture



- Death/grief/mourning influencers
- Ethnographic explorations of online and offline grief
- Media and online death ritual innovations
- The visualization of loss and the aesthetics of grief in media
- Beyond language – capturing grief in alternative ways online
- The digital revitalization of old grief norms/rituals
- The commercialisation and marketization of death in media
- The use of media in death rituals

We invite scholars from a range of relevant fields, such as literature, film and media studies, theology, and the study of religion, as well as of sociology or political sciences, to contribute to this issue. The issue also includes an open section for articles on other topics in keeping with the profile of JRFM. The deadline for all submissions is 1 June 2025. The publication is scheduled for May 2026. Contributions of 5,000 to 6,000 words (including notes) should be submitted for double-blind peer review through the journal website at [www.jrfm.eu](http://www.jrfm.eu). We kindly ask authors to register and to follow the instructions for submitting contributions, especially the style guide.

For questions regarding this call for papers or the submission and publication process, please contact the editors of the issue, Sofia Sjö (Sofia.Sjo@abo.fi) and Marie-Therese Mäder (m.maeder@lmu.de).

## ***“Death and the Digital Realm” Leiden University, Netherlands***

October 11-12<sup>th</sup> 2024

Event co-sponsored by the International Association for the Philosophy of Death and Dying (IAPDD), Leiden University, and the Australian Research Council project “Digital Death and Immortality”

A legacy of today’s digitally driven world is the increasing number of ‘digital remains’ a person leaves behind after they die, such as audio and image files, social media accounts and emails. How to deal with these digital remains has become an increasingly significant and costly problem for individuals, families, organisations, tech companies, and governments.

Existing legal approaches focus on treating digital remains as a form of property, but they do not fully capture the sensitivities and significance of digital remains in people’s lives. Additionally, a property-only approach cannot address the dangers of ‘digital reanimation’ – emerging artificial intelligence technologies that re-use digital remains to ‘revive’ the dead, making it possible to interact with them. This offers new ways of commemorating the dead and for managing grief.

Yet these technologies also threaten to exploit the dead and to change our relationship to them in troubling ways. From posthumous chatbots to CGI performances from dead actors,

they create ethical dilemmas for dealing with digital souls. Clearly, more work is necessary on the ethical use of these technologies and the best policies for regulating the reuse of digital remains.

This workshop/conference will consider what sort of ethical significance digital remains have, and determine how they should be preserved, reused or disposed of.

Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

- The ontological status of the digital dead
- What we owe the digital dead
- The digital dead and privacy rights
- The ethics of putting the dead to work
- Responsible use of the digital dead for grieving
- Regulating the digital dead
- The digital dead and agency

Abstracts addressing this theme should be approximately 400 words long and sent to [info@philosophyofdeath.org](mailto:info@philosophyofdeath.org) by 22 Jul 2024. We expect to notify authors of acceptances in mid-August.

Further information regarding IAPDD can be found at <https://www.philosophyofdeath.org/>

Sign up for IAPDD newsletters at <https://www.philosophyofdeath.org/contact/>

## ***Virtual Colloquium 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024***

The second Virtual Cemeteries Colloquium will take place on the 15th November 2024 and **the call for paper is now open**. We invite papers on places and practices relating to disposing the dead including burial, cremation and other technologies. Papers are expected to fall within social science and humanities disciplines, demonstrate theoretical engagement and include empirical data. As always, with the Colloquium, this is a particularly supportive environment for postgraduate students and postdocs.

Each paper will have a thirty-minute time slot: presenters are expected to speak for around twenty minutes, to allow time for questions.

We encourage submissions from around the world, and panels will be organised to accommodate a range of time zones. All presentations must be in English.

Please submit your abstract using the google form [here](#).

**The deadline for submission is 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024.** Tickets will be available via the [CRG website](#) from 30th September.

# ***Death Notice/Body Copy: Representations of Death in Global Journalism***

## **Editor(s):**

Kristin Skare Orgeret (OsloMet University) and Nechama Brodie (University of the Witwatersrand)

**Submission of Abstracts:** 15-30 November 2024

**Submission of Full Papers:** 15-30 April 2025

**Publication of the Issue:** October/December 2025

## **Information:**

The thematic issue seeks to explore the ways in which news media around the world explore, report, and narrate death and the dead, in words, pictures, and even sound, where acts of counting become forms of recounting through which the literal body (a cadaver or corpse), being counted or discounted, becomes a site of incompatible biography: An object that has a history, but which no longer has a life. Accounts of death are unevenly explored across the journalistic landscape and earlier research has shown that images presenting dead bodies are infrequent (Griffin, 2010; Zelizer, 2010). This may however change with the increased importance of digital media and new conditions of production, content, and reception for representations of death in the news. Whereas some earlier research has focused mainly on the mediation of exceptional death (Sumiala, 2022), we see a need to empirically consider a variety of types of deaths, geopolitical perspectives, and whose bodies count in different geographies, societies, and times.

We are interested in singular and interdisciplinary articles and studies that look at current and historical journalistic forms of coverage of death, dying, and the dead, from journalists and photojournalists who are sent to cover combat zones, mass killings, or large-scale natural disasters, to media coverage of deadly pandemics, reporting on ways of assisted dying, or even a close reading of forms of obituaries. A specific focus will be given to emerging trends in the representation of death in digital and social media. Researchers looking at forms of journalism in the global south are encouraged to submit an abstract, and editing support will be given for accepted contributions where the authors are not first-language English speakers.

## **References**

Griffin, M. (2010). Media images of war. *Media, War & Conflict*, 3(1), 7–41.

Sumiala, J. (2022). *Mediated death*. Polity Press.

Zelizer, B. (2010). *About to die: How news images move the public*. Oxford University Press.

## **Instructions for Authors:**

Authors interested in submitting a paper for this issue are asked to consult the journal's instructions for authors and submit their abstracts (maximum of 250 words, with a tentative title) through the abstracts system ([here](#)). When submitting their abstracts, authors are also asked to confirm that they are aware that Media and Communication is an open access journal with a publishing fee if the article is accepted for publication after peer-review (corresponding authors affiliated with our institutional members do not incur this fee).

**Open Access:**

Readers across the globe will be able to access, share, and download this issue entirely for free. Corresponding authors affiliated with any of our [institutional members](#) (over 90 institutions worldwide) publish free of charge. Otherwise, an article processing fee will be charged to the authors to cover editorial costs. We defend that authors should not have to personally pay this fee and encourage them to check with their institutions if funds are available to cover open access publication costs. Further information about the journal's open access charges can be found [here](#).

### Call for British Academy Visiting Fellowships 2025!

Funded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology

#### More about the programme

The British Academy's Visiting Fellowships programme provides outstanding academics based in any country overseas with the opportunity to be based at a UK higher education or other research institution. The programme is open to academics at any career stage, and in any discipline within the humanities and social sciences.

#### Aims

Visiting Fellowships illustrate the British Academy's profound and on-going commitment to international engagement. The aim of this programme is to ensure that the UK remains an attractive, welcoming, and productive research environment for academics globally. Through this programme, the Academy aims to:

- Enhance and build new links between scholars from around the globe and in the UK;
- Foster opportunities and encourage the development of new and future partnerships for collaborative research into the humanities and social sciences
- To enable academics from across the globe to undertake research and/or professional development with UK colleagues;
- And strengthen the UK's research bases in the humanities and the social sciences.

#### Eligibility requirements

Visiting Fellows must be of postdoctoral level or above, or have equivalent research experience at the time of application. Candidates should be based outside of the UK at the time of application. Applicants may be on permanent *or* fixed-term contracts. Fixed-term contracts must not end before the end date of the Visiting Fellowship. Independent scholars are also welcome to apply.

Applicants must demonstrate that they have been in contact with their UK host institution prior to applying. **Please note that the British Academy is not able to assist with locating or facilitating contact with a UK host institution.**

The British Academy welcomes applications from a diverse range of UK host institutions, and would particularly encourage applications from historically and/or structurally disadvantaged groups, low-income countries, and female researchers.

For more details about the Visiting Fellowship programme, including eligibility requirements, please see the [Scheme Notes](#).

## Value and duration

Visiting Fellowships are available for a period of between 3 to 6 months. Applicants will be asked to provide their preferred start date for their Fellowship over the spring and summer (March-August 2025).

The maximum funding available is £40,000.

## Application process

Applications must be submitted online using the British Academy's Grant Management System (GMS), [Flexi-Grant®](#).

## Deadline

The deadline for applications is **17:00 (GMT) on Wednesday, 23rd October 2024**.

# £1 million partnership research call from Marie Curie and Alzheimer's Society

## *Improving end of life experience for people with dementia*

Recent estimates suggest that there are currently **982,000 people** living with dementia in the UK and that this will rise by **40% to 1.4 million in 2040**. Despite dementia and Alzheimer's Disease being the leading cause of death in the UK, there are significant gaps in both evidence and service provision for people dying of, or with, dementia. This means that many are not receiving the right care and support to have the best possible experience at the end of their lives.

That is why **Marie Curie** and **Alzheimer's Society** have come together to make available **£1,000,000** for new research that can improve the end of life experience for people with any form of dementia, and for those who care for and support them.

## Need to know

The call will be open to expressions of interest (EOIs) from lead applicants based at eligible UK organisations **from 4th June to 30th July 2024** and lead applicants of shortlisted EOIs will be invited to submit a full application to the scheme.

Further details, guidance for applicants and the expression of interest form are available [here](#).

## Contact Us

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Visit the CDAS [website](#) for more information.

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