

Centre for  
Death & Society  
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

# Centre for Death & Society

## January 2025 Newsletter

[Director's Note](#)

**CDAS**

[News](#)

[Events](#)

**CDAS Community**

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Calls](#)

[Job/PhD opportunities](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## Director's Note

---

Welcome to 2025 and the start of another exciting year for CDAS and death studies, including the continuation of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events. It has been such a privilege to spend the last months reflecting both on all that CDAS has achieved in twenty years, but also about the issues, challenges and insights that will dominate death studies in the next years and decades to come. Dying, death and its aftermath are in transition, as is death studies. We hope you can continue to help us reflect on and shape death studies, and the contribution that the study of death can make to other fields, through the rest of our Anniversary events in 2025. As always, a highlight of the coming months and this anniversary year will be the **CDAS 2025 online conference titled 'Death in transition'**. This will be held in June and usually includes participants from over a dozen time zones. The deadline for abstracts is the **12pm GMT on 31 January 2025**. Find out more below or visit the [website](#).

The New Year starts with many congratulations. Mathew Crawley has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. Mat is a Professional Doctoral Student at the University of Bath. Congratulations Mat! Further congratulations are also owed to Lorna Templeton and Kate Woodthorpe who have been awarded a grant to support impact from the [Voicing Loss](#) project. Plus, Kate Woodthorpe, Diana Teggi and Mat Crawley have been funded by Research England Policy Support Funding to conduct a study of deceased people's wishes for their funeral to provide to the Law Commission of England and Wales. Finally, Dr Ng Yong Hao, a former visiting PhD student, has also been awarded his PhD from the University of Hong Kong.

In January, CDAS was also delighted to welcome scholars from three different continents for a writing workshop on death and contemporary armed conflict. It was a privilege to see impressive scholarship and collegiaty including across communities divided by conflict, such as those in the Sudans.



Photo from left to right: Professor Leben Moro (University of Juba, South Sudan), Dr Safa Suliman (University of Bath and University of Khartoum, Sudan) and Abraham Diing (independent researcher, South Sudan).

Thank you for all your continuing contributions. We are excited about all you will think, research, contribute and debate in 2025. If you are local to Bath (or want to visit!) please join in March us for the launch of our [FREE CDAS podcast walk](#) around the city centre and how we have created it, on Bath's hidden histories: stories of death and crime within the city. Both are part of the [Bath Curious Minds Festival](#) and spaces are limited. Full details of how to sign up are in this edition.

Naomi Pendle and Kate Woodthorpe (CDAS Co-Directors)

### *\*Last call for CDAS Conference abstracts\**

#### **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](#).

### ***Funding success***

Congratulations to Kate Woodthorpe, Diana Teggi and Mat Crawley who have been successful in their application for Research England Policy Support Funding to conduct a study in the first half of 2025 on the negotiation of deceased people's wishes for their funeral with their family, to provide to the Law Commission of England and Wales. More information will be forthcoming about the study and recruitment. If you cannot wait and want to find out more, please email Kate at [k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk](mailto:k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk).



### ***More funding success***

Lorna Templeton and Kate Woodthorpe have been awarded a grant from the University's ESRC Impact Acceleration Account to continue the work of [Voicing Loss](#). Working with [Turning Point](#) and [Jessica Jacobson](#), this new Supporting Loss project will build on the findings of Voicing Loss to improve information and support for bereaved people engaged with the coroner service following deaths related to substance use. Supporting Loss will also draw on the previous ESRC funded project completed by a team (including Lorna) from Bath and Stirling focused on [adults bereaved through substance misuse](#). Watch this space for updates on this exciting new project!

### ***Further ‘Voicing Loss’ News/Updates***

Lorna Templeton attended a recent launch event for Marc Trabsky and CDAS Visiting Fellow Imogen Jones edited [Handbook of Law and Death](#) at the University of Leeds, and gave a presentation on Voicing Loss, based on the chapter she has written for the book. The next day, Lorna also attended the wide-ranging and stimulating ‘Respecting the Dead’ workshop, also hosted by Imogen.

Along with Professor Jessica Jacobson from ICPR Birkbeck (Voicing Loss Principal Investigator) Lorna will also be attending a Parliamentary Forum towards the end of January. Hosted by Abtisam Mohamed MP, the event has been arranged with the charity [Gambling with Lives](#) in order to meet and better understand the experiences of families bereaved by gambling related suicide. Gambling with Lives supported Voicing Loss, and a further research report from Voicing Loss (focused on a subset of interviews completed with 14 individuals) will be published at the same time – the report will be available on the [Voicing Loss](#) and Gambling with Lives websites.

### ***Congratulations to Visiting PhD student Ng Yong Hao***

Between October and December 2024 CDAS was visited by University of Hong Kong PhD student [Ng Yong Hao](#), and we've just received the fantastic news that Yong has successfully passed his viva and been awarded his doctorate! Huge congratulations Yong from everyone here in CDAS, and we hope you enjoyed your visit to Bath and the UK.

### ***Welcome Dr [Sophie Whiting](#) to CDAS!***

Sophie is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics Languages and International Studies. With a research background focusing on the conflict and peace process in Northern Ireland, Sophie’s research spans two inter-related tracks. First, through qualitative methods, Sophie is interested in the legacy of violent conflict on politics and wider society. Sophie is particularly concerned with issues relating to reconciliation, disappearance, memory and commemoration, as well as the promotion of gender equality in societies following violent conflict. Second, with a focus on more formal institutions, her research also explores political parties, power sharing and multi-level systems. Sophie’s previous research of this nature includes the impact of devolution and nationalist politics on abortion policy in the UK, the evolution of political parties during/following violent conflict and gendered political leadership change. Brought together, this research on the legacy of conflict allows an examination of, and interaction between, elite driven processes and grass roots perspectives.

## *Workshop on dying, death and its aftermath during armed conflict*

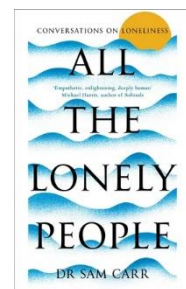
As part of its Anniversary events, CDAS hosted scholars from **three continents** for a five-day writing workshop on dying, death and its aftermath during armed conflict. Over those five days, we managed to collectively write over **30,000 words**, as well review each others' work, and debate and develop observations, ideas, concepts and our contribution. The articles being drafted focused on South Sudan, Sudan, Israel-Palestine, and Nigeria. At the heart of this emerging special issue is a question about how dying and the treatment of the dead are changing in times of armed conflict, as well as the desire to reiterate that paying attention to death and its aftermath are essential if we are to understand contemporary war's social, moral, and political dynamics. This is a pressing question in a world increasingly characterised by political polarisation, proliferating and protracted armed conflicts, and the seemingly unrestrained killing of civilians. The articles draw on qualitative and ethnographic methods, and details of publication will be shared in due course.

If you would like to find out more, contact CDAS Co-Director Naomi Pendle (nrp36@bath.ac.uk).



## *National Storytelling Week*

Did you know that in the UK it is [National Story Week](#) between 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February? If you enjoy and value stories then we recommend CDAS member Sam Carr's [recently published book](#) on Loneliness, that features stories about the end of life and contributions from CDAS members.



## ***CDAS reunion at BSA Death, Dying and Bereavement Symposium in Liverpool***

On 12 December 2024, the British Sociological Association's Social Aspects of Death, Dying, and Bereavement working group held its annual symposium at the University of Liverpool, in collaboration with the [Centre for Ageing and the Life Course](#) (CALC). Co-convened by CDAS members Dr Chao Fang, Dr Diana Teggi, and Dr Natalie Richardson from the University of York, this year's symposium focused on 'death and ageing'. While death and ageing are closely connected in the human life course and intersect in various social, practical, and policy settings, dialogue between death studies and ageing studies remains insufficient. Joined by CDAS PhD students Alastair Comery, Polly Maxwell, and visiting fellow Dr Bethany Simmonds and Dr Xin Zhang, the [symposium](#) explored death and ageing as interconnected topics through a multidisciplinary lens, examining the socio-cultural, political, and practical dimensions of ageing and end-of-life experiences, including themes such as the fourth age, healthcare planning, palliative care, community approaches, and the challenges of ageing in diverse contexts. The symposium provided a valuable platform for continuing the dialogue on death and ageing and has also opened the door for CDAS and CALC to collaborate on these topics.



## ***New blog post by PhD student Catriona Brickel***

### **Charitable giving through digital memorial platforms: attending to the truly mundane**

In his introduction to *The Digital Departed*, Timothy Recuber (2023) distinguishes between two types of 'thanatechnology' that preoccupy digital death researchers:

1. That which is inspired by science-fiction, like mind-uploading to a computer, and
2. That which is mundane and facilitates symbolic immortality today.

Under the second category, he includes technologies as diverse as blogs (the popularity of which peaked in the 2000s), social networking sites and artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled 'deathbots' (which continue to be refined). Yet, surely, these are not equally mundane, if we take this word at its face value to mean ordinary and lacking interest. If the most recent Death Online Research Symposium is anything to go by, digital death researchers find much to be excited by in Recuber's 'mundane' including: grief influencers on Instagram and TikTok, death memes and livestreaming death, and - of course - the ongoing development of AI chatbots that imitate the deceased.

Amidst all the excitement of emerging 'mundane' digital death practices, however, the truly everyday has largely escaped academic attention. My doctoral research aims to highlight one of the most commonplace but under-researched acts of mourning in the UK: giving to charity

in remembrance of the deceased through creating or engaging with an online memorial page....  
Interested? Read more from this blog [here](#).

## ***The Conversation Article: One for the Swifties***

### **[The end of Taylor Swift's eras tour will be a loss for many – here's how to handle it](#)**

By Annayah Prosser in the University's School of Management and Kate Woodthorpe, who were both very sad when the tour ended in December 2024!

---

## **CDAS EVENTS**

### ***Association of Death Education and Counseling Webinar by CDAS members***



### ***Accounting for Difficult Deaths: public investigations and their challenges for professionals and the bereaved***

21<sup>st</sup> January 6pm GMT online

Bereavement research has focused predominantly on how to support grievors in the context of the medical and clinical sectors but there is relatively little attention given to the impact of professionals and services who may come in contact with grievors outside these sectors, particularly in the aftermath of deaths that are unexpected, traumatic, or violent. This webinar will feature four speakers from the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath who study the impact of formal investigations into these types of deaths, specifically via coroners' inquests and public inquiries. Attendees will learn about the circumstances that lead to formal investigations, what to expect from these investigations, how these expectations can be met, and the impact such investigations can have on the bereft.

With Lucy Easthope, Lorna Templeton, Jessica Jacobsen, Sarah Moore and Kate Woodthorpe

Full details available [here](#)



***Marginalized Ways of Understanding Death: From Fiji to Africa to Turtle Island, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025.***

**Timing to be confirmed, watch out for the Eventbrite link on our social media**

Presentation title: “Indigenous Fijian Funeral culture in Fiji: Contemporary challenges and Strategies for Socioecological and Economic Sustainability”

The talk will look at the social, environmental and economic dimensions and challenges of indigenous Fijian funeral culture in Fiji and the familial and communal negotiations for survival.

Dr. Ron Vave is an indigenous Fijian and an Assistant Professor at the Department of Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa (UHM). He holds three degrees from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji: a Bachelor’s in Biology and Chemistry, a Postgraduate Diploma in Marine Science, and a Masters in coral ecology. His PhD in Marine Biology at UHM investigated how the cultural practice(s) of indigenous Fijian funerals in Fiji influenced and affected social and ecological resilience.



Link: <https://hawaii.edu/cpis/people/core-faculty/ron-vave/>

**George Gumisiriza**

Presentation title: "Mapping the difference: exploring African migrant deathways in the UK"

This paper reflects on the ordinariness of death matters in the UK and how regulations, policy, and practice frame death politics in the UK. The paper draws on my PhD research into body repatriation among African migrants in the UK to address two critical areas:

1. The social, cultural, and political factors that highlight African migrant funerary practices in the UK.
2. Understanding African migrant ‘transnational localisms’, barriers to body repatriation, and how these inform social constructions of belonging in the UK.



George Gumisiriza is an early career researcher who focuses on popularising Afrocentric perspectives on death through repatriationscapes studies. He is pursuing a PhD in Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath. George’s on-going PhD research concerns the repatriation of African diaspora corpses [and human remains] from the UK to places of their heritage connection(s) in Africa. His research explores African diaspora transnational localisms, belonging and restoration for both the living and the dead. George’s multidisciplinary research highlights barriers including migration and mobilities, changing social, cultural, economic, and political situations.

Link: <https://vimeo.com/724961538>

**Dr. Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner**

Presentation Title:

“Indigenous Feminist Approaches to Death Car(e)cerality: Land, Liberation, and Resistance to Settler Necropolitics in Turtle Island”



This talk interrogates the settler colonial governance of death as a site of necropolitical control, examining interconnected examples of car(e)cerality, including the denial of funeral access for incarcerated Native people, the disruption of mourning through police violence, the privatization of stolen burial grounds, the displacement of unrepatriated Native remains, the regulatory stranglehold of the funeral industrial complex, the ecological harm of “green” burial practices that fail to recognize Indigenous land, and the generational damage to Indigenous death cosmologies caused by the criminalization of ceremonies. Grounded in Indigenous feminist frameworks, this work positions these issues as part of a broader colonial project to control Indigenous life cycles, including death. It advocates for coalition-building and the creation of networks of support for Indigenous death care workers, as exemplified by organizations like the Decolonizing Death Collective and Native American and Indigenous Death Care Autonomy (NAIDCA), to resist settler car(e)cerality and envision relational, anticolonial approaches to death care.

Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner (Luiseño & Cupeño) is an Indigenous feminist philosopher. Shelbi researches, teaches, and consults on Indigenous research and evaluation methods, cultural and language reclamation, Indigenous epistemologies, Indigenous feminist interventions in critical social work, and land-based feminist coalition-building. Shelbi is fascinated by the intersections of Indigenous knowledge systems, caretaking, power, and trauma. Shelbi is a proud first-generation descendant of the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians, and is of both Luiseño (Payómkawichum) and Cupeño (Kupangaxwichem) descent. She is an assistant professor in the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at University of Maryland, College Park and the founding director of the Indigenous Futures Lab, a hub of Indigenous feminist research and evaluation.

Link: <https://wgss.umd.edu/directory/shelbi-nahwilet-meissner>

***CDAS walk launch: JOIN US!***

Drawing on our Visiting Professor Ruth Penfold-Mounce’s expertise and experience of creating death and crime walks around the city of York we have been busy creating our own podcast walk around the city centre, sharing some of Bath’s lesser known stories about death and crime. Join us for two launch events in March, including a free walk with the creator herself, Dr Molly Conisbee, and a talk between Ruth and Molly on the walk’s creation and learning on the move.

**25<sup>th</sup> March 5pm – 6.30pm**

***Bath's hidden histories: stories of death and crime within the city***

Join us for a 90 minute walk around the city centre as we introduce you to some of Bath's lesser known hidden histories. Recounting instances of illness, death, crime and more, our walk will take you to some of the best known city landmarks while also shedding some light on the less 'glossy' history of the city. It will be followed by a talk from the walk's creators, which is a separate event (see below).

Sign up [here](#)

**25<sup>th</sup> March 7pm – 8pm**

Widcombe Social Club

***Bath's Hidden Histories: uncovering death and crime within the city***

Join us for a free talk by the creators of the Bath Hidden Histories Walk, Dr Molly Conisbee from the University of Bath and Professor Ruth Penfold-Mounce from the University of York. During their talk they will reflect on how and why some stories, histories and knowledge(s) become public and others suppressed, and the extent to which people are willing to engage with the topics of death and crime. This will be the formal launch of the podcast walk hosted by the University of Bath's [Centre for Death and Society](#), which you can do in your own time. The walk uncovers some of the deaths and crimes that have taken place in Bath over the centuries, and will take you around some of the most well known locations in the city at the same time. It is free and available here: <https://cdaswalk.org/>

Sign up [here](#)

**Both events are part of the [Bath Curious Minds Festival](#) and spaces are limited, so make sure to reserve your space!**

***Future events***

We have a calendar of events in the making for the next few months, including:

**April:** Launch of the 'Death and Institutions' collection edited by Kate Woodthorpe, Helen Frisby and Bethan Michael-Fox

**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.

# CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

## *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](mailto: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](mailto:mindfulphotogrief@gmail.com)

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

## *The Association for the Study of Death and Society, ASDS Awards*

### **Eligibility and Nomination Process**

- For open awards, nominations may be made by both members and non-members of ASDS (including [ASDS council members](#), see below for further guidance).
- Self-nominations are not permitted for any award.
- All nominations must clearly demonstrate how the nominee meets the criteria for the award, as this information will be used for shortlisting purposes.
- All nominations for open awards must be submitted using [this online submission form](#) for the relevant award. All sections of the form must be completed in full, and any potential conflict of interest declared.
- Nominations must be received by **23.59 hours (BST) on 31 March 2025**. Late nominations will not be considered.
- [Read more about all the Awards here.](#)

For the 2025 Awards, the relevant nomination period\* for both the ASDS Book Award and the ASDS Mortality Journal Award is 1 April 2021-31 March 2025. Any works nominated for either of these awards must have been published within this date period.

To find out more [click here](#)

## ***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>

---

## **CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### ***Ars Morendi in seven selected pieces***

29th January 2025 6.30-7.30pm UTC

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.

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

## ***What are the tensions in seeking to 'decolonise' 'bereavement and grief'?***

The Open Thanatology webinar will be on Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 1.30-2.30pm GMT

The session will be chaired by Janet Wildman.

Panel speakers include Hady Kamar, Chukumeka Maxwell, and Jacqui Stedmon with Samira Ben Omar as discussant. The event has been organised by Jane McCarthy with support from Open Thanatology co-chairs.

The webinar is free, and if possible, we hope to share the recording after the event. Please ensure you register if you'd like to attend and find out more.

Link to register: [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-are-the-tensions-in-seeking-to-decolonise-bereavement-and-grief-tickets-1114955715559?aff=oddtcreator&utm\\_campaign=postpublish&utm\\_medium=sparkpost&utm\\_source=email](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-are-the-tensions-in-seeking-to-decolonise-bereavement-and-grief-tickets-1114955715559?aff=oddtcreator&utm_campaign=postpublish&utm_medium=sparkpost&utm_source=email)

## ***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!

## ***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 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.**



**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.

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

## ***Death Literacies symposium held in Brussels, Belgium***

The Death Literacies Symposium is organised by the International Death Literacies Network. The network aims to unite individuals working on Death and End of Life literacy, learn from ongoing projects, inspire each other and collaborate in projects together.

The first symposium was held on June 25th, 2024 at University College London in the UK. The event drew over 30 international researchers from 7 countries working on and around the topic of Death Literacy, Grief Literacy and End-of-Life Health Literacy.





Inspired by each other and the energy in the room, it was decided to keep this group going and plans were soon made for a second event.

### **Date and location**

#### **Dates**

17 & 18 March 2025

#### **Location**

Hoek38, Leuvenseweg 38, 1000 Brussel, Belgium

Link to register and more information:

<https://www.deathliteracy.institute/dlsymposium>

### **More Details on the DDD Conference in 2025 have been released**

DDD17 Conference: The Politics of Death

27-30 August 2025

Registration. Deadline for registration and payment: Friday 16 May, 2025.

The conference will be held in and around Dom Square, the vibrant heart of Utrecht's historic city center. We are currently compiling a list of recommended accommodations (including discounts) and nearby places to eat and drink, which we will share with you as soon as it's ready.

You can attend the DDD17 conference onsite (in Utrecht) or participate online.

Link to register and more information:

<https://ddd17.sites.uu.nl/registration/>

***Durham University's Centre for Death and Life Studies invites submissions for 10-minute papers on the topic of closure.***

These can be conceptual, practice-based experiences, or work-in-progress. To apply, please send a 200-word outline by 12 noon (GMT) on Friday 24th January to [georgina.m.robinson@durham.ac.uk](mailto:georgina.m.robinson@durham.ac.uk).

For more information [click here](#)

## CLOSURE CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

Conference hosted by the Centre for Death and Life Studies at Durham University,  
Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th April 2025

A single word can carry many meanings, speak truth, lies, cause confusion, grant wisdom or deception: is 'closure' one such word? The Centre for Death and Life Studies at Durham University hosts this two-day event to explore the dynamics of 'closure', with guest speakers including Dr Kathryn Mannix (UK), Dr Amber Griffioen (USA), and the Principal Investigators of the Digital Death Project.

The conference partially marks the conclusion of the Digital Death Project in which Durham has shared research with the Universities of Aarhus in Denmark, Helsinki in Finland, and Bucharest in Romania, all funded by the European Union's Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe scheme (CHANSE).

While bereavement-support, grief, and the loss of others, along with one's own end of life concerns provide immediately obvious topics, this cross-disciplinary and international event will embrace 'closure' in other domains. This event is determined to focus on 'closure' and is not an invitation to address 'everything' related to death. Accordingly, there will be a set of invited distinguished speakers representing a variety of fields, offering 20-30 minute papers, sometimes in dialogue with each other, and an **open invitation for closure-focused papers of 10-minutes each in a plenary context**. These can be conceptual, practice-based experiences, or work-in-progress. The time restraints and the ultimate choice of papers will be driven by our desire to have all contributions in plenary form and not as break-out parallel sessions. Full details of invited speakers and how to register will be published in early February.

**For open-invitation papers, please send a 200-word outline by 12 noon (GMT) on Friday 24th January to [georgina.m.robinson@durham.ac.uk](mailto:georgina.m.robinson@durham.ac.uk)**

Acceptance informed by Friday 31st January 2025



**Digital  
DEath**



***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](mailto: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](mailto:research@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk) by Friday 28 February 2025.**

## ***Responsible Technology for Death and Dying*** ***Submission deadline: 30 November 2025***

The rapid emergence of technologies designed to interact with the deceased presents a unique opportunity and a significant ethical challenge. Without a robust regulatory framework and a commitment to responsible research and innovation (RRI) principles, these technologies risk exacerbating grief and potentially distorting our understanding of death and the process of dying.

The rapid advancement of generative AI (GenAI) has marked the beginning of a new era of technological innovation, including the development of "DeathTech" or Digital Afterlife Industry (DAI). Deathtech and DAI are new concepts that include any technology-enabled application and devices that help with death and dying. These can include technologies and services to help cope with loss and grief, preserve digital afterlife immortality (e.g., to enable continuous interaction with the deceased) and digital reminiscence, among others. While these technologies offer potential benefits, such as preserving positive memories and facilitating grief, they also raise significant ethical and societal concerns.

This special issue aims to explore the multifaceted impact of "DeathTech" and DAI on grief processes, mourning rituals, and cultural conceptions of death. By promoting RRI approaches, we seek to inform future technological developments to maximize psychological benefits and minimise harm.

By fostering interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers, technologists, IT lawyers, ethicists, and end of life practitioners, this special issue will contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the potential benefits and risks of DeathTech. Ultimately, our goal is to shape a future where responsible technology serves humanity, rather than the other way around.

Special issue information:

Key areas of inquiry could include these sub-topics:

The psychological impact: How does DeathTech and digital afterlife industries (DAI) such as ghost bots, dead bots and grief bots, among many others, influence grief processes, bereavement, and the development of healthy coping mechanisms?

The role of GenAI in DeathTech and DAI: How can GenAI be used to create more realistic and personalised digital representations of the deceased? What are the ethical implications of using AI to generate content that mimics human behavior and emotion?

Ethical and moral considerations: What are the ethical and moral implications of creating digital representations of the deceased? How can we ensure that these technologies respect individual autonomy, data privacy and ownership, and dignity?

Cultural, spiritual, and religious perspectives: How do different cultures and religions conceptualise death and dying? How can DeathTech and DAI be designed to accommodate diverse cultural and religious beliefs and practices?

Regulatory frameworks: What regulatory measures are necessary to ensure the ethical, legal, and responsible development and use of DeathTech and DAI? Which are the main accountability issues? Is there a need to professionalise DAIs?

Manuscript submission information:

Free APC: Article Publishing Charge will be fully waived for all articles accepted in this special issue.

Manuscript submission open date: 15/12/2024

Manuscript submission deadline: 30/11/2025

You are invited to submit your manuscript at any time before the submission deadline. For any inquiries about the appropriateness of contribution topics, please contact Prof. Elvira Perez Vallejos via [elvira.perez@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:elvira.perez@nottingham.ac.uk).

Please refer to the Guide for Authors to prepare your manuscript, and select the article type of “VSI: DeathTech” when submitting your manuscript online at the journal’s submission platform Editorial Manager®. Both the Guide for Authors and the submission portal could also be found on the Journal Homepage.

Keywords:

Digital Afterlife Industry (DAI), DeathTech, grief, mourning, digital legacy, virtual memorials, artificial intelligence, ethics, RRI, palliative care

Why publish in this Special Issue?

Special Issue articles are published together on ScienceDirect, making it incredibly easy for other researchers to discover your work.

Special content articles are downloaded on ScienceDirect twice as often within the first 24 months than articles published in regular issues.

Special content articles attract 20% more citations in the first 24 months than articles published in regular issues.

All articles in this special issue will be reviewed by no fewer than two independent experts to ensure the quality, originality and novelty of the work published.

## ***Coming soon: The Journal of Disappearance Studies***

Bristol University Press is pleased to bring you this journal for the newly established field of Disappearance Studies. Our first issue will publish in 2025.

The *Journal of Disappearance Studies* focuses on the collective dimensions of human disappearance, especially enforced disappearance, but also on its consequences at the more than human levels (e.g. cultural and environmental levels).

The journal highlights studies on the disappeared across diverse disciplines and fields of study and encourages transdisciplinary approaches to the study of disappearance. The journal brings together academics, policymakers, practitioners, families of the disappeared, victim-centred organisations, as well as artists and cultural producers for the co-production of interventions aimed at bringing about societal, instrumental and academic impact. The journal also publishes ground breaking transdisciplinary research that addresses the specificities and commonalities to disappearances across space and time. The publication of ethical frameworks for the researching and teaching of disappearance as a pedagogical and public concern are also welcomed.

The *Journal of Disappearance Studies* welcomes the submission of original and review articles, interviews with artists, policymakers, practitioners, survivors and families along with book reviews. The *Journal of Disappearance Studies* will publish one special issue a year, highlighting themes showcased in the annual conference of the Disappearance Studies Network. The journal seeks to publish contributions from all regions of the world. The journal is open to submissions from Sociology, Humanities, International Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies, Legal Studies, Anthropology, History and the Arts.

The editorial team is led by [Bahar Baser](#) (Durham University, UK), [Roddy Brett](#) (University of Bristol, UK), and [Élise Féron](#) (Tampere University, Finland). The full editorial board will be announced soon.

### **Call for papers**

Be among the first to publish in the *Journal of Disappearance Studies*. The journal will launch in the summer (Northern Hemisphere) of 2025.

If you would like to make a submission please contact the Editors for information on how to submit: [jds-editorial@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:jds-editorial@bristol.ac.uk).

## **Jobs/PhD Opportunities**

---

### ***PhD opportunity - The experiences, needs and perspectives of staff in learning disability services when someone they support needs palliative or end of life care***

#### **About the Project**

This PhD project will be a unique sub-study of the DAPPLE project, a 3-year NIHR-funded study aimed at developing effective service models for providing palliative and end of life care (PEOLC) for people with a learning disability (see [www.dappleproject.com](http://www.dappleproject.com)).

There are around one million people with a learning disability in England. People with a learning disability die on average 22 years earlier than the general population. They face stark health and mortality inequalities, including unequal access to PEOLC services. Challenges include difficulties with communication which affect all aspects of palliative care provision, including pain and symptom assessment; lack of involvement in end-of-life decision-making; multi-morbidity and polypharmacy; complex social circumstances involving families as well as care staff; lack of reasonable adjustments to care; and lack of experience among learning disability staff of illness, death and dying, leading to fear and avoidance. Staff providing PEOLC to people with a learning disability also have significant training needs.

The DAPPLE project will explore, compare, and contrast PEOLC services for people with a learning disability in four geographical areas (Study Sites) in England. Part of the methodology within those localities is to conduct case studies of people with a learning disability currently approaching end of life (n=up to 20), using ethnographic methods; and retrospective case reviews of people with a learning disability who have died, using interviews with key family/carer/staff. The project aims to identify the barriers and enablers to providing accessible, high quality PEOLC to people with a learning disability, and the replicable elements of good practice.

This PhD project is a sub-study of the DAPPLE project focusing on the perspectives of paid care staff of people with a learning disability who are approaching the end of life. The majority of people with a learning disability who die in England live in a residential care setting at the time of death, supported by learning disability service providers. Staff working within these services are therefore at the forefront of supporting people with a learning disability at the end of life. However, there is consistent evidence that they lack expertise, skills, knowledge and confidence in this area.

The DAPPLE project will collect data from people with a learning disability at the end of life, mostly through observation but also through interviews with the main family member or carer(s). Participants in the retrospective case studies similarly consist of the main carer(s). This PhD project will focus on learning disability support staff who have been involved in supporting a person within the DAPPLE case studies who is terminally ill or who died, but who were not the key carer or key staff. Day-to-day support is often provided by a wider team of staff that may include part-time workers and agency staff, whose perspectives and support needs have not been a focus for investigation. It is also not clear how the level of expertise, skills and confidence of learning disability support staff impacts on the support provided to people with a learning disability at the end of life.



The PhD project will explore the experiences and views of these staff members, as well as the impact of their caring role on the experience and outcomes for the person at the end of life whom they support. A range of data collection methods may be considered; this may include (but is not limited to) interviews, focus groups, observation and/or questionnaires. The specific research questions and appropriate methodology will be agreed upon by the student and the supervisory team. It is anticipated that data will be collected within one or more of the four DAPPLE study sites (Croydon, Milton Keynes, Leicester, Kirklees).

Any questions about the project can be directed to Dr Andrea Bruun [[a.bruun@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:a.bruun@kingston.ac.uk)] and Prof Irene Tuffrey-Wijne [[i.tuffrey-wijne@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:i.tuffrey-wijne@kingston.ac.uk)].

The deadline for applications is **20 January** with interviews conducted in mid-February. Applicants are asked to submit their CV and certificates, including English language at an acceptable (see University website) level. References will be taken up before interview. The expected start date of the project is March 2025. Please apply via the Kingston University website ([How to apply for a research degree \(PhD, Professional Doctorate, MPhil, MA/MSc by Research\) - Kingston University London](#)), ensuring that you apply for March 2025 entry and state that you are applying for a studentship for this project in your application documents.

For more information [click here](#)

***Funded PhD opportunity hosted by Durham University, Proposed Project Title: AIDS, inequality and religious ethics of care in 1980s and 90s Britain***

This project radically rethinks the place of religion in shaping public responses to AIDS. The project complicates narratives of secularisation in modern Britain, examines how new viruses expose and entrench inequalities, and expands a queer ethics of care. In a context where stigma and shame were so powerful, any act of recovery is important: this project highlights unique and almost unknown documents on AIDS, while creating a new AIDS archive through ethnographic interviews. The Salvation Army's intervention in HIV/AIDS is little known. Its potential to illuminate the broadest historical and most resonant dynamics of the AIDS crisis demands its telling.

For further information:


[https://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/media/sites/teaching/northernbridge/StrangeJulie-Marie\\_Durham\\_SArmy.pdf](https://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/media/sites/teaching/northernbridge/StrangeJulie-Marie_Durham_SArmy.pdf)

---

## Contact Us

**Email:** [cdas@bath.ac.uk](mailto:cdas@bath.ac.uk)

**Web:** [www.bath.ac.uk/cdas](http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas)



**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/centrefordeath](http://www.facebook.com/centrefordeath)

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

*To unsubscribe, please email [cdas@bath.ac.uk](mailto:cdas@bath.ac.uk)*