

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

February 2024 Newsletter

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Director's Note

Welcome to the February newsletter. We have a packed newsletter this month detailing lots of activities from CDAS members as well as other members of the CDAS community.

We are sad to announce the death of Colin Murray Parkes, who was an honorary graduate at the University of Bath, where CDAS is based. This issue contains an obituary for Dr Murray Parkes written by Emeritus Professor Tony Walter, giving details of his remarkable career.

Two of our members have new books coming out. Sam Carr's book, *All the Lonely People*, is released in March. A book launch will take place at Mr B's Emporium in Bath on the 28th March. Tamarin Norwood's book, *The Song of the Whole Wide World* will be released this month. You can hear Tamarin talk about the writing process at the Grief Writing Workshop in Bath in March. In addition to this, two chapters by Lorna Templeton feature in the *Routledge International Handbook of Drug Related Bereavement* which will also be published in March. Details of the books with links are in this newsletter. Well done Sam and Tamarin on your new books.

This month we also provide details of press and public-outreach articles by CDAS members. Alistair Comery and Chao Fang have written an article for the *Conversation on Fear of Aging. Part of Life*, recently interviewed CDAS co-director Kate Woodthorpe on how her interest in death studies emerged and visiting fellow Helen Frisby has written an article in the *New York Times* about grave re-use. CDAS co-director Jeremy Dixon was invited to give evidence to the Department of Work and Pension's Select Committee last month. The session focussed on whether the Department of Work and Pensions should have a statutory duty to protect vulnerable claimants, following the deaths of claimants who had been sanctioned. Jeremy was asked questions about statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 and what duties they place on public bodies.

We have two CDAS presentations in February, both of which will be on the 20th. Our first event takes place in the morning, with Margaret Griffin speaking on *Memorialising Gendered Violence in Public Space*. The evening will see us focus on *Sociological Perspectives on Suicide*. This event is co-hosted by the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on the Sociology of Mental Health and Illness. It features a presentation by Lynn Tang who will be talking about *Making Sense of Suicide in Sociopolitical Contexts: A Case Study from Hong Kong*. The session will also feature Dariusz Galasinski who will speak on *Discursive Constructions of Relationship in Parent's Suicide Letters*.

In addition to all the above, we also present news from our CDAS community and CDAS community events. We look forward to seeing you at our events in February and March. Don't forget to block out the 6-7th June in your calendar for the annual CDAS conference. We look forward to telling you more about this in the coming months.

Best wishes, Jeremy and Kate

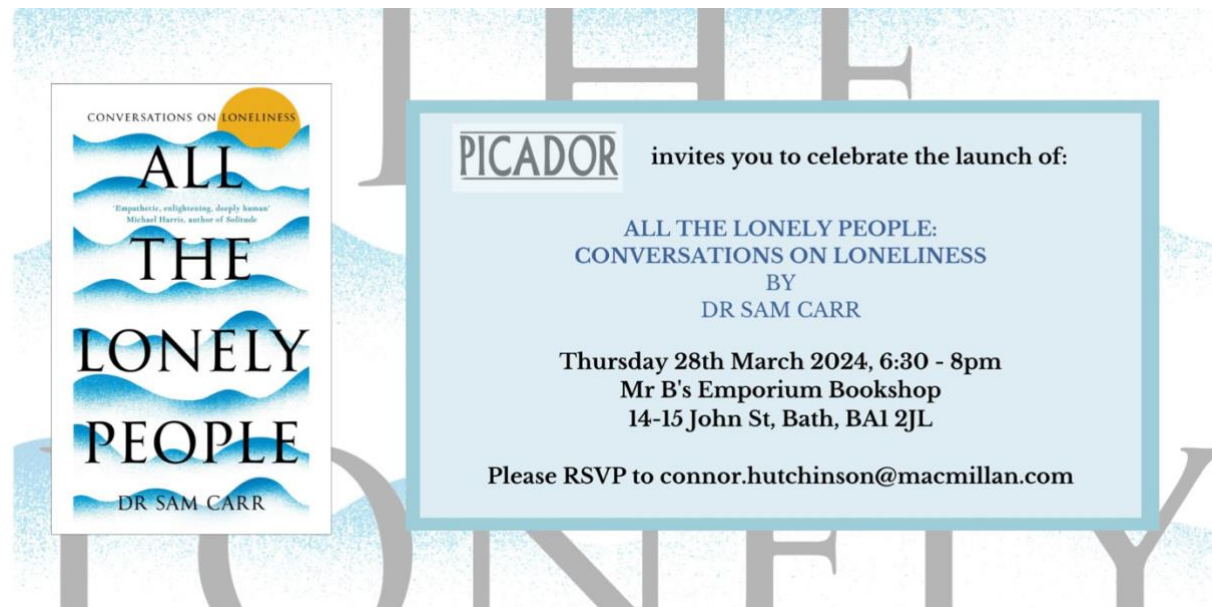
Goodbye to Jeremy

We begin the newsletter with a HUGE thank you and good luck to co-director Jeremy Dixon who is leaving the University to join a newly established [Centre for Adult Social Care Research](#) at Cardiff University. In the process of doing so Jeremy has been promoted to Reader (through his appointment at Cardiff, and recently at Bath – well done!) This is a fantastic move for Jeremy but a very big loss to CDAS of a collegial and generous supporter and, more recently, leader of the centre. Thank you Jeremy for all you have done and contributed to CDAS over the last decade and we wish you a very happy and productive time at Cardiff. They are lucky to have you!

Ps. Jeremy will become a Visiting Fellow for CDAS and remain co-editor of the Mortality special issue we are producing to mark the Centre's 20th anniversary in 2024-2025. So you haven't heard the last from him 😊

Sam Carr 'All the Lonely People: Conversations on Loneliness' publication and book launch

Sam Carr's forthcoming book, All the Lonely People: Conversations on Loneliness will be published in March, the launch party invitation can be found below!



Sam will also be talking about the book in an evening event in April – tickets to this event can be acquired through [this link](#).

CDAS co-director, Jeremy Dixon, gave evidence to the Department of Work and Pension's Committee 24th January 2024



The Committee's Inquiry focussed on safeguarding vulnerable claimants. The inquiry was instigated after benefit claimants who had been sanctioned died following their benefits stopped. The Inquiry is focussing on whether the Department of Work and Pensions should have a statutory duty to safeguard the

wellbeing of vulnerable claimants. Jeremy was asked to give evidence due to his knowledge of adult safeguarding under the Care Act 2014 and spoke to the committee about how statutory safeguarding duties had developed under that Act of Parliament.

The recording from the session can be viewed at:

<https://parliamentlive.tv/event/index/e4d2a730-9941-4e74-a42c-bfd02e7aa714>

New book – The Routledge International Handbook of Drug-Related Death Bereavement

Lorna Templeton has authored Chapter 27 'Structured Support for Adults Bereaved by a drug related death: the potential of the five step method' and co-authored Chapter 20 'Stigma, Kindness and Professionalism: experiences of community support following a drug-related death' with Richard Velleman in a new book 'The Routledge International Handbook of Drug-Related Death Bereavement'.

More details about the book can be found here:

https://books.google.co.uk/books?hl=en&lr=&id=6ynyEAAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA1922&ots=cyou3_Ehcu&sig=LaS3Qzt6P5ALGQTP-0C8ftbAWTc#v=onepage&q&f=false

New book - An extraordinary memoir of anticipatory grief, seventy-two minutes of life and a silent maternity leave, from artist and academic Tamarin Norwood

A few months into pregnancy, Tamarin Norwood learned that the baby she was carrying would not live. Over the sleepless weeks that followed, Tamarin, her husband and their three-year-old son tried to navigate the unfamiliar waters of anticipatory sorrow and to prepare for what was to come.

Written partly during the pregnancy and partly during the silent maternity that followed, *The Song of the Whole Wide World* is an emergency response to grief held somewhere between

the womb, the grave and the many stories that bind them: stories draw from medical science, poetry, liturgy, vivid waking dreams of underwater life, and knowledge held deep within the body.

In 2023 **The Song of the Whole Wide World** was selected as an Editor's Choice in the Bookseller and included in the Stylist list of best non-fiction for 2024.

More details about the book can be found [here](#). You can meet Tamarin in person at her upcoming Grief Writing Workshop in Bath in March (details in this newsletter in CDAS Community News).

The Conversation article: 'Fear of ageing is really a fear of the unknown – and modern society is making things worse'.

In this [new article](#), CDAS PhD student Alastair Comery and CDAS visiting fellow Dr Fang argue that society's focus on youthfulness and capability can cause a fear of ageing, but intergenerational bonds may help to alleviate such fear.

A Famed Cemetery Is Nearly Full. Can it Reuse Old Graves to Add More Space?

If you can access The New York Times then you might be interested in this article on grave space that features an interview with CDAS Visiting Fellow Helen Frisby. Great international coverage Helen, well done!

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/19/world/europe/highgate-cemetery-karl-marx.html?searchResultPosition=1c>

Recording available for CDAS talk – Organised learning, or organised irresponsibility?

If you missed the CDAS seminar on how deaths related to mental health in England and Wales are investigated, then you can view it here. Our speaker is Dr David Baker from University of Liverpool

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/campaigns/organisational-learning-or-organised-irresponsibility/>

Dr. Kate Woodthorpe on the future of grief

Part of Life spoke to Dr. Kate Woodthorpe, Co-Director of the Centre for Death and Society (CDAS) at Bath University, about how she came to work in death studies and where she believes the future of grief is heading.



How a tragic accident shaped Kate's career

“In my experience, most academics who work on the end of life and bereavement have a formative exposure to death and dying beforehand. Mine was four friends dying in a car crash just before we left secondary school.

As you could imagine, it was utterly shocking in every way. I remember looking around my circle of friends and observing how differently everyone was reacting. Some were on their knees sobbing, others stunned and silent. It hit me right then, age 17, that there were no guarantees in life and since then I've imagined that everyone has an invisible hourglass on their forehead, with grains of sand slipping through. Very few know how much sand is still there, and I guess it was from that moment onwards that I've been very attuned to the precariousness of life.

It is probably inevitable therefore that I've ended up spending much of my life to date focused on death and dying. I've talked about this and how it has shaped my research and career on [The Death Studies podcast](#), and written about it in a paper ([Woodthorpe, 2009](#)).”

Read the rest of the article here: <https://www.partoflife.org/blog/dr-kate-woodthorpe-future-of-grief>

The Death Studies Podcast

Professor Lucy Easthope on disaster recovery, emergency planning, risk, the Grenfell and Hillsborough disasters in the UK, humanitarian disasters, pregnancy loss, hope and wellbeing.



We end our CDAS update with some sad news. As many of you may now know, Colin Murray Parkes died earlier this year. Colin was an honorary graduate of CDAS's institutional home, the University of Bath, and he a great supporter of the centre and our work. We asked Prof Emeritus Tony Walter to write an obituary on our behalf and include it in full here. We recommend watching Colin's speech at graduation, where he received his honorary doctorate of laws (link below). It was, and remains, deeply moving.

Colin Murray Parkes (1928 – 2024)

Honorary graduate Colin Murray Parkes OBE was the world's leading expert on bereavement and was the cornerstone on which bereavement care was built.

A consultant psychiatrist and Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry at the Royal London Hospital, his academic research and clinical work undergirded a lifetime of influential publications, theoretical development (not least within attachment theory), practice innovation, consultancy, collaboration, and a passion to disseminate his expertise to all – professionals, volunteers, communities – who work with bereaved people. His real-world impactful research embodied everything for which the University of Bath strives, and he advised the University's Centre for Death & Society, so we were delighted he accepted a Bath honorary Doctorate of Laws.

Alongside his regular clinical and academic work, Colin acted as consultant after many disasters, including the slurry avalanche that buried Aberfan's primary school (1966), the Bradford Football Club fire (1985), the Herald of Free Enterprise ferry sinking (1987), the Lockerbie plane explosion (1988), the Rwanda genocide (1995), 9/11, and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. It was Aberfan that taught him that bereavement care is ultimately what communities not professionals do, even if – as he himself so amply demonstrated – professionals can advise and support communities. Aberfan also taught him how much volunteers could do – hence he became an inspirational consultant to St Chistopher's Hospice and to Cruse as they founded and developed their globally innovative volunteer-based bereavement services.

Retirement from his NHS and academic posts certainly did not mean retirement from his life's work – he continued to write, lecture and consult into his early nineties. From 2012-2015, he regularly took the train from Hertfordshire to Bath to advise on a major Bath/Stirling ESRC-funded project on bereavement through substance use. Working with him at that time, my colleagues and I came to appreciate more and more his generosity, insight, open-mindedness, wit, and sheer decency.

Very few people's lifetime research in the psychological and social sciences have made such a demonstrable impact on human wellbeing in countries both rich and poor. With grief and bereavement being somewhat marginal within psychiatry and psychology, he and his beloved wife Patricia were genuinely pleased by the academic recognition afforded him by the Bath doctorate. His graduation speech in the Assembly Rooms was memorable. It revealed not only his modesty, humour and charm, but also one other lifetime characteristic undimmed

even at 85, namely an inability not to burst into resonant song whenever it might enhance an occasion; his rendition that day of You Are My Sunshine (at 6.40min) brought smiles and spontaneous applause from the hundreds of young graduates present. In word and song, Colin was teaching them how confronting death can enhance life.

Tony Walter
Emeritus Professor of Death Studies
Dept of Social & Policy Sciences, University of Bath
January 2024

If you would like to watch the 7.30 minute speech, it can be found [here](#).

Upcoming CDAS events

Memorialising Gendered Violence in Public Space

20th February 2024, Online, 11:15 – 12:05pm

Margaret Gibson, Griffith University

The memorial landscape is always "at one and the same same time a landscape of power, a landscape of forgetting, and a landscape of silences" (Morgan, 2008:1). This paper is based on a project that examines two grassroots memorials located in the city of Brisbane. The case study memorials are in nature-based, recreational geographies (parks) of everyday encounter (people riding their bikes, walking, jogging, having picnics, playing sport). Both memorials - quite different in scale and form - mark the deaths of two (separate) women killed by their partner, in one instance, and ex-partner, in another. They therefore speak to the issue of intimate gendered violence and the presence or absence, visibility, or invisibility of this 'subject' of death in official and unofficial (grassroots) memorial culture in public spaces in an Australian context.

The paper will introduce some of the data gathered through QR assessed surveys located at the respective memorial sites as well as interviews with people who agreed to follow-up interviews after completing the survey. The paper will explore some of the public attitudes and meaning-making processes that emerged in the surveys and interviews.

[Book here](#)

Sociological Perspectives on Suicide

20th February 2024, Online, 6pm - 7.30pm

This is the second joint event between CDAS and the International Sociological Association's Research Committee for the Sociology of Mental Health and Illness, focussing on sociological perspectives on death and dying.

This event features papers by Dr Lynn Tang from Royal Holloway, University of London and Professor Dariusz Galasinski from the University of Wroclaw, Poland. Dr Lynn Tang will give a presentation on 'Making sense of suicide in sociopolitical contexts: A case study of political crisis in Hong Kong. Professor Dariusz Galasinski will speak on 'Discursive constructions of relationships in parents' suicide letters'. As this presentation will feature two speakers please note that we will start earlier than usual at 6pm

[Book Here](#)

Grief Writing Workshop: Finding Peace in Landscapes of Loss

Thursday 21st March 2024 11:00 – 13:00

Bath Central Library 19-23 The Podium, Bath, England, BA1 5AN

[Book here](#)

Whether you are living with recent loss or were bereaved long in the past, this gentle, flexible and no-pressure workshop will offer practical tools to get you through the day (and night) when you are grieving. Simple, inventive writing exercises will guide you to map the 'landscape' of your own grief experience, trace the many paths through it, and find peaceful places to spend time. We will explore the difference between writing feelings, writing facts and writing fiction, with options for take-home activities. Anyone can attend; no special writing skills or experience necessary.



This event has kindly been supported by **The Centre for Death and Society (CDAS)** at the **University of Bath** - an internationally recognised research centre focusing on the interdisciplinary social aspects of death, dying and bereavement. Join their monthly newsletter by emailing cdas@bath.ac.uk or follow them on X @cendeathsociety.

Dr Tamarin Norwood is a writer and academic with a background in fine art. She has written on drawing, metaphor, memorial and grief, and has an interest in ritual and rural history. Tamarin is a Leverhulme ECR fellow at Loughborough University, a visiting scholar at the University of Oxford Centre for Life-Writing, and a visiting fellow at the University of Bath Centre for Death and Society where she is part of the CDAS Writing group. Her memoir *The Song of the Whole Wide World*, interpreting the brief life of her baby son, is published by Indigo in February 2024.


Save the date

We are busy reviewing the abstracts for the 2024 CDAS Conference, thank you to everyone who submitted! We will be in touch with the outcomes and outline programme soon. For now, please save the date: 6th-7th June, online.

Call for Participants

Survey Now Open – Are you a Bereavement Support service?

Are you a [#BereavementSupport](#) service with experience in supporting ethnically diverse communities in England? We would love to hear from you - please tell us more in this short form: <https://shorturl.at/pMWX1>



Do you work for a bereavement support service supporting people from ethnically diverse communities?

- Have you adapted your services or successfully reached into ethnically diverse communities? Would you be willing to share your experiences and learning?
- Please help with a national study to identify good practice in providing equitable bereavement support.

To find out more and complete a short survey, visit:
<https://shorturl.at/pMWX1>

Survey closes 15th March 2024
Please share!

Logos: University of BRISTOL, Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group, NIHR National Institute for Health Research, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

The poster features a photograph of two women embracing in a dark room with colorful, glowing shapes in the background.

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

New publications in the Death and Culture series

Bristol University Press are excited to publish the first books in the Death and Culture series:

[Death's Social and Material Meaning beyond the Human](#)

Edited by Jesse D. Peterson, Natashe Lemos Dekker and Philip R. Olson provides an alternative focus for death studies by looking beyond a traditional nature/culture binary. Featuring a range of international scholars, it sheds light on topics which have previously remained at the margins of contemporary death studies and death care cultures.

Dissection Photography: Cadavers, Abjection, and the Formation of Identity

By Brandon Zimmerman explores the visual culture of death and the gross anatomy lab through the tradition of dissection photography. With previously unseen images, the book examines historical aspects from both photographic and medical perspectives.

About the series.

Mortality is a research theme in evidence across multiple disciplines, but one that is not always explicitly acknowledged. This series provides an outlet for a social science and cross-disciplinary exploration of all aspects of mortality. The aim of the series is to create a forum for the publication of sociologically relevant research that approaches death from a cultural perspective, supported by evidence and framed by theoretical engagement. The series advances cross-disciplinary, international, and social discussions about death and culture.

To find out more about the series, including how to submit proposals, [visit our website](#).

The series was previously published by Emerald Publishing as *Emerald Studies in Death and Culture*.

Recommend the Death and Culture series to your librarian and [sign up to our Sociology mailing list here](#) to stay up to date with the series **for a chance to win a free book of your choice from our website**.

Apply for project: ‘Understanding and exploring the place of care and death for those from Asian backgrounds: A mixed methods study’

<https://www.findaphd.com/phds/project/understanding-and-exploring-the-place-of-care-and-death-for-those-from-asian-backgrounds-a-mixed-methods-study/?p154652>

Applicants from a range of disciplines are encouraged to apply for this exciting, innovative and policy relevant PhD being offered in conjunction with the world-leading palliative care research team at the International Observatory on End of Life Care at Lancaster University, supported by Specialist Palliative Care services in Central Lancashire. This PhD studentship enables you to work alongside a strong research team with a large number of PhD students and experience in high quality PhD supervision. You will develop expertise in a range of research approaches including systematically constructed literature reviews, the use of routine data to explore patterns of care, and in-depth qualitative research.

The focus of the PhD is exploring the reasons for why patterns of care usage are different for those who are dying and who are from Asian backgrounds. We know that those whose ethnicity is recorded as Asian or Asian British across Central Lancashire have a different

place of death to the population as a whole, with approximately 20% more deaths in hospital. Typically, place of death has been used as a proxy indicator for quality of death, with a policy imperative to move deaths out of hospital settings. It is not known why there are differences in place of death, whether this is important to the quality of care and care experience, and if the needs of those from Asian backgrounds are being met.

Existing evidence from the UK and across the world shows that people from minority ethnic populations experience different patterns of care and place of death, to the majority population. However, much of this work has been from the US, or from London and the South East, or is dated. There is limited qualitative understanding of why these patterns of care might be different, or whether this might meet people's needs. Understanding ethnicity and its impact on care will have an impact on how care is planned and delivered.

It is proposed that there are three main parts to this PhD, to be shaped in collaboration with the successful applicant and with strong patient and public involvement (PPI).

1. A systematically constructed mixed-methods literature review interrogating available quantitative and qualitative evidence on the impact of ethnicity on the place of death and care for those who are dying.
2. A quantitative study using routine data to map the patterns of place of death and care for those from minority ethnic populations across Lancashire. This will explore intersectionality, drawing from a range of available data.
3. A qualitative study exploring the experiences of those from Asian backgrounds that influence choices around place of care and death. This will take a multi-perspective approach exploring the views of patients, family members and other stakeholders such as clinicians and social care providers.

This work will be underpinned with strong PPI and community engagement, and the partnership with Specialist Palliative Care clinicians and Central Lancashire PEOLC strategy groups will ground this work to enable the production of realistic, operationalizable, recommendations for policy and practice.

Application process: Applications should be made in writing to the lead supervisor, Dr Yakubu Salifu ([Email Address Removed]). You MUST include the following:

1. CV (max 2 A4 sides), including details of two academic references.
2. A cover letter outlining your qualifications and interest in the studentship (max 2 A4 sides)

THIS CAN HAPPEN – Grief from Bereavement – a new study and its findings.

Supported by [NatWest Group](#), we have been investigating how companies support their colleagues and their mental wellbeing. Join us next month for a very special webinar to launch the research: Grief from Bereavement - a new study and its findings 🖥️

Wednesday 28 February 2024, 2PM (GMT) 📅

With guest speakers Kathryn Courtenay-Evans from [#thiscanhappen](#) Global, Mike Moss from [Foodbuy UK & Ireland](#), Dr. Chloe Mitchell and Chloe Corr from NatWest Group.



Register now: https://hubs.la/Q02j_7Dp0?trk=public_post-text

New book anthology edited by Douglas Davies – out now!

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/cultural-history-of-death-9781472536266/>

How has our understanding of death evolved over the course of 2,500 years? What can recorded history tell us about how different cultures and societies have felt about, experienced, responded to and marked the occasion of death across different periods and lands?

These are the questions pursued by 54 experts in this landmark work that explores the way past societies thought, behaved and developed as they wrestled with enormity of their own mortality. The volumes draw on history, anthropology and cultural studies to carve a complete picture of death, its symbols and interpretations from Antiquity to the present day.

Individual editors ensure volumes are cohesive and chapter titles are also identical across the volumes. This gives the choice of reading about a specific period in one of the volumes, or tracing a theme across history by reading the relevant chapter in each of the six.

Some updates from Suicide Bereavement UK

For those who come into contact with those bereaved or affected by suicide, and are anxious and uncertain how to respond to them, I would like to remind you that Suicide Bereavement UK deliver the following evidence-based suicide bereavement training:

- PABBS suicide bereavement training relevant to ALL professions and charities who come into contact with those bereaved by suicide - [CLICK HERE](#)
- Emergency Services Responding to Suicide (RTS) training for those working on the front line - [CLICK HERE](#)
- ON THE GO (online) suicide bereavement modules (relevant to everyone) - [CLICK HERE](#)
- We are currently developing evidence-base Armed Forces Responding To Suicide (RTS) training, which will be available later this year.

Over 300 testimonials can be found- [CLICK HERE](#)

All training can be delivered in-house. However, it is possible to also register as an individual.

For more information, please click on the links above or contact

Paul Higham: paul.higham@suicidebereavementuk.com

Tel: 07850 710 555

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Lecture series Death Care

What about the dead in times of climate crisis, pandemics, and multiculturalism?

Register here: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/events/lecture-series-death-care/>

Sooner or later, death becomes part of everybody's life. Often, conversations after death concern mourning or care for the people left behind by the deceased. But what can be said about the body of the deceased itself?

Contemporary challenges like pandemics, the climate crisis, or multiculturalism show us that we are also in need of a reconsideration of death care. What are the ethical concerns surrounding ecological burial methods, for instance? And what should a government do when religious considerations when organizing a funeral do not align with medical measures? What

is the status of the dead body, and what does it entail to deal respectfully with human remains?

In **four lectures** we invite the audience to listen and talk to researchers about these challenges. Participation is free. All sessions will be in Dutch, apart from the second lecture (18/03), which will be held in English.

- 19/02/2024: Dealing with human remains, with Maarten Larmuseau, Marie-Sophie de Clippele and Tamara Ingels (Dutch)
- **18/03/2024: Death care in times of crisis, with Halina Suwalowska, Joanna Wojtkowiak, and Sarah Ouwerkerk (English)**
- 15/04/2024: Intercultural rituals and death care, with Yvon van der Pijl, Chaima Ahaddour and Naoual El Yattouti (Dutch)
- 27/05/2024: The green death, with Lisa Doeland, Brenda Mathijssen, and Evy Kempenaers (Dutch)

This series is part of an interdisciplinary research project surrounding death care, which is developed in collaboration with the Belgian funeral sector, in close conversation with different religious communities in Belgium. The involved researchers are sociologists, law scholars, philosophers and anthropologists of the KULeuven, The Institute for Tropical Medicine and the University of Antwerp. With the lectures, the organizers hope to offer a starting point for more scientific and societal reflection on the topic of death care.

What's the point of the past? The value of archaeology and heritage today

Tuesday 20 February 2024 17:45 – 19:15 GMT

In-person and online event

Register here: https://www.bradford.ac.uk/events/public/whats-the-point-of-the-past-the-value-of-archaeology-and-heritage-today.php?fbclid=IwAR1BH7KiIYIuT6H3p86fS2mWJl6u7igvKwmqxCRldnU9G2zf29L7IPTGpp0aem_AQtMmwyTjvAlqCAquwtyVZjOvbqHs7FSbu5v8J9Bm1FlcAA-B5f_fH0irASUHRaL9A8

Join us for the next Bradford Inaugural Lecture to celebrate [Karina Croucher](#)'s promotion to the position of Professor. This is one of the highest achievements in an academic's career; it is a recognition by the University that they are operating at the highest level and recognised as a leader in their chosen field. As such, the promotion is worthy of celebration by both the academic and the University. The inaugural professorial lecture is a centuries-old tradition, marking this key milestone.

"When I started studying archaeology – as a mature student, following an alternative route to University – I assumed archaeology would be all about the past. While looking back in time may be integral to the discipline, I have since recognised that the past is only a small part of what archaeology and heritage can offer.

My inaugural lecture discusses the journey and some of the projects that I hope make a difference to the world, addressing themes such as dealing with death, memorialisation, identity and place. As part of this I take the past to a variety of audiences, including health and social care professionals, funeral directors, psychologists, school children and refugee/host communities. In this lecture I will highlight the exciting interdisciplinary collaborations that make this work possible, with projects that span arts, humanities, social sciences and health care. I will also reflect upon my motivation to break down barriers – between disciplines, between teaching and research, between academia and our cities and people. Finally, I will discuss implications for Bradford, especially with 2025 City of Culture on the horizon, and explore the lasting legacy of inclusive heritage, arts, and culture for our university and city."

The grave's transformation

Online talk – Wednesday 13th March 6:30 – 7:30 pm UK

Join this online with expert speaker Allison C Meier to discuss the transformation of the grave.



The grave started simply with bodies placed in the earth or in protective caves, but has radically evolved over time, from sprawling cemeteries filled with huge mausolea to newer ideas like human composting that allows the dead to become part of nature.

In this talk, Allison C. Meier, author of [Grave \(Bloomsbury, 2023\)](#), will share some of this history of how we care for the dead, focusing on American burial practices, and how our graves are changing.

Allison C. Meier is a Brooklyn-based writer, editor, and researcher. Her book *Grave* was published this year by Bloomsbury as part of the Object Lessons book series. She is the editor of *Fine Books & Collections* magazine and has by-lines in the *New York Times*, *CityLab*, *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian*, and many other publications. She moonlights as a cemetery tour guide.

Tickets are £8. Please book here: <https://arnosvale.org.uk/the-graves-transformation-online-talk/>

International Death, Grief and Bereavement Conference

Diversity Throughout the Lifespan

Pre-conference: 2nd June 2024

Conference: 3rd - 5th June 2024

Student Union, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 521 East Avenue N, La Crosse WI 54601

In our diverse and rich world, it is important to explore global, cultural and ethical contexts of the death, dying and grief experience among dying persons, family members, healthcare providers and within support circles and systems.

Death, dying, grief and bereavement are impacted by a multitude of factors including age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, society, religion, sexuality and more.

2024 Conference topics will explore:

- How these factors impact end of life care and the grieving process
- How our relationship to grief changes throughout the lifespan
- How to better understand the intersection between diversity, in all its forms, and death, dying and bereavement

Who should attend?

Behavioural Health Professionals

Care Managers

Clergy

Counsellors

Educators

Funeral Directors

Healthcare Professionals

Hospice providers

Palliative Care Providers

Program Directors

Social Workers

How will you benefit:

- Share in intimate and transformative educational experiences
- Foster new relationships and connections to stay with you through your career
- Gain insight and grow to new levels both personally and professionally

Full conference details can be found here: <https://www.uwlax.edu/ex/dgb/>

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE AGENCY OF THE DEAD IN THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS: EXPERIENCE AND CONCEPTUALISATION

International conference to be held at Dept of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia – 30th August 2024 – 1st September 2024

How do individuals in contemporary society experience the dead and how are they affected by them?

We invite papers that focus on the following questions: In what ways do the dead affect people's thoughts, values, emotions and behaviour? How are they involved in their social relations with others? What impact may the dead have on individuals in a wider social, cultural, and political context? How do people identify, conceptualise, and interpret the agency of the dead? What influences individuals' ideas about the dead and their possible agency? What sources do they draw upon in conceptualising the experience – tradition, dominant religion, alternative spirituality, popular culture, media, internet, political narratives, science ...? Do they develop their own ideas? How do people select and evaluate available sources? What particular discourses and values are linked to specific conceptualisations of the dead? How do contesting notions participate in the process of knowledge construction about the dead and the meaning-making of their agency? How are rival notions involved in power relations and struggles for social or political power? Have alternative views developed since the late 20c already been adopted as “mainstream culture” within particular contexts, or do they (still) represent an alterity to the dominant ideas?

Papers can draw on various sources: ethnographic, archival, internet, etc. The conference language will be English; talks to be 20 minutes. No registration fee; travel and accommodation costs and meals will have to be covered individually. Please email Ms Marja Kovanda (Marja.Kovanda@ff-uni.lj.si) by 29 Feb 2024 with the following as an attachment: Name / Academic title / Occupation or position / Affiliation / E-mail / Postal address / Title of paper / Abstract (300-500 words). Acceptance to be confirmed by 31 Mar 2024.

This conference is the first in a series of international conferences on the dead in contemporary society that the ERC project DEAGENCY https://www.uni-lj.si/research_and_development/research_news/erc_and_msca/2023040411282196/prof_mirjam_mencej_has_won_a_prominent_erc_advanced_grant_project/ is planning to organise annually, from 2024 to 2027. To be kept informed of the future conferences, contact Ms Marja Kovanda (Marja.Kovanda@ff-uni.lj.si).

‘Total Pain’ in the 21st Century

Manuscript Extension Submission Deadline: 1st March 2024

Guideline for submissions and submission point here:
<https://www.frontiersin.org/guidelines/author-guidelines>

The recent Lancet Commission into the Value of Death reports endemic suffering at the end of life in both global North and South countries, and calls for the further expansion of holistic philosophies and practices of end-of-life care. We answer this call by foregrounding the continued relevance of ‘total pain’ in hospice and palliative care, and by extending it to new considerations and sites of care.

In the 1960s, the hospice pioneer Cicely Saunders began promoting the concept of ‘total pain’ to articulate how end-of-life pain is not only physical but also psychological, social, and spiritual. The concept emphasizes issues of personhood, complexity, and temporality. It entwines practical, financial, and cultural issues, and positions some pain as overwhelming or unspeakable, potentially unrepresentable. As a concept, total pain attends to, but goes beyond, the individual suffering body. Relational aspects extend to include family, friends and even staff, as well as long-term concerns of meaning, narrative, and biography. Total pain is therefore useful for considering how complex pain experienced at the end of life is individually felt, relationally constructed, and institutionally shaped; a biopsychosocial and environmental phenomenon requiring care attentive to all its manifestations.

While it appears foundational in palliative care and end of life studies, there is a definitional confusion surrounding total pain. Saunders’ own flexible approach to its meaning has left a legacy of parallel interpretations as, among others, a checklist for care, a theory of personhood, and an experience of pain compounded by existential crisis. Total pain has become a flexible concept for describing and identifying complex suffering, yet also risks being a hollow appeal to forms of holistic care unattainable within contemporary biomedical healthcare systems.

Our Research Topic explores the relevance of total pain in practice and research today. How can the concept challenge the continuing curative impetus of modern biomedicine, even at the end of life? What is its relevance to emerging challenges such as assisted dying or dementia care? What can sociological approaches such as organization, embodiment, or affect theories bring to addressing total pain? What might a politics of total pain look like in the 21st century? In extending the concept to new territories, we also ask: is total pain useful for thinking more generally about complex experiences of pain or imminent death? How can total pain articulate health inequalities or community responses to dying and suffering? Finally, how might total pain offer new ways of thinking about non-human suffering or the climate emergency?

We welcome contributions which utilize empirical, theoretical, ethnographic, and non-conventional approaches to total pain on, but not limited to, the following themes:

- social pain
- the politics of suffering
- time and embodiment
- affect and emotions at the end of life
- social inequalities at the end of life
- total pain and Covid-19
- witnessing
- intersectional pain
- narrating/expressing complex pain
- complexity at end of life
- clinical empathy or compassion
- holism in medicine and nursing
- total pain and the value of death
- responding to unsolvable suffering
- non-human understandings of pain
- transdisciplinary perspectives.

25th Cemeteries Colloquium

The 25th Cemeteries Colloquium will be taking place as a face-to-face meeting on the 24th May 2024 in York, and we are now seeking abstract submissions. Please use the submission portal at the Cemetery Research group website:

<https://www.cemeteryresearch.org/events/colloquium/>

The colloquium has developed into an essential forum for the discussion of new and emerging cemetery scholarship and is multi-disciplinary, accepting papers from across all the humanities and social sciences. The Colloquium has emphasis on discussion, and its international and interdisciplinary nature makes the meeting particularly thought-provoking.

Deadline for abstract submission is **11th April 2024**

Grief Care: Religion and Spiritual Support in Times of Loss

Deadline for manuscript submissions: 30th September 2024

More info and submission point here:

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 navigate 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.

European Grief Conference

More info and submission point here: https://europeangriefconference.org/call-for-abstracts?mc_cid=fc9b98bd3d&mc_eid=ee906877ef

EGC welcomes a broad range of abstracts on bereavement and grief-related topics with a focus on research, education/policy or practice. For the 2024 conference we especially welcome abstracts on suicide bereavement which will be curated into dedicated parallel sessions.

Timeline

January 11 th	Call Open
March 25 th	Submission deadline
May 13 th	Acceptance Notification

Presentation types

- Oral presentation (15 – 20 minutes)
- Poster presentation
- Workshop presentation (Interactive workshop arranged around a bereavement theme with an emphasis on sharing, engaging and discussion (60-90 minutes))

Abstract proposal requirements

Max 250 words (excluding title)

The abstract proposal should explain the topic of your presentation, and describe why the material, research, practice, or policy is important to the field of bereavement and grief in a European context.

Abstracts should include the following headings:

- Title
- Background
- Rationale
- Design
- Results
- Conclusion.

List at least three but no more than five references.

For interactive workshops please provide a narrative description, including the following headings:

- Bereavement or grief theme
- Background, including any collaborations
- Purpose or aim of the workshop
- Target audience
- Proposed activities
- Opportunity for interaction

List at least three but no more than five references.

Indicate on your abstract submission the preferred *type of presentation*

- Oral presentation
- Poster presentation
- Workshop

Indicate the *type of focus*

- **Research:** for example, presentation of original research findings, how they offer a new perspective or inform or link to existing research and theory.
- **Practice:** for example, describing a promising new and innovative intervention or program, including experiential activities.
- **Policy/Education:** for example, describing a new bereavement-related policy or initiative, or law

Indicate if your abstract relates to

- grief in society (Level 0)
- the universal experience of grief (Level 1)
- providing services in a volunteer/community space (Level 2)
- complex and complicated grief (Level 3)

Presenter information

The following information should be submitted for the presenter(s):

First name, last name, highest degree/designation, affiliation, country, e-mail address.
If your abstract is accepted, you will be asked to submit a brief biographical statement for the book of published abstracts.

Review process

Abstract proposals will be evaluated through a blind peer review process. The review will look at the clarity of content, quality and rigour, interest, and usefulness of content to conference attendees, relationship to the [Bereavement Network Europe's](#) mission and to the [Grief Conference vision and purpose](#). Priority will be given to abstracts using European data.

The abstract review committee reserve the right to make the final determination regarding the classification of your presentation in terms of the focus (research, practice, policy/education) and relevant track (Level 0 – 3)

Radical Re-Imagining for the End of Life



**RADICAL RE-IMAGININGS
FOR THE END OF LIFE**

4-6 September, Falmouth University

An interdisciplinary conference aiming to support knowledge exchange between researchers within the social sciences, the humanities, and design.

Call for papers:
www.deathxdesignxculture.info

FALMOUTH
UNIVERSITY

 University
of Glasgow

M STAMPS
SCHOOL OF ART & DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

 DaCNet
Interdisciplinary School of Culture & Creativity

moth
Design for Life & Death

THE DEATH STUDIES
PODCAST

Find more info on the event and submission here: <https://deathxdesignxculture.info>

Postdoctoral Research Associate (PEoLC)

Edinburgh - Central Area, Midlothian, United Kingdom (Hybrid working)

JOB INFO

- **Job Identification**9337
- **Locations** Doorway 6, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG, GB(Hybrid working)
- **Apply Before**29/02/2024, 23:59
- **Health and Safety Requirements**No key hazards identified for this post
- **Criminal Record Check**No criminal record check required
- **Contract Type**Fixed Term
- **Number of Openings**1
- **Grade**UE07
- **Organization**School of Health in Social Science, School of Health in Social Science, School of Health in Social Science, Edinburgh University Group
- **Department**Clinical Psychology
- **Job Function**Researcher
- **Job Schedule**Part time

JOB DESCRIPTION

The Opportunity:

We are seeking a Postdoctoral Research Associate to work on a strategically important research project which involves mapping the UK palliative and end-of-life care (PEoLC) research workforce and identifying barriers and facilitators to research career progression. The findings will inform decision-making regarding future palliative care research investment and capacity building in the UK.

The post-holder will work with Dr Anne Finucane and a highly experienced team of palliative and end-of-life care researchers based in Northern Ireland, England, Wales and Scotland. The post is part-time (28 hours per week). We are open to considering requests for flexible work patterns and/or hybrid working (on a non-contractual basis) that combines a mix of remote and regular on-campus working.

The post is fixed term until 30th April 2025.

Preferred start date is 1st May 2024.

Your skills and attributes for success:

- Self-motivated and highly organised.
- Skilled in collecting and analysing questionnaire data.
- Skilled in synthesising evidence from a variety of sources (including grey literature).
- Skilled in organising and facilitating focus groups or workshops.
- Strong interpersonal skills.

Click to view a copy of the full [job description](#) (opens new browser tab)

Please apply with an up-to-date CV and a Cover Letter.

As a valued member of our team, you can expect:

- A competitive salary of **UE07 £37,099 to £39,347** per annum (A revised salary range for this grade of £39,347 to £46,974 is planned to take effect from Spring 2024)
- An exciting, positive, creative, challenging and rewarding place to work.
- To be part of a diverse and vibrant international community.
- Comprehensive Staff Benefits, such as a generous holiday entitlement, a defined benefits pension scheme, staff discounts, family-friendly initiatives, and flexible work options. Check out the full list on our [staff benefits page](#) (opens in a new tab) and use our reward calculator to discover the total value of your pay and benefits.

Championing equality, diversity and inclusion

The University of Edinburgh holds a Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of our commitment to advance gender equality in higher education. We are members of the Race Equality Charter and we are also Stonewall Scotland Diversity Champions, actively promoting LGBT equality.

Prior to any employment commencing with the University, you will be required to evidence your right to work in the UK.

On this occasion the University will not consider applicants requiring sponsorship for this role. International workers will therefore only be able to take up this role if they can demonstrate an alternative right to work in the UK.

Key dates to note

The closing date for this application is **29th February 2024**.

https://elxw.fa.em3.oraclecloud.com/hcmUI/CandidateExperience/en/sites/CX_1001/job/9337/?utm_medium=jobshare

Contact Us

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


Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Web: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centrefordeath

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

To unsubscribe, please email cdas@bath.ac.uk



PARTICIPANTS WANTED!

Exploring attitudes about death and approaches to dementia care

Department of Psychology



UNIVERSITY OF BATH



Ethics Code:

PREC: 21-261

ARE YOU A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL
**WORKING WITH PEOPLE WITH
DEMENTIA?**

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

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

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

Interested? Please scan QR code above or use the link below:

tinyurl.com/44kpps77

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