

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

April 2024 Newsletter

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Director's Note

Welcome to a new edition of the CDAS newsletter. It has been a month filled with many opportunities to meet in person and online, as well as to celebrate work from people at the centre. It is also exciting to see the diversity of collaborations across the centre in the last month alone. People are publishing together (see Diana Teggi and Kate Woodthorpe's [new article](#)), learning together, such as during events like the seminar on student suicide, and celebrating together, such as during the launch of Sam Carr's book [All The Lonely People](#). Thank you to everyone who has participated and supported the centre in the last few weeks.

We start this month's newsletter with details of our 2024 Conference, on 5th-7th June. This is the highlight of our year and is an important annual event that also allows us to build community, collaborations, and ideas. **Do buy your tickets [via this link](#) for the conference asap.** The conference will be held online and will focus on the theme of 'Death and Communities'. As part of the conference we welcome a panel plenary on Wednesday 5th June by Professors Irene Tuffrey-Wijne and Stuart Todd on co-researching death and dying with people with learning disabilities, and an In Conversation with Professor Stefan Timmermans on Thursday 6th at 7pm. Both of those events are free and open to all, so if you cannot make the conference please do join us for them. Sign up details are via the above link.

We are also really excited to welcome Dr. Xin Zhang to the Centre. We are privileged as a centre to draw people together from such a range of experiences and disciplines, and from around the world. Xin's clinical background, as well as her academic work at the intersection of social psychology and anthropology, makes her a great asset to the centre and her work resonates with the ideas and questions that many of us explore. We hope you enjoy your time in Bath and the UK Xin.

Looking ahead, and even before the June conference, the next month is also full of further opportunities to learn, discuss and spend time together. On the 19th March, Hannah Gould (University of Melbourne) will be presenting on her research in Japan in a seminar titled 'Becoming Bone Buddhas'. We are also excited that, on the 1st May, Bath is hosting a screening of *The Soil and the Sea*, followed by a Q&A with project leader Prof. Nina Parish. And on 9th May, Sam Carr will give the Annual Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture. His lecture is titled 'A gradual separation from the world: loneliness in later life'.

Finally, this month we have the first of two competitions to win a copy of a new CDAS publication. This month we have a copy of Tamarin Norwood's 'The Song of the Whole Wide World' to give away, sent anywhere in the world. If you would like to enter the competition to be in with a chance of winning a copy, please email Kate (k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk) by 8th May, and we will draw a winner before the Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture.

Until next time

Naomi and Kate

Ps. Are a social work academic? Then come and work with us! Find our latest job advert in this issue

Announcing the 2024 CDAS Conference ‘Death and Communities’

[Tickets are now live for the CDAS Conference 2024 - Death and Communities](#)

We hope you will join us for the 2024 CDAS Conference, which this year is organised around the theme of Death and Community.

In keeping with the theme we have decided this year to have panel plenaries rather than individual speakers, and we open the conference with an opening plenary on Wednesday 5 June at 4pm (BST) - "Make it fun!" Experiences of co-researching death and dying with people with learning disabilities with Professor Stuart Todd and Professor Irene Tuffrey-Wijne.

The opening plenary will be followed by two full days of papers and workshops, and an In Conversation on Thursday evening with Professor Stefan Timmermans. We have organised two streams to facilitate attendance throughout the conference, and have an additional support session on Thursday lunchtime, on publishing in the death studies community.

This promises to be an engaging and supportive conference with the CDAS community, we look forward to seeing you there!

[Click here to view the full programme](#)

If you are unable to join us for the whole conference, then free tickets are available to the opening plenary on Wednesday 5 June here: ["Make it fun!" Experiences of co-researching death and dying with people with learning disabilities](#)

and the Thursday 6 June evening In Conversation event here: [The Unclaimed: Abandonment and Hope - In Conversation with Professor Stefan Timmermans](#)

Full ticket holders will get access to these sessions, so no need to book twice if you're buying a ticket.

Book your tickets [HERE!](#)

Meet some of the CDAS team

We recently were able to see each other in person and welcome some of our visiting fellows to campus. If you're interested in becoming a visiting fellow or professor, details can be found on our CDAS homepage.



From left to right:

Naomi Pendle, Yu-Ching Liu, Diana Teggi, Jeremy Dixon, Chao Fang, Sam Carr, Molly Conisbee, Bethany Simmonds and Kate Woodthorpe

Student suicide seminar



Thank you to Jude Smit and Alison Golden who presented at our student suicide seminar on 25th March, which was well attended by University of Bath professional services and academic staff.

New book

Congratulations to Sam Carr on the publication of his new book [All the Lonely People](#), which features quite a few CDAS colleagues in discussion with the author! CDAS members turned out en masse to support the launch of Sam's book at Mr B's in Bath last month.



New article in BMC Geriatrics

Diana Teggi and Kate Woodthorpe have just published 'Anticipatory prescribing of injectable controlled drugs (ICDs) in care homes: a qualitative observational study of staff role, uncertain dying and hospital transfer at the end-of-life' in BMC Geriatrics.

The anticipatory prescribing of injectable controlled drugs (ICDs) by general practitioners (GPs) to care home residents is common practice and is believed to reduce emergency hospital transfers at the end-of-life. However, evidence about the process of ICD prescribing and how it affects residents' hospital transfer is limited. The study examined how care home nurses and senior carers (senior staff) describe their role in ICDs prescribing and identify that role to affect residents' hospital transfers at the end-of-life.

[View and download PDF](#)

New Conversation Article

Kate Woodthorpe on 'The Humberside funeral home incident shows England and Wales need a better system for dealing with death' published in The Conversation

In early March 2024, Humberside Police received reports of concerns over "care for the deceased" at a funeral directors in Hull. Two people have [reportedly](#) been bailed after the bodies and ashes of at least 35 people were [removed](#) from the premises. An inquiry is now under way.

As shocking as this news story has been, such concerns are not unexpected. Across England and Wales, funeral directors are an unregulated workforce. There is little external scrutiny and minimal educational requirements to be able to practice.

[Read the full article here](#)

Article by Visiting Fellow Imogen Jones – Failing to Care: The Legacy Funeral Care Scandal

On Friday 8th March 2024, a story emerged in the national media regarding police searches of a funeral parlour in Hull. Reports indicated that they had ‘concern over the care of the deceased’ (see [Hull legacy funeral directors news](#)). Subsequent days revealed more details: alongside suspected human ashes, the remains of 35 people had been found in Legacy Independent Funeral Directors in Hull. The media reported that a man and a woman had been arrested, and released on bail, on suspicion of criminal offences including prevention of a lawful and decent burial, fraud by false representation and fraud by abuse of position.

A significant police investigation is still ongoing, there is only so much that can be known and said. However, I believe that, setting aside the specific incident, it is worth taking the moment to reflect on what these events tell us about the treatment of the dead and the ways in which legal processes seek to respond to that.

[Read the full article here](#)

New Blog: Is everyone a “loved one”?

John MacArtney and Kate Woodthorpe have written a short piece on the importance of terminology for the University of Glasgow End of Life Studies group, available [here](#).

Funding news

Naomi Pendle has been awarded a British Academy ODA: International Interdisciplinary Research Project grant for her project 'Death during famine: The social and political meaning of deaths during famine'.

As part of the project Naomi will be working with a South Sudanese post-doctoral student, based at the Catholic University in Juba, as well as an ethnomusicologist, based at Makerere University in Uganda. Congratulations to Naomi and the team!

Introducing new CDAS visiting scholar Dr. Xin Zhang from Sun Yat-sen University in China

During the past three years, I have been a psycho-therapist working with cancer patients as part of my work at Sun Yat-sen University. My training background involves existentialism, psychoanalytic theory and feminism. I have personally experienced many patients' deaths and work-related grief. As a scholar, I often reflect on my feelings, challenges, and difficulties in my clinical work. The accumulation of my clinical experience prompts me to also do creative writing in the areas of death and grief.



My research interests lie somewhere between social psychology and anthropology. In other words, I enjoy doing field work and using a qualitative research methodology to reflect on certain psychological topics, like hope and grief. I try to understand terminal cancer patients' hope and medical staff experience of work-related grief after caring for cancer patients for a period of time. The research participants' words and their stories have been fascinating to me.

As a Visiting Scholar with the Centre for Death and Society, I plan to write one research paper about medical staff's grief towards dying patients from the perspective of emotional geographies in China. The project title is: Missing Tears in the Wards: How do Healthcare Professionals in China Express Their Workplace Grief? I would also like to try do some creative writing about my clinical experience working with cancer patients in China.

Workshop success



On 21st March CDAS Visiting Fellow Tamarin Norwood delivered two grief writing workshops in Bath, the first sponsored by CDAS as part of the Curious Minds Festival, the second on campus for the staff Loss and Grief Network which John Troyer helped establish. Thank you too to Visiting Professor Gayle Letherby who gave a storytelling workshop to our colleagues here at the University in the Department of Health the following day.

Workshop and presentation by Naomi Pendle and George Gumisiriza in Belgium

In March, Naomi co-hosted a workshop at the Royal Museum for Central Africa (Tervuren, Belgium). Participants came from Uganda, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the

Congo, Kenya, the UK, Belgium, the Netherlands. The workshop focused on more-than-human heritage and was a space to explore loss in many forms. George presented based on his research in Uganda, including a formative discussion of contemporary contestations over burials and trees.

New interviews

Jeremy Dixon was interviewed on the British Association of Social Worker's podcast about his adult safeguarding research

He discusses how concerns about elder abuse evolved from the 1960s, current law and policy and how social workers make decisions about how to manage adult safeguarding referrals on the ground. The podcast recording can be accessed [at this link](#) and also on Spotify.

John Troyer was interviewed on new podcast 'Grave Matters' on '21st Century Plague: has Covid-19 changed us forever?' Available to listen [here](#).

CDAS EVENTS

Becoming Bone Buddhas: Remaking Death in Contemporary Japan

Seminar with Hannah Gould, University of Melbourne

Friday April 19th 1pm – 2:30pm

Online

In a contemporary Japan described as socially atomised and secular, inter-generational Buddhist systems of care for the dead have become increasingly unstable. Taking their place are a range of “new death” (Dawdy & Kneese 2022) practices, including personalised funerals, tree burials, and lately, bone buddhas. Bone buddhas or kotsubotoke are monumental statues made from tens of thousands of sets of compressed human ash. Drawing on the original ethnography, *When Death Falls Apart* (Chicago 2023), this talk examines what the unexpected resurrection of this historic mode of communal interment in Japan says about how death rites are unmade and remade. It shows how in contemporary Japan, the fragmentation of necrosocial relations has brought about the literal fragmentation of the stuff of the dead, from solid bone to powdery ash. But perhaps it is only in this fragmented form that new configurations of posthumous sociality become possible.

Speaker Bio

Dr. Hannah Gould is a cultural anthropologist studying religion, materiality, death, and discarding with a regional focus in North-East Asia and Australia. In her words, “she studies

the stuff of death and the death of stuff.” Dr. Gould has degrees from The University of Melbourne and Oxford University, and completed her doctoral research into the transformation of contemporary Japanese death ritual. Dr Gould currently serves as the President of The Australian Death Studies Society and holds the Melbourne Postdoctoral Fellowship for the project “Mobile Mortality: Transnational Futures of Deathcare in the Asia Pacific”.

Dr Gould is also the author of *When Death Falls Apart* (University of Chicago Press, 2023) and co-editor of *Aromas of Asia* (Penn State University Press, 2023). Alongside academic research and publishing, she facilitates and engages in public and media-based conversations about death, dying, religion and technology, and is an advocate for more equitable systems of deathcare.

The soil and the Sea – Documentary screening and Q&A with Prof. Nina Parish

Room 6E 2.2 – University of Bath
Wednesday 1st May – 2:30pm – 4:30pm

FILM SCREENING

1 MAY 2024

THE SOIL & THE SEA

A FILM BY DANIELE RUGO

WITH A Q&A WITH PROF. NINA PARISH (STIRLING)

IN LEBANON THERE ARE MORE THAN 100 UNTOUCHED MASS GRAVES DATING BACK FROM THE CIVIL WAR, AND THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES AWAITING A MISSING RELATIVE OR AT LEAST A BONE TO BURY. THE SOIL AND THE SEA UNVEILS THE VIOLENCE LYING BENEATH A GARDEN, A SCHOOL, A CAFE, A HOTEL, AND OTHER UNREMARKABLE LANDSCAPES. AS THE CAMERA INTERROGATES THESE EVERYDAY SPACES, VOICES FILL THEM WITH ERASED STORIES.

MORE THAN 30 YEARS AFTER THE END OF THE WAR, FAMILIES IN LEBANON HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND ANSWERS ABOUT THE FATE OF THEIR LOVED ONES. HOWEVER, THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE DISAPPEARED IN 2020 HAS INJECTED NEW HOPE THAT THESE SITES WILL BE INVESTIGATED AND THAT REMAINS WILL ONE DAY BE RETURNED TO FAMILIES AWAITING A BONE TO BURY. THIS DOCUMENTARY STANDS AS THE FIRST RECORD OF THESE SITES, THREATENED BY NEGLECT, REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENTS, AND OBLIVION.

The Centre for the Study of Violence are delighted to invite all staff and students to this film showing and Q&A. For any further information please contact Sophie Whiting (sw2121@bath.ac.uk) or Benoit Dillet (bd429@bath.ac.uk)

Centre for the Study of Violence
UNIVERSITY OF BATH

We warmly invite you to the documentary screening of *The Soil and the Sea* and a Q&A with Prof. Nina Parish (Stirling) who led the project <https://www.memoriesmargins.com>

Daniele Rugo (dir.) *The Soil and the Sea* (2023), 73 min.

In Lebanon there are more than 100 untouched mass graves dating back from the Civil War, and thousands of families awaiting a missing relative or at least a bone to bury. *The Soil and the Sea* unveils the violence lying beneath a garden, a school, a cafe, a hotel, and other unremarkable landscapes. As the camera interrogates these everyday spaces, voices fill them with erased stories.

More than 30 years after the end of the war, families in Lebanon have been unable to find answers about the fate of their loved ones.

However, the creation of a National Commission for the Disappeared in 2020 has injected new hope that these sites will be investigated and that remains will one day be returned to families awaiting a bone to bury. This documentary stands as the first record of these sites, threatened by neglect, real estate developments, and oblivion.

For any queries please email Sophie Whiting (sw2121@bath.ac.uk) or Benoit Dillet (bd429@bath.ac.uk)

The Annual Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture

A gradual separation from the world: loneliness in later life ***Sam Carr***

Thursday 9th May 6pm- 7pm BST

Loneliness is often talked about as though it is universal. In reality, however, there are unique features of loneliness that colour how it unfolds and is experienced at different stages in the life course. In this lecture, I present some of the distinct features, challenges, and experiences of loneliness that older people shared with us in 'The Bath Loneliness Project.' I discuss how ageing can give rise to unique psychological and emotional suffering for older people, that stems from a pattern of losses that can bring about a gradual sense of disconnection to the world.

Book online [here](#).

Call for Participants

The Open University (OU) has embarked on a groundbreaking study examining the impact of the Medical Examiners Service on families coping with loss.

Introduced in January 2021, the Medical Examiner Service comprises qualified doctors who operate independently from the care providers involved in a patient's treatment. Their critical role involves meticulously reviewing the medical records of the deceased and determining the cause of death. Additionally, this service offers a vital avenue for families to seek answers regarding the care their loved ones receive from healthcare providers.

Dr Kerry Jones, Senior Lecturer in End-of-Life Care at the OU and co-chair of the university's Carer's Research Group, spearheads this research. She collaborates with Dr Sharon Mallon, Senior Lecturer in Social Work and Wellbeing at Staffordshire University and a former academic at OU.

Dr Jones emphasised the significance of understanding how the service communicates with grieving families after the loss of a loved one. "By delving into this aspect," she explains, "we can actively shape the service's implementation across England and Wales."

Families supported by the Medical Examiner Service are encouraged to participate in the study. Dr Jones assures them that the researchers, well-versed in discussing bereavement, will provide unwavering support throughout their involvement. For more information about the study and if you would like to take part please click on the following link: <https://www5.open.ac.uk/wales/en/news/new-research-launched-services-bereaved-families>

For those navigating bereavement, there are organisations that are here to help:

1. AtaLoss.org: Provides bereavement support, advice, and guidance to help you find the most fitting support during this challenging time.
2. CRUSE Bereavement Care: Offers comprehensive bereavement support across the UK.
3. Shout 85258: A free text service for immediate mental health support.

New book by Glenys Caswell: 'Time of death: a sociological exploration'



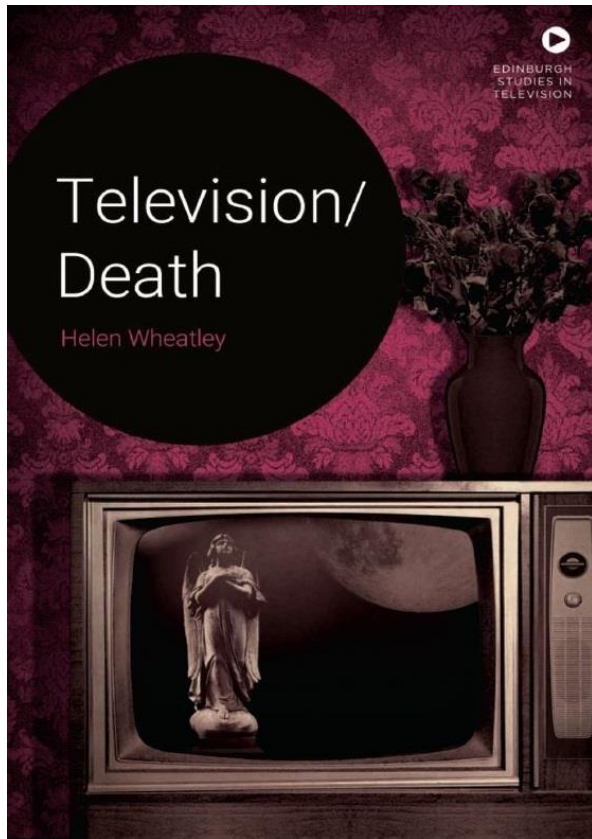
Addressing a gap in social science research to explore the meanings, understandings, and experiences of time at life's most critical point, *Time of Death* takes a thoughtful sociological approach to questions about how humans use and experience time in relation to when someone dies.

Considering temporal theories and drawing on a range of disciplines, Glenys Caswell discusses efforts to measure and record times of death, as well as the ways in which people who undergo bereavement experience time during that process. Looking at the impact of digital technologies, the differences in interpretation of what counts as death in varied social contexts, assisted dying and temporal dissonance, and global cases of people dying alone, the author poses critical questions. To what extent is this measurement the province of the medical and legal professions, and official state statistics? How accurate is this data and is there need for its collection? How does time in relation to death become fluid in a previously non-experienced way?

Investigating this conceptual focus and questioning what it can add to our knowledge of the human relationship with time, Caswell brings together studies on death and temporality to create a valuable resource for scholars across disciplines.

More details can be found [here](#)

New book by Helen Wheatley 'Television/Death' with Edinburgh University Press



Television/Death

Helen Wheatley

Explores the relationship between television and death

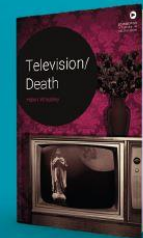
- A transnational, historically wide-ranging study of death on television
- The first study to think about the posthumousness of television and how TV provides access to the dead
- Combines analyses of contemporary popular dramas and more obscure archival treasures
- Analyses the burgeoning trend for the representation of death, dying, grief, and death-related trauma on television
- Of interest to scholars of television and those situated in the growing field of death studies
- Intertwines analysis of television programmes with interviews from key producers of/participants in death-related programming

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CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Touching Palms with Grief

Touching Palms with Grief (2024) is an exhibition and event programme exploring the complex and nuanced ways we cope with loss. It showcases artwork and writing from the recent Student Grief Zine, and photography stills from the short film Floating on Blue.

It invites us to reflect on how can we touch on such a difficult subject gently, open ourselves to the potential for feeling and healing when it is much easier to turn and run the other way.

Gallery Cafe, St Margaret's House, E2 9PL

16th April - 25th May 2024

Free to drop in, 9am-6pm everyday

Full details [here](#).

Webinar: Visual Research Methods in End-Of-Life Research

Free webinar

22nd April 2024 – 5pm – 6pm

Belgium

We are thrilled to extend a warm invitation to you for our upcoming webinar, which is part of the webinar series on Palliative and End-of-Life Care Research – Methodological Development and Innovation.

Visual methods have been extensively used in social research to explore people's experiences of structural disadvantage. This indicates that they may provide a useful research approach to understanding equity-related concerns within palliative care. However, to date, there has been little use of visual methods with people at the end of life generally, let alone with people experiencing structural disadvantage. During this webinar, Naomi Richards will discuss the potential of image-based research, followed by an introduction to previous research using visual methods. During the webinar, she will discuss three specific visual methods in detail: photovoice, professional photography and digital storytelling.

Naomi Richards is the Director of the End of Life Studies Group at the University of Glasgow. She is also a Senior Lecturer in Social Science and a social anthropologist by training. She teaches at the University of Glasgow's [End of Life Studies Programme](#) (Micro-credential/PGCert/PGDip/MSc).

[Find more info and register here](#)

Film Premiere

The UK is not innocent: the story of INQUEST by [@TRCdocumentary](#) exposes forty years of state violence and resistance in England and Wales.

24th April at 6:30pm

Castle Cinema, Hackney

Book your tickets now! <https://www.inquest.org.uk/Event/the-uk-is-not-innocent-the-story-of-inquest-film-premiere>

The UK is Not Innocent is a 45-minute documentary film made by Rainbow Collective as part of INQUEST's 40 Years heritage project. The film traces INQUEST's evolution from a grassroots collective of families bereaved by state-related deaths to an established charity providing expertise on deaths in custody, exposing forty years of state violence and resistance in England and Wales.

Following the screening, there will be a Q&A with the Richard York & Hannan Majid (Directors), Aji Lewis (mother of Seni Lewis), Naomi Oppenheim & Jessica Pandian (Producers). Join us at the cinema's bar afterwards to continue the conversation.

The UK is Not Innocent features Benjamin Zephaniah's last recorded poem. Our patron for over 20 years, we are honoured to showcase his poem as part of the [Benjamin Zephaniah National Memorial Events Calendar](#).

The [INQUEST shop](#) will be open, so get your t-shirts, tote bags and badges including our special edition merch in collaboration with Black Lodge Press.

Association for Public Service Excellence

Cemeteries and Crematoria Seminar 2024

Thursday 25th April

The Edge Conference Centre, The Edge, Riveredge, Wigan, WN3 5AB

Bereavement Services is a high-profile council service which, as well as meeting the needs of the bereaved, is under increasing pressure to become commercially self-sustaining and delivering value for money. Facing a growing number of demands and challenges, ranging from; changing cultural needs, new environmental requirements, new land for burials, greater economic transparency and growing funeral poverty.

This seminar brings together expert speakers from local authorities and the wider sector who will share their knowledge, and provide delegates with practical and transferable examples of how the challenges can be met. In addition, the event will provide the opportunity for delegates to network with colleagues.

This event will also include the Cemeteries and Crematoria Service Innovation Award, on Thursday 25 April. This award is to recognise the excellent work that is happening in cemeteries and crematoria across the UK.

[Book here](#)

Meet Up Group for Death and Culture Researchers

Online

Tuesday 30th April - 11am – 12pm

This group is for anyone engaged in researching death and culture, hosted by Professor Ruth Penfold-Mounce and Dr. Bethan Michael-Fox of the Death and Culture Network (DaCNet). Find out more about DaCNet at <https://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/research/death-and-culture/>

You might be researching death in/and film, television, graphic novels, podcasting, video games, material culture (graves, cemeteries, mummies...) or anything else that falls into the realm of death and culture. All researchers are welcome regardless of status, stage or discipline.

In the group meetings we will introduce ourselves and discuss our research interests, have the opportunity to ask questions, discuss processes and experiences of researching death and popular culture, and share news of conferences and calls for papers.

The meetings will be friendly and informal. **You can join our JISCmail mailing list to share and receive relevant updates, calls for papers and more.**

The group will meet every six weeks. Please feel welcome to bring your own tea, coffee and cake etc. and we look forward to seeing you there! To find out more about the hosts check out the links below.

Ruth is on Twitter @deathandculture - find out more about Ruth at <https://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/our-staff/academic/ruth-penfold-mounce/>

Beth is on Twitter @bethmichaelfox - find out more about Beth at www.drbethanmichaelfox.com

Want to come but can't make this meeting because it's not time zone or schedule friendly? Drop an email to bethmichaelfox@gmail.com and we'll try to accommodate you when we schedule the next one.

[Book here](#)

The Sheffield Life, Loss & Death Festival



Sheffield
Life, Loss and Death
Festival
May 2024

Death is part of life. Let's talk about it.

A month of free events in Sheffield to explore why life, loss and death matter. Everyone welcome!

Book your free tickets to over 40 events now!

www.compassionate-sheffield.co.uk/life-loss-and-death-festival

Illustrations by Storyset

A month-long festival of free events across Sheffield and online. Everyone is welcome and all 45 events are free. Bookings are now open!

[Book here](#)

Crisis, What Crisis? In conversation with Amanda Coleman and Lucy Easthope

21st May 2024 – 6:30pm-8pm

Online



CRISIS, WHAT CRISIS?
21 MAY 2024 6.30PM - 8PM BST

IN CONVERSATION WITH
AMANDA COLEMAN AND LUCY EASTHOPE

In a world of disasters, emergencies and crises we have to be ready to respond quickly and effectively at a moment's notice. But what does this mean?

After decades of working in disaster management and crisis communication Lucy and Amanda will chat about their experiences, the learning and what has driven them on.

This relaxed conversation will share both the positive and the ugly moments dealing with some of the most significant crises in recent years. What is behind the approach they take? What are the biggest challenges? And how do they stay optimistic in the trying times?

After the conversation there will be a chance to put questions to them both.

[Book here](#)

The Cemetery Research Group Colloquium

Full details of the colloquium in York, UK on 24th May are now available [here](#).

Scholars with an interest in disposing the dead will find an engaged and expert audience. The event is international and interdisciplinary, covering subjects across the social sciences and humanities. Indeed, the very interdisciplinary nature of the papers and the audience makes for particularly fruitful dialogue. [Past conference abstracts](#) give a good indication of the breadth of interest represented here. This is an informal event with a strong emphasis on discussion, and is a particularly supportive environment for scholars new to this field.

The Collective for Radical Death Studies (CRDS) – Care, Cure & Survival: A Look at the Visual AIDS Archive



Curated by Amelie Foumena Nkodo

In her 2022 work, “Viral Cultures: Activist Archiving in the Age of AIDS”, feminist archivist & scholar **Marika Cifor** describes the power of the archive as a “prodigiously holistic cure” for HIV/AIDS. The archival cure heals the collective body, mind and spirit in contrast to medical curative practices which locate care in the elimination of disability. This understanding of the politicized community archive as a remedy for social death provides us with a framework for exploration for our June Rad Death Reads (also in honor of Pride Month).

Over the course of 4 weeks, we will examine archival materials paired with multidisciplinary scholarly work in history, sociology, anthropology, and public health, in order to connect historical political art activism to contemporary movements that use artistic language to advocate for HIV/AIDS destigmatization, healthcare access, and disability justice. Along with Marika Cifor, we will encounter the work of **artists in the VISUAL AIDS collection**, along with theory by **Robert Atkins, Marty Fink, Jules Gill-Peterson, Benji Hart, Robb Hernandez, Alexandra Juhasz, Theodore Kerr, Joshua Lubin-Levy, Cindy Milstein, Ricardo Montez, David Wojnarowicz**, to steer our discussions of the relationships between the archive, cultural production and death.

We will journey through the Visual AIDS Archive, a rich repository that spans photography, art, and multimedia, capturing the diverse and evolving narratives of HIV/AIDS globally. This archive will allow us to piece together the legacies of HIV/AIDS activism that continue to shape our understanding of experiences of collective illness, disability and loss as a call to action.

[Book here](#)

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](#)

A Social History of Sudden Death: The Victorian Inquest

Online

Tuesday 18th June 2024 – 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Sophie Michell investigates nineteenth century inquests and the revelatory window they open onto Victorian life, death, and social mores.

Sudden fatalities often excited great social and medical curiosity in the nineteenth century. In fact, public inquests into suspicious deaths regularly became community events, drawing people from all social classes together in the investigation. Inquest proceedings, which were often reported verbatim in local press, offer a remarkable insight into Victorian life, death and society, lifting the curtain on domestic life, working practices, and interpersonal relationships.

[Curious Histories](#) is very pleased to introduce Sophie Michell, whose talk will examine the unusual role of the inquest in nineteenth century Britain. It features cases both celebrated and obscure - including that of Sidney Barker, victim of Brighton's notorious Chocolate Cream Poisoner!

[Book here](#)

3RD ANNUAL END-OF-LIFE DOULA INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM – BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Glasgow, Scotland (Online and in-person)

July 1st – 2nd

Join for two days of cutting edge research, public discussions, and a practitioner workshop! This year we will be hosting nine speakers from five countries, each who will be sharing some of the first innovative research about end-of-life doulas that is beginning to emerge from different parts of the world. On Day Two we will be hosting a Discussion Forum with a range of health and social care stakeholders about what they are interested in learning about (and from) end-of-life doulas. We will also offer a practitioner workshop that employs a series of case studies to delve into the issues and different ways in which end-of-life doulas can support people with dementia, multi-generational households, and those who request assisted dying, among other concerns. More generally, we have ensured time for Symposium participants to connect through our in-person and online socials, and finally, we've organized for a public event to share national and international perspectives about what end-of-life doulas do.

The Symposium is free and open to anyone who is interested in this topic, but there are a limited number of spaces and registration is required. Registration links are below.

[Book here](#)

Suicide Bereavement UK's international conference

26th September 2024

Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel



Keynote speaker:

Dr Frank Campbell (USA); Internationally recognised leader in suicide bereavement for over 30 years. Frank developed the Active Postvention Model (APM), which supports families bereaved by suicide at the scene. He is also a US Army veteran and has been a contributor to the Tragedy Assistance Programme for Survivors (TAPS) for military families bereaved by suicide.

Suicide Bereavement UK's hybrid conference will discuss the following issues:

- The development of an Active Postvention Model in the USA
- Lived experience of losing more than one family member
- The development of the first postvention support pack for primary care
- Suicide bereavement research
- Depression and its impact
- Suicide clusters
- The importance of language when engaging with those bereaved by suicide
- The experience of finding a stranger who has died by suicide

Workshops

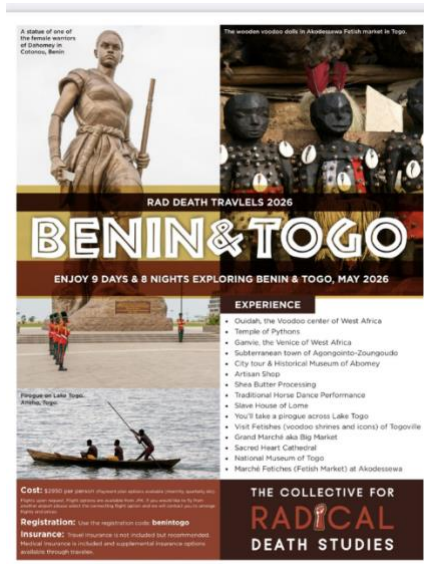
- Laughter Yoga (an actual 60 minute laughter yoga session). Those that attend are required to engage in the whole activity. **Limited numbers available**
- Suicide bereavement and self compassion
- The Forcer Protocol for missing veterans (presented by Gtr Manchester Police and the founder of the Forcer Protocol) wife whose veteran husband died by suicide
- Evidence-based postvention guidelines when a colleague dies by suicide
- Suicide prevention in Punjabi communities

For more information about the event, [CLICK HERE](#)

New opportunity from the Collective for Radical Death Studies

Rad Death Travels Benin & Togo May 2026!! CLICK BELOW to sign up and use registration code: benintogo

<https://fourwinds.my.salesforce-sites.com/TripRegistration/>



CRDS has partnered with Four Winds Travels to create Rad Death Travels Benin & Togo 2026 - a 9-day educational excursion that centers the deathways of the Beninese and Togolese. If you truly want to decolonize your knowledge, educate yourself on world history and become a global citizen in the process, then this is the trip for you!!

Participants will learn about the ancient kingdom of Dahomey and the ritual and spiritual practices of Vodun - visiting temples and hearing talks by local experts and practitioners. We will also visit universities that feature talks by professors who research and write broadly and narrowly about Vodun. These talks will be coupled with

campus tours involving current student leaders, when possible. And as millions of Africans were trafficked from Benin and Togo, we will remember the genocide and memorialize the resistance as a way to assert restorative justice. We will learn about the slave trade - walking the the UNESCO slave route, seeing the Door of No Return and Auction Block Historical Sites. As what has been dubbed the Venice of West Africa was founded as a maroon colony from enslavers, we will spend time in this village, learning from the people and its history.

Ultimately, with cultural stops that include learning about shea butter processing, visiting national museums and local markets, this trip is designed to introduce you to Black excellence that frames African history by centering Beninese and Togolese knowledge ways.

The trip is \$2950 plus flight and this includes a tour guide, daily hot breakfast, some lunches and dinners, all in-country transportation, admission to all sites. Flights can be arranged by tour company upon request at the time of registration. A \$200 deposit is required to guarantee your seat on trip. It is projected that this trip will not exceed 20 participants. Please do not wait to sign up and your seat can only be guaranteed once the \$200 deposit has been made. You may pay monthly payments with the final payment due by March 2026. You have 2 years to pay off this trip.

There will be a zoom Interest Meeting on May 3, 2024 @ 5:30pm so that interested persons can receive an overview of the excursion and get all questions answered. Please mark your calendars. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89861619455>

CALL FOR PAPERS

Call for Papers: Digital Death

THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE DEATH ONLINE RESEARCH NETWORK (DORS#7)

University of Helsinki, Finland, October 3-5, 2024



How do the dead live among us today?

What kinds of relationships can be established between the living and the dead in today's society?

How can we achieve immortality in the present-day digital society?

The 7th International Research Symposium of the Death Online Research Network *Digital Death: Transforming History, Rituals and Afterlife* addresses the cultural and social transformation of human death in modern society as it is characterised by digital saturation of the current collective social and cultural existence. Although death is a universal condition of all humankind, the ways in which death is addressed, managed, and performed in a given society and culture varies considerably. The conference places special emphasis on histories, cultures, religions, ideologies, and technologies that shape the construction of digital death in the present era.

Keynote speakers:

Dr. Tamara Kneese is a Project Director of Data & Society Research Institute's AIMLab in New York, USA.

Discussant: Dr. Tal Morse is Adjunct Lecturer at Hadassah Academic College and CDAS Visiting Fellow in the University of Bath, UK.

Associate Professor Patrick Stokes is a Professor of Philosophy at Deakin University, Australia.

Discussant: Professor Amanda Lagerkvist, Professor of Media and Communication Studies at Uppsala University, Sweden.

Themes and Topics of Interest:

We welcome paper and panel submissions on the following themes and beyond:

- Digital afterlife
- Digital immortality
- AI and death
- Death and data
- Social media mourning
- Digital grief practices
- Interrelations between online and offline practices in mourning
- Histories of digital death
- Religion and digital death
- Online funerals
- Thanatechnologies
- Digital estate planning
- Robotics and end of life care
- Grief influencers
- Marginalised representations and digital death
- Digital resistance to memorialisation
- Ethical challenges in studying digital death
- Legal perspectives and digital death

The symposium will host a special workshop of participating postgraduate students and early career researchers the day before the symposium. The conference will be **on-site only** at University of Helsinki, Finland

Submission guidelines:

Paper submission:

Please submit your abstract of max 250 words with your contact details to Linda Pentikäinen (linda.pentikainen@helsinki.fi)

Panel submission:

Panels up to four papers should include a general description of the panel (max 250 words) together with abstracts of the individual papers (max 200 words) with contact details of each participant and the panel chair. Proposals should be submitted to Linda Pentikäinen (linda.pentikainen@helsinki.fi)

All submissions will be peer-reviewed, and we envisage publication of selected full papers in a special issue in *Thanatos* (open access). <https://thanatos-journal.com/in-english/> Please note that participants will be accepted to present only one paper as the first author.

Important dates:

Abstract/panel submission deadline: April 26, 2024

Notification of paper acceptance: June 3, 2024

Registration: June 3 – September 2, 2024

Conference: October 3-5, 2024

Conference fee:

Regular 200 €

Student 150 €

The conference is sponsored by DiDe research consortium (EU, CHANSE) and Federation of Finnish Learned Societies

Conference organisation team:

Anu Harju: anu.a.harju@helsinki.fi

Linda Pentikänen: linda.pentikainen@helsinki.fi

Johanna Sumiala: johanna.sumiala@helsinki.fi

Special Issue of Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences “Grief in the Digital Age”

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

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

systematic development of descriptive accounts of interactions between grieving agents and death technologies. This special issue aims to bring together research in phenomenology, philosophy of mind, the cognitive sciences, and the philosophy of AI to help better understand the impact of death technologies on the structure, quality, and temporal unfolding of grief within and across agents, situational contexts, and cultures.

Possible topics include (but are not limited to):

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

Invited contributors:

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

Guest Editors:

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

Submission deadline:

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

Word limit:

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

Online submission:

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

Author Submission's Guidelines:

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

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

CALL FOR HOSTS:

17th International Conference on the Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal

The Association for the Study of Death and Society (ASDS) is delighted to announce its Call for Hosts for the 17th International Conference on the Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal (DDD). ASDS welcomes proposals internationally.

TO APPLY

- Prospective hosts should read the DDD Proposal Form (and Criteria) and Terms & Conditions for hosting DDD before applying.
- In order to be considered, **prospective hosts must complete the DDD Proposal Form in full and submit** their completed Proposal Form **via email to ASDS Secretary, Dr Georgina Robinson** (georgina.m.robinson@durham.ac.uk), **by the deadline of Wednesday 1 May 2024 at 17:00 BST.**
- Proposals will be considered by ASDS Council at its May meeting.

The DDD Proposal Form (and Criteria) and Terms & Conditions are available to download [via this link](#). To receive a copy directly, please email the ASDS Secretary.

If you have any questions about the application process - or would like to discuss the possibility of proposing to host informally - please do not hesitate to get in touch with the ASDS Secretary.

4th Lifting The Lid International Festival of Death and Dying 15th – 17th November 2024



INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF DEATH & DYING

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

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

Grief Care: Religion and Spiritual Support in Times of Loss

Deadline for manuscript submissions: 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 navigates life's most profound challenges. By fostering of an interdisciplinary dialogue this Special Issue aims to advance knowledge, stimulate critical reflection, and contribute to the development of innovative practices that honour the complexity of grief within diverse religious and spiritual landscapes.

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

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

Senior Lecturer – University of Bath

The University of Bath is an international centre for research and teaching excellence committed to achieving global impact. We are seeking to appoint a Senior Lecturer in social work, able to make a significant contribution to research and teaching in social work at Bath. About the role

You will be expected to provide evidence of a track record in undertaking research of international significance, high quality publications, attracting research grant income, developing impact-focussed research, and delivering innovative and high-quality teaching. All applications must show how you meet the essential criteria outlined in the job description. We will consider specialisms in any sub-field of social work but are particularly keen to strengthen the department's interests in mental health. The department has an inclusive interdisciplinary vision and applicants are encouraged to look at our website to see our research expertise in social work, sociology, social policy, criminology and international development.

This role is offered on a full time (36.5 hours per week) permanent basis.

Informal enquiries about the post can be made to the Head of Department, Professor Monica Greco by email mg2725@bath.ac.uk; or to Professor Louise Brown by email L.Brown@bath.ac.uk

About the Department

The Department of Social and Policy Sciences is an ambitious and collegiate, interdisciplinary community of researchers, teachers, and students. We have a vibrant group of social work academics who are research active and offer one of the country's most successful teaching programmes in social work.

Our academic staff represent a range of disciplinary backgrounds including social and public policy, sociology, social work, international development, and criminology. We are committed to interdisciplinary and impactful research and to supporting excellence in both research and teaching. We offer taught programmes in social work, sociology, social policy, criminology and international development. [Department of Social & Policy Sciences \(bath.ac.uk\)](http://www.bath.ac.uk/departments/social-and-policy-sciences/)

What we can offer you:

- a very generous employer contributory pension scheme
- generous annual leave allowance with an additional 5 discretionary days so that you can enjoy a positive work life balance
- we are a [family-friendly University](#) and with an increasingly agile workforce, are open to flexible working arrangements

- an [excellent reward package](#) that recognises the talents of our diverse workforce
- a wide range of personal and [professional development opportunities](#)
- a number of support options available for new and existing staff to help with the cost of some immigration expenses which you may be eligible for: [Relocation allowance](#), [Visa Reimbursement](#), [Interest-Free Loan](#).

[Find out more about our benefits.](#)

We consider ourselves to be an inclusive university, where difference is celebrated, respected and encouraged. We have an excellent international reputation with staff from over 60 different nations and have made a positive commitment towards gender equality and intersectionality receiving a [Silver Athena SWAN award](#). We truly believe that diversity of experience, perspectives, and backgrounds will lead to a better environment for our employees and students, so we encourage applications from all genders, backgrounds, and communities, particularly from under-represented groups, and value the positive impact that will have on our teams.

We are very proud to be an [autism friendly university](#) and are an accredited Disability Confident Leader; committed to [building disability confidence and supporting disabled staff](#).

[Find out from our staff](#) what makes the University of Bath a great place to work. Follow us [@UniofBath](#) and [@UniofBathJobs](#) on Twitter for more information.

[Email details to a friend](#)

Further details:

- [Job Description & Person Specification](#)
- [Terms and Conditions of Employment](#)

[More info here](#)



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

CONTACT

Ben Kwapong

Clinical Psychologist in Training
bk513@bath.ac.uk
(researcher)

Dr Ashley Vanstone

Clinical Psychologist
adv30@bath.ac.uk
(supervisor)