

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

March 2024 Newsletter

[Director's Note](#)

CDAS

[News](#)

[Events](#)

CDAS Community

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Call for Papers](#)

[Job alert](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Director's Note

Welcome to a new edition of the CDAS newsletter where we welcome Dr Naomi Pendle as the new CDAS co-director. With Naomi at the helm with Kate this is really exciting times for the centre as we move into collaborations with international colleagues working in the field of development and conflict, alongside our existing work. Naomi introduces herself on the following page.

We say goodbye this month to long-time CDAS colleague Dr Paula Smith. Based in the Department of Psychology at the University of Bath, Paula joined CDAS not long after its inception and was integral in its evolution as an interdisciplinary centre. A nurse prior to becoming an academic, Paula has always been a font of wisdom for colleagues in the centre and she will be missed. We wish you well in the next phase of life Paula!

In this issue of the newsletter we also welcome new Visiting Fellow Edina Harbinja, who will be working with Kate Woodthorpe, Visiting Prof Johanna Sumiala and Visiting Fellows Tal Morse and Stacey Pitsillides on artificial intelligence at the end of life. Khyati Tripathi is also joining us as a Visiting Fellow and will be working with Naomi Pendle on a series about death studies around the world. We will introduce Khyati in our April newsletter.

We are also thrilled to share the details of Sam Carr's new book on loneliness, which will be launched at Bath's premier independent bookshop Mr B's Emporium on 28th March. A few of us will be going and plan to meet up first for a coffee and catch up in the city centre. If you'd like to join us, please let Kate know on k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk so she can share the details of where and when.

In this issue you will find details of Tamarin Norwood's grief writing workshop in Bath on 21st March. She will be following this with a session for staff at the University as part of the Staff Grief and Loss Group, which John Troyer helped establish. Thank you Tamarin for doing these workshops, we hope they go well. And watch this space for next month's newsletter where we will be launching a competition to win a copy of Tamarin's new book!

As usual in the newsletter we also have news of upcoming events and calls for papers, including CDAS events in April and May, and a call to host the 17th International Contexts of Death, Dying and Disposal from the Association for the Study of Death and Society. We hosted this in 2019 and thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and would recommend it! A tip from us though: just make sure you have a fantastic team in place and excellent administrative support, they are the true heroes of an event like this. We look forward to seeing where the conference ends up.

Finally, behind the scenes we are putting the CDAS annual conference programme together and have now sent out all abstract decisions. Please get in touch if you have not heard from us. We look forward to seeing you at the conference, further details will be in the next newsletter. For now, save the date: 6th – 7th June, all online.

Until next time

Kate and Naomi



Welcome to new co-director Naomi Pendle

We are delighted to welcome Naomi to the role of CDAS co-director following Jeremy's departure to pastures new. Naomi is a lecturer in International Development based in the Department of Social and Policy Sciences and has been involved in the centre for the last few years. We asked Naomi if she could introduce herself to the CDAS community. Naomi, over to you:

“Jeremy's Co-Directorship of CDAS provided us all with such a strong, reliable, thoughtful leadership and he will be deeply missed. I am glad he can remain part of the CDAS community. Thank you, Jeremy.

It is such a privilege to be the new Co-Director of CDAS. It is an intellectually inspirational but also deeply supportive Centre. Such an impressive Centre is a real gift to us from all the previous CDAS directors (and still current Co-Director in the case of Kate Woodthorpe). They have and continue to invest time and intellectual insight to make the Centre what it is. I am really grateful.

CDAS has an important season ahead both as it celebrates its 20th anniversary, and as it participates in the University of Bath's strengthening of its research culture. This is also an important season for death studies more broadly because of the overlapping crisis that the world faces, from climatic change and environmental degradation to political polarization, famine and conflict. This has recently been flagged in work by Tony Walter, Jane McCarthy and others in CDAS. We urgently need to build on their work to think about how lessons from death studies can help us understand losses from these compounding crises, as well as how death during such crises, and in other parts of the world, changes our understandings of death, dying and its aftermath.

My priority will be to work with co-director Kate Woodthorpe and the whole CDAS community to ensure we enhance our collectively contribution during this period. A first aim is to increase the variety of contexts and geographic locations with which CDAS engages. As Co-Director, one initiative that I hope to start soon, with CDAS Visiting Fellow Khyati Tripathi, is a seminar series that draws on death studies from around the world. I am eager to find other opportunities to support and work with CDAS members to increase collaborative research, writing and grant development in diverse contexts.

In the last year, I have already started this work, and, through it, I have quickly come to realise what an amazing community CDAS is and how much can be possible with your support. I have applied, sometimes with CDAS members, to the British Academy, the ERC, AHRC and ESRC for grants at the intersection of both famine studies and death studies, and gerontology and conflict studies. I have worked with Sam Carr and Chao Fang to start a conversation and develop a proposal on ageing during armed conflict. I have also submitted a first draft of a co-authored article (with authors from Uganda, South Sudan, the UK and USA, including Henry

Okoth, Jedeit Jal, Antonia Nannyonga-Tamusuza, Jane McCarthy, Ruth Evans and Dennis Klass from CDAS, including) to CDAS's special issue of *Morality* on decolonising death studies. Plus, in July 2023, with Faculty funding, I hosted a workshop on the intersection of death studies and conflict studies with people from CDAS and the Conflict Research Group in Ghent, and three articles on the topic will soon be submitted to *Third World Quarterly*, *Global Policy* and *American Ethnologist*.

I bring to the Co-Director role a proven track record of research leadership, sitting on the London School of Economics International Development Research Committee and as a Visiting Fellow at the Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa at LSE. I was on the Senior Management Team of a UK government funded Conflict Research Programme and I am a Co-Investigator on the ESRC Centre for Public Authority and International Development (CPAID) based at LSE. I have also been PI on smaller projects in South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda, and my biggest achievement during grant management has been the development of early career researchers in the UK and East Africa. I look forward to finding ways to support early career research with others in CDAS."

Welcome to new Visiting Fellow Dr Edina Harbinja!



Dr Edina Harbinja is a Reader in Media/Privacy Law, specializing in legal issues related to the Internet and emerging technologies. Her primary areas of research focus on post-mortem privacy—the privacy of deceased individuals. She is widely recognised as a pioneer and expert in this field. She has been a member of the digital death research community for over a decade.

Dr Harbinja has published extensively on various aspects of technology law and regulation. She has also served as a visiting scholar and invited speaker at universities and conferences across the USA, Latin America, and Europe. Currently, she is co-leading the European Law Institute project 'Model Rules on Succession of Digital Assets, Data and other Digital Remains'.

Over the past decade, Dr Harbinja has played a significant role in influencing and informing legislation and court cases in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Additionally, she has engaged with major technology companies, legal professionals, and civil society organisations, contributing to discussions and decisions in these areas. She has published pieces in news outlets, websites, practitioners' magazines etc. (e.g. BBC Tomorrow's World, BBC Ideas, The Nature Outlook, The Guardian, The Verge, The Daily Mail, The Conversation, The Law Society Gazette, The Legal Practice Management Magazine etc.).

Please find her list of publications here <https://research.aston.ac.uk/en/persons/edina-harbinja/publications/>

Find her on Twitter at @EdinaRI.

George Gumisiriza presented his work at Faith In Funerals conference

George presented his work at Faith in Funerals conference at Goldsmiths University of London on February 22nd, 2024.

The event was about the launch of the report following the ‘Faith in Funerals’ research project ([more info can be found here](#)). He was invited as a researcher to present an alternative perspective to the findings.

George’s presentation was on African deathways: religion in diaspora funerals in the UK. His work was very well received according to the feedback.

George also interviewed with Poppy’s Funerals London

This interview has been published on [Poppy’s Funerals website](#)

Bethany Simmonds gave a talk to the Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group

CDAS visiting fellow Bethany Simmonds gave the talk: ‘Negotiating end of life and advocating for the dying: discussing death and post-code lotteries’, to the Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group, Bristol Medical School on the 20th of February 2024.

It was well received and generated some interesting discussion about end of life decisions in later life.

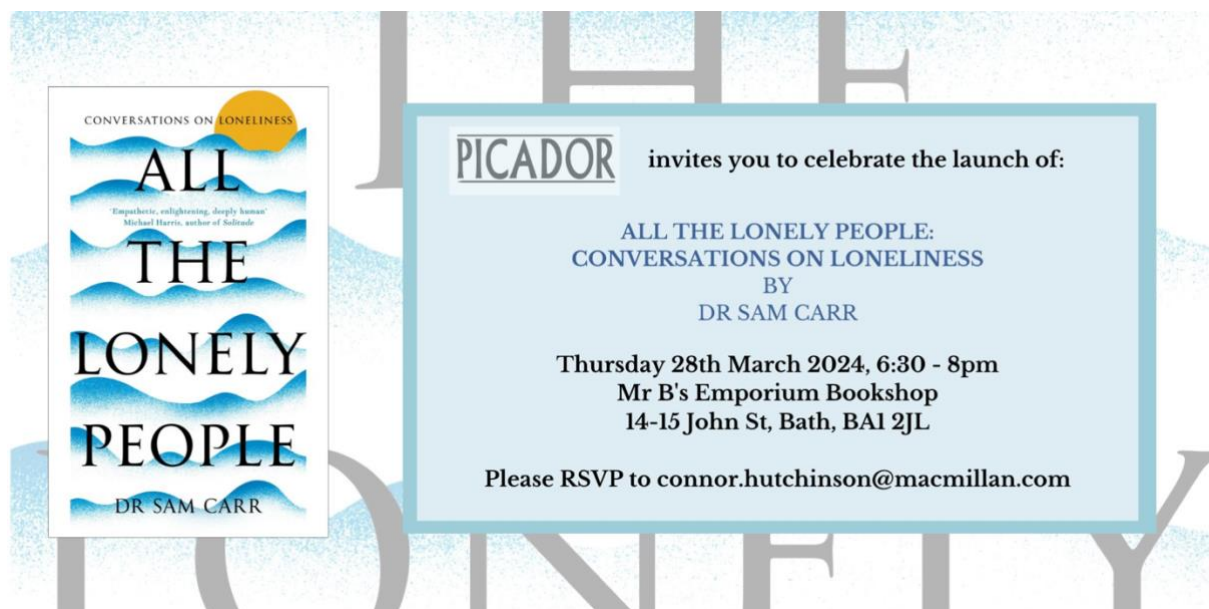
Bethany Simmonds – new paper published: ‘From bare life and necropolitics to a feminist care ethic: ageism in the Covid-19 pandemic and future directions

[‘From bare life and necropolitics to a feminist care ethic: ageism in the Covid-19 pandemic and future directions’](#) is a perspectives paper which develops themes emerging from Simmonds’ recent book ([Ageing and the Crisis in Health and Social Care](#)). Both argue for the need to politically reframe ageing, health and social care provision towards a radical alternative system that rethinks care relations and addresses inequality, to reduce putting older peoples’ lives at risk of death and harm. COVID-19 magnified the pre-pandemic ‘bare life’ conditions which exposed older people’s lives to risks and indignities in the health and social care system. Then, by using the concept of Necropolitics, the life and death decisions, based on age as a proxy measure for population health during the pandemic, are discussed. This discussion includes examples of ‘exceptional’ practices that were implemented in the

UK during the first wave, including ‘Do Not Resuscitate’ orders, unsafe hospital discharges, not transferring to hospitals, and denying access to treatment for older people. It then goes on to renew the call for a feminist care ethic to be central to the ways in which our future health and social care systems are configured. Arguing for the need to politically reframe ageing, health and social care provision towards a radical alternative system that rethinks care relations and addresses inequality."

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 EVENTS

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.

Seminar with Hannah Gould, University of Melbourne

Friday April 19th

Full details will be shared on social media

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](#).

Save the date

We have sent out abstract decisions and are putting the programme together. For now, please save the date: 6th-7th June, online.

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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 on wellbeing at work whilst looking after someone who is dying

You are invited to take part in an online survey about your experiences at work whilst looking after someone who is dying.

The research is being carried out by The University of Sheffield, in collaboration with Hospice UK. The findings from the study will be of interest not only to the academic community, but also to employers, public sector organisations and charities across the UK. Please read the following information carefully.

What does taking part in this survey involve?

Participation involves filling in an anonymous online survey that will take approximately 10-15 minutes. You will be asked a few questions about yourself and then about your experiences at work whilst looking after someone who is dying. Your participation is voluntary. If you decide to take part in the survey, you do not have to answer all of the questions and can withdraw at anytime by simply closing the form.

What will happen to the information I provide?

Survey data will be used for research purposes only and only the named researcher will have access to individual responses via the online survey platform (google forms). Collected pooled data will be used anonymously in research outputs. Anonymous survey data will be made available to the research community when the project is completed. The survey does not collect the IP address of your device. Your contact details, any other details that you will voluntarily provide, and other unprocessed survey data will be stored on password-protected drives and destroyed upon completion of the research.

You can express an interest in future research participation on this topic at the end of this survey by providing your contact details, which will be kept separately from your survey responses.

Who is doing the research?

The survey is being conducted by Dr Laura Towers from the University of Sheffield. This project has been considered and approved by the University of Sheffield's Ethics Review procedure.

If you wish to find out more please email Dr Laura Towers: laura.towers@sheffield.ac.uk

Should you have any queries or concerns about this survey please contact: Professor Kate Reed, k.reed@sheffield.ac.uk

[Complete the survey here](#)

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

List of Pharos Articles Published

This list covers all articles and topics covered by Pharos International since the publication of the first issue in 1934:

<https://www.cremation.org.uk/List-of-pharos-articles-published-since-1934>

This should enable people to search for any particular name/place/subject and see what articles have been published (and request copies if needed)

Collective for Radical Death Studies – April reading series open for registration

CDAS member John Troyer is on the Board of the Collective for Radical Death Studies and wanted to bring attention to the April reading series which is now open for registration.



‘Some of Us Did Not Die’ is a reading series that focuses on Art and Storytelling as anti-racist and decolonial practices and starts on April 7.

Find more info & Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rdr-some-of-us-did-not-die-tickets-841452465977?aff=oddtcreator>

Bereavement journal: 2024 volume launched

The 2024 volume of Bereavement: journal of grief and responses to death is now published.

Visit the website to read the [full announcement](#)

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Lancet Commission on the Value of Death: implications for palliative care

21st March 2024, 11:30 – 12:30

Dr Libby Sallnow

[Book your place](#)

The Lancet Commission on the Value of Death: implications for palliative care

This parallel session will explore the recommendations of the Lancet Commission on the Value of Death: bringing death back into life (2022) and frame a discussion exploring the future priorities for palliative care. The realistic utopia will be outlined, an ambitious vision of how death and dying could be in the future, and key recommendations with relevance for palliative care services will be discussed. The role of wider stakeholders and death systems that influence how people live, care, die and grieve will also be considered.



Dr Libby Sallnow

📅	21 March 2024
🕒	11:30 - 12:30
📍	Online
🌐	www.pccongress.org.uk

‘After Life’ – free exhibition exploring changing views of death through history

Monday – Friday, 10am – 4:30pm
11 Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1JQ
Festive opening times and public holidays

Free entry

Death is universal. In spite of this, the way we prepare for, think about and respond to death, varies significantly.

[‘After Life’](#) explores changing views of death from antiquity to the present day. It uses the remarkable collections of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and its library -

Scotland's oldest and largest medical library - to uncover the history of death. An original copy of Napoleon Bonaparte's post-mortem, written on Saint Helena Island, and a diary documenting the last days of celebrated Edinburgh physician James Young Simpson are displayed alongside a broadside proclaiming the execution of famous Edinburgh murderer William Burke.

The exhibition is split into three themes. It begins by examining the process of dying – deathbed experiences and how we identify death.

It then moves on to uncover what happens to the human body – from cremation to dissection, cannibalism and mummification.

Finally, the exhibition explores death in different cultures, including Victorian mourning rituals and Irish wakes.

Dementia Journeys: Towards Better End of Life Dementia Care

Wednesday 3rd April 2024 11am – Saturday 22nd June 2024 6pm

Science Gallery London

Great Maze Pond, London, England, SE1, UK

Dementia is the most common cause of death in the UK, but access to good end of life care is highly unequal.

[Dementia Journeys](#) is a new exhibition that powerfully presents the experiences of those who care for people dying with dementia, and uncovers ways in which care could be improved.

The stories of the carers will be told through portrait photography by two-times winner of the BJP Portrait of Britain prize, [Allie Crewe](#), and comic strips by pioneering cartoonist, doctor and storyteller, [Ian Williams](#), alongside interactive elements and games.

The exhibition has been created in response to [Empowering Better End-of-Life Dementia Care \(EMBED-Care\)](#) – a 6-year research programme jointly led by University College London and the Cicely Saunders Institute at King's College London that aims to generate a step-change in how care is provided for people at any age with any type of dementia.

[Read a feature on Dementia Journeys in our new zine, A Reality Near You](#)

WED - SAT, 11AM - 6PM
GALLERY 2 | FREE ENTRY

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](#)

Disposing of the Body

Tuesday 2nd April 6pm
Auditorium, National Museum of Scotland

From the rising demand for greener funerals, to water cremation and human composting, choices are no longer limited to burial or cremation. Or would you like to donate your body to science at one of the world's "body farms" – a place where decomposing cadavers can be studied?

Join our panel of experts lifting the shroud on the fascinating and taboo topic of alternative post-mortem care; Funeral Arranger and host of the *Deathinitions* podcast **Jasper Chanter**, Forensic Anthropologist Prof **Anna Williams** and Human Remains Conservator at Surgeon's Hall Museums **Cat Irving**. Chaired by BBC Health and Science presenter **Laura Foster**.

[Book here](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS

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)

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**

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.

Digital Death: The 7th International symposium of The Death Online Research Network (DORS#7)

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

CDAS visiting professor Johanna Sumiala is organising an interdisciplinary conference on Digital Death at the University of Helsinki related to the topics of online mourning and death.

Details of the call for papers are below:



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.

Keynotes:

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 3, 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 Pentikäinen: linda.pentikainen@helsinki.fi Johanna Sumiala: johanna.sumiala@helsinki.fi

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

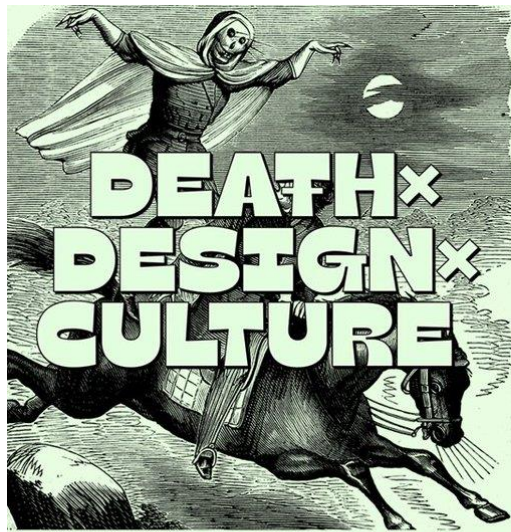
This Special Issue exploring how grief care integrates religion and spiritual identities. Understanding the complexities of grief within the contexts of care and religion/spirituality is paramount for several reasons. First, the field of caregiving, whether in healthcare or end of life care settings 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.

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

Contact Us

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


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