

Centre for  
Death & Society  
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

# Centre for Death & Society

## April 2023 Newsletter

[Director's Note](#)

[CDAS](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[CDAS Community](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Call for Papers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## Director's Note

---

Hello and welcome to April's edition of the CDAS newsletter. We start this month by thanking everyone who attended our seminar on Deprivation of Liberty in Care on 28<sup>th</sup> March, which is the first of two seminars on care, ageing and the end of life. It was great to welcome so many people in person and be joined by another 90+ online. Seminar two in the series is next week, on April 26<sup>th</sup> with Dr Diana Teggi (Open University), Dr Fawn Harrad (Leicester University) and Carinna Lumayno, on End of Life of Life Decisions in Care Homes. This one is entirely online and sign up details are in this newsletter.

As always with our events, it doesn't stop there. A week later we have our annual Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture on Supporting Good Dementia Palliative Care, with Dr Nathan Davies (University College London), and then the big one, our annual CDAS Conference 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May. Join us for two full days of papers, panels, discussion and debate, including keynotes from Dr Ruth Penfold-Mounce and Professor Darcy Harris, a live Death Studies podcast recording with our very own Professor Tony Walter, and two evening events: one an In Conversation with world famous mortician Caitlin Doughty with John Troyer, and our next CDAS writing initiative workshop. These two evening events are free to all so if you cannot join us for the conference, please make sure to sign up for one of them – registration details are in this copy of the newsletter.

This month also sees the annual Dying Matters Week, where there will be lots of events around the country recognising and talking about the end of life. We have details of a few of those events in our community news, and full details about events across the UK are available on HospiceUK's website, [here](#).

Finally, we want to say a huge congratulations to our former PhD student Dr Chao Fang, who has just landed his first lectureship at the University of Liverpool. Chao, we are delighted for you – we will miss you here at Bath but are sure you are going on to do great things. We can't wait to share your future great work.

Until next time

Kate and Jeremy

Ps. Remember to submit your abstract from the special issue of Mortality on Innovation at the End of Life, deadline 22<sup>nd</sup> May!

### **CDAS Conference 2023: It's finally here!**

We're looking forward to seeing you all at the CDAS conference on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year's conference will be Innovation at the End of Life and we will welcome speakers from around the world.

Our first keynote speaker on 3<sup>rd</sup> May is Dr Ruth Penfold-Mounce from the University of York, UK speaking on 'Walking Amongst the Dead: Learning on the Move', and our second keynote speaker on the 4<sup>th</sup> will be Professor Darcy Harris from King's University College at Western University London, Canada who will speak on 'Socio-political Grief'. The abstracts for each talk can be found here: [CDAS Conference Keynote Speakers \(bath.ac.uk\)](https://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas-conference-keynote-speakers/)

At the conference we will also hold our next CDAS Writing Initiative workshop, a live podcast by the [Death Studies Podcast](#) with Professor Tony Walter, and an In Conversation with [Caitlin Doughty](#). It promises to be a great couple of days.

Full conference details and ticket sales are available [here](#).

### **Member News:**

#### ***John Troyer – Technologies of the Human Corpse***

Follow the links below to listen to John Troyer's recent podcast episode on the Hermitix Podcast, discussing his research and new book *Technologies of the Human Corpse*. John will also be involved in a Dead Good Conversation, discussing his new book. The details can be found below.

Spotify: <https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/hermitix/episodes/Technologies-of-the-Human-Corpse-with-John-Troyer-e20pig5>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oCpeEwA3U8>

#### ***Dead Good Conversation – John Troyer: Technologies of the Human Corpse***

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 6pm – 7pm BST

Location: online

Welcome to a Dead Good Conversation, organised by Dr Renske Visser, owner of the blog *Dead Good Reading* ([deadgoodreading.com](https://deadgoodreading.com)) and co-host of the *Death Studies Podcast* ([thedeathstudiespodcast.com](https://thedeathstudiespodcast.com)).

In this Dead Good Conversation Renske will speak to Dr John Troyer, author of *Technologies of the Human Corpse*, published by MIT Press.

Death and the dead body have never been more alive in the public imagination—not least because of current debates over modern medical technology that is deployed, it seems, expressly to keep human bodies from dying, blurring the boundary between alive and dead. In this book, John Troyer examines the relationship of the dead body with technology, both material and conceptual: the physical machines, political concepts, and sovereign institutions that humans use to classify, organize, repurpose, and transform the human corpse. Doing so, he asks readers to think about death, dying, and dead bodies in radically different ways. There will be space for questions from the audience, and you are welcome to send your questions in advance to [deadgoodreading@gmail.com](mailto:deadgoodreading@gmail.com)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dead-good-conversation-john-troyer-technologies-of-the-human-corpse-tickets-605920684077>

### ***Congratulations to Chao on his new job.***

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Chao Fang, former PhD student and visiting fellow at CDAS, has been offered a new position at the University of Liverpool. Starting in July 2023, Chao will join the Department of Sociology, Social Policy, and Criminology as a lecturer for both research and teaching. He will play a crucial role in the development of the newly launched Centre for Ageing and the Life Course at the department. Although Chao will be embarking on a new career journey, he will continue to be an integral part of our CDAS community by actively contributing to research and knowledge exchange here at Bath.

### ***Mat Crawley – 1/2 Marathon Fundraiser***

Later on this year PhD Student Mat Crawley is running three half marathons to fundraise for Scotty's Little Soldiers – a charity offering to help and support bereaved children of military families. What an endeavour! If you would like to support Mat in his efforts his Just Giving page is linked below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/mathew-crawley-1681115169357>

## **Mortality Special Issue**

The call for papers for a special issue of the journal *Mortality*, focussing on Innovation at the End of Life is now open. The theme of this special issue originates from a principle that has underpinned CDAS since its inception by Dr Glennys Howarth in 2005, namely of being innovative in topic, approach, dissemination and collaboration. It is anticipated that this special issue will be an eclectic range of papers that will address these different facets of innovation, being about death studies as a topic but also how you ‘do’ teaching and research in death studies, the potential and/or products from collaboration, and the future of the end of life. As you may know, innovation at the end of life is the theme of the 2023 CDAS Conference and we anticipate that this special issue, to be published in 2025, will include papers from the 2023 conference and original submissions.

We invite 200 word original abstracts on the theme of innovation, to be submitted to editor Kate Woodthorpe ([k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk](mailto:k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk)) by Monday 22nd May 2023. If your paper is selected for the special issue we will send full details of the timeline for submission. At this early stage, we expect first drafts of 8000 word papers to be submitted by the beginning of December 2023, with the second (and final) drafts submitted by the beginning of May 2024.

More information about the theme of the journal, potential topics and how to write a good abstract can be found at: [Call for papers for special issue of \*Mortality\*: Innovation at the end of life \(bath.ac.uk\)](#)

## **Upcoming CDAS events**

### ***End of Life Care Decisions in Care Homes***

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 6pm – 7.30pm BST

Location: online

This event will feature presentations from Dr Diana Teggi (Open University), Dr Fawn Harrad (Leicester University) and Carinna Lumayno (registered manager at Kineton Manor Nursing home in Warwickshire) who will reflect on what research tells us about how these decisions are currently managed and how practice might be improved.

Diana Teggi will begin by presenting on “Prescribing end-of-life medications: how care home staff manage uncertainty around residents' death”. Fawn Harrad will then speak on, “Managing deteriorations in residents' health towards the end of life: Care worker and family perspectives”. Carinna Lumayno will then reflect on the presentations and give her own practical tips for managing end-of-life care in care homes

You can register for this event [here](#).

***Supporting good palliative dementia care: how do we do it and what is needed? – The Beatrice Godwin Memorial Lecture***

Tuesday 2nd May at 7.00-8.00 pm BST

Location: Online

As we live for longer more and more people are developing dementia, which is now the leading cause of death in England. We have known for some time that people living with dementia do not always get the best care towards the end of life. Dementia is not always viewed as a terminal illness or appropriate to palliative care. However, this is not true and people living with dementia can benefit from a palliative care approach. In this talk Dr Nathan Davies (University College London) will reflect on the applicability and benefits of a palliative approach with reference to research led by his team on palliative dementia care, including their EMBED-Care programme. He will discuss support for family carers, in particular support to help them make decisions about care, which they often struggle with, feeling unsupported. There will be a discussion of novel rules-of-thumb and decision aids as examples of support and how going forward we need to consider how we implement these tools.

You can register for this event [here](#).

***Death – Exciting and New!***

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 7pm BST

Location: online

In this session for the 2023 CDAS conference, New York Times bestselling author, Order of the Good Death founder, and Ask a Mortician creator Caitlin Doughty will talk with CDAS's former director and Death Studies Scholar-at-Large, John Troyer, about innovation and change in 21st Century Death World. Doughty and Troyer have worked together on different innovative end of life projects for well over ten-years and their conversation will explore ideas and concepts they began discussing during the Australian Death Studies Society October 2022 conference on Redesigning Deathcare. The 2023 CDAS conference theme offers Doughty and Troyer an opportunity to expand their dialogue on the technologies supporting human composting and disposal tech in general, the politics of death and dead bodies, the historical waves informing end-of-life practices and where each of them thinks Death World is headed over the next ten-years. Doughty and Troyer are also good friends and have supported each other during multiple family deaths and they look forward to discussing those experiences for the CDAS conference during Dying Matters Awareness Week 2023.

You can register for this event [here](#).

## ***CDASWriting***

### ***Writing for work and writing for the self***

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 7pm BST

Location: online

In this workshop we will reflect on what brought us to the topic of death and dying and to different and ways of thinking and writing about it. We will explore innovation with reference to how we write and what we write about.

Following a discussion between the panel members there will be 2-3 exercises for participants to work on, that consider how we might bring together our life experience, writing, and 'work' - be that for research, practice or teaching others.

If writing interests you, please look out for our activities, led by Visiting Professor Gayle Letherby, Visiting Fellows Bethan Michael-Fox, Tamarin Norwood and Renske Visser, and CDAS members Hannah Rumble and Kate Woodthorpe.

You can register for this event [here](#).

## ***Podcast Opportunity***

### ***Podcasting Your Research: The Death Studies Podcast Workshop***

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 1pm BST

Location: online

Join the hosts of [The Death Studies Podcast](#) for this interactive workshop where you will be encouraged to reflect on:

- How to communicate your research via a podcast as a guest or in your own podcast
- How to utilise podcasts to keep up to date with research and utilise them in your own research
- Top tips for being a podcast guest
- How to make the most of your podcast participation on your CV and in your career

Please come along ready to discuss your research and ideas. Participant numbers are capped to make sure that attendees get the most out of the workshop, so make sure to sign up ASAP.

You can sign up to this event [here](#).

### *Advertising PhD in Residence with National Energy Action (NEA)*

University of Huddersfield and NEA PhD scholarship – cold homes at the end of life

We are excited to announce a funded PhD opportunity at the University of Huddersfield for a UK-based student who will explore the impact of the current energy crisis on palliative and end of life care. The research will focus on the implications of fuel poverty and cold homes for living towards the end of life and has been designed in collaboration with the UK's leading fuel poverty charity [National Energy Action](#) (NEA). The PhD will involve a placement within this organisation, offering a great opportunity to conduct research with real-world relevance and impact.

The project will start in October 2023 and the candidate will be supervised by Dr Julie Ellis, Dr Mary Turner and Dr Tom Simcock (all based at the University of Huddersfield) with external supervision from Dr Danielle Butler (NEA). The PhD researcher will receive a stipend matched to UKRI rates (currently £17,668 p.a. for full-time) and financial support with fieldwork costs and conference attendance. They will be embedded within the Healthy Housing Initiative – a multi-disciplinary team of researchers at the University of Huddersfield and be an active member of the university's Palliative and End of Life Care special interest group.

The deadline for applications is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and all relevant information can be found here: <https://www.hud.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/research-scholarships/social-behavioural-sciences/>

If you are interested in this opportunity and would like to discuss it informally with a member of the supervisory team, please contact Julie Ellis [j.c.ellis@hud.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.ellis@hud.ac.uk)



# CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

---

## *Good Grief Weston*

Over a week there is something for everyone at Good Grief Weston – from yoga and pottery to art, music and discussion. All events are free or pay-what-you-decide so cost should not be a factor, you can register without payment.

The initial programme is on this webpage below, including some in wider North Somerset. You can register at: <https://cultureweston.org.uk/projects/good-grief-weston/>

Lucy Selman is facilitating a panel discussion on 7 May – hope to see some of you there!  
<https://cultureweston.org.uk/listings/outside-the-box/>

Please encourage participation among your colleagues, family and friends

## *Dying Matters – The End of the Road Show*

11th May, 4pm – 6pm: Glenside Campus, BS16 1DD  
12<sup>th</sup> May, 4pm – 6pm: Easton Community Centre, BS5 6AW

An interactive performance about love and end of life planning – a show for anyone who isn't going to live forever.

All are welcome to attend this event, as part of Dying Matters Awareness Week 2023.

Inspired by real-life discussions, this heartfelt, thought-provoking, and occasionally humorous performance blends storytelling, poetry, and sound alongside informal open space for conversation.

Hosted by UWE Bristol Death & Dying Collective. For more information contact [Kathy.rogers@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Kathy.rogers@uwe.ac.uk)

Book your free ticket here: <https://gck.fm/lvubf>

[www.offthetwig.co.uk](http://www.offthetwig.co.uk)

## ***University of Turku Research Seminar : Can we talk about death?***

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 4pm – 6pm (Finnish Time UTC+3)

University of Turku, Finland.

Online seminar series: Current Intersections of Culture, Language and Wellbeing

Zoom-link: <https://utu.zoom.us/j/63646679282>

### **Tony Walter (University of Bath): Resonance at the end of life**

German sociologist Hartmut Rosa's theory of alienation and resonance (*Resonance*, Cambridge UP 2019) could offer a novel non-individualistic framework for understanding how people live in the face of death, whether personal or collective – how to connect with the world a) when *I* am dying, b) when *it* is dying (global warming, species extinctions, etc).

### **Jenny Paananen (University of Turku): Never say die**

Healthcare considers death and dying to be dreaded issues requiring sensitive handling in interaction. I consider the yearly care planning meetings between nursing home staff and family members of residents with severe dementia, where the condition's unpredictable, progressive nature challenges end-of-life talk practices. How to balance realism and sensitivity, a good life and a good death? Ekberg et al, *BMC Palliative Care* 20, 186, 2021.

### **Ilona Kemppainen (University of Jyväskylä): Who are we in death?**

We are dead longer than we are living, and the community consists also of its deceased members. It is not inconsequential (for individuals and societies) how we remember them and how we celebrate their memory - though this is not always without controversy. There are ways, however, that the pre-deceased can control post-mortem memory. H. Ruin, *Being with the Dead*, Stanford UP 2019.

## ***Fun Things To Do When You're Dead***

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 12pm – 5pm

Cambridge Crematorium, Cb3 0JJ

**Dying for Life Cambridge** is delighted to present **Fun Things To Do When You're Dead** a festival of activities, art, games and interaction about death and dying.

### **Activities in the West Chapel will include:**

- ❖ Handle and learn about human bones in a respectful and mindful way
- ❖ How to put a face on a skull and how forensic analysis returns the person to the remains
  
- ❖ Meet the eco hearse! And try out a cardboard coffin for size with Woodland Wishes.
  - Play the game "Gravestones and Dry Bones" with artist Cally Trench.
  - Live the surgeon's dream and play a life size game of "Operation"
  - Come and chat to osteologists, archaeologists, celebrants and artists
  - Ask any questions you've always wanted answered about death!

## **Workshops in the East Chapel**

12:30pm - Say everything you meant to but didn't a chance with our Postal service to the dead, in collaboration with SleepySue, and as a workshop with Liz Barka of Magical Ceremonies.

2:00pm - **Erica Buist**, author of 'This Party's Dead' will attend the day and share videos and anecdotes from her visits to Death Festivals worldwide. Her book and experiences help understand how other cultures deal with mortal terror, how they celebrate rather than shy away from the topic of death and how death can become less scary after all. Spaces are free but limited so book tickets online from Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

3:30pm - Reflect on our hopes, fears and beliefs around the subject of our own death with Christianne Heal. The workshop will look at our learned beliefs about life and death, and to find ways to share our fears with others.

## **Behind the scenes at the Crematorium**

Tours at 12:00pm, 2:00pm and 4:00pm. Spaces are free but limited. Online booking opens on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April.

## **Memorial Photo Booth**

Artist Bea Denton will be setting up the Memorial Photo Booth. Participants are invited to consider how they wish to be visually represented in perpetuity. Resulting images are then taken through various layers of analogue and digital process, before being produced as Fine Art prints. Each collaborator receives in exchange a new and unique copy of their Memorial Photo Booth portrait.

## **Refreshments**

Tea, coffee, cakes and snacks available onsite

## **Facilities**

Venue and support kindly supplied by Cambridge Crematorium. Entry is free and there's plenty of on-site parking.

## **About Dying for Life Cambridge**

We are an informal association which encourages everyone to confront death head on so that we all make the most of our lives, and our deaths.

For further information see [www.dyingforlife.co.uk](http://www.dyingforlife.co.uk)

## ***Upcoming online talks from Arnos Vale Cemetery***

Burial grounds & archaeology – online talk 24th May 2023 at 6.30pm

<https://arnosvale.org.uk/burial-grounds-archaeology/>

The Funerals That Went Wrong – an online talk 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 6.30pm

<https://arnosvale.org.uk/victorian-funerals-were-not-always-solemn-or-respectful/>

Dead man standing and other Victorian mourning myths – online talk 1<sup>st</sup> November at 6.30pm

<https://arnosvale.org.uk/dead-man-standing-and-other-victorian-mourning-myths-online-talk/>

I'm not dead! The perils of premature burial – online talk 29th November 2023 at 6.30pm

<https://arnosvale.org.uk/im-not-dead-the-perils-of-premature-burial-online-talk/>

All talks are £6 and can be found at <https://arnosvale.org.uk/events/>

## ***Compassionate Cities Conference***

10th – 11<sup>th</sup> July

Birmingham

Hosted by Compassionate Communities UK

An inspiring conference, bringing to light how people undergoing the experiences death, dying, loss and care can be supported as part of our culture, where everyone helps and everyone feels supported. Whilst compassionate cities have been in existence for over 15 years, this is the first conference to be dedicated to the different practices of how this can be implemented. Communities, workplaces, educational institutions, places of worship and other sectors can all come together to provide support and help to all involved. Palliative and end of life care services have an important role integrating with and supporting the development of these initiatives. The conference will highlight a wide array of fantastic practices of how this is done and how it benefits those involved. It will be a conference of inspiring working examples, not focussing on academic evaluation but rather on hearing the many ways in which support can be given. The conference is for those working in the field of palliative and end of life and those with personal experience alike.

The conference has internationally respected keynote speakers and breakout sessions of workshops and talks. Keynote speakers include Professor Allan Kellehear who started the field of public health palliative care. Always inspiring and fascinating to hear, Allan's talk sums up the practice of compassionate cities – Everything, Everywhere, All at Once. Christian Ntizimira, a highly respected palliative care physician from Rwanda, will talk about Ubuntu, the African philosophy and practice of 'a person is a person through others', and its relationship to compassionate cities. This is particularly timely as Ubuntu features in the recently published The Lancet Commission on The Value of Death. Panels will be held on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, on challenges and successes of compassionate cities and an international panel on global best practices of compassion.

The breakout sessions are packed with extraordinary examples of what is possible. Workshops include community support for grief and loss, the role of creativity, compassionate city programmes and many others.

Imagining support for everyone experiencing death, dying, loss and care can be challenging, but it is possible and transformative when the practice examples are done well. Alongside loss there is love, courage, and the building of friendships that can last for life.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Attendance at the conference is in person. Online attendance is possible and streaming will be from the main room alone.

To book, click on the link below.

<https://compassionate-communitiesuk.co.uk/conference-igniting-community/>



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

Department of  
Sociology, Social Policy  
& Criminology

## CENTRE FOR AGEING AND THE LIFE COURSE



### Centre for Ageing and the Life Course Launch Event

**16 May 2023, 13:00 – 16:00**

Join us for the official launch event of the interdisciplinary Centre for Ageing and the Life Course (CALC) research cluster, based in the School of Law and Social Justice, University of Liverpool.

Speakers include:

- Professor Liz Barry, University of Warwick, presenting on: 'Blue Nights: The Experience of Frailty in Modern Life-Writing, Literature, and Thought.'
- Professor Yu Song, XJTLU, presenting on 'Migrant Grandparents: Care Arrangements and Identity (Re)formation.'
- Dr Shibley Rahman, University College London, presenting on: 'When I'm 65. The Precarity of Delirium'.



Visit the website to find out more about the Centre for Ageing and the Life Course.

Register for the event  
via EventBrite

[www.liverpool.ac.uk/sociology-social-policy-and-criminology/  
research/centre-ageing-life-course/](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/sociology-social-policy-and-criminology/research/centre-ageing-life-course/)

## Contact Us

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

