

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

October 2023 Newsletter

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Director's Note

As we write this October newsletter, we are three weeks into the first term of the academic year. It has been great to see our undergraduate and postgraduate students on campus and to see their ongoing interest in death studies.

In the past few months our members have clocked up several impressive achievements. CDAS member has been promoted to a Professor at the Department of Social & Policy Sciences at the University of Bath. Matt Crawley has been promoted to Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. And John Troyer has become a board member of the Collective for Radical Death Studies.

September saw CDAS members, students and staff members come together for a CDAS seminar on student bereavement. The event featured CDAS Phd student Terumi Okaku and Anna May from the Student Grief Network. More details can be found later in the newsletter.

This month's newsletter also features details of new publications by CDAS members on the topics. This includes details on Mike Alvarez's upcoming book called *Unravelling: An autoethnography of suicide and renewal*. We also provide details of Chao Fang's new publication on how long Covid helped us understand the struggle with identity and purpose. Tal Morse provides details of his new paper which asks, who wants to digitally live forever and we provide details of Tamarin Norwood's book, *The Song of the Whole Wide World: On Motherhood, Grief and Poetry*. We also have news about a new translation of John Troyer's book on Technologies of the Human Corpse as well as a recent book review.

As you may have seen from our last newsletters, we have been running a series on ambiguous and disenfranchised deaths. There is still time to sign up for the second seminar in the series on 17th October with Dr. Lisa McLean from King's University College in Canada. The title of the presentation is *Sowing Life in Place(s) of Death: Migrant Disappearance and Grief Activism*. The final event in the series will feature Lucy Easthope who will speak on the topic of Forensic Uncertainty and Ambiguous Loss. This event will take place on 4th November at 4.00-5.00pm at Centrespace in Bristol. Both events will be co-hosted with the Centre for the Study of Violence at the University of Bath. We also provide details of a CDAS Department Seminar on 24th October 11:15 – 12:45 (online), with the title, *From Death to Sex: Past, Present and Future Research Directions*.

Our members are speaking at several events in October and November, and we provide details and joining instructions for these. We also provide the normal community news, events information, details of calls for papers.

Finally, we are watching what is happening around the world and want to take a moment to say that our thoughts are with CDAS Visiting Fellows Tal Morse and Ori Katz given the events in Israel in the last few weeks.

Jeremy and Kate

CDAS Directors

New CDAS members

Welcome to our new Visiting Fellows and Visiting Professors!

Rebecca Burden

Rebecca is a lecturer on the Social Work & Applied Social Studies undergraduate programme at the University of Bath. She is a registered Social Worker with statutory practice experience spanning nearly twenty years, mainly within adult services. Rebecca is in the writing up stage of a Professional Doctorate (Social Work) with Cardiff University. Her research explores how social workers, employed in statutory services in England, support decision making in their daily practice.

Some Congratulations!

To Professor Sarah Moore who has recently been awarded a Chair! This is a huge achievement and recognition of her work in developing criminology at Bath. Sarah is working with CDAS on public inquiries and was co-author on [our Covid paper on memorialisation](#). Very well-done Prof Moore!

To Mat Crawley, who has had a promotion in his day job to Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management.

To John Troyer, who has recently joined the Executive Board of the Collective for Radical Death Studies, an international professional organisation committed to decolonising Death Studies and advancing radical death practices. You can learn more about our mission at <https://www.radicaldeathstudies.com/>.

To Kate Woodthorpe who was invited to the International Work Group on Death, Dying and Bereavement in Halifax, Canada for a weeklong intensive global conference and workshop.

CDAS seminar on Student Bereavement

On 12th September we held an in-person seminar on campus principally for internal staff to learn about the financial implications of parental bereavement and bereaved students' needs. We were delighted to welcome back CDAS PhD student Terumi Okaku on her first visit to the UK since the pandemic, and to introduce Anna May from the Student Grief Network to colleagues. There was much discussion between professional services staff and academics, and we hope it is the start of a CDAS wide contribution to the University of Bath's support for bereaved students and staff, with John Troyer involved in setting up a bereaved staff network and Kate Woodthorpe inputting into guidance drawing on her previous experience as director of studies for UG programmes. If you'd like to discuss developing something similar at your university please get in touch. You can also check out our OU Thanatology colleagues' work on bereavement in the HE workforce here: <https://oro.open.ac.uk/88719>



Opportunities to be a Visiting PhD student with us

If you would like to find out more about becoming a visiting PhD student with us, please email cdas@bath.ac.uk to find out more.

New CDAS Publications

Existential Crisis: How Long COVID Patients Helped Us Understand the Struggle with Identity and Purpose

Chao Fang

CDAS visiting fellow and University of Liverpool lecturer, Chao Fang, has penned an insightful piece for Conversation Insights. In it, he discusses how the experience of Long COVID can provide valuable insights into the understanding of existential crisis. Read more here: <https://theconversation.com/existential-crisis-how-long-covid-patients-helped-us-understand-what-its-like-to-lose-your-sense-of-identity-and-purpose-in-life-211223>.

Who Wants to (Digitally) Live Forever? The Connections That Narcissism Has with Motives for Digital Immortality and the Desire for Digital Avatars

Tal Morse

I am happy to share with you that a new study I was part of was just published by the Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health. In this study, with Avi Besser and Virgil Zeigler-Hill, we tried to understand who are the people who want to digitally live forever, i.e., to leave behind a “digital twin”, that will be keep communicating with family and friends. We were interested to know if there are any personality traits that can explain the desire or wish to leave behind a "digital twin". We focused mainly on narcissism as a possible explanation, and we searched for associations between narcissistic behavior, fear of death and a wish for digital immortality.

The article is open freely here: <https://www.mdpi.com/2446882>

The Song of the Whole Wide World: On Motherhood, Grief and Poetry

Tamarin Norwood

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

Written partly during pregnancy and partly during the silent maternity leave that followed, The Song of the Whole Wide World is an emergency response to grief held somewhere between the womb, the grave and the many stories that bind them: stories drawn from

medical science, poetry, liturgy, vivid waking dreams of underwater life, and knowledge held deep within the body.

This profoundly moving and intimate account offers a lyrical and fearless meditation on birth, death, and the possibilities of consolation.

‘Writing this book has been a joy and a solace. It tells the story of travelling to the very edge of human experience and discovering, at that terrifying precipice, a new landscape of hope and possibility. I hope you will feel in its pages the rush of love I felt, and the power of myth and poetry in the face of the intolerable. I am so proud to see Gabriel’s book take wing in the care of Susie Nicklin and all at Indigo.’

TAMARIN NORWOOD, AUTHOR

Published 22 February 2024

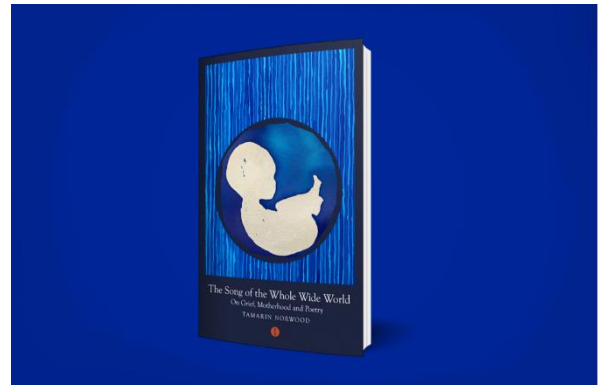
Publisher The Indigo Press

Price £9.99

Category Non-fiction / Essay

Format A-Format 178mm x 111mm

ISBN 978-1911648741

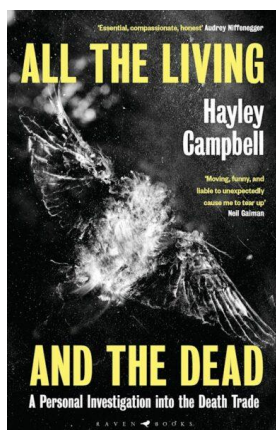


Technologies of the Human Corpse (MIT Press, 2020)

John Troyer

John’s nook on the Technonogies of the Human Corpse is now being translated into Japanese. The Dutch Review of Books has also reviewed the book recently and CDAS alum Renske Visser assures John it's a good review!

<https://www.nederlandseboekengids.com/20230920-chris-cusack/>



Chris Cusack | In den beginne was het lijk

'In de westerse wereld zijn de meeste mensen niet geneigd om over de dood te praten, al is onze cultuur erop gefixeerd', meent Chris Cusack.

www.nederlandseboekengids.com

Upcoming CDAS events

Sowing Life in Place(s) of Death: Migrant Disappearance and Grief Activism

Dr. Lisa McLean, Assistant Professor

Department of Thanatology, King's University College (London, Ontario, Canada)

18th October 7pm BST online

Public grief and practices of memorialization have been mobilized by activist movements around the world as potent strategies to raise public awareness about unjust losses and to pursue justice and accountability. The concept of 'grief activism' was first elaborated by Maurice Stierl (2016) to describe the political implications of the construction of informal memorials to commemorate the lives of migrants who died or disappeared while attempting to cross the Mediterranean. This presentation draws upon Stierl's conceptualization of 'grief activism' to examine transnational protests against migrant death and disappearance in the US/Mexico borderlands. In particular, the presentation will focus on the transformation of private grief into a collective struggle for justice among members of the Caravan of Central American Mothers of Disappeared Migrants. The presentation will discuss the politicization of grief within the movement before turning to an examination of the movement's use of "traumatic memes" (Taylor, 2019), or the mobilization of visual imagery, sound, and space to make the violence of disappearance and border militarization visible to a broader public. This research demonstrates the centrality of grief as a foundation for social justice activism.

Join us for the second seminar in our three-part series on ambiguous and disenfranchised deaths. Sign up [here](#).

Our final seminar with Professor Lucy Easthope on disaster and disappearance is in November (details below)

From Death to Sex: Past, Present and Future Research Directions

Dr Diana Teggi

Department of Social and Policy Sciences, Visiting Research Fellow CDAS

24th October 11:15 – 12:45 online

As a new colleague and former PhD student in SPS, in this departmental seminar I will critically reflect on my previous research on end-of-life care and care work in care homes, and its intersection with my emergent interests on sexuality and relationship wellbeing in later life. Using this opportunity to take stock of past achievements, I will reflect on present

dilemmas and outline future projects, defining my five-year research plan. As an early career researcher at the start of their academic career, I will share with you how I navigated - and I am still navigating - a transition between research areas in the immediate post-PhD phase. Please join me for a very honest and open conversation about how to shift from death to intimacy and sexuality research in the care home context, and the experience of ‘broadening out’ a research area at the start of an academic career.

Join us for this online department seminar by signing up [here](#)

LUCY EASTHOPE

4 NOVEMBER 2023

FORENSIC UNCERTAINTY AND AMBIGUOUS LOSS

Professor Lucy Easthope is the country's leading authority on recovering from disaster and the Sunday Times Best Selling author of 'When The Dust Settles'. For over two decades she has challenged others to think differently about what comes next, after tragic events. She is a passionate and thought-provoking voice in an area that few know about: emergency planning. She is known globally for her work and holds research positions in the UK and New Zealand. She is a Professor in Practice of Risk and Hazard at the University of Durham and Honorary Professor in Mass Fatalities and Pandemics at the Centre for Death and Society, University of Bath.

Much of Lucy Easthope's work in disaster has presented scenarios where bodies or remains are not recovered. In this talk she discusses the specific challenges that this poses for families, responders, communities and responders.

THIS EVENT IS PART OF THE STATE OF DISAPPEARANCE PROJECT

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS & SPONSORS

CENTRESPACE STUDIOS & GALLERY
6 LEONARD LN, BS11EA
BRISTOL, UNITED KINGDOM

16:00hrs - 18:00hrs
Free Admission

For more events visit:
www.historyofviolence.com

AMT COUNCIL ENGLAND | BATH | TREBUCHET | UCC | LOCATE | BATH | Bristol Ideas

Events where CDAS members are speaking

Funerals, Cemeteries and Burial Grounds – 7th October at Southwark Cathedral

Featuring CDAS Visiting Fellows Dr Dan O'Brien and Dr Lucy Coleman Talbot. Also, Brian Parsons, Jean Sprackland and Celia Heritage. Link for more information and tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/funerals-cemeteries-and-burial-grounds-a-day-of-talks-tickets-636426156767>

Deathscapes: What Does the Future of Dying Look Like? - Bristol Ideas

Hannah Rumble will also be talking at the Bristol Ideas festival 19th October:

<https://www.bristolideas.co.uk/attend/deathscapes-what-does-the-future-of-dying-look-like/>

A Brief History of Death, the Dead Body and Human Technology – 25th October (online)

John Troyer will be a featured speaker on Dead Body Disposal Technology and Cemetery Technology at a Global Technology Summit hosted by Plotbox on the 10th October in Northern Ireland. John is a 2023-2024 Visiting Scholar at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which is renowned as America's oldest private technology research university. In this role, he will be contributing to the Electronic Arts programme and collaborating with PhD students who are focused on the intersection of death and technology. Here is a link for more info as well as how to register for the event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-iear-salon-virtual-series-tickets-725702685267>

After Life: A History of Death' Exhibition Launch Event – 26th October at Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh

A ticketed opening event for the new exhibition 'After Life: A History of Death'. The event will feature talks by CDAS Visiting Fellow Dr Dan O'Brien and Prof Seamus O'Mahony and an opportunity to see the new exhibition. Launch event tickets and information: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/after-life-a-history-of-death-exhibition-launch-tickets-711614737837>.

The exhibition runs from 27th October 2023 to 5 July 2024, is open Monday to Friday, 10am - 4.30pm and is free to visit.

Reddit AMA (Ask me Anything) – 10th November

John Troyer will be hosting a Reddit AMA on Friday 10th November, from 2:30 to 3:30pm as part of the Festival of Social Sciences. More details to be posted nearer to the time at: [ESRC Festival of Social Science 2023 - University of Plymouth](https://www.esrc.ac.uk/what-we-do/our-programmes-and-funding/our-programmes/ESRC-Festival-of-Social-Science-2023-University-of-Plymouth)

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

Call for participants – Virtual Memorial Research Study

Jessica Thomas will be assisting with this research, and has requested a call for participants amongst CDAS community – [Virtual Memorial Research Study](#)

New paper alerts

A paper on the benefit of memorial attendance when bereaved, showing that memorial / funeral attendance during COVID had a protective function against depression and anxiety, by our colleagues over at the University of Bristol who run the very successful Good Grief Festival:

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1064748123003457?casa_token=yPwxnS0abzIAAAAA:h083fFQ8XRJinNvouhQm1GhMfnui3WO2HF2XqPwDurb7klC8raFrrvqQkCLUEgvAAJhxXeMo

A paper by long time CDAS friend Udi Lebel on *[‘Dying Was Never a Preference’ – Post-War Ethical Discourse \(PWED\): Casualty Aversion and the War Legitimizing Projects](#)* has just been published in Mortality

An Unflinching Journey Through Grief and Addiction: "The Blackbird and the Rainbow"

A note from Chrissie Smith

“I hope that anyone who reads this book will be comforted and helped in a way that will move their life forwards in a positive direction” <https://shorturl.at/cCMVZ>

Unraveling: An Autoethnography of Suicide and Renewal

Mike Alvarez

I write with excitement to announce the upcoming publication of my second book: “Unraveling: An Autoethnography of Suicide and Renewal” (Routledge, Writing Lives series). Here is the link, where you can find critics’ reviews, a preview of the book’s opening pages, and pre-order information (if you are interested in reading the book in its entirety; use discount code ESA32 for 20 percent off):

<https://www.routledge.com/Unraveling-An-Autoethnography-of-Suicide-and-Renewal/Alvarez/p/book/9781032346519>

“Unraveling examines the relationship among trauma, marginality, and mental health and critiques pathological notions of social and relational being. Through evocative storytelling

and in-the-moment narration, the author provides a candid account of descending into so-called mental illness, the myriad traumas leading to breakage, and possibilities for reconstitution and renewal. The narrative is followed by a series of analytic chapters that explore the power of autoethnography in challenging hegemonic (i.e., biomedical) discourses on madness, suicidality, and recovery, and the ethical challenges that may arise. Ultimately, the author advocates for ‘unraveling’ as an orientation to the study of madness – an invitation to decipher the structures and conditions in which people come apart at the seams, and come together anew.”

Unraveling is a major contribution to discourses on mental health and recovery, as there are few book-length autoethnographies on the subject written by members of minoritized communities. Critics have also described *Unraveling* as a “gripping, majestic literary and human science achievement,” “a damning critique of the chemical dispensing abattoir which is our mental health system,” and “a necessary counter-narrative that challenges the psychiatric-industrial complex’s presumed rationality.”

Dying in Prison; deaths for natural causes in prison culture, regimes and relationships

Dr Carol Robinson

My book *Dying in Prison; deaths for natural causes in prison culture, regimes and relationships* was published by Palgrave Macmillan this summer. It's based on my PhD research, some of which I presented at a CDAS conference in 2017. I hope the book might be of interest to the CDAS audience.

Job alert

[Job Description - Funeral Innovations KTP Associate \(23001635\) \(taleo.net\)](#)

There is a vacancy at Durham University exploring new body disposal technologies and techniques, details below!

[Job Description - Funeral Innovations KTP Associate \(23001635\) \(taleo.net\)](#)

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Wisdom Space autumn death café

Grab a cuppa and join us to talk about death, dying and what really matters in this safe, confidential and supportive online space.

The Wisdom Space Death Cafes run four times a year and are facilitated by [Sue Brayne](#) (author of [Living Fully, Dying Consciously](#) and host of [Embracing Your Mortality Podcasts](#)) and [Sue Judge](#) (Eco Therapist and Living Well facilitator for [Penny Brohn](#)). Death Cafes run from 6.30-8.30pm GMT via Zoom and there's a suggested donation of £3.

2023/24 dates:

Autumn: Weds 18th of Oct

Winter: Weds 17th of Jan

Spring: Weds 20th of Mar

Summer: Weds 19th of Jun

[Death Cafes](#) were set up by Jon Underwood in 2011 to provide a safe, confidential setting for people to come together to talk about death and dying over a piece of cake and cup of tea. We're holding it online so people can bring their own drink and relax in the comfort of their own home.

[The Wisdom Space](#) is a non-profit Community Interest Company based in Wiltshire that brings people together across the generations to make sense of what really matters in life (and death).

Queen Mary
University of London

World Anatomy Day at Barts Pathology Museum

Meet the anatomists at QMUL and learn more about the human body and its intricacies!

- Build your bones
- Organ sculpture session
- Ultrasounds and x-rays
- Explore your senses
- Look inside your brain with VR
- Urogenital anatomy (ages 18+)

Barts Pathology Museum
3rd Floor Robin Brook Centre, St Bartholomew's Hospital, West Smithfield, London, EC1A 7BE

October 21, 2023

12.00 - 15.00 / Family friendly interactive anatomy education

15.00 - 16.00 / Urogenital anatomy (ages 18+)

Register using the QR code below!

Virtual Colloquium, 17th November

The Virtual Colloquium will be taking place entirely on line, using the zoom platform, on Friday 17th November 2023. The papers will discuss, from a multi-disciplinary and international perspective, aspects of burial, cremation and alkaline hydrolysis. A full programme and links to the booking form are available here:

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

The event is free, but you will need to complete the form so we can send you an invitation to the sessions you want to attend. Booking closes on the 10th November. Please also do circulate this email to others who may be interested.

New Marie Curie funded initiative on end-of-life care for people in vegetative and minimally conscious states

The Marie Curie 'Research to Impact' fund are sponsoring this new initiative on supporting dying patients in 'Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness' (vegetative and minimally conscious states). These patients can present very differently from the usual user of hospice services and raise specific clinical, social and emotional challenges for those who care for them. Research from Cardiff University highlighted the need to update staff on recent changes in legal and clinical guidance, alongside offering healthcare professionals the opportunity to reflect on the experience of patients' families, and the ethical and professional issues raised for themselves. The Cardiff research has informed an interactive, online course

and Marie Curie are supporting this being made available free to hospice teams. For further information about the training, and the launch event, see: <https://cdoctraining.org.uk/mci-sign-up/>

Online launch: 19th October

Scottish Government consultations – Burial and Cremations Act 2016

The Scottish Government is currently hosting a range of consultations on proposed regulations to be made under the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016. There are four consultations open and topics include, for example, regulation of alkaline hydrolysis and funeral director licensing.

You can find out more about the proposed regulations and how to participate in the consultation here: <https://consult.gov.scot/burial-cremation/consultation-collection/>
The consultations close on November 17th.

THE GRIEF CHANNEL

Upcoming virtual events

Talking About and Planning for the End of Life in South Asian Communities in the UK

Over the past 18 months, the Suboco Trust, Compassion in Dying and researchers from the University of Bristol have been working together to explore experiences of planning ahead, end-of-life care and bereavement among South Asian elders in London. Do join us as we discuss this topic and launch a co-produced report which aims to ensure South Asian communities are better understood and supported.

The panel will be facilitated by Dr Jamilla Hussain, who will be joined by Taskin Saleem and Naheed Anwar from the Suboco Trust, Usha Grieve from Compassion in Dying, and Dr Olly Clabburn from the University of Bristol.

[You can register for this and all Good Grief Festival events here.](#)



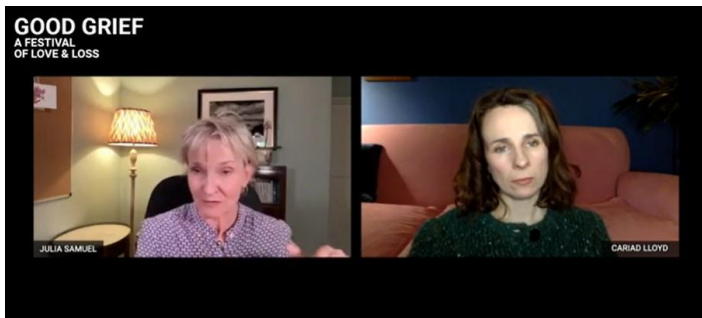
Recently on The Grief Channel

Grief needs to be voiced

Julia Samuel + Cariad Lloyd on facing the pain of grief

The wonderful Julia Samuel speaks with comedian and author of 'You Are Not Alone' Cariad Lloyd about the importance of voicing our grief, facing the pain, and finding support.

[WATCH HERE](#)



CARIAD LLOYD + JULIA SAMUEL IN CONVERSATION
JULIA SAMUEL, CARIAD LLOYD



Hope is a multifaceted thing

Kat Lister on hope during her partner's diagnosis and death

Kat Lister, author of memoir *The Elements: A Widowhood*, shares how her relationship with hope has changed throughout her grieving process following the death of her husband Pat.

[WATCH HERE](#)



KAT LISTER: WIDOWHOOD & THE ELEMENTS OF GRIEF
SALI HUGHES, KAT LISTER



Centre for Ageing and the life Course November seminar: Often seen but seldom heard: Giving voice to Britain's birth cohort members

Dr JD Carpentieri, Centre for Longitudinal Studies, University College London. 15:00-16:00
Wednesday 8th November 2023, please register [here](#).

Have you heard of cohort studies? Are you interested in mixed methods research? Here is a fantastic opportunity to engage with a world-leading researcher on British cohort studies from the Centre for Longitudinal Studies at UCL.

The UK's birth cohort studies have been referred to as the "jewel in the crown" of British social science. These studies, which include cohorts born in 1946 and 1958, follow large, nationally representative samples of Britons from birth to death. Cohort studies thus inevitably become studies of ageing. However, almost all cohort study research has been quantitative, meaning that the voices of cohort members themselves have largely gone unheard.

Over the last decade, Dr Carpentieri has sought to listen to and understand these voices by conducting a qualitative, mixed-methods approach to research. In this CALC seminar, he will reflect on the challenges and benefits of focussing on cohort members' own voices within a research environment where participants are typically analysed but not listened to. In doing so, he will explore cohort members' rich and complex perspectives on a broad range of ageing-related topics, including: retirement, health, physical activity, and adaptation to decline.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Call for Book Chapters

Decolonising Death Studies

Co-Editors: Dr Panagiotis Pentaris¹, Dr Stacey Pitsillides² & Hajar Ghorbani

Social and cultural factors can strongly influence how we approach death and dying, including attitudes towards death, rituals and practices surrounding death, and end-of-life care. The World Health Organization notes that understanding these factors is important for improving the quality of life and care for individuals facing life-limiting illnesses (WHO, 2021).

Hamilton et al. (2022) note that current knowledge in death studies tends to be influenced by Western views, conforming identities, specific disciplines, the English language, and a certain generation, which can limit its application to policy and practice. The authors argue that decolonising death studies requires exploring the nature of knowledge that underpins claimed expertise in this area, which has universal implications for policies, practices, theory, and research. This is not a new argument, but one which was noted in 1978 by Lofland, critiquing the happy death movement's lack of diversity, claiming that its proponents were predominantly heteronormative, white and affluent. More contemporary research groups in death studies, like the *Queer Death Studies Network* (2016) and the *Collective for Radical Death Studies*, address this by collecting a wider body of literature in the field of death studies.

The increasing diversity and plurality of populations around the world necessitates further attention to diversifying evidence and knowledge to ensure that it effectively serves its beneficiaries (Mokhov and Pentaris, 2022). However, there is potential risk for re-colonising knowledge in this area due to the persistence of English-speaking, Western, and conforming expertise in the field that may or may not understand the connected histories of colonialism. To address this, networks of knowledge and expertise that challenge these limitations and seek to avoid the risk of re-colonisation to broaden the case of knowledge and key texts used by death studies researchers are needed. Such networks may be physical, contextual or digital, but they always lead to collective discourses that break free from the colonisation of death studies.

With that in mind, this book is looking to host the space for an interdisciplinary, international, especially from under-represented groups, dialogue which seeks to advance our exploration of both knowledge outside of the colonised and the degree of the current knowledge's applicability in the field. Additionally, and drawing from Jansen's (2019) thesis on the politics of knowledge focusing on the lack of postcolonial, indigenous and critical knowledge, the proposed book will become a beneficial tool for its ability to pool resources and expertise. This can help reduce gaps in the current knowledge base.

All proposals focusing on the exploration of the colonisation, re-colonisation and decolonisation of death studies – no matter the expertise of the contributors (e.g., assisted dying, AI and grief, art-based practices with dying individuals, etc.) - are welcome.

The volume is particularly interested in the inclusion of minoritised voices and perspectives, in the collaboration of authors with people with lived experience, as well as the learning from different geographies and disciplines. Further, proposals linked with any of the many global issues and phenomena and how those manifest on the experiences of death, dying and bereavement are welcome. This volume will also welcome shorter forms of writing, for example: experiential essays, reflections on practice wisdom or autobiographic accounts.

The proposed book will be submitted to Routledge for consideration.

If you wish to discuss your idea about a contribution before submitting an abstract, please contact the co- editors directly.

How to submit your abstract

Please submit your abstract (approximately 350-500 words) to the co-editors at Panagiotis.Pentaris@gold.ac.uk, Stacey.Pitsillides@northumbria.ac.uk and hghorbal@ualberta.ca including a short biographical note of the proposed authors (approximately 50-100 words per author) by the 8th of December 2023. Please include all information in a single Word file which you can submit as an attachment via email.

Proposals for 2026 Special Issue of Mortality

Proposals for the 2026 Special Issue of the academic journal **Mortality** can be submitted following the guidance at this link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/cmrt20/special-issues#siProp>

Any proposals for 2026 should be submitted to mortalityjournal@gmail.com by **Friday 13 October 2023**.

Lifting the Lid festival



PRESS CONTACT Jo Dagless, Co-founder

COMPANY Lifting The Lid Festival

PHONE +44 7877 731864 **EMAIL** liftingthelid2021@gmail.com

EVENT PAGE [Lifting The Lid International Festival of Death and Dying 2023](#)

An annual, online festival that lifts the lid on everything death & dying, through conversations, interactive events, workshops, art and craft sessions, live music, poetry and performance from around the world.

Featuring an international line-up of end of life and palliative carers, funeral directors, grief supporters, artists, musicians, writers, doctors, filmmakers, pet bereavement counsellors, coffin weavers, and everyone in between. Lifting The Lid is informative, creative, fun, joyful and life affirming, catering for people of all levels of interest.

Weekend tickets (and full list of events and speakers) available now from £0 - £15 at <https://LiftingTheLid2023.eventbrite.co.uk>

Watch our short promo video [Lifting The Lid International Festival of Death and Dying, online 17-20 November 2023. - YouTube](#)

Multi-media artist Jo Dagless and Funeral Director Victoria Keen will once again be co-hosting Lifting The Lid from **07:00 GMT Friday 17th until 08:00 GMT Monday 20th November, 2023.**

Three days of ideas, information, arts, crafts and ground-breaking insights. We're really proud of the speakers, collaborators, panels and activities we've curated and everyone involved is volunteering their time, there will be opportunities throughout the weekend to support individuals and organisations if you choose to. We have hand-picked speakers and collaborators carefully to bring you a diverse, varied and engaging, international programme of events.

Join us for all or any part of our weekend long programme of events. You can pick and choose the sessions you want to join and create your own schedule. Meet other like-minded people, exchange ideas, share experiences and contact details if you choose to and lay the foundations for new, fruitful relationships in the death positive community.

Death is of course something that will affect every one of us but can still be extremely challenging to discuss. Lifting The Lid offers audiences the opportunity to find out as much or as little as they like, allowing people to dip in and out as they feel comfortable.

We hope this annual event continues to encourage an acceptance of the inevitability of loss and impermanence, and removes some of the fear of talking about death and dying so people can ask questions and talk openly and honestly about their experiences.

Links

[Registration page](#)

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Accounting History

Call for Papers: Special Issue Accounting for Death: an historical perspective

Where death and accounting coalesce in the historical literature, it is generally within the context of institutions. Most prevalent are military, medical or welfare organisations, or instances where labour is institutionalised, such as slavery practices (see for example Baker, 2019; Funnell and Chwastiak, 2015). These studies demonstrate how calculative practices are mobilised to transform death to enable a transaction through enumeration or valuation, such as the inventory-style accounting for enslaved people, the commodification of the corpse to provide specimens for anatomical schools in the 18th and 19th centuries, financial

reporting of work, health and safety or death (see for example Tyson and Oldroyd, 2019; Moerman and van der Laan, 2021a). This research into accounting for death tends to identify death as a transactional phenomenon used in calculative practices; or a consequence of organisational or institutional activity that gives rise to demands for accountability (see for example Fleishman et al., 2004; Sargiacomo et al., 2012).

In situations where death is the consequence of intended or unintended organisational or institutional activity, the responsibility is to render an account of death. In order to reorient the analytical focus to death as a phenomenon in accounting studies, the term necroaccountability has been introduced into the lexicon (Moerman and van der Laan, 2022 forthcoming). Necro comes from the Greek nekros meaning corpse and gives rise to a novel accountability relationship. For example, is there a duty owed to the former self or the future corpse?

Given the limitations of calculative practices to disclose accounts of death, accounting historians generally have access to rich sources of alternative forms of data and the expertise to establish a narrative of necroaccountability. In addition, since multimodal accounts of death also describe the conditions of the living, they also inform us about relationships of power and inequalities. For example, instances of genocide and war, slavery practices, and the market for corpses (Lippman and Wilson, 2007; Moerman and van der Laan, 2021b). This special issue seeks historical contributions that include, but are not limited to the following topics:

- Necroaccountability as an opportunity to develop an alternative framing of death to understand organisational and institutional responsibility.
- Situations where the business of death provides a space to accrue profits, such as the extraction of resources in developing countries, thanatourism, the use of privatised militias, silencing of minorities, and slavery.
- Role of institutions and intermediaries and the way they account for death.
- Alternative accounts of death, especially in sites where traditional forms of documentation do not exist, e.g. carvings, funerary artefacts and artwork; or where official accounts render death invisible.
- Non-financial reporting frameworks that prescribe how death is disclosed.
- Accounting's role in thanapolitics, slave labour and genocide (e.g. Twyford, 2021).
- The calculative practices of accounting used as a technology of death (e.g. Funnell et al., 2021).
- The impact of various understandings of death such as 'brain death' or 'death care' and the consequences for accounting for those deaths (Lock, 2001).
- Histories of the 'business of death', such as undertaking, funeral operators and memorialisation in various contexts.
- Histories of accounting for death from non-western cultural perspectives.
- Accounting and accountability for non-human death such as animals, plants, the planet and other non-human living entities.

Submissions written in English and in accordance with the *Accounting History* style guidelines should be submitted electronically, as per the submission instructions on the journal website: <http://ach.sagepub.com/>. The closing date for submissions to the journal is

15 December 2023 with publication expected in 2025. Potential contributors are welcome to contact the Guest Editors to discuss their proposed topics.

Guest Editors

Lee Moerman, University of Wollongong (leem@uow.edu.au)

Sandra van der Laan, The University of Sydney (sandra.vanderlaan@sydney.edu.au)

Contact Us

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


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PARTICIPANTS WANTED!

Exploring attitudes about death and approaches to dementia care

Department of Psychology



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