

Centre for  
Death & Society  
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

# Centre for Death & Society

## July 2023 Newsletter

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## Director's Note

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Welcome to this month's newsletter, the last of this academic year! Our newsletter begins with several pieces of good news. CDAS co-director Kate Woodthorpe has been awarded the prestigious Churchill Fellowship. Kate's fellowship means that she will be travelling to different countries to explore ideas and innovation around public funeral provision. We look forward to hearing more about this work in the coming months. We also congratulate Kate on her new editorial post for the journal Omega.

We are delighted to share that CDAS Phd student George Gumisiriza has been granted British Citizenship and that former Phd student Diana Teggi returns to the University of Bath next year as a lecturer in sociology. We look forward to welcoming her in the Autumn.

Our newsletter this month also contains details of several new CDAS publications. This includes an article by CDAS members Chao Fang, Alastair Comery and Sam Carr about biographical storytelling as a methodological tool to explore emotional challenges in old age. It also includes an article by Chao Fang and colleagues about exploring loss and identity among people living with chronic conditions of long COVID. In addition to this, Kate Woodthorpe has had a book chapter published on researcher vulnerability. We also include news items by CDAS members about water funerals and the changing role of UK public inquiries. Finally, co-director Jeremy Dixon's book, which focusses on how social workers assess and manage adult safeguarding risks is out this month.


We have three events to announce for the coming months. As part of a three part seminar series we will be hosting our first international research seminar by renowned academic Emeritus Professor Ken Doka, from the College of New Rochelle, New York, who will speak on Disenfranchised Death and Grief Today on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Details about the seminar and how to sign up are in this newsletter.

Following Professor Doka's seminar, we will have another international seminar with Dr Lisa McLean on disappearance and grief activism in Mexico (sign up details in this newsletter) and an in person public seminar by Professor Lucy Easthope with Professor Brad Evans from the Centre for the Study of Violence, on disaster and disappearance in Bristol in November.

As always, we include a range of news items on other events around death and dying as well as CDAS community news and other publications.

We wish you all a good summer and look forward to seeing you in the new academic year.

Jeremy and Kate.



### ***New CDAS members***

We've been waiting until it was official, and we're now very pleased to share that former PhD student Dr Diana Teggi is returning to our home Department of Social and Policy Sciences as a lecturer in Sociology! Congratulations to Diana and we look forward to sharing news about your endeavours with the CDAS audience from the autumn.

### ***British Citizenship for CDAS Ph.D. Student George Gumisiriza***

CDAS Ph.D. student George Gumisiriza has been granted British Citizenship! This is a major accomplishment and life-event for him. George says that his new status will afford him freedom to pursue his dreams, in his career and in life.

### ***Dr Kate Woodthorpe awarded prestigious Churchill Fellowship***

Congratulations to CDAS Director Kate Woodthorpe who has been awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship to travel internationally and bring back to the UK ideas and innovation in public funeral provision. Through this fellowship she will visit multiple countries to meet those working in the sector and will be a Churchill Fellow for life.

Kate says: "I am delighted to become a Churchill Fellow and join a group of individuals who are committed to learning, sharing and progressing societies. I will be travelling likely in 2024 and will keep the CDAS community abreast of my adventures. Thank you to those in the CDAS community who helped me with my application, you know who you are"

### ***New Editorial Post for CDAS Director Kate Woodthorpe***

CDAS Director Kate Woodthorpe has joined the editorial board for Omega - the Journal of Death and Dying. Omega is one of the premier international journals in the death studies field and means that Kate now supports all three of the biggest journals - Omega, Mortality and Death Studies. If you're interested in getting involved in any of them, Kate would be happy to have an informal chat about their similarities and differences, readership and audience, scope and influence. Get in touch with Kate on [k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk](mailto:k.v.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk).

## ***George Gumisiriza's keynote lecture at the 23rd Cambridge Heritage Symposium***

Here is the recording of George's keynote lecture at the 23rd Cambridge Heritage Symposium on 12th May 2023 at Cambridge University. The theme was Encountering humans: heritage issues and ethical considerations. His lecture was very well received.

**[Link: CHS23 - "Repatriationscapes: Personhood, Power and Otherness of Migrant Corpses" YouTube](#)**

## ***Mat Crawley – Ambassador for Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS)***

As part of my role as an Ambassador for the charity Survivors of Bereavement by Suicide (SOBS), I was asked to be a baton bearer for the Baton of Hope's tour whilst in England. On the 29th of June I therefore saw this through on the Manchester leg and was joined by hundreds of people as we walked through the city centre raising awareness of the impact of death by suicide. I've attached a picture here and a link to the website also:

**[Baton of Hope | It's Time To Start The Conversation \(batonofhopeuk.org\)](https://batonofhopeuk.org)**



Separately, as I'm part of a military family, the charity Scotty's Little Soldiers provide care for the children of servicepeople who have died in service. I have agreed to run 3 x ½ marathons this year for them (the first of which was last Saturday in Stockport) and will undertake the Heaton and Tatton Park runs later this year. I have a JustGiving page here: **[Mathew Crawley is fundraising for Scotty's Little Soldiers \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mathew-crawley-is-fundraising-for-scottys-little-soldiers)** if anyone is interested but again, it's a bereavement focused charity so didn't know if this was of interest to anyone. I tend to do something every year for a bereavement charity so similarly if anyone has any suggestions for next year or a charity or event that is of significance to them that they are unable to for whatever reason, I'd encourage them to get in touch to see if there's something we can do on behalf of CDAS if that's an option.

## ***Kate Woodthorpe's trip to Cyprus***



Kate Woodthorpe has just returned from a trip to Cyprus where she was involved in the statutory re- accreditation of the Cypriot Diploma in Funeral Services. Over two days with forensic pathologists Dr Nikolaos Raikos and Dr Elena Kranioti the panel learnt about the course from students and staff, and toured the facilities and training sites.

## **New CDAS Publications**

**Fang, C., Comery, A. & Carr, S. (2023) “They want you to know who they really are inside of the old visage”—biographical storytelling as a methodological tool to explore emotional challenges in old age. *BMC Geriatrics*. 23, 386.**

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-023-04094-8>

In this collaborative paper, CDAS member Chao, Alastair, and Sam delve into the emotional challenges faced by older individuals using a methodological tool of biographical storytelling. Their qualitative study on loneliness uncovers the deep connection between past experiences and emotional pain in old age, emphasising the significance of narrative identity construction. By employing biographical storytelling, they shed light on the interplay between ageing and personal narratives, offering a valuable research methodology to explore human experiences and needs in the context of ageing. Their work provides insights into how past life experiences shape emotional stability in older age and promotes a holistic understanding of ageing-related emotions.

**Fang, C., Baz, S. A., Sheard, L., & Carpentieri, J. (2023). ‘I am just a shadow of who I used to be’—Exploring existential loss of identity among people living with chronic conditions of Long COVID. *Sociology of Health & Illness*, 1–19.**

<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9566.13690>

CDAS visiting fellow Chao and his team members at UCL and University of York explore the important topic of identity loss and reconstruction in the context of chronic illness, specifically focusing on Long COVID. Through a qualitative study involving interviews with 80 LC sufferers in the UK, they shed light on the deeply painful experience of existential identity loss, particularly the loss of the body as a medium for maintaining a coherent sense of self. The study reveals how persistent symptoms and disruptions in chronic health conditions can lead to the loss of biographical resources and resilience, making it challenging for individuals to navigate their own sense of being. These findings contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the complex existential pain experienced by those dealing with identity loss in long COVID and chronic illnesses more generally.

**Jeremy Dixon's new book, *Adult Safeguarding Observed: How Social Workers Assess and Manage Risk and Uncertainty* will be published on 25<sup>th</sup> July.**

Safeguarding adults at risk of abuse or neglect is a core area of social work practice but knowledge of how social workers make adult safeguarding decisions is limited.. Applying recent sociological and ethnographic research to this area for the first time, this book considers how adult safeguarding practice is developing, with a focus on risk management. It explores how social workers conduct safeguarding adults assessments, work with multiple agencies and involve service users in risk decisions. The book is essential reading for those

wishing to understand how risk and uncertainty are managed within frontline adult social work and how current practice can be improved.

Further details can be found at: <https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/adult-safeguarding-observed>



*Sticking your head above the parapet*

Kate Woodthorpe has just had a chapter published in an edited collection on researcher vulnerability. In it she reflects on making public her son and his medical complexity and palliative care experience, alongside his right to privacy and the privilege of an academic platform. More details about the volume can be found here:





## ***Not just 'facts and lessons'? The changing role of UK public inquiries***

As the COVID-19 Inquiry makes headlines, sociologists at the University of Bath turn their attention to the increased pressures on inquiries to do more in this joint CASP and CDAS research note: <https://blogs.bath.ac.uk/casp/2023/07/14/not-just-facts-and-lessons-the-changing-role-of-uk-public-inquiries/>

## ***What is water cremation? What 'Resomation' or alkaline hydrolysis involves as Co-op announces UK plans***

[Co-op Funeralcare is piloting water cremation in the UK. Currently it is only a choice for people in some US states, Canada and parts of Europe.](#)

## ***Upcoming CDAS events***

### ***Disenfranchised death and grief today***

Professor Emeritus [Ken Doka](#), The College of New Rochelle, NY

**Tuesday 19th September 7pm BST online**

We are honoured to welcome leading death studies academic Professor Ken Doka to give the first CDAS seminar of the new academic year. Known around the world for his work on anticipatory grief, gender and loss, and more in his 40+ published books and 100+ papers and book chapters, Professor Doka will be commencing our three-seminar series on ambiguous and disenfranchised loss in the autumn of 2023. In this seminar Professor Doka will reflect on contemporary deaths and the ongoing relevance of his most well-known theories of anticipatory and disenfranchised grief today.

Join us for what promises to be an enlightening start to our three-part seminar series, with subsequent seminars on ambiguous loss from Lisa McLean in October and on disaster and disappearance with Lucy Easthope and the Centre for the Study of Violence in November (details below).

Sign up [here](#).

# ***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)



# LUCY EASTHOPE

4 NOVEMBER 2023



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

16:00hrs - 18:00hrs  
Free Admission

For more events visit:  
[www.historiesofviolence.com](http://www.historiesofviolence.com)

## 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



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ideas

## **Other events**

### ***An Introduction to Taphophilia: How to Enjoy Cemeteries and Learn from the Messages of the Dead, A Live, Online Class Cemetery Tour***

Tuesdays August 1, 8, 15, 22

7 - 9 pm ET

\$125 [Patreon Members](#) / \$145 General Admission

***PLEASE NOTE: Classes will be recorded and archived for students who cannot make that time.***

Whether a grand Victorian cemetery or a humble graveyard of granite stones, there is likely a cemetery near you. For many people, a cemetery is only a site to place the dead within the earth and return periodically to mourn. But a cemetery can be appreciated by anyone for the stories it tells, the history it records, and the outdoor respite it offers.

Especially during the pandemic, cemeteries became in demand as natural landscapes. Yet entering an unfamiliar cemetery can be intimidating, whether not knowing if you are allowed in or what is acceptable as respectful recreation. Every cemetery is different, but all are made for the living to honor and witness the dead.

In this class, led by writer and cemetery tour guide Allison C. Meier, participants will have a crash course in taphophilia, or the appreciation of cemeteries and tombstones.

The four sessions of the class will feature discussions, optional readings, and prompts to visit the dead near you. Each of the four will build on the others:

- The Joys of Cemeteries: An Overview of Cemetery History and the Traditions of Respectful Recreation
- How to Appreciate a Cemetery: A Guide to Cemetery Walking and How to Understand a Place through its Dead
- Reading the Tombs: How to Decipher a Monument through its Shape and Symbolism
- Creative Ways to Share Cemeteries: Zine Making, Walking Tours, and More

[Allison C. Meier](#) is the author of *Grave* (2023, Bloomsbury) and regularly writes about culture and its intersections with death, with articles in publications including *The New York Times*, *CityLab*, *Wellcome Collection*, *Lapham's Quarterly*, *Hyperallergic*, *The Art Newspaper*, and *Curbed*. She has led cemetery walks at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, Hartsdale Pet Cemetery, and other New York City area burial grounds.

Images: "In Chutney Falls they hunted up the cemetery and peered at the tombstones of Harry's mother's family." Original art and lettering from THE WILLOWDALE HANDCAR, 1962), via the Edward Gorey Charitable Trust; A grave Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, photo by Allison C. Meier; Cemitério dos Prazeres in Lisbon, Portugal, photo by Allison C. Meier

## Visualising Loss: How do we create memory when people are forgotten?

**Date:** Wednesday 2nd August 2023

**Time:** 6.00-7.00pm

**Venue:** The Mission Theatre, Bath

**Speakers:** Professor Brad Evans (Director of Centre for the Study of Violence, University of Bath) in the company of

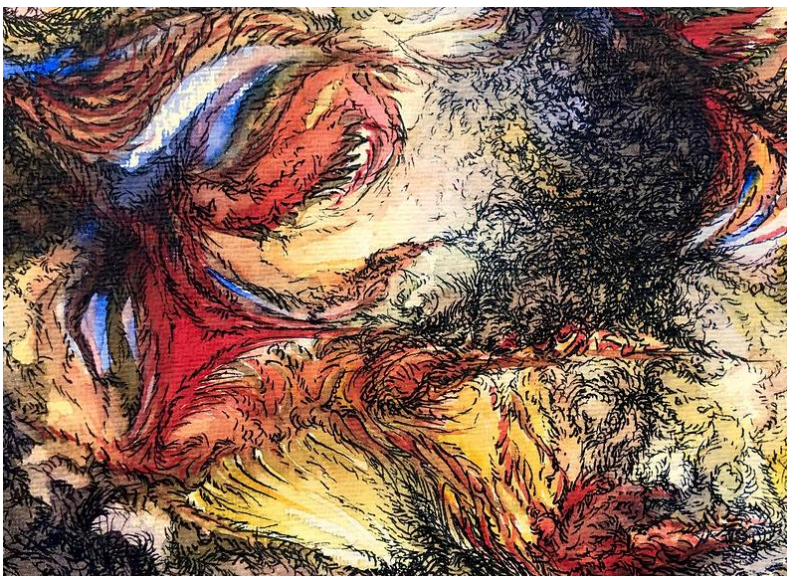
Chantal Meza (Mexican abstract artist),  
Dr. Richard White (artist/researcher at Bath Spa) and  
Dr. Peter Manning (University of Bath)

### [Please register to attend here.](#)

Violence has an enormous impact on us both personally and as a society. Yet while many atrocities are marked by public spectacles which force us to deal with the horrifying aftermaths, other forms of violence go unnoticed, or their crimes end up being forgotten. The cases here are too numerous to mention, from the bodies that were abducted in the trans-Atlantic slave trade to those who deny the Holocaust today.

On other occasions, such as the case with the 43 missing students in Mexico, the victims of violence simply disappear without a trace, leaving both the causes and consequences uncertain. Sometimes the atrocities themselves are denied leaving only memories. What role can politics and art play when faced with such conditions?

Join us for this discussion panel hosted by Professor Brad Evans (Director of Centre for the Study of Violence, University of Bath) in the company of Chantal Meza (Mexican abstract artist), Dr. Richard White (artist/researcher at Bath Spa) and Dr. Peter Manning (University of Bath), as they discuss the challenges of visualising loss. They will be discussing the importance of creative responses and the need to explore the interplay between politics, social policy and art as it relates to people's real experiences of violence and atrocities.





## *Suicide Bereavement UK's 12th international conference – September 28th 2023*

Currently 500 people from 12 countries (e.g. Australia, New Zealand, USA etc) have registered to attend Suicide Bereavement UK's 12th international conference, which is in collaboration with Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust. This event is held in Manchester, UK and is the largest suicide bereavement conference internationally. This is an opportunity to network with both national/international experts in the field, and also, all of my contacts!

This event combines, research, practice and lived-experience

Here is an example of some of the issues that will be discussed

- Findings from the Armed Forces suicide bereavement study research which focused on the needs of serving personnel, those who have previously served and the bereaved families. This study is first of its kind internationally.
- Impact on young people bereaved by suicide, who have special needs
- Reflecting on the excellent work conducted by Madeleine Moon, who set up the All-Party Parliamentary group on suicide and self-harm
- Research which has focused on children who have died by suicide
- The power of language
- Trauma affected sleep
- New foundland dogs who swim with those who are experiencing emotional difficulties
- The role of compassion when caring for or responding to those bereaved by suicide

Many delegates are travelling from the other side of the world to attend this event. For those in the UK, this event is on your doorstep, in sunny Manchester 😊. You will learn so much from the presenters and those attending. It would be a shame if you miss out.

If you are thinking of attending, don't leave it too long as we expect to be over-subscribed even earlier this year. For more information about the conference and to register click [HERE](#)

**suicidebereavement**  
EXPERTS IN THE FIELD

Pennine Care **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

Suicide Bereavement UK and Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust are collaborating for the 12th year running to host the Suicide Bereavement International Conference.

# Suicide Bereavement: Stand By Me

Suicide Bereavement UK's 12th International Conference  
One day conference: 28th September 2023 – 9am to 4.30pm (registration from 8am)  
Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester  
FACE2FACE £165 + Booking Fee + VAT  
LIVESTREAM £99 + Booking Fee + VAT

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SPEAKERS | PROGRAMME | WORKSHOPS | FACE2FACE ONLINE BOOKING | LIVESTREAM ONLINE BOOKING | CONTACT

## Who should attend?

**This event is suitable for anyone who comes into contact with those bereaved or affected by suicide, including, but not limited to**

- Armed Forces Personnel
- Armed Forces Charities
- Bereavement Specialists
- Celebrants
- Clinicians
- Coroners and Coroners' Officers
- Commissioners
- Community and Voluntary Sector Staff
- Emergency Services
- Employers
- Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) Providers
- Faith Leaders
- Funeral Directors
- General Practitioners
- Housing Association Staff
- Human Resources Staff
- Job Centre Staff
- Mental Health Professionals/Therapists
- Occupational Health Staff
- Pharmacists
- Policymakers and Government Staff
- Prison Staff
- Public Health Staff
- Rail and Highway Authorities
- Staff
- Researchers/Academics
- Social Workers
- Teachers/Lecturers

**Those who work with/ specialise in services for:**

- Black and Minority Ethnic Groups
- Children and young people (including looked after children)
- Disenfranchised Groups
- Educational Settings
- Suicide Prevention/ Postvention
- Substance Misuse

**Those developing/ implementing/maintaining:**

- Postvention Services
- Suicide Prevention/ Bereavement Strategies
- NICE Suicide Prevention guidelines (2018)
- NHS Long Term Plan (2019)

**Is this conference suitable for those bereaved by suicide?**

This event is organised to inform and guide professionals who come into contact with those bereaved by suicide and those in a position to influence policy and practice. Therefore, it is presented in a factual manner and is not suitable for people bereaved by suicide during the early stages of loss and/or struggling to cope with their loss.

## CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

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### *The Death Studies Podcast – Live at the CDAS Conference 2023*

Professor Tony Walter and the 2023 University of Bath CDAS conference on innovation, climate and ecological emergency, mass mortality, grief, loss and social change by The Death Studies Podcast

[The direct link to listen is here.](#)



### *Marie Curie Research Impact Fund Maximising the impact of palliative and end of life care research on policy and practice*

At Marie Curie we believe that supporting the development of evidence-informed policy and practice in palliative and end of life care is key to our strategic goal of achieving the best possible end of life experience for everyone.

Our Research Impact Fund provides support for well-planned, high-quality, targeted activities that will facilitate the uptake of existing palliative and end of life care research into policy or practice to benefit people affected by dying, death and bereavement.

#### **Need to know**

The fund will be open to applications from 12 July 2023 to 4 October 2023 with decisions expected by December 2023. A total of £100,000 is available for this round of the Impact Fund. Applicants can apply for grants of up to £10,000 through the scheme.

You can find full details and guidance for applicants, along with the application form, [here](#).

#### **Contact us**

If you would like to discuss the scheme and any planned applications with a member of the Marie Curie Research Management Team, please email: [research.grants@mariecurie.org.uk](mailto:research.grants@mariecurie.org.uk)

With very best wishes,  
The Research Team at Marie Curie

## ***New Publications***

### ***CDAS community member Ron Vave has shared some of his work on funerals in Fiji***

Vave, R. (2021). **Indigenous Fijian Funerals in Fiji and Its Influence and Effects on Social and Ecological Resilience** [PhD dissertation, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa]. <https://www.proquest.com/docview/2638719563?pq-origsite=gscholar&fromopenview=true>

Vave, R. (2021). Urban-Rural Compliance Variability to COVID-19 Restrictions of Indigenous Fijian (iTaukei) Funerals in Fiji. *Asia Pacific Journal of Public Health*, 33(6-7), 767-774. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10105395211005921>

Vave, R. (2022). **Five culturally protected water body practices in Fiji: Current status and contemporary displacement challenges**. *Ambio*, 51(4), 1001-1013. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-021-01620-z>

Vave, R., Kittinger, J., Ticktin, T., Friedlander, A. (In revision). Elucidating the Cultural Ecosystem Services of Funerary Protected Area practice in Fiji: Implications for resilience and conservation planning.

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## **CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### ***Before I Go Solutions® Accredited End of Life Plan Facilitators Programme***

Applications from every country are invited for our reputed End of Life Plan Facilitators Programme, **the only international training that trains, equips and supports you to become an End of Life Plan Facilitator**, helping others get their end of life plan done, and getting yours done too.

It will be primarily of interest to health professionals, counsellors, coaches, educators, celebrants or others interested in helping people to prepare well for a good end of life, no matter how it happens, and to take this planning beyond the conversation stage to getting decisions taken and written down.

Research led by Cardiff University's Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Centre shows that 90% of people think end of life planning is essential, but only 14% actually have done anything formal about it. Hence the need for this very valuable service.

Divided into 3 parts plus a 3-month Incubator Stage, you begin with creating your own end of life plan. Part 2 covers the practicals of doing death differently, and part 3, the practicing of facilitating in this arena, both 1:1 and in groups, and offline and online. The Incubator 3 months allows you to fulfil your graduation requirements while getting a taste of our ongoing Facilitators Community.

After this, for those who are self-employed, there is the opportunity to continue on by joining our marketing course, so you can learn about promoting your service successfully in a culture where the topic is still somewhat taboo.

By the end of the course, with online modules taken in your own time with weekly live group support calls, graduates will be able to successfully support others in creating their own plans, within their current role, as an addition to their current services, or as a new venture.

Accredited by the Continuing Professional Development Standards Office, recognised in over 80 countries, the 50-80 hours of this training is all eligible for CPD credits.

For more information, view one of our free Information Sessions, or download the Info Pack. Visit <https://infosession.beforeigosolutions.com/>

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

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### *Critical South Asian Death Studies*

*The First International Conference on Critical South Asian Death Studies* situates itself in the conspicuous gaps engendered by dominant traditions in the study of Death. Death Studies as a discipline is widely conceived from within individualist, white Western hegemonies and through their appendant epistemologies that foreclose engagements with, among others, South Asian relationalities, belief systems, and established structures of mourning (see Radomska et al., 2020; Thacker and Duran, 2020). Followingly, the conference pays heed to critical approaches to death, dying, grieving and end-of-life care in South Asia; mobilizing critical, intersectional, and radical contextualisms that emphasize distinct bio-medical, metaphorical, cultural, and social forms of death.

As such, this conference locates itself within traditions of Critical South Asian Death Studies (CSADS), which operationalises such a lens to mark a departure from conventional death research and practice by centring the deep complexities of South Asia. CSADS attends to, in norm-critical manners, the necropolitical agendas that underlie the concerns of positionality in South Asia. It calls attention to the varied socio-cultural, economic, political, historical, ethical, ontological and epistemological aspects that underpin South Asianness, with a distinct resonance to experiences of ‘marginalisation.’ Not only so, but it also centres empowering narratives of postcolonial reclamations, subversive necropolitics, non-textual spaces, and oral histories. However, in centring ‘South Asia’, we, the conference committee, are aware of the conceptual problems that characterise the term. In cognizance of the constantly shifting geographies of the region, it would be fallacious to read cultures to be coterminous with territories. Thus, we refrain from prescriptive delineation in broaching South Asia, instead acknowledging the creative, critical and complex ways bodies can inhabit South Asia, and South Asia can come to label spaces and processes.

Rooted in these contours, *The First International Conference on Critical South Asian Death Studies*, to be held on the **18th-20th of April 2024**, calls for interdisciplinary presentations



and performances by scholars in all stages of their careers, artists, practitioners, professionals, and activists whose research, poetry, prose, short films, or original performances reflexively engage with regimes of power as manifested in death, dying, mourning and end-of-life care. A non-exhaustive list of potential themes can be found in the [extended Call for Papers here](#). In acknowledgement of differential capacities for movement and to ensure accessibility, the conference shall be held in a **hybrid** format and shall be **free to all** its participants.

If we have piqued your interest, then please send your **abstracts/proposals** (approximately **300 words**) to [csads@uni-muenster.de](mailto:csads@uni-muenster.de) by the **15th of October, 2023** (11:59 PM CEST). You will be notified of the reviewing panel's decision within 4-6 weeks of the deadline.

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## 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)*



# PARTICIPANTS WANTED!

Exploring attitudes about death and approaches to dementia care

Department of Psychology



UNIVERSITY OF BATH



**Ethics Code:**

PREC: 21-261

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

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

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

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

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

[tinyurl.com/44kpps77](https://tinyurl.com/44kpps77)

## CONTACT

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