

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

November 2023 Newsletter

[Director's Note](#)

[CDAS](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[CDAS Community](#)

[News](#)

[Events](#)

[Call for Papers](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Director's Note

It's another bumper edition of the newsletter as we bring you news of new members, events, funding news, new papers, and (drum roll) the call for papers for our 2024 annual conference! On the theme of Death and Communities, the 2024 CDAS Conference will be online on 6th – 7th June. With participants from around the world and across timezones, space for papers and panels is limited and for the past few years we have had many more abstracts than we can accommodate. Please make sure to address the conference theme directly in your abstract to give your paper the best chance of being selected. Full details of the call and where to submit your abstract can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Beyond our usual updates and community news, in this issue we also share details of the annual University of Bath PhD funding round, which is now open for applications. We have been very successful in previous years and have a terrific group of PhD students with us at present. Want to join them? Then have a look at the details in this newsletter and approach a potential CDAS supervisor with a proposed project. They will be able to guide you on what happens next.

Behind the scenes we are also busy working on the plans for the 20th anniversary of CDAS in 2025, the upcoming special issue of *Mortality on Innovation at the end of life* from the 2023 conference, and the edited collection on *Death and Institutions* from the 2022 conference – both of which will be published in our anniversary year. Thank you to the editorial teams and contributors for both publications, without you we would not be able to produce such a range of interesting and diverse work! Watch out for further information about the special issue and book's publication and our anniversary events in future newsletters.

Our aim is for CDAS to be a hub of information, and high quality impactful research and education. For the most up to date information about what we are doing, and what is going on around the world in relation to death studies, bereavement and the end of life, please follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter) via @cendeathsociety and on Facebook. Please follow, like and share our posts to extend the reach of the work that is going on within this field.

Until next time

Kate and Jeremy

CDAS Conference 2024 - Death and Communities

We are pleased to announce that the Call for contributions for the CDAS Conference 2024 is now open! The theme of the conference will be Death and Communities. **The deadline for submissions is noon 31 January 2024.**

Full details can be found on [our web page](#) and at the end of this newsletter. Submissions should be made using [this online form](#).

New Members

Welcome to our newest CDAS members, PhD students Polly Maxwell and Catriona Brickell, Visiting Professor Jane McCarthy and Visiting Fellow Ines Coutinho. In future newsletter issues we will introduce Polly and Catriona, below we welcome Jane and Ines.

Professor Jane McCarthy

We are very pleased to share the news that Professor Jane McCarthy is joining CDAS as a Visiting Professor, to work with Naomi Pendle, Tony Walter and Kate Woodthorpe on crosscutting work on environmental loss and decolonising bereavement. A prominent UK family sociologist, Professor McCarthy has conducted research and published widely on death, most recently on experiences of loss in Senegal, and a paper with Kate and Professor Kathryn Almack on the aftermath of death. We are very pleased that Jane is joining us, and are especially looking forward to building connections between CDAS and our International Development colleagues. Welcome to the CDAS team Jane!

Professor Inês Coutinho

Inês is an assistant professor at the Department of Conservation and Restoration (DCR) and a researcher at the Research and Development Unit VICARTE (“Glass and Ceramics for the Arts”), both at NOVA School of Science and Technology, in Portugal. At DCR she is responsible for the conservation and restoration of glass and ceramics. Her research has focused on developing innovative methodologies to study historical glass that combines glass archaeometry, archaeology, history, stylistic aspects, history, and production methodologies. The driving force that conducts her research is the desire to tell the untold stories of glass production, which goes from the Roman period to the Industrial Revolution. She currently coordinates the research line entitled ‘Historical Glass in Europe and Beyond: A Different Approach to Glass Studies’ initiated with her PhD. Currently, her research topic is focused on the historical usage of glass objects in funerary contexts and the relation between funerary rituals, the concepts of luxury and the role of craft in the choice of the objects to go into the grave.

New CDAS Paper

Congratulations to Sam Hooker who has had her first paper published, in *Mortality* based on her Masters research!

Hooker and Woodthorpe (2023) [Caring for the Dead at home: an exploratory study of home deathcare in England](#), *Mortality*

Some congratulations!

To George Gumisiriza who has been awarded a BRID FUND grant of £1302 for his archival research visit at the Centre of African Studies and The Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide (CCCW) at Cambridge University. George aims to explore archival resources including objects and unpublished PhD Thesis on Africa held at the two centres. The resources and discussions will illuminate his research concerning Afrocentric perspectives on death. He is grateful to the BRID Fund committee for the award!

To Kate Woodthorpe, Diana Teggi and Mat Crawley who have been awarded UKRI Funding to work on collating evidence to provide the Law Commission and their review of deathcare legislation, to commence in the new year.

From Kate Woodthorpe on Children's Hospice SouthWest

“I don't usually share my personal or family life with colleagues but I do recognise how important it can be to divulge what is going on ‘behind closed doors’ so as to promote a culture of compassion and empathy, and a reminder that academics are humans not robots!

So I thought I would share [a recent blog](#) from Children's Hospice SouthWest, who have a hospice just south of Bristol called Charlton Farm. My family is featured in the post as my five-year-old son accesses the hospice, and this short piece is about what they provide our family and me as a working parent.”

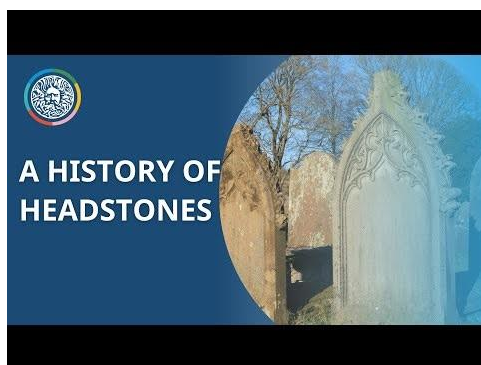


Disappearance and Forensic Uncertainty

Thank you to Visiting Prof Lucy Easthope who gave a talk at the Disappearance Exhibition in Bristol on 4th November, where she reflected on artist Chantal Meza's work with exhibition organisers Chantal and University of Bath Professor Brad Evans. It was a very powerful conversation about loss, disenfranchisement, human remains, the workforce who support disappearance, and the power of art. Thank you to all involved.



And well done to John Troyer, who has made [a video](#) for the University of Bath Press Office:



[How do we think about death? Bath expert discusses the history of death and gravestones.](#)

Dr John Troyer from the University of Bath's Centre for Death and Society discusses how society thinks about death and the significance of headstones throughout history.

www.youtube.com

Coverage in Newsweek: How a Colorado Funeral Parlour Became Home to 189 Decaying Bodies

Read Kate Woodthorpe's comments in Newsweek after the remains of many individuals were found in a Colorado funeral home: <https://www.newsweek.com/colorado-funeral-home-189-decaying-bodies-1836181>

PhD funding

The University's annual funding round for PhDs has opened and we welcome applications to join us in CDAS. We have been very successful in recent years, with five fully funded SouthWest Doctoral Training Partnership funded PhD students currently with us. The deadline for applications is 12th January 2024. If you are interested in applying more information is available [here](#), and the first thing you need to is write a draft 1000 word proposal for a study and send it to the prospective PhD supervisor. Good luck!

Upcoming CDAS events

Preserving Clarissa: Eighteenth-Century Embalming Practices **15th November, Online 7pm – 8pm**

Join CDAS for this talk by Dr Jolene Zigarovich, talking about preservation of the dead body in the 18th century.

This talk engages English church re-orderings and registers, burial and mourning rites, and the growing medical interest in preserving the dead body. Using historical evidence, Jolene makes the claim that as a mortuary practice, embalming spread beyond royal tradition, and infiltrated the burial rites and aristocracy as part of an effort to posthumously preserve social distinction.

[Book here](#)

Adult Safeguarding: Past Present and Future

23rd November, Online, 12.00-4.00pm

This free online conference, which falls within Safeguarding Adults Week, will focus on the past, present, and future of adult safeguarding. The first session looks at the history of adult safeguarding in England. The second session consists of a panel of senior academics, practitioners and policymakers talking about future directions in adult safeguarding. The event will feature a book launch for CDAS co-director Jeremy Dixon's new book in [Policy Press, *Adult Safeguarding Observed: How Social Workers Assess and Manage Risk and Uncertainty*](#).

The event will feature presentations from Mervyn Eastman (The Institute of Health and Social Care Management), Professor Jill Manthorpe (Kings College, London), Dr Jess Haris (Kings College, London), Dr Katy Brookfield and Professor Rachel Fyson (Nottingham University), Jeremy Dixon (University of Bath), Dr Bridget Penhale (University of East Anglia), Fran Leddra (Independent Consultant) and Mark Browne (Head of Adult Safeguarding Policy at the Department of Health and Social Care).

[Book here](#)

Grief: Past and Present

Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution

4th December 7:30pm – 9pm

£3.00 - £6.00 (direct to Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution)

Molly Conisbee, Helen Frisby and Kate Woodthorpe

As part of Grief Awareness Week 2023 we will be discussing grief past and present. Join us in person or online.

[Book Here](#)

Organised learning, or organised responsibility? Risk, opacity and lesson learning from mental health related deaths.

15th January 2024, Online, 7-8pm

Join CDAS and the International Sociological Association's Research Committee for the Sociology of Mental Health and Illness for a joint online event. This event is the first of two events focussing on sociological perspectives on death and dying.

This event features Dr David Baker from the University of Liverpool. This presentation examines how deaths related to mental health in England and Wales are investigated and the extent to which lessons are learned in their aftermath. It uses two concepts from academic

literature to discuss organisational responses to these deaths: organisational learning, and organised responsibility.

[Book Here](#)

Sociological Perspectives on Suicide

20th February 2024, Online, 6pm-7.30pm

This is the second joint event between CDAS and the International Sociological Association's Research Committee for the Sociology of Mental Health and Illness, focussing on sociological perspectives on death and dying.

This event features papers by Dr Lynn Tang from Royal Holloway, University of London and Professor Dariusz Galasinski from the University of Wroclaw, Poland. Dr Lynn Tang will give a presentation on 'Making sense of suicide in sociopolitical contexts: A case study of political crisis in Hong Kong. Professor Dariusz Galasinski will speak on 'Discursive constructions of relationships in parents' suicide letters'. As this presentation will feature two speakers please note that we will start earlier than usual at 6pm

[Book Here](#)

Call for Participants

Exploring the financial impacts of parental death during emerging adulthood

Terumi Okaku

I am a PhD candidate in CDAS doing a study on the experience of losing a parent as a young adult, aged 18-34. The overall aim of the project is to understand how parental death can impact their life economically, including finances, education, employment and living arrangements.

At this stage, I am recruiting young people who lost a parent when they were aged 18 to 25. The current age of participants should be between 21 and 34 years old, with the duration since death over 3 years, so that they are able to reflect on their experiences. Interviews are conducted online and will take from one to two hours to explore their bereavement experience and impacts afterwards.

I have created a short video describing the research and what it's like to take part from the point of view of a participant.

video <https://youtu.be/Y3pOV044zcU>
website <https://www.parentaldeath.net/>

CDAS COMMUNITY NEWS

The Dying Matters Community Grants Programme

Deadline for applications: 5pm 24th November 2023

Supported by Dignity Funerals, the Dying Matters Community Grants Programme funds creative community projects that start conversations about death and grief

For more info on this opportunity see below!



[Dying Matters Community Grants](#)

Dying Matters Community Grants

www.hospiceuk.org

CDAS COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cemetery Research Group 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](#):

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.

Columbia University DeathLAB

PUBLIC EVENT: Civic Solidarity

Sunday, November 19, 2023, 2:00 PM Woodlawn Cemetery

DeathLAB, in partnership with the Woodlawn Conservancy and the New York Community Trust, invites you to join our next public event, CIVIC SOLIDARITY, on November 19th in Woodlawn Cemetery's historic Woolworth Chapel. DeathLAB will co-host an open conversation on the past, present, and future of socially and environmentally sustainable memorialization and burial in New York City.

During the event, Woodlawn's Director of Historical Services, Susan Olsen, will give an overview of Woodlawn Cemetery's historical and ongoing relevance, followed by a presentation and discussion of the future of memorialization and burial in New York City led by DeathLAB associates.

Woodlawn Cemetery was established in The Bronx in 1863 and has been a verdant oasis and cultural repository as well as the final resting place for New Yorkers ever since. The 400-acre non-sectarian cemetery was listed as a National Historical Landmark in 2011.

Recent funding awarded by the New York Community Trust has enabled DeathLAB to further increase public awareness of current burial infrastructure, and generate conversation around mortality, solidarity, and experiences of civic-sacred space.

This intergenerational event is free and open to all.

[Please register here to save your seat](#)

Grave Matters: Death Studies Discussion Group

The Grave Matters: Death Studies Discussion Group have announced the release of tickets for their upcoming Grave Matters seminar on Death in the Digital Age on **Monday 27th November at 6pm**. With speakers:

Bronte Schiltz: *"What a shame, it was fucking funny": death and reality TV in the Televisual Gothic*

Dr Morna O'Connor: *The stages of grief: A digital-age reboot?*

Anna Wilde: *Death Positivity and Digital Community*

Book your tickets [here!](#)

Supporting minoritized ethnic communities across Wales with grief and bereavement

6th December at Cardiff City Stadium

The Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group would like to invite you to a special learning and network event on the theme of 'Supporting minoritized ethnic communities across Wales with grief and bereavement'.

This one-day event will bring together stakeholders from diverse backgrounds across Wales to discuss your successes, challenges and goals for the future in supporting people from minoritized ethnic communities in Wales with death, dying and grief.

It will be taking place on **6th December** at **Cardiff City Stadium**. Throughout the day there will be speakers from community organisations, time to network, and an opportunity to participate in research.

There is no registration fee and we hope that as many people as possible can attend. We anticipate a lot of interest, so please register soon if you would like to come. If you register and can then no longer attend, please cancel your ticket to free the space for someone else. Lunch and refreshments will be provided throughout the day, and there will be the opportunity to share information about your service or work.

Places are limited, so please register by [clicking here](#) to reserve your space.

Death, Dying, Bereavement and Sexuality Symposium

14th December

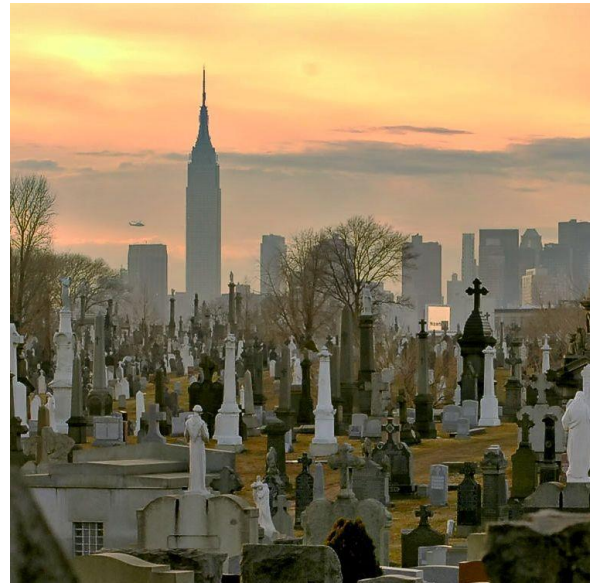
Registration for the BSA Death, Dying and Bereavement Annual Symposium, organised by CDAS member Dr Diana Teggi, is now open!

This year's theme is sexuality, the programme looks fab (see below), the event is online, and concession tickets are available here: <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/key-bsa-events/social-aspects-of-death-dying-and-bereavement-study-group-annual-symposium/>

Questionnaire from Columbia University DeathLAB

In addition to hosting the above public event and continuing research into alternative disposition methods, we are also collecting data about public perceptions of disposition practices, cemeteries and the future of the corpse.

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts, [please take this 10-minute survey](#). Your input is greatly appreciated.



CALL FOR PAPERS

CDAS Conference 2024 - Death and Communities

Dates: 6 & 7 June 2024

Location: University of Bath, UK ONLINE

Dying, death, bereavement and loss are experiences that are inherently embedded in complex webs of human relationships, environments, interactions, and practices. Encompassing this web, we invite submissions to the 2024 CDAS Conference on the broad theme of 'Death and Communities'. Communities we take here to mean a wide range of topics and issues, and we welcome papers including but not limited to:

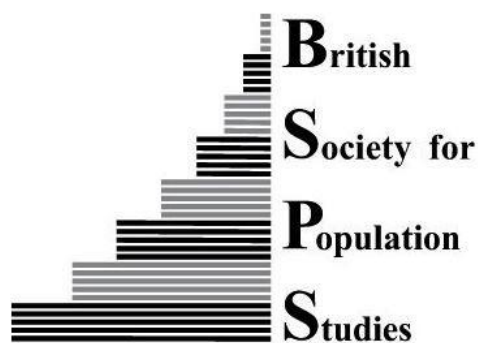
- Social cohesion and social movements
- Absent communities
- Digital communities and networks
- Belonging and identity
- Ritual, religion and belief
- Marginalised communities
- Diasporas and migration
- Best practice and professional development
- Responsibilities and agency at the end of life
- Climate change, environmental loss and their impact
- Deviant or criminal communities
- Education, advocacy and support
- Community initiatives and assets
- Research communities
- Legal communities

The 2024 CDAS Conference will be on 6 & 7 June 2024 and will be entirely online to ensure we can keep costs down for attendees, be accessible to as many people as possible and to be able to welcome a truly international audience. To ensure the event is manageable we cap it at around 40-50 papers and 3-4 panels so please make sure to explicitly address the conference theme in your abstract submission to give yourself the best chance of being selected by the conference organising team.

We invite abstracts for presentations in the following formats:

- Individual paper (20-25 minutes including questions, to be put into a 60-90 minute session according to theme and/or time zone)
- Panel session or workshop (60-90 minutes, for panels we recommend a maximum of 4 presenters recruited and coordinated by the panel organiser, and detailed in the submission, including agreement to contribute by all)
- Multi-media session (60-90 minute sessions, using creative and/or visual methods)

Please submit your 200 word abstract by noon 31 January 2024 GMT



CALL FOR SESSIONS AND STRANDS – [Submit here](#)

**2024 BSPS Conference
9 – 11 September 2024 – University of Bath**

BSPS welcomes suggestions and proposals for inclusive sessions or strands suitable for an in-person event. Sessions should last 60 or 90 minutes. A strand is a series of themed sessions.

[See previous Conference programmes and strands here.](#)

Topic areas might include (but are not limited to):

- Population & the environment/climate change
- Families and households
- Demography of crisis
- Historical demography
- Ageing

- Health and mortality
- Migration
- Ethnicity
- AI and automation
- Demographic challenges for the 21st century
- Engaging with data/ data science
- Official population statistics
- Influencing policy
- Disability studies
- ‘Back to basics’ discussion sessions e.g., ‘How do we define ethnicity?’
- 2021/ 22 Consensus outcomes
- Qualitative population studies

Format variations are welcome:

- Networking/conversation/meet-up sessions
- Workshops or panel sessions with convenor
- Sessions with discussant (discussions with a convenor and moderator or with invited discussants)
- Conversation formats – which have proved popular as plenary & could be extended to session formats
- Training sessions

BSPS welcomes sessions aimed at early-career researchers or other constituencies where BSPS can widen understanding of and participation in population studies, such as local authorities/NGOs/policy makers.

Session suggestions can be submitted as stand – alone or as part of a strand with a specific focus in mind: a single session could focus on a particular methodological or substantive topic or a specific data set. Each session would need to attract as least 3 to 4 high-quality submissions to be viable.

Potential organisers of strands and sessions will be expected to:

- Actively solicit papers outside of the regular call for papers, with international perspectives in mind
- Assess submissions and allocate accepted papers into a session or sessions
- Invite presenting authors to participate once accepted and manager replacements if needed
- Identify session Chairs and ensure Chairs and presenters have the information required for their session

All suggestions will be considered by BSPS Council at their next meeting in early 2024, after which BSPS will let you know the outcome. The call for papers will be issued by the end of February 2024

Please submit suggestions by Monday 15 January 2024 at:

<https://forms.office.com/e/jmijyGDWsEL>

*Call for papers for special issue of *Illness, Crisis and Loss* on 'Public Dying and Public Grieving'*

Abstract deadline 10th Feb 2024

Manuscript submission deadline: 21st July 2024

First-person narratives of illness and dying have proliferated since Hawkins (1991) first identified them as a genre known as 'pathography'. Since then, and especially in the last decade or so, first-person narratives of this sort have assumed a more dynamic form, moving beyond the printed word, and into a wide range of media, including television, radio, podcasts, and social media, where they exist as part of a new media ecology. Alongside first-person accounts by people who are themselves in the throes of terminal illness, or by people who are caring for people in the midst of terminal decline, are first-person accounts by those who have been bereaved by the death of a significant other. Against a historical backdrop of 'sequestration' in the west, in which dying and grieving were effectively closeted and confined to the private sphere, such narratives can be seen to represent a new form of dying, and of grieving, in the public sphere.

Such narratives have a range of practical, clinical and policy implications. Most straightforwardly, there may be therapeutic benefits in documenting and sharing these experiences with others. In clinical contexts, such accounts may be harnessed as part of 'narrative medicine', where they may be used to close up the experiential gap between patients and clinicians. In caring and counselling contexts, first-person narratives of illness, dying or bereavement may serve as an invitation to others to talk about experiences that some people may find difficult to express or share with others. As 'cultural interventions' (Clark et al, 2017) in the public sphere, such accounts may also align with wider policy initiatives intended to encourage people in society to talk more openly about death, dying and bereavement. Such narratives may thus serve as both a private and public good: as a vehicle of health/death education, while also influencing the type of care a person receives at the end of life.

These kinds of public dying and public grieving have been dominated by accounts of cancer, though this is beginning to change, as new first-person narratives of Alzheimer's and 'long Covid' begin to emerge. Such narratives have also tended, historically, to be dominated by women, though this too is beginning to change, as more accounts by men begin to appear in a culture that has not traditionally been welcoming of men talking openly about their feelings. Public dying and public grieving of this sort may also be purposed for 'grief activism' or campaign work intended to raise awareness and bust stigmas surrounding conditions such as bowel cancer.

With the above in mind, invitations are invited for (but are not limited to) papers that address any of the following issues or themes:

- Illness, dying and bereavement as an invitation for auto/biography;
- New (and old) media and their relationship with first-person narratives of illness, dying and bereavement;

- Creative/artistic expressions and applications of public dying and public grieving - for example in photography or art;
- Implications and uses of first-person narratives of illness, dying and bereavement for ‘narrative medicine’, professional practice, policy, and various kinds of ‘care-based’ work;
- Theoretical reflections on what such narratives tell us about contemporary culture and society;
- Methodological reflections on research utilising first-person narratives of illness, dying and bereavement;
- Connections between public dying- or public grieving narratives and social identity: for example, by race/ethnicity, gender and sexuality, social class, dis/ability etc., including social groups or cultures under-represented in such narratives;
- Public dying or public grieving narratives as opportunities for ‘grief activism’, death education, or campaign work;
- New forms of first-person narratives with illnesses and conditions currently under-represented in such accounts - for example, of long-Covid, Alzheimers, or following traumatic, complicated grief etc.;
- Limitations or social critique of the ‘talk agenda’ and culture of sharing of which such narratives are a part etc.

Information for contributors

Extended abstracts (250 words) and expressions of interest should be sent to brennam@hope.ac.uk no later than **10 February, 2024**.

This should indicate the proposed title, author(s), and intentions of the article - including topic, methods (if research-based) and theoretical framework (if theoretically oriented). Abstracts should address the special issue theme explicitly, providing a clear indication of the main aims of the paper (including, where appropriate, methods, theory, case study etc.) and how it will contribute to any of the following: knowledge, the journal, policy, practice, evidence, methods/theory, culture and society etc.

Illness, Crisis & loss is an interdisciplinary journal, so author(s) should note that those reviewing the abstract (and paper, if selected for inclusion) - and indeed the wider readership of the journal - come from a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines. Special effort should therefore be made to avoid prior or assumed knowledge of topics, concepts, theories, methodologies etc.

Proposed articles should not have been published elsewhere and should not currently be under review elsewhere.

Authors will be informed of a decision by mid March 2024 and successful applicants will be invited to submit a full article (5,000-8,000 words) by **21 July 2024**. It is anticipated that second (and final drafts), following any recommendations for revisions, will be due by the end of September 2024. Author(s) should bear in mind the need to commit to this timeline when submitting their abstract.

Full details of the journal, including instructions for authors on how to submit an article, can be found at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/ICL>.

THE AGENCY OF THE DEAD IN THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS: EXPERIENCE AND CONCEPTUALISATION

International conference to be held at Dept of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia – 30th August 2024 – 1st September 2024

How do individuals in contemporary society experience the dead and how are they affected by them?

We invite papers that focus on the following questions: In what ways do the dead affect people's thoughts, values, emotions and behaviour? How are they involved in their social relations with others? What impact may the dead have on individuals in a wider social, cultural, and political context? How do people identify, conceptualise, and interpret the agency of the dead? What influences individuals' ideas about the dead and their possible agency? What sources do they draw upon in conceptualising the experience – tradition, dominant religion, alternative spirituality, popular culture, media, internet, political narratives, science ...? Do they develop their own ideas? How do people select and evaluate available sources? What particular discourses and values are linked to specific conceptualisations of the dead? How do contesting notions participate in the process of knowledge construction about the dead and the meaning-making of their agency? How are rival notions involved in power relations and struggles for social or political power? Have alternative views developed since the late 20c already been adopted as "mainstream culture" within particular contexts, or do they (still) represent an alterity to the dominant ideas?

Papers can draw on various sources: ethnographic, archival, internet, etc. The conference language will be English; talks to be 20 minutes. No registration fee; travel and accommodation costs and meals will have to be covered individually. Please email Ms Marja Kovanda (Marja.Kovanda@ff-uni.lj.si) by 29 Feb 2024 with the following as an attachment: Name / Academic title / Occupation or position / Affiliation / E-mail / Postal address / Title of paper / Abstract (300-500 words). Acceptance to be confirmed by 31 Mar 2024.

This conference is the first in a series of international conferences on the dead in contemporary society that the ERC project DEAGENCY https://www.uni-lj.si/research_and_development/research_news/erc_and_msca/2023040411282196/prof_mirjam_mencej_has_won_a_prominent_erc_advanced_grant_project/ is planning to organise annually, from 2024 to 2027. To be kept informed of the future conferences, contact Ms Marja Kovanda (Marja.Kovanda@ff-uni.lj.si).

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.

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.


Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Web: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centrefordeath

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

To unsubscribe, please email cdas@bath.ac.uk



PARTICIPANTS WANTED!

Exploring attitudes about death and approaches to dementia care

Department of Psychology



UNIVERSITY OF BATH



Ethics Code:

PREC: 21-261

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

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

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

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

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

tinyurl.com/44kpps77

CONTACT

Ben Kwapong

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

Dr Ashley Vanstone

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