



Social Aspects of Death, Dying and  
Bereavement Study Group Virtual Symposium

# Death and Sociology

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021

09:20 Welcome and Virtual Arrival

09:30 – 09:45 Opening comments

09:45 – 10:15 ***Public Dying in the ‘Tens’ of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Performance, Self and the Construction of Meaning***, Dr Michael Brennan Professor of Sociology, Liverpool Hope University

This presentation will examine the significance of first-person narratives of illness and dying in the 21st century. Underpinned by the sense that these are mediated accounts through which illness and dying are 'performed', two principal theoretical frameworks will be drawn upon to make sense of them: Goffman's 'frame analysis' and Foucauldian notions of discourse and self-care.

10:15 – 10:45 ***“Death is for the living”***: *Exploring questions of intimacies upon the death of a lover*. Neelakshi Talukdar, Ph. D. Scholar, Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi.

This presentation will explore how death and the process of grieving have culturally set norms only for some and that this makes death a site of stratified emotional labour where the absence is not only in structure, but also in support, recognition and acknowledgement of the bereaved. It will further explore the questions this raises on the sociological importance on the issues of sexual bereavement and the socio-cultural impressions on the intimate affairs of a bereaved lover.

10: 45 – 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 11:30 ***The political life of corpses. The Coursed Soldiers, nationalism and collective memory in Poland***. Krzysztof Jaskulowski. Twitter: @KrzychJask

Using the example of the dead bodies of the so called Coursed Soldiers my talk look at how sociology can help in understanding the social functioning of death. Placing death in broader sociological and political context I discuss the significance of the posthumous life of the bodies of the Coursed Soldiers, which become an allegory of a suffering, persecuted and innocent Polish nation, as well as an embodiment of its national honour.

11:30 – 12:00 ***Coping Strategies of the Turkish Socialist Left with the Idea of Death***  
Dr. Bahattin Cizreli - Dr. Alkan Üstün, Ankara Yildirim Beyazıt University,  
Department of Sociology

Throughout human history, traditional religions have tamed the idea of death. In the modern age, ideologies take on this function of religions. In the study, which strategies the socialist meaning system cope with the idea of death is explained in the example of the Socialist Left of Turkey.

12:00 – 12:30 ***The Social Significance of the Death Positive Movement.*** Anna Wilde, PhD student, Department of Theology and Religion, University of Birmingham

The Death Positive Movement (DPM) was started in 2011 by Caitlin Doughty, a mortician from Los Angeles and the movement, including Doughty herself, is now a phenomenon of the Western world. This paper will discuss whether the DPM raises expectations of death being discreet and dignified, pain and fear-free, when for many these are unrealistic goals, and outside of one's own control.

12:30 – 13:45 Lunch break

13:45 – 14:15 ***What is 'Clinical Sociology'?*** Dr Neil Thompson Writer, Educator, Adviser. Twitter @drneilthompson [www.NeilThompson.info](http://www.NeilThompson.info)

Neil Thompson examines the concept of 'clinical sociology' and explores how a sociological approach can make a positive difference to various forms of professional practice.

14:15 – 14:45 ***Sociological contributions to understanding experiences in relation to time and death,*** Dr Glenys Caswell. Independent social researcher and death studies scholar. Twitter: @GlenysCaswell <https://www.glenyscaswell.com/>

This paper uses the sociological imagination to demonstrate the contribution which sociology can make to the study of dying and death. It does so by applying sociological theory to empirical data about people's experiences at the time when someone to whom they are close dies.

14:45 – 15:00 Close

The symposium will be held virtually on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021**. An online access link will be sent via email to all registered attendees. Registration can be accessed [here](#)

For more information, contact [BSADDB@gmail.com](mailto:BSADDB@gmail.com)