Final Programme: Everyday Deaths

British Sociological Association's Death, Dying and Bereavement Study Group Annual Symposium

10 December 2026, 9.30am - 5pm, The University of Bath.

9.30am - 9.50am: Arrive, tea and coffee
9.50am - 10am: Welcome from the co-convenors

Session 1: 10am-1pm 'Invisibilised death experiences'

'My invisible bank of grief: when death and loss become your everyday in academic work', *Professor Erica Borgstrom, The Open University 10:00am – 10:20pm*

'Making everyday dying visible: Creative social worlds of care and recognition', *Dr Kathryn McEwan, Northumbria University 10:20am – 10:40am*

'Knowing Dying Through Movement: Hospital Porters and Everyday Death in Acute Care', *Dr Anne-Marie Raftery, University of Salford 10:40am – 11:00am*

'The Last Hands: Voluntary Gravedigging, Everyday Death and Community Care in Rural Ireland', *Dr Ciara Henderson, Trinity College Dublin 11:00am – 11:20am*

'Still Here: Necrography and the Everyday Deaths of the Structurally Abandoned', *Dr Felix Kaplan, Zefat Academic College 11:20am – 11:40am*

12:00pm – 12:40pm LUNCH

Session 2: 12:40pm – 2:00pm 'Death and creative technologies'

'Affective death denial: a paradigm of everyday death, (re)produced in material promoting in-memoriam giving', *Catriona Brickel, University of Bath 12:40pm – 1:00pm*

'Everyday materials and the representation of ordinary death', *Haitian Liu, University of Dundee 1:00pm – 1:20pm*

'Who speaks for the dead? Cultural narratives of grief, family and commerce in attitudes to AI 'Ghostbots' in China and the UK', *Elvira Perez Vallejos, Jiayu Wang, Yizhen Wang, University of Nottingham and Imperial College London 1:20pm – 1:40pm*

'Death by Large Language Model: asking better questions and keeping the human in the loop', *Dr Clive King, Aberystwyth University 1:40pm – 2:00pm*

2:00pm – 2:40pm BREAK

Session 3: 2:40pm – 4:00pm 'End of Life Experiences'

Older people's everyday deaths: a call for sociological advocacy', *Dr Bethany Simmonds, Aberystwyth University 2:40pm – 3:00pm*

'Dying well' perspectives from non-religious older adults', *Dr Joanna Malone, University of York 3:00pm – 3:20pm*

'Exploring social death in the palliative and end-of-life experiences of people with learning disabilities,' *Ned Redmore, The Open University 3:20pm – 3:40pm*

'The problem of understanding dying as a 'normal', 'ordinary' or 'natural' process in palliative care,' *Dr John MacArtney, University of Warwick 3:40pm – 4:00pm*

4:00pm Concluding Remarks on 'Everyday Deaths' *Professor Emma Kirby, University of New South Wales*

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