



Department of
Gender Studies

DEATH WORLD(ING)S:

THE ANNUAL LSE GENDER CONFERENCE

In the context of ongoing global pandemic politics, war, climate disaster, coloniality, racial extractivist capitalism and exploitative working conditions, rising authoritarianism, exclusionary nationalisms and state violence, we are navigating collective grief and mourning on multiple scales and registers. We are not only mourning people, places, futures, pasts, and presents but also entire species, climates and worlds of being. Drawing on transnational feminist, decolonial, queer scholarship and interventions, the Department of Gender Studies at LSE invites academic, activist, and artistic interventions and analyses that grapple with and think critically through what it might mean to engage generatively with death, grief, and mourning.

What might it mean to dwell in death and grief as an everyday experience, and how can this allow us to contest normative notions of the dead, living and undead? What material practices emerge in states of death and mourning and how do people experience grief through esoteric and occultive practices including witchcraft, dreams, memories, ghostly hauntings, and the otherworldly? What kinds of archival practices emerge to memorialise the dead and dying? How can archival practices of memorialisation allow us to think about which deaths are archived and which deaths vanish? How does death and its presences, then, allow us to elude, exceed, re-envision the world, and imagine alternative ways of being and living in the world? How can grief and mourning be revolutionary? We want to come together to think about what it could mean to begin our analyses from affective states, feelings and emotions that we inhabit and that inhabit us, especially from that which is considered 'negative', uncomfortable and 'unproductive.'

We understand the production of death and the politics and ethics of mourning as historicised, situated and intersectionally gendered. We insist on the multiplicities of narratives and material experiences of death, mourning and grief as refracted through gender, sexuality, class, caste, able-bodiedness, and species. Recognising that the world is subjected to death differentially, we propose this conference as a collective space of care and solidarity for us to explore these questions. We want to sit with/in death and mourning without trying to resolve it, move beyond it, or reproduce demands of resilience.

Submission topics may include but are not limited to:

- Explorations of death and grief temporalities as incompatible with racial capitalist structures of power.
- Death of academia: how might we imagine a future without it, in the context of recent strikes against casual work, crushing workloads, pay cuts, gender, disability and racial wage gaps and pension cuts?
- Death to academia: how can we begin to envision other modes of meaning-making and knowledge-production beyond the extractivist logics of academic institutions?
- Grief, death and defeat in social and political movements.
- Accounts of sensory experiences, bodily states, affective loops and sticky emotions of the body in mourning.
- Queer, feminist, post/decolonial, posthumanist and psychosocial approaches to death, mourning, and memory.
- Environmental violence and environmental grief.
- Collective displacement, longing for and loss of places and homes that are no longer tangible or material but existing through collective memory.
- Mourning rituals: including explorations of the occult and the esoteric realms.
- Archiving and memorialisation practices in death and mourning.
- Collective initiatives of care that emerge when communities experience deaths and grief.

Submissions are due on **April 15th, 2022**. We will aim to notify all applicants by **May 2nd**. Please send an abstract of your planned contribution (max. 300 words) together with a short bio to deathworldingsconference@gmail.com. The conference will be held online on **June 10th**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.