

CLOSURE CONFERENCE

Conference hosted by the Centre for Death and Life Studies at Durham University
Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th April 2025
Dunelm House, Central Durham

A single word can carry many meanings, speak truth, lies, cause confusion, grant wisdom or deception: is 'closure' one such word? Professor Douglas Davies, Director of Durham University's Centre for Death and Life Studies, hosts this two-day event to explore the dynamics of 'closure' and warmly invites your participation.

Across two-days, attendees will hear from over 20 speakers, representing a diverse range of professional and disciplinary perspectives drawing from anthropology-sociology, theology, ceramic-pottery art, music, funeral directing, funeral celebrants, and palliative care, as well as more personal reflections on loss and grief. All talks, some longer and some shorter, are in a plenary context and not parallel sessions, as to provide everyone with a widely shared audience.

There will also be a special public lecture on Wednesday evening featuring Dr Kathryn Mannix, Dr Julian Stair, and Professor Douglas Davies.

Booking available: <https://pay.durham.ac.uk/event-durham/closure-conference-2025>

Please direct enquiries to georgina.m.robinson@durham.ac.uk



We warmly invite you to attend our Closure Conference, 9 and 10 April 2025, and encourage you to register here: <https://pay.durham.ac.uk/event-durham/closure-conference-2025>.

The conference will take place at Dunelm House, The Students' Union Building, in central Durham. The conference will begin at 1:15pm on Wednesday 9th April and conclude at 5:30pm on Thursday 10th April, except for those wishing to attend the conference dinner at Hatfield College from 7pm on Thursday 10th April.

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On Wednesday evening, there will be a special public lecture with Dr Kathryn Mannix (well-known palliative care physician) and Dr Julian Stair (one of the UK's leading potters) in conversation with Professor Douglas Davies, followed by a drinks reception with views overlooking the River Wear and Durham Cathedral. This event is included in the full conference package.

We will share a detailed programme with you shortly.

Accommodation is available at a discounted rate of £56.25 per night (B&B) at Grey College – a four-minute drive or fifteen-minute walk away from the conference venue.

Full registration (including lunch and refreshments, plus public lecture and drinks reception):
£185

Conference dinner, three-courses (optional): **£50**

Accommodation, bed and breakfast (optional): **£56.25 per night**

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch at georgina.m.robinson@durham.ac.uk.

Dr Georgina Robinson and Prof Douglas Davies

On behalf of Durham University's Centre for Death and Life Studies