Mortality 25th anniversary editorial

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2020 marks Mortality’s 25th volume and sees the journal going from strength to strength. While the journal has its roots in the UK, it now regularly receives submission from over 25 countries each year, spanning over 20 disciplines and topic areas. A special series of papers on memorialisation – featured after this editorial – is an example of the richness in understanding that interdisciplinary perspectives to death studies enables. As the editors, we are very proud that at its core remains a commitment to promoting the interdisciplinary study of death and dying.

Fittingly, to mark its 25th year in this issue, we include an interview with one of the journal’s founders and winner of the Association of Death and Society (ASDS) Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019, Rev Dr Peter Jupp. Together with Professor Glenys Howarth, and with an editorial board that can only be described as the great and the good of death studies, Mortality was established in 1995 with the intention of creating an interdisciplinary space to explore death, dying and bereavement. It was, and continues to be, an outlet for papers that could be considered ‘too niche’ for discipline-specific journals. To this we say those journals’ loss has been Mortality’s gain! It has also been a journal that welcomes, and publishes, submissions from new authors as well as established scholars in the field, recognising the value that a diversity in perspectives provides in academic discourse. Mortality is committed to engaging with debates, questioning canonical literature, and showcasing the development of scholarly thinking in the field. It has been – and remains – a journal where new theories can be offered, and normative concepts challenged. We actively welcome papers that question, propose, progress and support Mortality’s aims to be an inclusive, provocative and eclectic journal. Mortality retains a loyal readership, and pool of dedicated reviewers, for which we are very grateful.

Since 2009, the journal has paired with ASDS to support the development of studies and networks focused on death, dying and bereavement, and to work alongside the bi-annual International Conference on the Social Contexts of Death, Dying and Disposal (DDD). DDD was held most recently by the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath in September 2019 and attended by nearly 300 academics and practitioners – watch out for a paper by the Conference’s Poet in Residence published later this year.

As part of our marking of the 25th anniversary, we would like to thank all of the past and current editors of Mortality. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the editorial boards and the work of the books review editors over the years. We particularly want to thank the editorial assistants – without whom the journal would cease to exist. They are the unsung heroes of the journal.

We are also in a moment of transition for the editorial team as we say goodbye to Kate Woodthorpe and welcome to new co-editor, Erica Borgstrom, who begins her tenure
this year alongside our existing editor Arnar Arnason. We look forward to fostering mortality as the home for fascinating research and discussion from around the world about death, dying and bereavement.

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