

Preliminary Program European Grief Conference 2026						
WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2026						
13.30-18.00	Registration open at Superbock Arena Conference Center					
14.00-17.30	PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS at Superbock Arena Conference Center					
ROOMS	SAUDADE (Miss you)	MEMÓRIA (Memory)	ABRAÇO (Hug)	AURORA (Dawn)		
	Workshop 4: PGD - interactive workshop Paul Boelen, Maja O'Connor	Workshop 3: Working with emotions in grief José Gamoneda, Rafael Jódar	Workshop 2: Psychosocial intervention in the aftermath of a disaster Danai Papadatou	Workshop 1: Understanding the neurodiversity of grief Ally Pax Mair		
18.30-20.00	WELCOME Reception at Cooperativa Árvore					
THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2026						
07.00-8.30	Registration is open and submission of slides for oral presentations, Superbock Arena Conference Center					
Hanging of designated morning posters Research Part I						
9.00-09.30	Official Opening EGC 2026 (Auditorium SA - Superbock Arena Conference Center)					
9.30-10.00	Keynote Welcome Address					
10.00-11.00	Level 0: Society: Grief Literacy, Advocacy & Community (societal grief literacy & awareness)					
	PLENARY SESSION: (Auditorium SA - Superbock Arena Conference Center) Speaker: Prof. Lauren Breen: A grief literate world for young people					
11.00-11.15	Coffee on the go / move to next location					
PARALLEL SESSIONS						
11.15-12.45	RESEARCH	PRACTICE	POLICY & EDUCATION	SPECIAL THEME ARTS	SPECIAL PARALLEL SESSION	SYMPOSIUM (90 MINUTES)
ROOMS	SAUDADE (Miss you)	MEMÓRIA (Memory)	ABRAÇO (Hug)	AURORA (Dawn)	AUDITORIUM BAG (Biblioteca Almeida Garret)	AUDITORIUM SA (Superbock Arena)
11.15-11.30	Grieving without a coffin: Living and anticipated losses among young relatives of serious familial illness in Denmark Presenter: Anne Vinther Søndergaard	Bereaved for Life – Death, Bereavement and Grief in Maltese Society Presenter: Graziella Vella	Educating about Death to Educate for Life: A Pedagogical Project on Grief in a Secondary School Presenter: Laura Ferret	The Grief Gallery: An Arts-Based, Object-Centred Approach to Community Bereavement Support in a Public Hospital Presenter: Charlene Lam	Suicide Prevention and Postvention: Updates on Research and Evidence-based Interventions Presenter: Ella Arensman	The Public Health Model of Bereavement Support: Evolutions and Opportunities Moderator: Orla Keegan
11.30-11.45	Imagine talking about death... Effects of a psychotherapeutic imagination intervention on end-of-life communication: a randomized controlled trial Presenter: Sophie Kievernagel	Filling the Gap: Young Adults Navigating Connection in the Context of Grief Presenter: Machteld Van Barchjansen	Kitchen Table Grief-Talk - Action Research for Grief Literacy Connected Education (GLCE) Presenter: Ruthmarijke Smeding	Diversity of Loss: Collaborating to Create Intergenerational Arts-Based Grief Support Presenters: Maegan Parker Brooks, Madeleine Lee Maes		
11.45-12.00	Between Grief and Duty: Family Members Delivering Sudden Death News Presenter: Ronit Leichtentritt	Consolation and the limits of therapeutic thinking Presenter: Allan Køster	Erasmus+ as a Catalyst for Innovation in Grief and Bereavement Care: Lessons from the AURORA Project Presenter: Carla Cunha	Clay shapes of grief; giving voice to bereaved individuals in Portugal Presenter: Adela Pakandlova		
12.00-12.15	Supporting vocational education students affected by bereavement and illness in the family – challenges and possibilities Presenter: Thomas Mackrill	Transforming Bereavement Signposting Presenter: Yvonne Tulloch	Cocreating good grief care in the workplace; From position to practice Presenter: Amy Gibney	Through the Lens of Loss: A Photovoice Group Intervention to Foster Meaning-Making in Bereavement Presenter: Margarida Ferreira De Almeida		
12.15-12.30	Falling Between Systems: Institutional Invisibility Following Parental Death in Emerging Adulthood Presenter: Terumi Okaku	Developing, and assessing capacity to deliver, a public health approach-based bereavement service model for specialist palliative care in Ireland Presenter: Amanda Roberts	Informing Innovation Through Grief Literacy: A Framework for Integrating Bereavement Science into Digital Legacy Technologies Presenter: Michelle Desmond	Under Ireland's Skin: Memorialising the Infants and Children who Died in Ireland's Mother and Baby Homes through the Babóg Project Presenter: Jennifer Moran Stritch		
13.15-13.45	Lunch in the lobby (bring your lunch along to the poster area)					
13.15-13.45	POSTER PRESENTATIONS					
	13.15-13.45 Presenters will be presenting their posters: Research Part I					
13.45: Taking down posters and hanging of designated afternoon research posters Research Part II						
14.00-15.00	Level 1: Normal Grief: General Awareness & Support (general support & Information)					
	PLENARY SESSION: (Auditorium SA - Superbock Arena Conference Center) Speaker: Dr Kate Woodthorp: Family disputes after death and deceased people's wishes: who takes priority?					
	Coffee on the go / move to next location					
PARALLEL SESSIONS						
15.15-16.45	RESEARCH	PRACTICE	POLICY & EDUCATION	SPECIAL THEME - FUNERALS	SPECIAL THEME - SUICIDE	SYMPOSIUM (90 MINUTES)
ROOMS	SAUDADE (Miss you)	MEMÓRIA (Memory)	ABRAÇO (Hug)	AURORA (Dawn)	AUDITORIUM BAG (Biblioteca Almeida Garret)	AUDITORIUM SA (Superbock Arena)
15.15-15.30	Building the Evidence for a Public Health-Based Bereavement Service Model in Irish Specialist Palliative Care Presenter: Wendy G. Lichtenthal	Nondeath Loss and Grief: Conceptualization, Clinical Examples, and Intervention Presenter: Darcy Harris	Multidisciplinary Bereavement Support Training Programme (FMAL): A Fulbright Specialist Initiative for Professional Development in Portugal Presenter: Cristina Felizardo	From Iranian Mourning Rituals to Moral Challenge: Moral Distress and Symbolic Revenge After Human-Caused Spousal Loss Presenter: Parastou Yousefali	Debunking the myth that suicide prevention ends when a suicide occurs – a suicide bereavement educational initiative Presenter: Fiona C Tuomey	Frontiers of Childhood Bereavement: Credible Innovation through Modality, Participation, and Peer Led Support Moderator: Martin Blinkenberg Lytje
15.30-15.45	Cultural Scripts of Grief in Chinese Bereavement: A Qualitative Study with consideration of cultural values Presenter: Yucong Wen	Together We Can: Building a Collaborative Community of Grief Support Services in Western Australia Presenter: Jacqueline Reid	Support for Patients and Families on the Grief Continuum: An Interprofessional Curriculum for Healthcare Professionals Presenter: Elizabeth Schandemeier	From Interfaces to Points of Contact: Collaborative Bereavement Care in Local Networks Presenter: Willi Heuse	Understanding Bereavement-related Suicidality in Prolonged Grief Disorder: The Perspective of Experts and Individuals with Lived Experience Presenter: Laura Melzer	

15.45-16.00	Responding to grief-related needs in older adults: Developing a community-based matched-care program (GriefDiff) Presenter: David Dias Neto	A pilot randomized cluster trial to assess the feasibility and acceptability of a community co-designed intervention for grief and bereavement in rural communities Presenter: Eve Namisango	Educating grief counselors in Greenland / Building a new grief education in grief-stricken Greenland Presenter: Tina Graven Østergaard	Garden of Grief: Practice-Based Grief Communities for Men 50+ in Cemetery Environments Presenters: Jens Fogh, Allan Køster	Postvention for people bereaved by suicide in Flanders (Belgium): 25 years of evidence-based practice Presenter: Eva Vergaert	
16.00-16.15	The experiences and support needs of young people caring at the end of life and into bereavement Presenter: Emily Harrop	Caring with Love at the Moment of Loss: Supporting Perinatal Bereavement through Interdisciplinary Work with Midwives Presenter: Bárbara Fonseca	Fostering dialogue about death in educational and family contexts through picturebooks and traditional tales Presenter: Laura Escuela Magdaleno	Grief-Informed Funeral Celebrancy: Integrating Bereavement Psychology and Ritual Design in Community Practice Presenters: Jan Suren Möllers, Anja Franczak	Needs of people bereaved by suicide: findings from a cross-sectional study in Flanders Presenter: Lore Vonck	
16.15-16.30	Undoing Death: Counterfactual Thinking and Emotional Adaptation to Bereavement Presenter: Maarten C Eisma	Developing and Implementing a Level 1 Bereavement Link Person Role to Support Families Presenter: Breffni Mc Guinness	Bridging the gap between theory and practice: designing and delivering bereavement education using lived experiences of anticipatory grief Presenter: Mary Elizabeth Butler	Where We Say It Out Loud: Suicide and Ceremony at The Last Hurrah Presenters: Montarshan Jones, Ashley Hudson	Understanding the Complexity of Suicide Loss: PTSD, Complex PTSD and Prolonged Grief Disorder following Suicide Bereavement Presenter: Laura Hofmann	
16.45-17.15	POSTER PRESENTATIONS 16.45-17.15 Presenters will be presenting their posters: Research Part II 17:15 Taking down posters					
19.00-23.00	SOCIAL PROGRAMME: CONFERENCE DINNER (for those who signed up)					
FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2026						
8.00	Arrival at Superbock Arena Conference Center & coffee will be served Hanging of designated morning posters Policy & Education Part I					
8.30-9.15	Networking possibility					
9.15-9.45	POSTER PRESENTATIONS 9.15-9.45 Presenters will be presenting their posters: Policy & Education Part I 9:45 Taking down posters, hanging posters for designated afternoon posters Practice					
10.00-11.00	Level 2: Bereavement Support: Prevention & Risk Factors (extra support)					
	PLENARY SESSION: (Auditorium SA - Superbock Arena Conference Center)					
	Speaker: Dr Nina Vaswani: Disenfranchised grief in the disenfranchised: marginalisation and inequality in bereavement Speaker: Prof. Inês Rothes: Beyond Prevention: Postvention as a Critical Strategy in Suicide Risk and Bereavement Care					
Coffee on the go / move to next location						
PARALLEL SESSIONS						
11.15-12.45	RESEARCH	PRACTICE	POLICY & EDUCATION	SPECIAL THEME - FAMILY	SYMPOSIUM (90 MINUTES)	SYMPOSIUM (90 MINUTES)
ROOMS	SAUDADE (Miss you)	MEMÓRIA (Memory)	ABRAÇO (Hug)	AURORA (Dawn)	AUDITORIUM BAG (Biblioteca Almeida Garret)	AUDITORIUM SA (Superbock Arena)
11.15-11.30	Experiences of Gay Men with Pregnancy Loss via International Surrogacy Presenter: Itay Ressler	Strengthening Parenting After Parental Death: Digital, Brief Research-Informed Tools for Caregivers of Bereaved Children Presenter: Rebecca Hoppe	Group for bereaved people in Brazil: Experience in a university extension project Presenter: Jose Valdeci Grigoletto Netto	Psychological adjustment during early perinatal bereavement: Preliminary findings from a (three-wave) longitudinal family-oriented study Presenter: Emilia Alves	The Stories We Carry: What Pet Loss Teaches Children and Their Families About Death Moderator: Maria Gore	Grief and Coping in Ambiguous Loss Moderators: Birgit Wagner, Lucia Emmerich
11.30-11.45	How to improve bereavement services for people from ethnically diverse groups: Findings from the national Equitable Bereavement Care For All study Presenter: Lucy Ellen Selman	Leigheas na Coille – Forest Medicine A Hermeneutic Phenomenological Exploration of the Lived Experience of Forest Therapy for bereaved adults Presenter: Liz Gleeson	Fostering knowledge, learning and skill development through communities of practice (CoP) on carer/caregiver grief Presenter: Zelda Freitas	Meanings and memories: Supporting family members to view sensitive coronial documents Presenter: Jane Mowll		
11.45-12.00	The social dimenions of bereavement and grief: Refugees in Norway and their experiences with grief support Presenters: Kristina Johansen, Kari Bergset, Sarah Khasalamwa-Mwandha	Adapting Dignity Therapy for Paediatric Palliative Care: Legacy-oriented Intervention with Children and Adolescents Presenter: Lynnette Schöller	Estimating future needs for formal bereavement support following cancer death in Europe Presenter: Maja Furlan De Brito	Beyond outcome measures: Understanding change in family-oriented grief therapy for bereaved children using case-based data triangulation Presenter: Line Engel Clasen		
12.00-12.15	Parents experiences of bereavement support in primary care following unexpected, sudden or violent child loss Presenter: Trine Giving Kalstad	Development, Implementation and Feasibility of a Person-Based Group Intervention for Bereaved Older Adults: The GriefDiff Project Presenter: Sara Albuquerque	Developing and Empowering Societal Grief- and Loss-Literacy through a Large-Scale Reform Movement Presenter: Günter Czasny	Heterogeneous Pathways of Grief Transmission in Families in Daily Life Presenter: Lonneke Lenferink		
12.15-12.30	Children and Young Adults' Mental Health and Support Needs following Divorced Parental Cancer Death Presenter: Jette Marcussen	The 6 Foci Model: A Clinical Guide for Helping Parents Facilitate Their Children's Grief Presenter: Alba Payàs	Enhancing Bereavement Care Through Standardised Training: Evaluation of a National eLearning Programme for Level 2 Providers Presenter: Nicole Forster	Tailored implementation of an evidence-informed BEereavement SupportT pathway in Swiss specialized palliative care (BEST for Family): a two-site mixed-methods evaluation with hospital-based palliative care professionals Presenter: Marco Riguzzi		
13.15-13.45	Lunch in the lobby (bring your lunch along to the poster area)					
	POSTER PRESENTATIONS 13.15-13.45 Presenters will be presenting their posters: Practice Part II Taking down posters					
	Level 3: Complicated grief reactions: Diagnosis & Treatment (therapy support)					
	PARALLEL SESSIONS					

14.00-15.30	RESEARCH	PRACTICE	POLICY & EDUCATION	SPANISH CONTRIBUTIONS	SPECIAL THEME - GRIEF & ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE	SYMPOSIUM (90 MINUTES)
ROOMS	SAUDADE (Miss you)	MEMÓRIA (Memory)	ABRAÇO (Hug)	AURORA (Dawn)	AUDITORIUM BAG (Biblioteca Almeida Garrett)	AUDITORIUM SA (Superbock Arena)
14.00-14.15	Reciprocal temporal associations between grief rumination and daily affect in bereavement Presenter: Jiaqi Liu	The Butterfly Project in a Brazilian Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: a bereavement-sensitive practice following perinatal loss in multiple pregnancies Presenter: Laura Teixeira Bolasell	From Silent to Shared Knowledge: A Model for Developing Healthcare Professionals' Communication with Relatives and Bereaved Individuals in Acute Care Settings Presenter: Annemarie Dencker	SYMPOSIUM (60 minutes) Ambiguous Loss and Delayed Disenfranchised Grief: The Spanish Experience of Historical Trauma Moderator: Nereida Bueno-Guerra	Integrating AI safely into Bereavement Support. Presenter: Debbie Kerslake	Beyond the Clinic: Next-Generation eMental Health for Underserved and Hard-to-Reach Populations Moderators: Celestin Mutuyimana, Clare Killikelly, Eva Stelzer
14.15-14.30	Treating Prolonged Grief Disorder in adults: evidence- and consensus based clinical practice recommendations Presenter: Maja O'Connor	Internet Cognitive Therapy for Prolonged Grief Disorder (ICT-PG): A developmental case series Presenter: Kirsten Smith	When bereavement and problematic substance use intersect: grief reactions and support needs Presenter: Sari Kaarina Lindeman		Assessing Prolonged Grief Severity from Narrative Text Using AI-Based Methods. Presenter: Chusi Xie	
14.30-14.45	Identifying Response Patterns in Psychotherapy for Prolonged Grief Disorder: Growth Mixture Models of Symptom Trajectories Presenter: Bianca Schreyer	Treating Prolonged Grief Disorder with CBT for Insomnia: A Replicated Single-Case Experimental Study Protocol Presenter: Thomas Abel de Lang	Strengthening Standards in and Equity of Access to Bereavement Counselling Through Strategic Collaborations Presenter: Catherine Tierney		Block by block: Co-designing children's cancer literacy using Minecraft Education. Presenter: Oliver Clabburn	
14.45-15.00	The Disruption of Meaning in Bereavement Scale: A Multi-Domain Assessment Across Self, World, and Relationship with the Deceased Presenter: Evgenia Milman	Stories Withheld: Secrecy, Prognosis and Anticipatory Grief in Paediatric Palliative Care Presenter: Michelle Hartnett	Extending bereavement care to families following sudden and unexpected child death: addressing a major inequity through the QUINTET programme Presenter: Sellin Uhm	Crisis Management Following the Death of Law Enforcement Officers: Insights from 35 Police Psychologists Presenter: Christina Pinilla	Navigating Grief in the Digital Age: Exploring the Role of Griefbots Presenter: Laura Skov Illum	
15.00-15.15	Using Machine Learning to Identify (Interactions Between) Risk Factors for Prolonged Grief Presenter: Paul Boelen	Postpartum care: The potential flaws in traditional mental health screening for bereaved parents Presenter: Kathleen Rose-Penkala Massmann	The Effect of a Structured Bereavement Support Program on Mechanisms of Grief Adaptation and Symptoms of Prolonged Grief Disorder in Slovenian Adolescents: A Mixed-Methods Longitudinal Study Presenter: Urška Petak	Not All Grief Is the Same: Ideal Typologies of Grieving Clients Attending Emotion-Focused Therapy Presenter: José Gamoneda	(Im)mortality Over Dinner: An Experimental, Cross-Cultural Approach to Studying Grief in the Age of AI Presenters: Katarzyna Nowaczyk-Basińska, Anja Franczak	
Coffee on the go / move to next location						
15.45-16.00	EARLY-CAREER POSTER AWARD					
16.00-17.00	PLENARY PANEL DISCUSSION: (Auditorium SA - Superbock Arena Conference Center) How does Level 3 relate to the public health model, cultural context, and life course (across all age groups)? Speaker: Dr. Alison Penny Speaker: Prof. Clare Killikelly Speaker: Prof. Maja O'Connor Speaker: Prof. João Salgado FACILITATED DISCUSSION Chaired by Dr. Allan Køster					
17.00-17.30	Closing Session: Europe Connects - Call for action! Looking towards 2028					
SEE YOU IN 2028						