

DR KATE WOODTHORPE
CENTRE FOR DEATH AND SOCIETY
UNIVERSITY OF BATH

*HOW ARE FUNERALS
CHANGING?*

*WHAT IS BEHIND THE
CHANGE?*



ABOUT ME

- Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath
- Director of Knowledge Exchange
- Funeral costs, practice and families
- Department for Work and Pensions, Sunlife, Royal London, Dignity, Law Commission



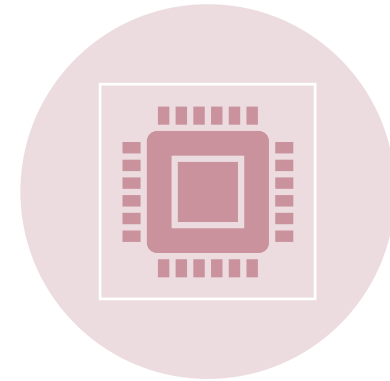
COST OF LIVING



LAND AND FOSSIL FUELS



STAFF COSTS



'HARDWARE' AND
'SOFTWARE' (WALTER, 2017)

DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

- Ageing society: ways of dying
- Family sizes and single households
- Consumers
- Digital natives





RITUAL CHANGE

- Individual vs collective ritual
- Psychological vs social purpose
- Impact of COVID pandemic
- Privatisation

A row of five white wooden figures, resembling stylized people, standing on a grey surface. The fourth figure from the left is painted blue, making it stand out from the others. The background is a light grey wall with a white diagonal line separating it from the text area on the right.

THE RESULT?

- Direct cremation
- Compromises
- Any more?