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News from CDAS

Save the Date: CDAS 10th Anniversary and 2015 Conference 05-06 June 2015

We are excited to announce that CDAS will be celebrating our 10th Anniversary in June 2015.

Plans are already underway, and we hope to see as many of our associates, past staff and students, collaborators, co-publishers, research partners, past conference and seminar delegates and general supporters there as possible.

We will be combining the celebrations with our 6th Annual Conference, which in 2015 will take the theme; 'Death Studies – past, present and future'.

The Conference will take place at the University of Bath (please note a change of venue from usual), 05-06 June 2015, with the Anniversary Celebrations on the late afternoon and early evening of Friday 5th June in the new [Centre for the Arts](#) on campus.

Further details and a call for papers for the conference will be issued in the autumn via the usual channels. We look forward to welcoming you to Bath for what promises to be a very special occasion.

Summer residency for CDAS Deputy Director

CDAS Deputy Director John Troyer will be spending this August as the Scholar in Residence at the [Morbid Anatomy Museum](#) in New York.

The Museum recently moved into its current location in Brooklyn in June and grew out of the Morbid Anatomy Library. A number of news organisations have written about the Museum and its programming, including the New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/27/nyregion/the-morbid-anatomy-museum-opens-in-brooklyn.html>

John will be giving a series of public lectures on his research, meeting with fellow researchers, and curating a film series called Tales from the Celluloid Coffin. The full list of his activities can be seen here: <http://morbidanatomymuseum.org/events/2014-08/>

He is looking forward to the Residency and building strong ties between MAM and CDAS for future projects.

The Human Costs of Austerity

22 September 2014, 14.15 - 17.05

University of Bath

Speakers: David Stuckler (University of Oxford), Brendan Walsh (University College Dublin) and [Kate Woodthorpe](#) (University of Bath)

About the seminar

Since the global financial crisis of 2007/2008 plunged much of the developed world into recession, governments have had to implement policy responses to address their shrinking economies and attempt to lead them back to growth and recovery. How best to achieve this is not just a theoretical debate for academics, the consequences of fiscal policy choices reach much further – affecting the health and well-being of whole nations. This workshop will explore how fiscal policy affects health, how poverty affects death and how death itself also affects poverty for those left behind. The workshop will be followed by a wine reception open to all attendees.

This event is presented by the [Centre for Death & Society \(CDAS\)](#) and the [Centre for the Analysis of Social Policy \(CASP\)](#)

How to book

This event is free and open to the public, please book your free place with our [online store](#).

Please note that this is a re-arranged date for this seminar.

Bereavement through substance misuse – project presentation

We are now almost 2 years into our 3 year ESRC-funded research project looking into bereavement through substance misuse.

Project researcher Lorna Templeton will give an update and present the emerging findings to the DrugFam annual 'Bereaved by Addiction' Conference which is taking place on the 4th October in Birmingham. The conference is particularly for families, friends and carers, but professionals are welcome.

DrugFam's mission is to be a lifeline for families, friends and carers who are struggling to cope with the nightmare of addiction. Find out more on their website:

www.drugfam.co.uk or contact administrator@drugfam.co.uk

Read more about the project on our website:

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/research/understanding-those-bereaved-through-substance-misuse/

Death & Dying in the Media, Print and Internet

Assisted Dying Bill set for debate in the House of Lords

The controversial Assisted Dying bill will be debated in the House of Lords this Friday, 18th July.

Tabled by Labour peer Lord Falconer, the legislation would make it legal for adults in England and Wales to be given assistance ending their own life. It would apply to those with less than six months to live.

Two doctors would have to independently confirm the patient was terminally ill and had reached their own, informed decision to die.

Some 110 peers are already listed to speak when the House of Lords debates [the private members bill](#) on Friday.

Funeral Firm appoints writer in residence to encourage debate around the sensitive topic of death

CPJ Field & Co in West Sussex is the first funeral directors in the UK to appoint a writer-in-residence. Author and personal historian, Hannah Sherriffs, has been appointed in a bid to break down the social barriers associated with the topic of death and to encourage people to discuss their end of life wishes.

Over the coming year, Hannah will spend time in a number of CPJ Field & Co's 38 branches, exploring the sensitive and sometimes taboo nature of our business. She'll also be providing perspectives on the celebration of life and looking at how people can cherish the memories of loved ones.

Hannah's work will be posted on the CPJ Field website as the year progresses, and it will be collated into an e-book at the end of the year.

<http://www.cpjfield.co.uk/marketing/writer-in-residence/>

Yahoo! Japan offers a new Digital Death Service

In the past several years, many websites have popped up, offering services such as [leaving messages behind](#) to be sent posthumously and/or services to [manage the many online accounts](#) we all leave behind. Google was the first company to offer an in-house solution, not via a third-party (although not a complete, whole solution), when it launched its [Inactive Account Manager](#) service in April 2013. Yahoo! is now the second company to offer an in-house solution, although in Japan only.

According to a [Wall Street Journal](#) blog entry, the service:

"Sends out digital farewell messages and deletes personal data from the Internet corporation's online system once it is confirmed that the user has passed away".

Other parts of this service include:

Helping one prepare for one's own funeral and providing the basics on writing a last will. Activating the service terminates any billing charged to Yahoo's digital wallet, and deletes all texts and images one has saved on Yahoo Box online storage. Those who sign up can also create a "memorial space" tribute site that launches after the user's death is confirmed, and where visitors can leave condolences after they learn about the passing. The memorial page can include a biog, photos, video clips, final messages and an

invitation to one's funeral". Some of these services require a fee.

Their signing up slogan is: "If this is your last day of life, are you prepared to leave?" which is a very good question.

It will be interesting to see now if other companies will follow in Google and Yahoo! footsteps and supply their users with in-house solutions, and it will be interesting to see if Yahoo! will offer this new service outside of Japan.

<http://digital-era-death-eng.blogspot.co.il/2014/07/yahoo-japan-offers-new-digital-death.html>

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

Death on the Fringe

30 July – 23 August 2014
Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Death on the Fringe is a series of shows at the [Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#) that look at death and dying from different perspectives – some serious, some comical – but all making you think about what it means to live well and die well.

It is part of the ongoing charity-led campaign, [Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief](#), which works to promote more openness about death, dying and bereavement. The campaign's aim is to make people aware of ways to live with death, dying and bereavement and help them feel better equipped to support each other through those difficult times.

Take a look at our programme of [shows](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), or find out more on our [news](#) page. And please [get in touch](#) with any comments, questions or ideas you may have.

Shows

30 July–25 August: [Lynn Ruth Miller – Not Dead Yet](#) (*C Venues – C Nova*)
1 August: LAUNCH EVENT (*University of Edinburgh Anatomy Lecture Theatre*)
1–9 August: [Chris Is Dead](#) (*theSpace on the Mile*)
1–23 August: [Jim](#) (*theSpace @Jury's Inn*)
1–23 August: [Sinatra: The Final Curtain](#) (*theSpace @ Surgeon's Hall*)
1–24 August: [Duck, Death and the Tulip](#) (*Summerhall*)
1–24 August: [Nathan Cassidy – Date of Death](#) (*Laughing Horse @ The Counting House*)
1–30 August: [Over It: Death, Anorexia & Other Funny Things](#) (*Laughing Horse @ Finnegan's Wake*)
11–16 August: [The Three Peaks](#) (*Quaker Meeting House*)
11–21 August: [Dead Fresh](#) (*theSpace on North Bridge*)
11–23 August: [Alba: A New Scottish Musical](#) (*theSpace @ Surgeon's Hall*)
14 August & 21 August: [Death Cafe](#) (*Lovecrumbs*)

Further details: <http://deathonthefringe.wordpress.com/>

The future of LGBT ageing: Rethinking research directions

22 October 2014, 10.00 – 16.00

G306B, Jean McFarlane Building, University of Manchester, M13 9PL

MICRA and the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work at the University of Manchester, supported by the Morgan Centre for Research into Everyday Lives, Age UK and the Lesbian and Gay Foundation, will be bringing together academics, researchers, policy makers and practitioners to consider the future research priorities in relation to ageing LGBT individuals.

Over the past 60 years societies' attitudes to lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans* identities have radically changed. However, the people who lived through these changes are now beginning to age. Older LGBT people face many of the same challenges and rewards around ageing as the general population. However, they may also face additional issues or disadvantages particular to their sexuality and gender identity. Research has begun to address LGBT ageing but there is much research left to do and the methodological techniques and debates are still in their infancy. In addition, translating this research into public policy, and ensuring health and social care practitioners understand the relevance of gender identity and sexuality in relation to ageing remains a challenge.

This conference, organised by [Dr Stephen Hicks](#), [Dr Maurice Nagington](#) and [Dr Tommy Dickinson](#), aims to open up these debates and to provide a forum for discussion of the key methodological questions raised by research on, with or by LGBT older people as well as developing research priorities.

The conference will begin with two keynote presentations:

- [Dr Julie Fish](#), Reader in Social Work & Health Inequalities at De Montfort University, Leicester, will talk on: "New Futures: exchanging research knowledge about older LGBT communities"
- [Dr Andrew King](#), Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Surrey will talk on: "Ageing at the margins? Some reflections on researching LGBT ageing".

There will then be opportunities for discussion and workshops considering current and future directions in relation to research on older lesbian and bisexual women; older trans* people; older gay men and HIV; and a workshop devoted to the methodological challenges of future research on or with older LGBT people.

[Please register online for this free event](#)

Please note: This conference is suitable for academics, researchers, policy makers and practitioners working in the area of LGBT ageing.

What should research in hospices look like?

7 November 2014, 10.00 - 16.15

St Christopher's Hospice, London

Cost: £90 (Includes lunch and refreshments)

Chairs

- Dr Heather Richardson, *National Clinical Lead, Help the Hospices and Director of Strategy, St Joseph's Hospice*
- Julie Kinley, *Nurse Consultant for Care Homes, St Christopher's Hospice*

Speakers

- Liz Bryan, *Director of Education and Training, St Christopher's Hospice*
- Nancy Preston, *Lecturer, International Observatory on End of Life Care, Lancaster University*
- Dr Jo Hockley, *Independent Nurse Consultant*
- Dr Fliss Murtagh, *Consultant and Clinical Senior Lecturer, King's College London*
- Dr Caroline Nicholson, *NIHR Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, King's College London*
- Min Stacpoole, *Research Nurse, End of Life Care for people with dementia, St Christopher's Hospice*

St Christopher's Hospice was set up as teaching/research-based centre in 1967 to develop knowledge and expertise in specialist palliative care. This study day will offer those who attend a vision of how hospices as can develop the capacity to become research active.

Whilst hospice-based research is not without challenges they have a responsibility to contribute to the development of research based practice. This day provides the opportunity to explore possibilities of how hospices can undertake this role. Examples of how to engage research with practice are given. It is a multi-professional day for those who have an interest in research.

It also offers the opportunity for policy makers, academics and research funders to see how research findings have been meaningful and useful in practice.

Topics will include:

- Developing a research framework for your organisation.
- The importance of establishing mutually advantageous relationships.
- Examples in practice; action research, appreciative inquiry and mixed methods.

Who should attend?

- Individuals with an interest in undertaking research about hospice care.
- Individuals with responsibility for overseeing research activity in hospices.
- Academics interested to work more with hospices to develop the evidence base on hospice and palliative care.
- Individuals with a desire to understand more about research in end of life care.

For more information and to book:

<http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/education/course/what-should-research-in-hospices-look-like>

Call for papers

Is Dark Tourism Really That Dark?

Guest editor: Taïka Baillargeon, DEUT/UQAM

Deadline to submit texts: 01 November 2014

Dark tourism is intriguing. The term was coined by John Lennon and Malcolm Foley (1996) and is defined as “the act of travel to sites associated with death, suffering and the seemingly macabre” (Stone, 2006: 146).

It is only since the end of the 20th Century that researchers and other tourism experts have started to study the phenomenon, which, to this day, has still not been researched in depth, even though dark tourism is a practice that is rooted in history and both supply of and demand for this type of tourism have increased over the last few decades. The oldest kinds of dark tourism still take place today.

For example, tourists visit prisons, battlefields, and cemeteries, as well as sites associated with slavery, genocides and concentration camps. Moreover, there has been an increased interest in sites where death or suffering has recently taken place (Foley and Lennon, 2000). Some authors have even noticed a type of tourism related to current and future events. Indeed, one hears more and more about tourists who travel to war or conflict zones, to at-risk areas (risk tourism) or to sites where people gather to wait for the apocalypse (doomsday tourism).

Finally, some researchers also argue that poverty tourism and slum tourism should be considered types of dark tourism, given that poverty is a form of suffering in their view. This type of tourism, which involves visiting areas stricken by poverty, is also linked to what is known as pro-poor tourism, humanitarian tourism and voluntourism. In short, dark tourism takes numerous and diverse forms.

The field remains deeply controversial despite the fact that more and more researchers are taking an interest in the phenomenon and are attempting to consolidate this new area of study. Not only are the field and the terminology used considered imprecise and vague, but the ethics and the reason for being of the practices associated with dark tourism are also being questioned. Visiting a place associated with death and suffering or, worse yet, marketing a traumatic event, can indeed seem quite morbid. Dark tourism is generally considered to be sinister, negative and often in poor taste. Despite such perceived drawbacks, is it not possible that dark tourism could become a niche that might also help improve, in different ways, the well-being of tourists and local communities, as is the case with any other kind of tourism?

To answer this question, some authors have pointed out that dark tourism can, for example, become a means of increasing emotional, economic, social and political resiliency. Bowman and Pezzullo (2010) even wonder “what is so “dark” about dark tourism?”

To expand our knowledge on the question, this special edition of *Téoros* intends to provide an in-depth reflection on dark tourism, the research examining the phenomenon, and recent trends as regards its supply and demand. We will also pay particular attention to ethical issues, by exploring and raising questions about both the “dark” and the positive aspects surrounding this niche area of tourism.

In this context, author(s) are invited to examine the following issues, among others:

- The theory of dark tourism (debates surrounding terminology, the discipline and ethics);
- Recent trends surrounding tourism practices and production;
- The staging/marketing of suffering;
- The motivations underlying dark tourism;
- Why dark tourism exists and the causes of its increasing popularity;
- The positive and negative impacts of dark tourism;
- Dark tourism’s cohabitation with local communities.

Any other proposals related to the theme will also be considered.

For further information please see the journal’s web site: www.teoros.revue.org/168.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Information
23 July 2014	It’s Time to Talk	National Memorial Arboretum	http://www.childfuneralcharity.org.uk/events.html
30 Jul-23 Aug	Death on the Fringe	Edinburgh Fringe Festival	http://deathonthefringe.wordpress.com/
20-23 Aug 2014	Corpses, technologies and cultures	Buenos Aires, Argentina	http://www.4sonline.org/meeting
27-29 Aug 2014	Migrant end-of-life care and ritual practices	Madrid, Spain	http://www.imiscoeconferences.org/
04-06 Sep 2014	The Seventh Edition of Dying & Death in 18 th -21 st Century Europe International Conference	Albu Iulia, Romania	www.death-studies.ro
07-09 Sep 2014	Taboo Conference II	Grey College, Durham University	https://www.dur.ac.uk/cim/events/taco/
20 Sep 2014	Reflections of a Grief Educator	High Wycombe	Mike Muller (01628 662372)

22 Sep 2014	The Human Costs of Austerity	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0061.html
23 Sep 2014	Dark Tourism Symposium	University of Central Lancashire	http://www.uclan.ac.uk/research/environment/groups/institute_for_dark_tourism_research.php
24-26 Sept 2014	5 th Global Conference; Digital Memories	Mansfield College, Oxford	http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/critical-issues/cyber/digital-memories/call-for-papers/
29 Sep – 3 Oct 2014	Rituals for our Lives	Halsway Manor, Somerset	foxandgill@btinternet.com www.deadgoodguides.com
01-04 Oct 2014	A matter of lifedeath	University of Manitoba, Canada	www.umanitoba.ca/mosaic
04 Oct 2014	Bereaved by Addiction Conference	Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport	administrator@drugfam.co.uk
22 Oct 2014	The future of LGBT ageing: Rethinking research directions	University of Manchester	http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/event/the-future-of-lgbt-ageing-rethinking-research-directions-tickets-11987869039
22-24 Oct 2014	Images of Afterlife	University of Turku, Finland	http://imagesofafterlife.wordpress.com
30 Oct 2014	Exploring Loss Conference	Portsmouth Academy for Girls	info@thebereavementcentre.co.uk
01-03 Nov 2014	Making Sense of Dying and Death	Prague, Czech Republic	http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/probing-the-boundaries/making-sense-of/dying-and-death/call-for-papers/
01-7 Nov 2014	To Absent Friends	Scotland	http://www.toabsentfriends.org.uk
07 Nov 2014	What should research in hospices look like?	St Christopher's Hospice, London	http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/education/course/what-should-research-in-hospices-look-like
14 Nov 2014	Death, inequality and social difference	BSA London Meeting Room	http://www.britsoc.co.uk/media/66256/DDB_2014_call.pdf?1403692731378
20-22 Nov 2014	International Association for the Philosophy of Death & Dying Conference	California State Polytechnic University	http://www.philosophyofdeath.org/call-for-abstracts/

03-07 Dec 2014	The Many Lives of Death: Imagining death and dying through space and time	Washington DC, USA. AAA Conference panel	elucitt@ucla.edu
08-11 Apr 2015	ADEC 37 th Annual Conference	San Antonio, USA	http://www.adec.org/Annual_Conference_Home.htm
18-24 May 2015	Dying Matters Week	Nationwide	http://dyingmatters.org/
05 June 2015	CDAS 10 th Anniversary Celebration	University of Bath	Details to follow
05-06 June 2015	CDAS Annual Conference, 'Death Studies – past, present and future'	University of Bath	Details to follow
02-05 Sept 2015	Death, Dying and the Disposal of the Body (DDD12)	"1 December 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Romania	http://death-studies.ro/?page_id=292

Please do let us know of any events you think would be of interest to other subscribers. You can find more details on all of these events, and events featured in previous newsletters, on the CDAS web pages

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas