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December 2016 Director's Note:

*This essay was first published in the [November 2016](#) issue of *Bath Magazine**

My entire life has been spent around death, dying, and dead bodies. And when I say entire, I mean from before I was born to this very second. I grew up in the American funeral industry, where my father, Ron Troyer, was a funeral director for three decades. Indeed, some of my earliest childhood memories are of bodies in caskets coupled with my parents explaining what 'dead' meant.

Through a series of intellectual twists during my postgraduate education, my research focused on the relationship between the dead body and technology. In 2008 I accepted a post in the University of Bath's Centre for Death and Society (CDAS), the world's first and only interdisciplinary research Centre dedicated to exploring the intersections between death, dying, and the dead body.

CDAS was founded in 2005 and in June 2015 [celebrated ten years](#) of world-class research, public engagement, and educational work as a death and dying studies hub.

What intrigues me most about the Centre for Death and Society's public engagement work is that right now, in October 2016, death, dying, and dead bodies have never appeared more popular. It's difficult to keep track of all the different Death Cafes, Death Salons, and Death Meet-ups regularly happening across the US, UK, Europe, and Australia. Some groups simply gather in cafes to drink tea, eat cakes, and talk about death, while others create full-blown weekend long events complete with speakers and death-themed fairs.

What's important to keep in mind, however, is that death's current popular interest and fashionability isn't actually new.

On the one hand it's easy to say that humans have 'discussed' death since the dawn of civilization, but what death 'meant' in those earlier times isn't as clearly defined as we technologically sophisticated modern humans might like to think. Definitions of death change and will continue to change in the future. The shift from cardiac to brain death criteria remains a key moment in the broader history of human mortality and demonstrates that supposedly stable concepts can quickly change.

Images of human mortality and death itself have also changed over-time as many westerners now fear representations of cancer or dementia more than the actual Grim Reaper. The medical profession has played a big part in these changes as 'dying' became something that doctors could diagnostically explain, even if life support technology made the moment of death far murkier.

I've been thinking about the current popular interest in death for many reasons, but especially when it comes to my undergraduate students. The University of Bath offers a final year class that I teach on "[The Sociology of Death](#)" and Bath is one of the few universities in the UK to do so. The course has run for many years and is extremely popular with the students, e.g., there is always a waiting list for a seat. Students are required to write short, weekly essays about the material we cover in class

and 'engage with death' in any way they see fit. In the beginning, many of the students think that the weekly writing will be a real pain and just another silly tick-box exercise that enables them to graduate.

Then everything starts to change.

To a student, the more they think about the Sociology of Death the more they want to write about what death and dying means in our modern age. Indeed, many of the students tell me that they experience sadness at the end of the semester knowing that the final weekly essay is the last one that they will write. One big takeaway for the students that is often noted in the weekly writings is how everyday death is – they just never saw it staring them in the face.

I also always have students in the class who either went through the death of a loved one (usually a parent) before entering University, or watched someone they care about die during the course of their studies. At least one or two grandparents die during the eleven-week semester – verified, in case you are curious, by an obituary. For these students, writing about the experiences of watching someone die becomes both an academic assignment and deeply cathartic.

All of this is to say that, when given the chance by the University of Bath to take a class called the Sociology of Death taught by the Director of the world's only Centre for Death and Society, the students love it. It is the kind of educational opportunity offered by Bath that helps students see the bigger picture of life, the universe, and everything (to quote Douglas Adams).

But, and I think that this is fundamentally important, the students learn to respect death and the power it has to turn everything upside down. For them, death and dying aren't just fashionable or cool—they're forces of nature that they should discuss with parents and next-of-kin before it is no longer possible. I know this because many parents come up to me at Graduation and thank me for giving their daughter/son the intellectual and emotional tools to discuss what should happen before a family member ends up on life support.

In this way death's current cultural fashionability can play an important role in transforming how individuals think about death and dying long before they suddenly need to. My main advice for the current popular death movements is to quickly establish and make permanent the institutional changes that many groups called for a generation ago and continue to discuss today: greater individual autonomy in end-of-life care decision making, increased discussion about funerals, and an everyday personal embrace of death.

In the event all of these changes don't happen, it's only a matter of time until a new generation discovers death and picks up where the previous groups left off. I, for one, look forward to seeing what's happening with death in another forty years – when I am elderly and preparing to die.

John Troyer, Director

News from CDAS

Social Death: new book from Routledge by CDAS

Edited by CDAS PhD student Jana Kralova and former Director Tony Walter.

Social death occurs when the social existence of a person or group ceases. With an individual, it can occur before or after physical death. Scholars in a wide range of disciplines have applied the concept to very diverse issues – including genocide, slavery, dementia, hospitalisation, and bereavement. Social death relates to social exclusion, social capital, social networks, social roles and social identity, but its theorising is not united – scholars in one field are often unaware of its use in other fields.

This is the first book to bring a range of perspectives together in a pioneering effort to bring to the field conceptual clarity rooted in empirical data. Preceded by an original theoretical discussion of the concept of social death, contributions from the UK, Romania, Sweden, and Israel analyse the fourth age, end of life policies, dying alone at home, suicide, photographs on gravestones, bereavement, and the agency of dead musicians. This book was originally published as a special issue of *Contemporary Social Science*.

You can buy now from Routledge <https://www.routledge.com/Social-Death-Questioning-the-life-death-boundary/Kralova-Walter/p/book/9781138205307>

CDAS Conference 2017: Call for Papers

Death at the Margins of the State

09-10 June 2017

The Edge, University of Bath

Human beings typically grant appropriate death rites to those deemed members of the community; withholding of proper rites often reflects or symbolises exclusion from the political or moral community. The history of dissection, for example, bears witness to this.

Today, the concept of 'human' extends in theory to everyone regardless of nationality, gender, abilities, etc., yet in practice citizenship (legal or moral) may for many be precarious or lacking. The stateless and/or those lacking full citizen rights may include asylum seekers, undocumented migrants, those on the wrong side in civil wars, victims of genocide, prisoners, travellers, foetuses, and those deemed to lack mental capacity: their deaths may be endorsed, ignored, stigmatised, or manipulated by the state or powerful institutions. By contrast, those who die to create or defend the state become sacred heroes of the nation. Death and the state are intimately connected, each helping – through inclusion and exclusion - to define the other.

- What deaths and whose deaths are denied respect?

- How, why, and with what consequences for defining 'us and them', 'human and non-human'?
- How do those without citizenship die and how are they disposed of and mourned?
- How do funerals mark lives deemed worthless?
- How are marginalised deaths and the bodies of the marginalised dead exploited – by politicians, media, medicine, museums, and the global trade in body parts and ancient human remains?

Abstracts are invited for contemporary or historical papers from any discipline or profession exploring the relationship between death and exclusion from community or state. The conference will interest those in a wide range of fields, including, for example, death studies, politics, anthropology, history, archaeology, international relations, international development, refugee & migration studies, social policy, photography, cultural studies, psychology and funeral celebrancy.

CDAS annual conferences bring together research and knowledge that has hitherto been fragmented. We invite scholars and practitioners from around the world willing to engage openly with and learn from different disciplines and perspectives.

20 minute papers are invited - abstracts (up to 250 words) to be emailed to cdas@bath.ac.uk by 27 February 2017. Posters are also welcome, please send your abstract as above.

Further details about the conference and how to book will be made available in the New Year. Prices are likely to be £135 for 2 days and £75 for a single day, but this is subject to confirmation.

Conference updates will appear on the webpage:

http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0135.html

CDAS Seminar Podcasts

For those of you who weren't able to make it, the two most recent CDAS seminars are now available via the University of Bath's Re-View system.

[Religious Responses to Contemporary Western Death Practices](#)

13 October 2016

- 'Promote, oppose, resist, compensate: 4 ways religions interact with death practices'
Tony Walter, University of Bath
- 'Outdoor Funeral Pyres: The Anglo-Asian Friendship Society vs Newcastle Council'
Shirley Firth, University of Winchester
- 'Our Bodies Belong to God': Cardiff Muslims' response to The Human Transplantation Act 2013'
Mansur Ali, Cardiff University

- 'Religious objections to end of life planning in the USA'
John Troyer, University of Bath

Web:

<https://uniofbath.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=ea1b15e9-a9f4-48ef-8386-0e744806eff5>

End of Life Care

10 November 2016

- 'The role of care homes in end of life care: findings from 2016 research for Public Health England'
Malcolm Johnson, Visiting Professor of Gerontology and End of Life Care, University of Bath
- 'End of life decisions in a general hospital: findings from doctorate'
Jo Wilson, Consultant Nurse (Palliative Care), Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and CDAS PhD student
- 'Reporting on findings from summer 2016 visit to North America'
Anna Magnowska, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Palliative care, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust and Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship on Legacy Projects in end of life care

Web: <https://uniofbath.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=b3f5bf0c-d8bb-4b99-bb4e-52ea008a6ea1>

All CDAS seminars and conference sessions are recorded (where permission is given by the presenter) and can be viewed at:

<https://uniofbath.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Sessions/List.aspx#folderID=%221ee567ab-5e64-487a-a47c-17284e2e535f%22>

The next CDAS seminars will be announced in the New Year.

Death Studies Community News

Bath Burial Index launched

The Bath Burial Index was launched on 1st November 2016 at a reception in Bath's Guildhall. Bath is possibly the only UK city to have an online searchable index of all burials - in church, municipal and private burial grounds. The index is the initiative of Bath resident Phil Bendall and results from ten years of his painstaking work recording and photographing on the ground and in archives - a testimony to what can be achieved by one passionate, indefatigable person.

To view and search the index, visit <http://www.batharchives.co.uk/burial-index>

Caring During Serious Illness

Prof Jim Hoefler is a Professor of Political Science at Dickinson College, Carlisle, USA, whose research area focuses on end-of-life care. As part of a sabbatical project with funding from the Mellon Digital Humanities project, he interviewed doctors, nurses, and spiritual caregivers about their advice for patients and family members about making medical care decisions during serious illness as death draws near. The interviews have been broken down into short clips (most are 5 minutes or less) and are segmented into various categories.

The website and films can be viewed here: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/caring/>

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

Dying Matters - A Community display

Leeds City Museum

16 Dec 2016- 30 July 2017

Death is perhaps the one experience that unites people the world over.

But even though every person experiences death and dying, we can often shy away from talking about it. By exploring objects related to death from a range of cultures, from an Egyptian shabti to a Victorian funeral cart, this exhibition seeks to start conversations and to encourage visitors to think about, and plan for, their own end of life.

The exhibition is part of the national Dying Matters initiative which promotes public awareness of dying, death and bereavement. You can find out more by visiting www.dyingmatters.org

Web: <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/museumsandgalleries/Pages/leedscitymuseum/Dying-Matters.aspx>

Open University Death and Dying Research Group 2017 Seminar Series

Wednesday 18th January 2017, 13.30-15.30

OU Library Seminar Room 1+2, Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA

Common or multiple futures for end of life care interventions around the world? Ideas from 'Waiting Room of History'

Dr Shahaduz Zamam, Research Fellow, University of Glasgow

This presentation will focus on the emerging narratives of global end of life care interventions. It will offer a global perspective assessment of their implications, considering calls to improve end of life care across jurisdictions and settings, attempts to map and grade the development of palliative care provision, and the emergence of a widely recognised global 'quality of death index'.

For more information and to book your free place please email wels-research-admin@open.ac.uk

This is the first in a new monthly series from the OU Death & Dying Research Group:

<http://wels.open.ac.uk/research/death-dying-and-bereavement>

Who cares for carers?

07 February 2017

Guildhall, Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland

£60 including all resources, lunch and refreshments

This conference is aimed at health and social care staff, voluntary community groups and individual carers who have contact with people who have life limiting illnesses and/or palliative care needs. It is focused on helping delegates to better understand the needs of those who are looking after someone at the end of life. Carers will be encouraged to participate, interact and engage in discussions and information around financial, emotional or practical advice and how they can work together with professionals to support them and influence change in policy and practice.

Confirmed speakers are:

- Clare-Anne Magee, General Manager, Carers NI
- Linda Morris, Project Facilitator, Compassionate Communities
- Corrina Grimes - Allied Health Professions Consultant and Regional Palliative Care Lead, Public Health Agency
- Jan Wright - Carer

There will also be a performance of [Bounce Back Boy](#) and we are delighted to be supporting the [Death Box exhibition](#) at the event.

[The full programme can be found here](#)

To book on to this event please [follow this link](#) or [complete and return the booking form](#)

For further queries please contact Sylvia Morrison, Conference Assistance on **0207 697 522** or email s.morrison@ncpc.org.uk

Dying with a Learning Disability

01 March 2016

Radisson Blu Hotel, Cardiff

£75 including lunch

This conference launches the findings from a unique and major UK study considering the last months of life of people with learning disabilities living in LD services across the UK. Learning disability services provide settings that support people with learning disabilities to lead full and enriched lives. This includes supporting people with learning disabilities as they approach the end of their lives, However, evidence as to how services achieve this is lacking.

This day will provide opportunities to hear the findings and to share experiences about care at the end of life for people with learning disabilities. It will be of interest to academics, service providers, professionals and carers.

Further information: julia.shearn@southwales.ac.uk or rhian.worth@southwales.ac.uk

To book:

http://store.southwales.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&deptid=20&catid=105&prodid=521

Call for Papers

Folklore from the Cradle to the Grave

31 March – 02 April 2017

Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh

The Folklore Society's AGM conference 2017, jointly hosted with Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland, and Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh.

Keynote Speaker: Professor Margaret Bennett, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

This annual conference will focus on beliefs, practices, expressive and material culture related to the cycle of life from a historical and contemporary perspective.

When the Folklore Society was founded in 1878, its original remit included the study of vernacular customs related to birth, marriage and death. In fact, the first monograph it published, Walter Gregor's *The Folk-Lore of North-East Scotland* (1881), opens with a chapter on 'Birth' and several subsequent chapters relate directly to other significant life stages. Gregor was mindful of the dynamic nature of such vernacular cultural tradition, particularly in respect of their loss. Modern folkloristics takes a more pragmatic stance, interpreting such change in terms of resilience, hybridisation, acculturation, displacement, innovation and creativity. The breadth of life cycle studies embraces rites of passage, as conceived by the French ethnographer Arnold van Gennep (1909), and here, for example, research includes studies of traditionary behaviour associated with starting and leaving school/college, a particular occupation/vocation, recreation/sport, and retirement.

Submissions are invited for papers that explore a range of issues connected with the cycle of life. Themes for discussion might include but are not limited to:

- Cultural and behavioural change and its effect on historical and contemporary practices.
- The effect of commercialisation of birth, marriage, death, etc.
- The impact of changing societal attitudes and consequent legislation.
- The influences of mass media, social networking and new media.
- The role of the individual, the group, and/or the community in dynamic contexts.
- The interplay between traditional beliefs/practices and the findings of medical science.
- Expressions of intercultural and interfaith relations in the modern world.
- The significance of expressive culture in respect of verbal forms, including narratives, songs, vernacular poetry, epitaphs, proverbs, verbal play, memorial websites, etc.

Contributions are invited from scholars across the fields of folklore studies, anthropology, cultural studies, ethnology and other related disciplines. This conference takes place alongside the AGM of the Folklore Society and members and non-members are warmly encouraged to contribute. The conference will be open to members of the public.

Proposals of 250–300 words are invited for presentations of 20 minutes. These proposals should be sent as a Word attachment to thefolkloresociety@gmail.com and copied to enquiries@folklore-society.com with 'AGM Conference 2017' in the subject line and must include the following: Title, author(s), affiliation(s), email and postal address for contact. All proposals will be peer reviewed and presenters will be notified within three weeks of the deadline.

The deadline for proposals is 5 January 2017.

Death and the Maiden: Representations of Women and Death in Literature and Culture

11-12 May 2017

University of Social Sciences, Łódź, Poland

The motif of Death and the Maiden has recurred in art and literature since medieval times. In most paintings representing this motif, the women are gracefully posed and approached or grasped, most frequently from behind, either by a skeletal figure or the Angel of Death. This particular posing implies seduction, erotic tension, vulnerability, and submissiveness, yet it also evokes fear and emphasizes the frailty of all mortals.

Bearing in mind the versatile applications of the Death and the Maiden theme, we encourage participants to explore representations of the relation between women and death in literature and culture. We invite you to research not only themes and imagery in which a female figure is overpowered by Death in its many (dis)guises or in which Death serves as a scary reminder that we are all going to die, but also those in which the Death and the Maiden motif can be read as liberating and empowering for women, as a force that can propel life forward or, even if grim, can bring positive changes to various levels of life.

The topics which this conference seeks to explore are:

- Dying, dead, and grieving women in literature and film
- Is “Death” a woman or a man? Personification of death in literature, film, video games, etc.
- (Un)dead women: ghosts, apparitions, and other supernatural beings
- Death/grief and gender (e. g. Do women grieve the same as men?)
- The awareness of mortality
- Women morticians
- The aging process and its social and cultural perception
- Leading causes of death in females
- Social death and identity loss
- Violence against women

The language of the conference will be English. Papers will be allocated 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion. Abstracts of no more than 300 words (including the title, your professional affiliation, and e-mail address) should be sent as MS Word attachment to deathandthemaids2017@gmail.com by 15 January 2017. Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by 30 January 2017.

Depending on the number, thematic range, and quality of the presented papers, selected conference proceedings will be subject to double-blind reviews and published in the Neophilological Quarterly (Polish Academy of Sciences) which is registered on Ministerial List B (12 points). We are also considering a collected monograph which might provide an optional publishing opportunity.

Conference participation fees:

Standard registration fee: PLN 350 / EUR 95 / GBP 80

PhD student registration fee: PLN 200 / EUR 60 / GBP 55

This fee includes conference proceedings, daytime refreshments, and conference dinner. Accommodation is not included in the conference fee.

Geographies of Death – place-making, mobilities, diversity & sustainability

Nordic Geographers Meeting

18-21 June 2017

Stockholm

Conveners:

Avril Maddrell, UWE Bristol, United Kingdom and Roger Marjavaara, Umeå University, Sweden.

Death is something which comes to us all, but the death of others and associated bodily disposal and mourning rituals also have a significant impact on individuals, families, society, urban and rural landscapes and the wider ecosystem. Within geography in the past death-related issues have mainly been studied as part of population studies rather than focusing on the individuals, communities and places affected; and public authorities tend to take an instrumentalist approach to death. However, the spatial consequences and implications of death has recently gained significant attention by

geographical scholars e.g. Kong (1999, 2012), Foote (2003), Maddrell and Sidaway (2010 Deathscales), Marjavaara (2012), Klaasens and Groote (2014), Jassal (2015), Stephenson et al's (2016) special issue of *Social and Cultural Geography*. This body of scholarship has brought a spatial lens to the spaces and practices associated with dying, death and remembrance, highlighting individual and communal experience and relational places.

This special session at the 7th NGM in Stockholm, addresses a spatial aspects on death, dying, mourning and remembrance particularly those related to the conference theme of inequalities. Geographers from every specialism have much to contribute to understanding to the intersection of socio-economic, cultural, political and environmental issues associated with the spaces and spatial practices associated with death, loss and consolation. These sessions also offer the opportunity to elaborate on these issues from an interdisciplinary perspective, by bringing together researchers from other fields such as anthropology, ethnology, sociology, psychology, history, gender studies, religious studies and planning. Papers are sought which inform theoretical, empirical or policy debates.

The special session will seek papers that address (but are not limited to) the following themes:

- Socio-economic inequalities, death and remembrance
- Death and diaspora in multicultural and globalized societies
- The ways in which gender, ethnicity and religion inflect dying, death and remembrance
- Death and remembrance-related mobilities
- Cemeteries and crematoria as 'green' spaces
- Legislative and Planning perspectives on death and deathscapes

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be submitted by email by 15th December to Dr. Roger Marjavaara at: Roger.Marjavaara@umu.se

For further enquiries regarding conference fees and programme, recommended accommodation, maps/instructions, and registration forms, please visit the conference organisers website: <http://www.humangeo.su.se/english/ngm-2017>

Death and the Maiden Conference

21-24 July 2017

University of Winchester

Death and the Maiden has long been an artistic genre in the West, with its roots in the *Dance Macabre* tradition. In c1426, the English poet and Benedictine monk, John Lydgate, adapted the Parisian cycle to include women with those taken away by a skeletal death, and in c1495, the German painter and printmaker, Albrecht Dürer, engraved a distinctly male death ravishing a young woman. But women's connection with death go far deeper than the subject of art, for in the Greek and Roman times, it was a woman's job to close the corpses eyes and mouth; indeed across time and space women have typically been the layers-out of the deceased.

From the practical to the representational, this interdisciplinary conference which is collaboration between the Dead Maidens, and Dr Christina Welch of the University of Winchester, seeks to draw widely on the connections between death and women, examining, exploring, and celebrating the intimate relationship between Death and the Maiden.

Papers are invited that broadly address the theme of death and the maiden in the following suggested areas:-

- Death, women and art (broadly defined)
- Gender and death
- Religion, women and mortality
- Women as death professionals
- Death, gender and activism
- Gender and end-of-life care

Papers, posters and workshops are welcomed from established scholars, early career researchers, postgraduate students, artists, activists, performers, and practitioners, and can include works in progress.

Presentations should be in English, and will be allocated 20 minutes with a further 10 minutes for discussion. Workshops will be allocated 60 mins and will run on Sunday only. Prospective participants are invited to submit abstracts of 200-250 words in Word (not in PDF). Proposals must include name, institutional affiliation (if relevant), a short bio (no more than 150 words), and an e-mail address. Proposals for panel discussions (organised by the participants) will be considered.

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is Friday 19th May 2017

For further information and to submit an abstract please email Lucy and Christina at: deathandthemaids@winchester.ac.uk

Death, Dying and Disposal 13: Ritual, Religion and Magic

06-10 September 2017

University of Central Lancashire, Preston

In popular western culture the number 13 is often unlucky, evoking superstition, or witches. Yet there were 13 members of the last supper, Friday the 13 is lucky in Italy and in Judaism it is the age for rites of passage. The theme for this DDD is Ritual, Religion and Magic; it's perception interpretation and role in healthcare, death, dying, and burial. Individual papers might include, but are not restricted to: death technology and magic, liminality, religion and spirituality in end of life care, ethics and culture at the deathbed, dying inside (and outside) of modern health care, spirituality and the death of animals, rites of passage in dying, superstition and funerals, ritual application in preparing the corpse and burying the dead. Emergent religious and cultural practices in the disposal of the dead, ancestors online, Death, dying and grief in public and on the internet.

Talking with the dead, the dead in popular horror, the dead in witchcraft execution or haunting or social rituals associated with the dead body, spirituality or lifeways and deathways.

We strive to ensure our conferences and events are inclusive for all. Please let us know at point of booking, if you have any requirements, e.g. access, mobility, interpreters, hearing, dietary etc, so that we can put provision in place.

Abstracts should be no more than 250 words in length. Deadline for submissions is 28 February 2017. To submit your abstract, please complete the online abstract submission form:

<https://goo.gl/forms/aA9odMr9LkYQtnPA2>

For more information, check the conference webpage:

http://www.uclan.ac.uk/conference_events/death-dying-disposal.php

Enquiries:

Academic: Duncan Sayer - dsayer@uclan.ac.uk

Other: Liz Roberts – ConferenceAndEvents@uclan.ac.uk

Tweet #DDD13 to start a trend, @DuncanSayer

Jobs and study opportunities

Cremation & Burial Communication & Education Event 2016

03-05 July 2017

Stratford Manor, Warwick Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 0PY

This top class event will provide the most up-to-date and relevant information to the sector. Relevant speakers will provide you with latest progress reports on the key issues facing our sector and will ensure you are up to date with changes that impact upon your service.

Who should attend?

- Owners and operators of private sector cemeteries and crematoria.
- Portfolio holders, managers and staff of local authority cemeteries and crematoria.
- Funeral directors and representatives from other kindred organisations wishing to have a better understanding of the services provided at cemeteries and crematoria.

One of the objects of the Cremation Society of Great Britain is to advance public education in the practice and ethics of cremation. To this end it invites applications for individuals for bursaries of £528.00 (inc VAT) being the delegate's fee for this event.

For further information, please contact the Cremation Society of Great Britain:

Web: <http://cbce.org.uk/>

Email: info@cremation.org.uk

Tel: 01622 688292

Graduate Research Assistant Competition, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Summer 2017

The Museum's Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies is pleased to invite applications for the Summer Graduate Research Assistant Program, designed for students accepted to or currently enrolled in a master's degree program or in their first year of a PhD program. Applications are welcome from students in all academic disciplines, including history, political science, literature, Jewish studies, psychology, sociology, geography, and others. This opportunity is only open to those students accepted to or enrolled in an MA program or in their first year in a PhD program at a North American college or university and have legal permission to work in the United States (i.e., US citizenship, US permanent residency, or proper authorization on a US student visa). The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies is unable to provide visa assistance for non-US citizens.

The Summer Graduate Research Assistant Program acquaints students with Holocaust studies by encouraging participation in the broad range of scholarly and publicly available educational programs offered by the Museum during the summer months. Assistants will work closely with assigned staff mentors who will assign tasks related to research and program goals.

In addition, assistants are expected to participate in a weekly training seminar led by Museum staff, which introduces them to key subjects, essential tools, useful methods, and approaches as well as career opportunities in Holocaust research. Each assistant will meet with a staff mentor who will assign weekly tasks and project goals and discuss the progress of these tasks and goals.

Assistants for the 2017 year are required to be in residence at the Museum for 12 consecutive weeks, arriving on June 2 and departing on August 18, 2017. The Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies will provide a stipend of \$3,000/month as well as an allowance to offset the cost of direct, economy-class travel to and from Washington, DC. Local awardees will not receive a travel allowance.

In addition to English, applicants are encouraged, but not required, to have fluency in one or more of the following languages: German, Russian, Polish, Romanian, Hebrew, Yiddish, French, Dutch, Hungarian, Slovakian, Italian, and/or Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian.

Applications and supporting materials are due by 01 January 2017. Decisions will be announced in early April 2017

Further information on the programme and how to apply, as well as an application form can be found on the website: <https://www.ushmm.org/research/competitive-academic-programs/fellows-and-scholars/summer-graduate-program>

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Information/Book
16 Dec 2016 – 30 Jul 2017	Dying Matters – A Community Display	Leeds City Museum	http://www.leeds.gov.uk/museumsandgalleries/Pages/leedscitymuseum/Dying-Matters.aspx
18 Jan 2017	Common or multiple futures for end of life care interventions around the world?	Open University, Milton Keynes	http://wels.open.ac.uk/research/death-dying-and-bereavement
24 Jan 2017	Images of Care and Dying	University of Cambridge	http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/programmes/images-of-care
24-25 Feb 2017	International Conference on Dying and Death in Art, Philosophy, Law and Politics	Nippon Meeting Halls, Istanbul, Turkey	http://www.dakamconferences.org/dyinganddeath
01 Mar 2017	Dying with a Learning Disability	Radisson Blu Hotel, Cardiff	http://store.southwales.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&deptid=20&catid=105&prodid=521
03-04 Mar 2017	Transmortality 2017: The Materiality and Spatiality of Death, Burial and Commemoration	Luxembourg City	https://transmortality.uni.lu/
06-08 Mar 2017	Death Online Research Symposium and PhD workshop	Aarhus University, Denmark	nordrc@cc.ac.dk
07 Mar 2017	Images of Care and Dying	University of Cambridge	http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/programmes/images-of-care
24-26 March 2017	Skeletons, Stories and Social Bodies Conference	University of Southampton	http://www.ssbconference.co.uk/
29 Mar – 02 Apr 2017	Manipulated bodies: investigating post-mortem interactions with human remains	Vancouver, Canada	e.craig-atkins@sheffield.ac.uk
31 Mar – 02 Apr 2017	Folklore from the Cradle to the Grave	Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh	thefolkloresociety@gmail.com
27 Apr 2017	Images of Care and Dying	University of Cambridge	http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/programmes/images-of-care

08-14 May 2017	Dying Matters Awareness Week 2017	Nationwide	http://www.dyingmatters.org/page/AwarenessWeek2017
11-12 May 2017	Death and the Maiden: Representations of Women and Death in Literature and Culture	University of Social Sciences, Łódź, Poland	Deathandthemaide2017@gmail.com
09-10 June 2017	CDAS Conference 2017, 'Death on the Margins of the State'	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0135.html
18-21 Jun 2017	Geographies of Death – place-making, mobilities, diversity & sustainability	Stockholm	http://www.humangeo.su.se/english/ngm-2017
03-05 Jul 2017	Cremation & Burial Communication and Education event	Stratford-upon- Avon	http://cbce.org.uk/
06-09 Jul 2017	Six Feet Under: Exploring Death in popular culture (ACLA17)	University of Utrecht, The Netherlands	https://www.acla.org/six-feet-under-exploring-death-popular-culture
21-24 Jul 2017	Death and the Maiden Conference	University of Winchester	deathandthemaide@winchester.ac.uk
06-10 Sept 2017	DDD13: Ritual, religion and magic	University of Central Lancashire	http://www.uclan.ac.uk/conference_event/s/death-dying-disposal.php

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