



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND POLICY SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BATH
CLAVERTON DOWN
BATH BA2 7AY
UNITED KINGDOM

EMAIL: cdas@bath.ac.uk

WEB: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/centrefordeath>

TWITTER: @cendeathsociety

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January 2017 Director's Note:

Welcome to 2017's first CDAS newsletter.

This month's note will be short as I am currently marking essays and preparing the required documentation for UK Citizenship. It takes a lot of paperwork to become British.

2017 is going to be a great year for CDAS. We have a number of new global initiatives involving CDAS and I will be writing about these during 2017.

Please remember to submit an abstract for the CDAS 2017 conference June 9-10. The submission deadline is 27 February. This year's conference theme is 'Death at the Margins of the State' and I am really looking forward to the presentations.

Happy 2017.

John Troyer, Director

News from CDAS

CDAS Conference 2017: Call for Papers and booking open

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.

Registration is £140 for 2 days and £75 for a single day, and includes all sessions, lunch and refreshments on the days of attendance, as well as a conference pack. Optional social events are a key part of CDAS conferences, please indicate whether you would like to attend when booking, pay on the day. Booking is now open via [our online store](#).

Conference updates will appear on the webpage:
http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0135.html

CDAS Seminar: Terror Management Theory

04 May 2017, 14.15 – 17.00

3 East 2.4, University of Bath, UK

Drawing on cultural anthropologist [Ernest Becker’s work](#), terror management theory (TMT) posits that humans quell the terrifying awareness of mortality by investing in cultural belief systems (worldviews) that imbue life with meaning and individuals with significance and self-esteem. The theory has generated over 500 empirical research studies into not only self-esteem and prejudice but also many other forms of social behaviour.

TMT is a psychological theory with social, cultural and political implications. To date, it has been largely ignored by sociology, cultural studies and death studies, but is increasingly being cited within palliative care. This seminar examines TMT, bringing together proponents and critics working in various disciplines.

Programme:

14.15: Welcome: Tony Walter, Centre for Death & Society

14.20: *Overview of TMT from a Psychological Perspective*

[Simon McCabe](#), Psychologist and Lecturer in Management, Work and Organisation, University of Stirling

15.00: *The Terror of Death and the Rise of Technology*

[Stephen Cave](#), Philosopher and Executive Director of the [Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence](#), University of Cambridge. Author of the best-seller *Immortality*.

15.40: Break

16.00: *Trying to Find Death in Terror Management Theory*

[John Troyer](#), Senior Lecturer, Department of Social & Policy Sciences & CDAS Director, University of Bath

16.40: Closing discussion

This event is free to attend, please register your place via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cdas-seminar-terror-management-theory-tickets-31410079393>

CDAS PhD Student has first solo-authored publication in Death Studies

Renkse Visser, CDAS PhD Student, has had her first solo-authored paper published in *Death Studies* (2017) 41 (1) pp6-13.

'Doing death. Reflecting on the researcher's subjectivity and emotions', considers the complexity of subjectivity within death studies. She considers the cultural background of the research, the personal/professional boundaries and the emotional responses participants can affect on researchers. She draws on her experiences of being a Dutch researcher in a UK context, of personal loss and the death of a research participant.

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/07481187.2016.1257877>

Death Studies Community News

New Bereavement Benefit payments

The current system of bereavement benefits, including Bereavement Payment, Bereavement Allowance and Widowed Parent's Allowance, will be replaced with a new single Bereavement Support Payment. This will be introduced for new claims from April 2017. Social Fund Funeral Payments are not affected by this reform.

A statement by Caroline Noakes, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Welfare Delivery on 12th January 2017 can be found here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-01-12/HCWS409>

The draft legislation can be read here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2017/9780111153062>

Dying Matters Awareness Week 2017 launched

This year's Dying Matters Awareness Week was successfully launched at a sold out event in London on 23rd January. This year's theme, 'Working Together with our Communities' was introduced by Clare Henry and Gary Rycroft, both of Dying Matters and NCPC, where new resources were showcased and plans for the week were discussed. Representatives from a number of organisations and community initiatives then took the stage to share their experiences of past work, and suggest possible future ways of working.

You can read more about the event and access all the presentations online at:

<http://www.dyingmatters.org/page/dates-your-diary-2017>

A second sold out launch event will take place at Wirral Hospice St. John's on 1st February 2017.

If you are planning a Dying Matters Awareness Week event and would like support, buy or download resources, or just want to know more, visit the Dying Matters website for inspiration. Don't forget to add details of what you are up to on their events calendar.

<http://www.dyingmatters.org/>

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

Christian perspectives on death and dying

London/Frome

28 January/11 February 2017

'Christian perspectives on death and dying' is a national ecumenical project to support Christians to engage with contemporary debates around death and dying. All are welcome to join us for a day of conversation, reflection and debate in London or Frome addressing:

- Advance decisions ('Living Wills') – making end of life decisions for yourself
- Providing and withdrawing medical treatment – making decisions for those who have lost the ability to decide for themselves
- Assisted dying – legal, social and theological perspectives.

Preparing for death: Practical, ethical and Christian debate

Friends House, Euston, London

Saturday 28 January 2017

10.00 – 17.00

Speakers include: Revd Dr John Lampard (Methodist Church), Revd Professor Paul Badham (Dignity in Dying), Usha Grieve (Compassion in Dying), Robert Preston (Living and dying well), Dr Eva Kalmus (GP-Interface medicine), Dr Ben Wood (University of Chester), Professor Jenny Kitinger (Coma and Disorders of Consciousness Research Centre, Cardiff University).

Book your free place here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/preparing-for-death-practical-ethical-and-christian-debate-tickets-29711939210?aff=es2>

Christian perspectives on death and dying: a day of reflection and debate

Wesley Methodist Church, Frome, Somerset

Saturday 11 February 2017

10.00 – 17.00

Speakers include: Revd Dr Jonathan Pye (Somerset Mendip & Gloucestershire Methodist Chair of District), Revd Professor Paul Badham (Dignity in Dying), Professor Malcolm Johnson (University of Bath), Professor Jenny Kitinger (Coma and Disorders of Consciousness Research Centre), Usha Grieve (Compassion in Dying), Revd Brenda Dowie (University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust), Revd Dr Keith Albans (Cliff College), Revd Michael White (Frome Community Hospital chaplain).

Book your free place here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christian-perspectives-on-death-and-dying-a-day-of-reflection-and-debate-tickets-29717885997?aff=eac2>

Open University Death & Dying Seminar series

Open University, [Milton Keynes](#)

13.30 – 15.30

Exact location will vary, please contact wels-research-admin@open.ac.uk for up to date information.

The Open University is hosting a new seminar series in 2017 on death and dying. It will show-case a variety of seminar styles, from traditional academic talks to interactive discussion sessions, all with the intent to get us to think about these issues differently and to see what is on the horizon in this field.

21 Feb 2017 - [Prof Davies \(Durham University\)](#) and [Louise Winter \(writer and founder of Poetic Endings\)](#). Session about 'thinking about death differently' with Prof Davies talking about his pet death research and Louise Winter about her art exhibition Life. Death. Whatever.

21 March 2017: Dr Arolker (Heartlands NHS Trust) - Sedation near the end of life

18 April 2017: [Dr Siassakos \(University of Bristol\)](#) and [Claire Storey \(International Stillbirth Alliance\)](#) - Session about stillbirth and neonatal death.

Email wels-research-admin@open.ac.uk for the most up-to-date information (including room venue) and to register your interest.

Deaths in the Criminal Justice System: A North East and Yorkshire Conference

23 February 2017, 10.30 to 16:00

The King's Manor, Exhibition Square, York

The 2016 national suicide rate in prison was the highest recorded, and the number of deaths in other supervision settings and in the community after release continue to cause concern. This event will examine the incidence of, and issues arising from such deaths and consider ways they can be addressed.

This event will be of interest to policy and service practitioners in Criminal Justice and health services and to researchers and other investigators. Admission is free but please [register in advance](#).

Programme

- 10:30 Registration, refreshments and welcome
- 11:00 The Policy and Practice Setting - 1
Paul Foweather (Director NE & Y Public Sector Prisons) Or Tim Allen (Governor HMP Durham)
Juliet Lyon (Chair, Independent Advisory Panel on Deaths in Custody)
- 12:15 Research and service developments - suicides
- 13:10 Lunch
- 14:00 The Policy and Practice Setting -2
Nigel Newcomen (Prisons and Probation Ombudsman)
- 14:40 Research and service developments - impacts of deaths in custody
- 16:00 Close: what we know and what we don't but need to

Bereavement Research into Practice

28 February 2017, 10.30 – 16.00

National Children's Bureau, Wakley Street, London

New developments in bereavement research are expanding our understanding of what it means to be bereaved and what can help in times of grief.

Researchers, practitioners and policymakers need to share insights and generate ideas together to make sure that research informs practice, and that practice helps identify the next questions we need research to answer.

Join us for a day of networking for bereavement researchers and practitioners. The seminar will be a chance for bereavement researchers to share their findings with practitioners, and for practitioners

to help shape the future of bereavement research, across sociology, psychology and other disciplines.

Presenters will reflect on aspects of the research process, sharing insights from their current projects.

- Designing research for a study on the impact on families of assisted dying
Janette Fish, Lancaster University
- Recruiting and caring for participants in a study on predictors of Complicated Grief
Dr Kirsten Smith, University of Oxford
- The impact of practical support on bereaved partners and parents of military personnel: findings from an evaluation
Dr Liz Rolls, University of Gloucestershire
- Findings from an efficacy study of volunteer bereavement support
Cate Newsom, University of Utrecht and Cruse Bereavement Care, Scotland

We will also be launching the findings of the National Bereavement Alliance's consultation on the main evidence gaps for bereavement care, which will help to drive the agenda for bereavement research. If you haven't answered the consultation survey already, you can do so at <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=147213918213>

To book your free seminar place, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bereavement-research-into-practice-spring-2017-registration-30515903890>

For enquiries, please contact Alison Penny (apenny@ncb.org.uk)

Call for Papers

Morbid Fascination: Dark Tourism in the American West

Places of death, suffering, and disaster compel our attention; they both intrigue and repel us. Morbid fascination draws tourists to sites as diverse as Pompeii, Auschwitz, and Chernobyl. A growing body of scholarship considers the impulse to visit these places of misfortune and catastrophe and, especially, the mediation and shaping of these sites into touristic destinations. Much of this work, however, has focused on places outside the geographical boundaries of the American West. This collection of essays aims to expand our understanding of Dark Tourism within the context of the West. We invite proposals exploring a range of Western Dark Tourism sites and topics.

Submission details: Proposals for submissions to this collection should include a title, contact information (email, phone, address, including preferred means of contact), and a 500-word abstract. Proposals and enquires to adkisoj@hsu.edu, deadline 15 February 2017.

Editor: Dr. Jennifer Dawes Adkison, Associate Professor of English, Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas, adkisoj@hsu.edu

Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)

Boston, Massachusetts

30 August – 02 September 2017

[Sheraton Boston Hotel](#), 39 Dalton Street

Conference theme: STS (In)Sensibilities

Panel 37. Necropolitics

Organized by: Mara Dicenta-Vilker, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

This panel looks for contributions around the material semiotics of death, dead subjects, and killing/elimination that engage with the political and scientific processes by which they are maintained, resignified, or disrupted.

About the conference: <http://www.4sonline.org/meeting>

Full panel details: http://www.4sonline.org/meeting/open_panel_topics_34_66

Submit an abstract: <https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/ssss/4s17/>

Digital Existence II: Precarious Media Life Conference

30 October – 01 November 2017

Sigtuna Foundation, nr Stockholm, Sweden

Digital media have the power to transform our existence, raising new questions and creating new vulnerabilities as part of the experience of being human in the digital age. Big data and hyperconnectivity, tracking and trolling, digital life and digital death are only some of the issues that require an existential media analysis that underlines the precarity of human existence. The conference's exploratory workshop format will critically map the various digital vulnerabilities that face us in our contemporary media age and hopefully create new trajectories of thought.

Deadline for abstract submission: 15 March.

The conference is a joint venture between the DIGMEX research network and the Nordic Network for the Study of Media and Religion.

Info: <http://et.ims.su.se/activities/#2017-01-11>

Call for papers: <http://et.ims.su.se/files/call-for-contributions-Precarious-Media-Life-Fall-2017.pdf>

Eighteenth Colloquium on Cemeteries

19 May 2017

University of York

This event takes place in York every year and comprises a day meeting of scholars with an interest in cemeteries and burial. Disciplines that are routinely represented include history, art history, sociology, anthropology, historical archaeology, landscape design and architecture, conservation and policy analysis. The Colloquium often draws international speakers. A key aspect of the event is its informality: a focus on discussion makes this a highly valuable forum in which to present new and emerging research.

Abstracts of no more than 250 words should be sent to julie.rugg@york.ac.uk. Please ensure that the abstract is in Word format. Any queries about the event should in the first instance be directed by email to the address given.

The deadline for abstracts is 10th April 2017.

Further information on the Colloquium is available at:

<https://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/cemetery-research-group/colloquium/>

Jobs and study opportunities

PhD Studentships in Health, Wellbeing and Social Care

Open University - Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies.

The Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies is funding full-time PhD studentships for an October 2017 start. Achieving good health and supporting effective social care for all is essential to achieving social justice, and this lies at the heart of the Open University's mission. We are keen to attract students to work with us on research that locates the experiences of service users, 'patients', carers, family members and practitioners at the fore of inquiry. We place value on participatory and inclusive research particularly with individuals that are marginalised, 'hard to reach' or have complex needs. Our research draws on various methodologies and forms of analysis and much is based on multidisciplinary work across the social sciences, in particular drawing on medical sociology, critical psychology, anthropology and other critical, applied social sciences. We also have places for part-time self-funded students.

Applications are invited on one or more of the following themes:

- age, ageing and later life
- children, young people, parenting and families
- death, dying and bereavement

- disability and long-term conditions
- reproductive and sexual health

For more information on the application process see:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/mphil-and-phd-application-process>

To inquire about these studentships contact Dr Lindsay O'Dell by email:

hwsc-research-degrees@open.ac.uk

Closing date - 17 March. Interviews - May 2017

Information: <http://bit.ly/2gXkXYy>

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
28 Jan 2017	Preparing for death: Practical, ethical and Christian debate	Friends House, London	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/preparing-for-death-practical-ethical-and-christian-debate-tickets-29711939210?aff=es2
11 Feb 2017	Christian perspectives on death and dying: a day of reflection and debate	Wesley Methodist Church, Frome	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/christian-perspectives-on-death-and-dying-a-day-of-reflection-and-debate-tickets-29717885997?aff=eac2
21 Feb 2017	Thinking about death differently, an OU Seminar	Open University, Milton Keynes	wels-research-admin@open.ac.uk
23 Feb 2017	Deaths in the Criminal Justice System	King's Manor, York	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/deaths-in-the-criminal-justice-system-a-north-east-and-yorkshire-conference-tickets-31120146195
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
28 Feb 2017	Bereavement Research into Practice	National Children's Bureau, Wakley Street, London	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bereavement-research-into-practice-spring-2017-registration-30515903890

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.crash.cam.ac.uk/programmes/images-of-care
21 March 2017	Sedation near end of life, an OU seminar	Open University, Milton Keynes	wels-research-admin@open.ac.uk
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
18 April 2017	Stillbirth and neonatal death, an OU Seminar	Open University, Milton Keynes	wels-research-admin@open.ac.uk
27 Apr 2017	Images of Care and Dying	University of Cambridge	http://www.crash.cam.ac.uk/programmes/images-of-care
04 May 2017	CDAS Seminar: Terror Management Theory	University of Bath	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cdas-seminar-terror-management-theory-tickets-31410079393
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	http://deathandthemaids2017.16mb.com/
19 May 2017	Eighteenth Colloquium on Cemeteries	University of York	https://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/cemetery-research-group/colloquium/

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
30 Aug – 02 Sept 2017	Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)	Boston, Mass, USA	http://www.4sonline.org/meeting
06-10 Sept 2017	DDD13: Ritual, religion and magic	University of Central Lancashire	http://www.uclan.ac.uk/conference_events/death-dying-disposal.php
20 Oct – 01 Nov 2017	Digital Existence II: Precarious Media Life Conference	Sigtuna Foundation, nr Stockholm, Sweden	http://et.ims.su.se/activities/#2017-01-11

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