

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

Newsletter

November 2018

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Director's Note

November 2018

But for the Semi-Annual International Conference on the Social Context of Death, Dying, and Disposal (DDD7) held here at the University of Bath in 2005, I would not be CDAS Director today. Back then, I was still a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota and just beginning to contemplate what kinds of jobs a thesis on the dead body and technology might produce.



Indeed, my thesis supervisor point blank asked me where in the world I would get a job working on death? I told him that I didn't know, but that I would find that place and work there. The Centre for Death and Society officially launched at DDD7.

As an American Ph.D. student visiting Bath for the first time to attend DDD7 all I kept saying to myself was – I had no idea there were other death academics like me in the world. I found my people! The architecture was pretty good too.

Postgraduate and Early Career Scholar job opportunities and research networks created by the DDD conferences are, for me, a key reason to financially support DDD's commitment to fostering a new generation of death studies academics.

The DDD14 Organising Committee is seeking sponsors for the conference (see page 5) and raising this money means enabling more Postgrads and Early Career Researchers who need financial assistance to attend DDD14. If we can hit our sponsorship goal of £20k total raised, then Postgrads, ECRs and independent researchers without available funds will be able to attend the conference for a significantly reduced cost.

Please consider making a donation to the DDD14 Conference and sponsoring the fantastic opportunities created by bringing together our community of scholars, practitioners, and thought leaders.

I can personally attest to what a lifelong difference attending a DDD Conference makes.

CDAS News

CDAS Early Career Visiting Fellow's Programme – Applications now welcome

We announced the new CDAS Early Career Visiting Fellow's Programme in our last newsletter. This opportunity extends our programme of welcoming visiting scholars from around the world so that we are now able to create a formal link to CDAS for researchers without a permanent home in a University. We are now welcoming applications for this programme.

Benefits of the programme include:

- Access to the library, CDAS community and University of Bath email account
- Opportunities to present work at departmental and CDAS events, as well as annual conference
- 3 year position
- Unfortunately there is no desk or funding attached to this programme

Eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must be an ECR in Death Studies (broadly defined) **without permanent employment** in a University

How to Apply:

- Send a one-page research proposal (no more) and a current CV to cdas@bath.ac.uk
- This is a rolling deadline and applications can be made at anytime

THE 14TH
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SOCIAL CONTEXT OF

**DEATH,
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DISPOSAL**

WED 04 - SAT 07 SEPTEMBER 2019
UNIVERSITY OF BATH, UK

THEME:

**ENGAGEMENT &
EDUCATION**



The Call for Papers is NOW OPEN! Many thanks to those who have already submitted. We look forward to receiving many more over the coming months. The theme for DDD14 will be '**Engagement and Education**'. We welcome all submissions related to death, dying and disposal but specifically papers related to:

- The role/purpose/possibility of death studies;
- The visibility of death as a social issue;
- Heritage, museums and the cultural sector;
- The knowledge economy;
- Media work;
- Public education;
- Meaning of expertise;
- Experiential knowledge;
- Working with non-academic audiences;
- Historical and archaeological narratives;
- The political economy of death;
- The politics of death, dying and disposal.

Full details of the Call for Papers are attached and can also be viewed [here](#).

Submission deadline is 20 Feb 2018. Please submit all abstracts [here](#).

For further information please contact us at infoddd@bath.ac.uk or call ++44 1225 384515.

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Sponsorship and Branding Opportunities!

The DDD conference 2019 is set to be the biggest ever. Celebrating the 10th birthday of the Association for the Study of Death and Society (ASDS) and hosted in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Bath we are expecting up to 200 leading academics and practitioners from across the globe. Promote your organisation through one of our exciting sponsorship opportunities. Benefit from face to face marketing, meeting new customers, strengthening relationships and networking.

Sponsorship packages from £200 - £5000 available, including:

- Sponsorship of the Gala Drinks Reception at the Roman Baths
 - Headline sponsorship of the main lecture theatre
 - Branded items for inclusion in delegate bags
- Sponsorship of the ASDS 10th anniversary celebration cake

For further information please contact Emma or John by emailing infoddd@bath.ac.uk or call ++44 1225 384515.

DDD Community News

Events

Game Over? Bringing Death to Life...again: Deathscapes

9 November 2018: 16.00-20.00, Institute of Education, University of Reading RG1 5AQ.

This Mexican Day of the Dead inspired event is FREE to attend for all the family. Dress up, visit different parts of campus, join the fun Art, Computing/digital technologies workshops: pottery, screen printing, face painting, programming using BBC Micro:bits, program your designs & turn them into badges, walk the labyrinth, play board games, 3D hangman and more! There are workshops & talks for adults too! For further information and to register please visit us [here](#).

A Love that Never Dies

11 November 2018, 17.30, Widcombe Social Club, Bath. Film showing followed by Q&A with directors Jane Harris and Jimmy Edmonds.

In offering a road map and reassurance for parents joining a club that nobody wants to join, Harris and Edmonds have done something courageous and constructive with their grief – *Culturefly*.

Losing a child is possibly the worst thing that can ever happen to a parent and many hold their grief close to their broken hearts. Jane Harris and Jimmy Edmonds decided to do something different: they made a film about the death of their son Josh, and travelled across the world to talk to others who have suffered the same unbearable loss.

Tickets are available [here](#).

Stories from Skeletons

12 November 2018, 6pm, St George's Bristol, BS1 5RR.

Dr Heidi Dawson-Hobbs discusses how archaeologists gather information from skeletal remains, such as age-at-death, sex, and evidence for disease and trauma, to enable us to build up a story of the once living individual. Case studies will be used from excavated cemeteries in Bristol, including St George's, to illustrate what we can learn about both individuals and populations, as well as informing us on the medical history of the city, during the nineteenth century.

Dr Heidi Dawson-Hobbs is Lecturer in Biological Anthropology at the University of Winchester, a consultant osteoarchaeologist, and an honorary research associate at the University of Bristol.

To book please visit: <https://www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk/event/stories-from-skeletons/>

[The Sense of an Ending: Stories, meanings and understandings](#)

28 November 2018, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care annual conference, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

Bookings are now open for Scotland's premiere event for anyone involved in the care and support of people reaching the end of life. Delegates will have an opportunity to learn, network, share and challenge perspectives. Topics will include: realities and complexities of shared-decision-making; addressing future challenges for the NHS at 70; social care; lack of meaning and making sense at the end of life. Speakers include Christian Busch, Hospital Chaplain, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen; Paul Gray, Director General for Health and Social Care for the Scottish Government and Chief Executive of NHS Scotland; Deans Buchanan, Consultant in Palliative care Medicine, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee; Donald Macaskill, Chief Executive, Scottish Care.

To book a place please visit:

<https://www.palliativecarescotland.org.uk/content/booking/>

[Oxford Centre for Education and Research in Palliative Care Seminar Series](#)

Caring in a Culturally Diverse World, 23 November 2018, Sobell Study Centre, Oxford, cost £120. An opportunity to hear people of enormously different backgrounds and world views teasing out how we care for ourselves and one another in a world and workplace where things can't be fixed. Our experience comes from experience in our discipline of end of life care and dealing with patients and relatives who are deeply distressed by their situation.

Culturally Sensitive palliative care: Meeting the needs of gender and sexual minorities, 26 April 2019, Oxford, cost £120. Despite the considerable social change that the UK has witnessed in relation to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights, significant evidence indicates that LGBT people face additional challenges when accessing palliative and end-of-life care services. This study day explores the issues and needs of LGBT people, with a specific emphasis on those needing and receiving palliative and end-of-life care. It provides participants with the opportunity to reflect on, and identify ways of providing, culturally sensitive care for LGBT people, their partners and families and within a palliative care context.

Death & Dying: Real life experiences, 7 Mar 2019, Sobell Study Centre, Oxford, cost £120. This study day will concentrate upon using real-life experiences of palliative care patients, family, carers and professionals, to consider experiences and issues surrounding death and dying. Consideration will also be given to topics such as Advance Care Planning, resilience and identification of holistic symptoms experienced as the end of life approaches

For further information on these and other seminars please contact ssc@ouh.nhs.uk

[End of Life: Issues and Resources for People with Intellectual Disability and Caregivers](#)

24 Jan 2019, 7.30 – 9am (Sydney Australia time), a free webinar for the disability sector and families.

Conducted by [Roger Stancliffe](#) (Sydney University) and [Michele Wiese](#) (Western Sydney University). Hosted by [American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities \(AAIDD\)](#). Further information can be found here: <https://aaid.org/education/event-details/2019/01/23/default-calendar/end-of-life-issues-and-resources-for-people-with-intellectual-disability-and-caregivers>.

[Death and Violence](#)

25 January 2019, University of Salford, UK. A symposium hosted by the BSA [Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement](#) and [Violence and Society Study Groups](#).

Death, violence and their social consequences are intimately connected in different ways and the aim of this one-day symposium is to explore the linkages across these two conceptual areas. We'll bring together sociologists from different fields such as criminology and death studies to discuss empirical and theoretical matters pertaining to the symposium theme. Registration is now open for this event. Full details of the programme and abstract book can be found [here](#).

[Refugee Experiences of Grieving the Dead](#)

Thursday 7 Feb 2019, 1-5pm, 83 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5ES. A seminar organised jointly by the Death, Dying and Bereavement Group, Open University and Centre for Death & Society, University of Bath.

Bereavement research has been conducted largely on peaceful western populations, but has barely addressed grieving the death of significant others that is often part of refugees' experience. Meanwhile, research and action with refugees have focused more on trauma and on loss of home, community, status, job, etc than on grief for deceased friends and family. This seminar seeks to begin to address this gap. Refugees' experience of bereavement is immensely varied - from witnessing family members being killed before leaving one's home country or dying en route, to the many Jews who got out of Vienna in 1938 but didn't know for up to a decade which other family members had survived. The programme includes:

- [Kerry Jones](#), Open University, *Kindertransport refugees: Discovering our parents' fate*;
- [Shahaduz Zaman](#), University of Sussex, *Film + short paper: Where Shall Thou Rest: Death and Dying at the Syrian Refugee Camps in Lebanon*;

- [Maurice Stierl](#), University of Warwick, *Grieving Migrant Lives Lost in the Mediterranean Sea*.

Click [here](#) to book your place.

[Bereavement Services Seminar](#)

27 March 2019, Stratford Manor Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Hosted jointly by the Cremation Society, the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM), the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA) and the Association of Private Cemeteries and Crematoria (APCC). Further details to follow.

[Dying Matters 2019: Are We Ready?](#)

The Dying Matters Awareness Week 2019 runs 13 – 19 May.

This year's Dying Matters Awareness Week will ask: **Are We Ready?** It's a question that challenges each of us on several levels. Are We Ready for our own deaths, or the deaths of those we care about? This is a practical question – wills, funeral planning and more – but of course it's also emotional, even spiritual for some of us. For many of us, the answer will not be 'yes'. We know from the research we've done that most people haven't taken care of the practical aspects, which include deciding on organ donation, and planning our future care. And even for those that have, the emotional aspect of being ready for death is challenging. Who is ever really ready to die?

Such questions are best faced with the help of others, which is why we're asking 'Are We Ready?' To face death and dying is a challenge greater than any one of us can face alone, and it is all of our responsibility. We're in this life together, so our question is asking much more of us than you might think. More information on Dying Awareness Week can be found [here](#).

[Calls for Papers](#)

[Bereavement Care Journal – Special Edition](#)

The journal *Bereavement Care* is planning a special themed edition for Winter 2019.

The theme is '**Bereavement support 1959-2019 and beyond**'.

The theme has been chosen to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee of the UK charity **Cruse Bereavement Care**. However, the special edition will take an international focus and is seeking contributions that will challenge readers to reflect upon how bereavement support, theory and best practice have evolved from their early days in the 1950s to the present time. We also invite authors to consider controversies, challenges and possibilities for the future. The edition tasks itself to engage with ideas, practice and personal experience that are pertinent to our international readership and as such submissions will

need to address this. **Colin Murray Parkes** will be providing the Foreword / Editorial for the Special Edition.

Call for Papers

We are looking for: research that will be peer reviewed; reviews of seminal books and art projects/works; articles of that address issues of practice; and personal reflections. Word counts for submissions will vary but range from 1,500 – 5,000 words approximately. All work will need to have been previously unpublished.

We would be specifically interested in papers that explore:

- Changes and controversies in theories of grief / bereavement;
- Changes in the delivery of bereavement care and support and the theoretical and professional drivers for this
- The public health model of bereavement
- Complicated grief / prolonged grief – how this has been addressed from a range of viewpoints (to include neuroscientific perspectives)
- Community approaches / Peer support for bereavement
- Children's bereavement services / Children's hospices – a history
- Support for diverse populations and issues of social justice

Submission Guidelines

If you are interested in submitting a paper for this edition please contact the Managing Editor, Jessica Mitchell at jessica.mitchell@cruse.org.uk by the 31 December 2018 with a simple outline of your idea. The journal's Editorial Board will select the ideas that are to go forward and final submission of papers will be required in Spring 2019.

Publications

Religious Literacy in Hospice Care: Challenges and Controversies

Panagiotis Pentaris, Routledge, 2018

Using religious literacy as a framework, the author explores how healthcare professionals in hospice care respond to religion, belief and spiritual identities of service users. Part 1 provides a comprehensive account of the content and history of the place of religion, belief and spirituality in hospice care. Part 2 examines how these topics are negotiated in hospice care by looking at three key areas: environment, professional practice and organisation. Part 3 proposes a religious literacy model applicable to hospice care and explores implications for practice and policy. Lastly, the author identifies future trends in research, policy and practice.

Book Reviewer Wanted! The Undiscovered Country: conversations about death & dying

Mary Brown, KCA, 2018

In today's society, death has become sanitised and distant, happening away from us in hospitals, mortuaries and funeral homes or is experienced vicariously and trivialised through television or films. Previously part of everyday life and surrounded by sacred rituals, death seems to have become something dark and frightening, to be largely

ignored until we are forced to encounter it directly. Mary Brown confronts the taboos surrounding death by talking to those who have lost loved ones and to those who work with the dying and their families. In doing so, she brings out their unique experiences of and perspectives on death and shows that it is not something to fear, but part of life, to be acknowledged and discussed openly.

Book reviewer wanted. If you are interested please contact cdas@bath.ac.uk.

Other News

The Grand Union: Excellence and Innovation in Social Research Training

The Open University invites applications for full- and part-time studentships in our suite of pathways within The Grand Union Doctoral Training Partnership. Closing date: 11 Jan 2019 at 17.00.

These studentships are funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Grand Union Doctoral Partnership. The studentships are fully funded for 4 years full-time or 8 years part-time, covering tuition fees (at UK/EU level) and providing a stipend. Further details can be found [here](#).

New Compassionate Communities Network

A new Scotland-wide network is being launched for those who would like to help improve their community's experience of deteriorating health, dying and bereavement.

The Scottish Compassionate Communities Network will connect members with other like-minded people in their area to share ideas and experience. It will also bring people together to create practical support and guidance on how to develop a Compassionate Community – a community that provides good care and support for those facing death and bereavement.

The Network is being set up by Good Life Good Death Good Grief, the alliance of individuals and organisations working to make Scotland more open and supportive around death, dying and bereavement. It is open anyone who would like to be practically involved in this area, regardless of experience, knowledge or background.

To join the network, complete the form here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10gqZosjC6pCDxtrJTDCIIDuGgeZot0RwBXN0XbZiSO8/edit>

For more information on the network, contact Rebecca Patterson on rebecca.patterson@palliativecarescotland.org.uk or 0131 272 2735 or visit the website www.lifedeathgrief.org.uk

Off the Beaten Track – Scholarship applications now open!

Anthropology Field School, Gozo, Malta.

The Field School runs field work summer schools offering participants a unique opportunity to acquire some 'in the field' experience. Possible research topics include, but are not limited to, anthropology of food, tourism, ethnic relations, architecture and religion. The Malta Summer School staff connect students and locals, facilitate and monitor projects and guide participants through the process of publishing their work. Dates for 2019: 5 – 24 June; 2 – 21 July; 29 – 17 August. For further information please visit their [website](#).

Visit the [CDAS website](#) to view a full calendar of events

Contact us

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