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News from CDAS

5th Annual CDAS Conference + 10th Anniversary a great success!

CDAS welcomed 75 participants from 12 countries on 5 continents to our fifth annual conference, on the theme 'Death and Its Futures'. This provided ample opportunity to reflect globally on how societies are responding to current challenges in death, dying and loss, and to assess the contribution of academic research in this area.

'Enlightening conference with eminent and exciting researchers, I will be back. Lovely staff, great welcome, wonderful conference!'

Conference delegate 2015

Mid-way through the conference, we adjourned with colleagues from the University and the city to the University's new arts centre, The Edge, to celebrate CDAS tenth anniversary. Here, [a new film of our work](#), made by doctoral student Andréia De Sousa Martins, was premiered and each of the Centre's directors - Glennys Howarth, Allan Kellehear and Tony Walter - offered their reflections on the past, present and future of academic research on death and dying. A highlight was Allan's clarion call for social scientists to provide answers (not just ask questions) and to develop new practice models (not just critique existing models).

Some of the presentations from the conference will be available shortly via the University of Bath. We will let you know as soon as these are ready to view.

CDAS launch 'Bereaved through substance use' guidelines

On Tuesday 23 June, CDAS researchers with colleagues from the [University of Stirling](#) launched a set of practice guidelines aimed at providing meaningful support to people who have lost a relative or friend to alcohol or drugs to an audience of academics, practitioners, policy makers and participants of the research project.

The guidelines, based on findings from a three-year [Economic and Social Research Council](#) (ESRC)-funded project, suggest that those left bereaved after a drug or alcohol related death often receive poor, unkind or stigmatising responses which can exacerbate their grief.

The study interviewed 106 bereaved adults, the largest known qualitative research sample of its kind, and held focus groups with 40 members, mainly practitioners (some also bereaved), whose work brings them into contact with this group.

Among the report's key messages it suggests:

1. *Always show kindness and compassion when interacting with a bereaved person. First impressions make a huge impression and can greatly help or hinder a person's response to grief.*

2. *Think about the language you use. Avoid using labels like 'addict'; instead talk about drug use and alcohol use. Use language that mentions the person before describing their behaviour. Avoid saying 'I know how you feel' and 'You shouldn't blame yourself'.*
3. *Treat every bereaved person as an individual. Do not make assumptions about the person who died and about how this kind of death may affect those left behind and how they will react.*
4. *Whatever your role, do what you can to protect the bereaved person's well-being in a difficult and stressful situation. Do not be afraid of speaking to them about the death - it is often worse when it is not acknowledged. Ask the bereaved person what will help and what they want of you. Be willing to really listen.*
5. *Be aware of and work with other organisations dealing with this kind of death, so you can advise bereaved people about what they need to do, who they need to see next and what is going on. There may, for example, need to be a post mortem, inquest or police investigation.*

Read the full news item at:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/research/news/2015/06/23/bereavement-guidelines/>

The guidelines can be downloaded from the CDAS website, www.bath.ac.uk/cdas, or email cdas@bath.ac.uk for a .pdf or to order hard copies.

GW4 Collaboration continues – 'Dying Well with Reduced Agency'

We are pleased to announce that our GW4 collaboration, between the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter, has been granted further funding to continue to explore issues surrounding dying well with reduced agency. This project follows directly on from the GW4 Initiator Project: Dying Well at the End of a Long Life.

Demographic, technological, organisational, political and social changes create new challenges at the end of life. This GW4 community is focused on understanding and improving the end of life for the growing number of people with reduced agency (e.g. linked to dementia, disorders of consciousness or frailty/chronic conditions in advanced old age).

Our community aims to:

- increase capacity and integration of our work about end-of-life across GW4 and ensure sustainability;
- ensure public/patient involvement as we develop a cross-university research agenda;
- increase the profile of, and dialogue about, the work we do through the public/policy engagement events and conference presentation(s);
- generate (at least one) publication;
- develop research bids to inform future work to research, and improve end of life support for people with reduced agency.

A website and blog will be available from next month, so you can follow our progress and contribute to the debate. A letter from the lead researcher at Bath, Dr Jeremy Dixon, will be coming to subscribers of this newsletter shortly with further details.

Death & Dying in the Media, Print and Internet

Media response to 'Bereaved through substance use' guidelines

The launch of the 'Bereaved through substance use' guidelines in London on the 23rd June generated a lot of interest from the media and both the Principal Investigator, CDAS's Prof Tony Walter, and research participant, Irene MacDonald, were interviewed by BBC Radio Wiltshire about the research and how the guidelines might support people in the future.

Listen again to Prof Tony Walter on BBC Radio Wiltshire, 23rd June 2015
<http://www.bath.ac.uk/play/video/1435057440>

Listen again to Irene MacDonald on BBC Radio Wiltshire, 23rd June 2015
<http://www.bath.ac.uk/play/video/1435058400>

Researcher Christine Valentine authored a piece for The Conversation, a collaborative blog between editors and academics; 'What happens to those left behind by a drug or alcohol-related death'. <https://theconversation.com/what-happens-to-those-left-behind-by-a-drug-or-alcohol-related-death-43678>

New jiscmail list for academics

Anais Duong-Pedica would like to share news about a new Death Research Network on JISCmail. This list is to be moderated by Anaïs and Jack Denham (PhD students at University of York) and will encourage and facilitate communications between researchers who study death specifically in the UK and in the social sciences and humanities.

Here is the link if you are interested in subscribing: <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=DEATH-RESEARCH>

Whilst Anaïs and Jack are currently responsible for moderating the list, they would like anyone who is interested in getting involved with moderating and/or owning the list to get in touch, via Anaïs at ap827@york.ac.uk

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

What's gone wrong with dying? Compassion and Dying & {farewill}

29 June 2015, 12.30 – 16.00

V&A Museum, London

A discussion about death, design and end-of-life planning

Too many people suffer at the end of the life. Too many people die without a Will or have their Will contested. Very few people have planned for the end of their life. But why? And what are we going to do about it?

Join Compassion in Dying and {farewill} in a one day symposium of talks and discussions bringing together experts from anthropology, healthcare, design and technology.

Confirmed speakers include,

- Professor Emily Jackson, Professor of Law and Head of Department at the London School of Economics.
- Professor Ray Tallis, former Professor of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Manchester and a consultant physician in Health Care of the Elderly in Salford.
- Professor Tony Walter, Professor of Death Studies at the University of Bath.
- Ben Davies, PhD student in Philosophy at King's College London.
- Patrick Stevenson-Keating, Founder of the London based collaborative design studio Studio PSK.
- Ian Bond, deputy chair of the Law Society's Wills and Equity Committee.

For further details and to book: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/whats-gone-wrong-with-dying-tickets-17241509820>

Death and Funerals in Different Religions and Cultures

An educational seminar by the Child Funeral Charity

14 July 2015, 10.00 – 16.00

National Memorial Arboretum, Staffordshire

£75 (including lunch and certificate for CPD)

Any professional working with death and bereavement in today's UK multicultural society is aware of the varied religions and cultures surrounding death and funerals. Such variety requires increasing knowledge and understanding.

Since its launch in 2014, the Child Funeral Charity has become particularly aware of the need for funeral professionals to have increasingly greater knowledge of a wide range of different religious and cultural practices.

The seminar will include speakers from a range of faith groups, including Buddhism, Hinduism, Muslim, Sikh and Paganism, focusing on the traditions and expectations surrounding death and funerals within a multi-cultural society.

It is an ideal opportunity for any professional working with families who have lost a child to further their understanding of issues surrounding bereavement in a multi-cultural and multi-faith Britain.

Full seminar and booking details, can be found on our website - www.childfuneralcharity.org.uk/events.html

NCPC Training workshops: Mental Capacity Act and Advance Care Planning

14 July 2015

NCPC Offices, London

Delivered by experts in the field, these workshops are essential training for anyone required to apply the Mental Capacity Act in practice, or in a role which includes supporting people with long term and life limiting conditions in any setting.

Attend one of the workshops which lasts half a day, or book for both workshops over the course of the full day and save on the registration fee. NCPC subscribers discounts apply.

For full details about the workshops and to book your place, please visit the NCPC website (<http://www.ncpc.org.uk/mca-acp>), or email Training Co-ordinator, Beth Lloyd-Williams (b.lloyd-williams@ncpc.org.uk).

Bereavement Complicated by Abuse

Early deprivation, sexual abuse or domestic violence

09 Oct 2015, 09.30 – 16.30

St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham

£120 (Includes lunch and refreshments)

Code: BCA1015

Many of our bereaved clients have also had experience of abuse, separation and neglect. This day is an opportunity to reflect on how we can best support bereaved people who are also struggling to manage the effects of abuse, early sexual abuse or domestic violence.

The day will address these questions:

- How might early life experiences affect our capacity to cope with loss?
- How do we support clients who are at risk from abuse including domestic violence?
- How can we offer focussed bereavement support, assess need and make timely referral on?
- What resources are there for survivors of sexual abuse?

Topics will include

- The needs of the bereaved. How does early life experience affect our capacity to cope with loss?
- Understanding the impact of sexual abuse. How does early abuse affect our capacity to cope with loss?
- Domestic abuse, death and bereavement
- Resources for families coping with sexual abuse

This training will be highly relevant for counsellors, social workers, police family liaison staff, solicitors or any professionals working with the bereaved.

For further information and to book, visit the St Christopher's Hospice website:

<http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/education/course/bereavement-complicated-by-abuse>

Call for papers

Grave Notes

Grave Notes offers an exciting new forum for the exchange of ideas about eighteenth- and nineteenth-century graveyard cultures, and is open to postgraduate, academic, and independent researchers, especially those working in Literature, Cultural Studies, History, Art History, Media Studies, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Religious Studies.

Short academic essays of approximately 2,000 words (excluding footnotes) are invited, which may focus on topics including (but not limited to):

- Representations of graves/graveyards in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literature
- Specific literary authors; relationships to graveyards/aspects of graveyard cultures
- Artistic representations of graveyards and gravestones
- Graveyard and gravestone design, art, and iconography
- Visitation, memorialization, and mourning practices
- Graves, gravestones, and burial rituals in popular culture
- Cultural studies of graveyards and graveyard culture in specific locales
- Theoretical, philosophical, and religious dimensions of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century graveyards
- Material aspects of graveyards (architecture, plot arrangement, landscape, lighting, material type, material aging)
- Historiographical approaches (for example, aesthetic differences, economics, burial practices, public health measures, religious and political vicissitudes)
- Pedagogical approaches to helping students learn about graveyard literature and culture

Responses to a single poem, prose extract, painting, text or gravesite are welcomed, as are more wide-ranging approaches. Pieces that include personal field research and photographic or digital use of gravestones and graveyard iconography are especially

welcome. Contributors are also encouraged to make use of the photographic resources available on The Gravestone Project website (<http://gravestoneproject.com/>).

Please send a brief description by August 15th, 2015 to be considered for publication in the first issue. Full pieces will be due by September 30th, 2015 and published in October 2015.

For further details and informal enquiries, please contact Chris Washington (chris.washingtondc100@gmail.com).

Methodology: Researching Death, Dying and Bereavement

BSA Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement Annual Symposium

13 November 2015

BSA meeting room at Imperial Wharf, London.

Drawing on discussions from previous events where people have shared their personal experiences, this year's DDB symposium will focus on conducting research in the field of dying studies. We invite papers that will encourage the audience to learn and reflect on any of the following areas:

- Using research methods - including innovative methods (e.g. visual and sensory methods); mixed method studies; the use of quantitative approaches to research; and auto-ethnography
- Boundaries of research - such as what is regarded as a death and dying study (or not), and how these vary according to discipline; role(s) of the researcher and the researched; and the use of the 'd' word
- Emotion(al) work - for example raising questions about whether researchers can grieve for their participants, and/or memorialise/ remember them; how researchers manage sudden death; the impact of bereavement on the researcher
- Reflexivity - such as what this actually means in practice; how this can benefit/limit research findings; and issues of credibility
- Identity - including that of the researcher and research participants
- Cultural context - including different understandings of death, dying and bereavement and how these might impact on doing cross-cultural/comparative research
- Research ethics - including gate-keeping; the perceived vulnerability of people in receipt of end of life care services; intrusion; issues of confidentiality; capacity and consent
- Political context - such as funding (lack of?) for research on end of life care services/ issues
- The power of medicine - such as the challenges of conducting research on death, dying and bereavement in a medical/clinical environment

Abstracts of up to 250 words are to be submitted by 5pm Monday 14th September 2015 to BSADDB@gmail.com. Presentations will be 20 minutes long with additional time for questions.

More details about the study group can be found here:

<http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/DDB.aspx>

PLEASE NOTE: We are also organising a special issue for the journal *Mortality* on the theme of doing research. There will be a separate call for papers for the special issue and we would encourage people interested in the symposium to consider submitting a paper to the special issue. More details to follow in late 2015.

Death Down Under

13-15 January 2016

University of Canterbury, Christchurch, NZ

Welcome to the 2016 Death Down Under conference. This conference aims to promote the dissemination of social aspects of death studies research in New Zealand, Australia, and the wider Pacific region. Continuing the momentum of the first two conferences in Sydney and Dunedin, DDU2016 will showcase the research being undertaken in the areas of death, dying and bereavement throughout Australia and New Zealand.

This two-day conference will provide a forum for academics, practitioners and professionals to share their research and experience, and develop collaborative knowledge networks.

250 word abstracts are invited by 15th October. Submission is via the conference website.

Conference organisers: Ruth McManus (University of Canterbury) and Cyril Schafer (University of Otago).

Conference email: DDU3@outlook.com

Conference website:

<http://www.arts.canterbury.ac.nz/conferences/deathdownunder/index.shtml>

Death and Identity in Scotland from the Medieval to the Modern: beliefs, attitudes and practices

Third Death in Scotland conference

29-31 January 2016

New College, Edinburgh

This is the third in a series of conferences that aim to accelerate interest and research into Scottish death studies. The theme for 2016 is death and identity. Papers are invited to explore this subject from within any period from the medieval to the modern day from any disciplinary perspective. Established research and work-in-progress welcomed.

Papers are particularly welcome on the subjects of:

- The effect of the Reformation upon Scottish Death practices & beliefs
- Death in the Scottish Diaspora
- Folklore, customs & rituals
- Death, grief and mourning

- Death, poverty, age, gender & status
- Childhood death
- Architecture, landscape & monuments
- Death in literature & the visual arts
- Legal & medical aspects of death
- Theology, liturgy & funeral ministry

Abstracts of 200 words should be sent by 16 October 2015 to:

Susan.buckham@stir.ac.uk

Facebook: Death in Scotland from the Medieval to the Modern

Twitter: @DeathinScotland2016

Idealized Deaths – an international multidisciplinary symposium

11th – 12th February 2016

University of Jyväskylä

Why are some deaths more admirable than others? Are some causes of death more likely to create a beautiful memory? Do people need the idea of a beautiful death even in the 21st century? What is the meaning of martyrdom in our time? Is the death of a pop star always idealized?

Death studies have a long tradition of mapping various cultures of death and also tracing the changes modernization has caused in our understanding of good death. The idea that death has somehow “disappeared” from Western cultures has been dismissed as outdated: death is everywhere, deaths sells newspapers and internet sites, even if people still have problems talking about it in their own lives. Throughout history deaths have been interesting and important: the way people have died may have been decisive for their fate in the afterlife, not to mention their posthumous reputation. Some causes of death may be considered more beautiful than others; some give the dying person more time to prepare for their death. Tragic deaths touch people’s hearts and may raise the popularity of an artist to new heights.

In this symposium we intend to bring together scholars from various academic disciplines to discuss the topic of idealized death. What makes a death exemplary? Does a certain kind of death add to the legend of an already legendary person? Is dying young always beautiful and idealized? Are all good and beautiful deaths somehow sacrificial? Have some people tried to become immortal, one way or another, by seeking special kind of death?

Possible topics and ideas for abstracts:

- Martyrs and martyrdom in religions
- Death in war
- Sacrificial ideals and death
- Political deaths and martyrs
- Causes of death: tuberculosis, cancer, AIDS
- Suicide and past memorialization
- Rock’n’roll lifestyle and death

- Fandom and memorialization

Keynote speakers will be Dr Paul Middleton, University of Chester, UK and Prof. Marja-Liisa Honkasalo, University of Turku, Finland.

The symposium is organized by the Finnish Death Studies Association and the Department of History and Ethnology in association with the Nordic Network of Thanatology.

The symposium fee is 100 euros, covering conference materials and all meals mentioned in the programme (forthcoming). Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be sent to ilona.pajari@jyu.fi by 15th August 2015.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Information
08 Jan – Oct 2015	Good Grief Training	London	www.griefencounter.org.uk/profesoianls/training/
Until Oct 2015	For Our Tomorrow: Arnos Vale and the Great War	Arnos Vale, Bristol	http://www.arnosvale.org.uk/
29 June 2015	What's gone wrong with dying?	V&A, London	http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/whats-gone-wrong-with-dying-tickets-17241509820
06-08 July 2015	Cremation & Burial Conference and Exhibition	Holiday Inn, Stratford on Avon	http://www.cbce.org.uk/index/html
07-08 July 2015	The Cruse Bereavement Care National Conference	University of Warwick	http://www.cruse.org.uk/conference
08-10 July	7th International Cardiff Conference on Paediatric Palliative Care	Cardiff University	http://www.icpcn.org/cardiffppc2015/
14 July 2015	Death and funerals in different religions and cultures	National Memorial Arboretum	www.childfuneralcharity.org.uk/events.html
14 July 2015	NCPC Training workshops	NCPC Offices, London	http://www.ncpc.org.uk/mca-acp
10-14 Aug 2015	Death & Meaning Making in Europe	Radboud University, The Netherlands	http://www.ru.nl/radboudsummer-school/courses/philopsophy-religion/@969980/death-and-meaning/

17-18 Aug 2015	2 nd International Death Online Research Symposium	Kingston University	http://deathonlineresearch.net/
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
02-04 Sept 2015	Reflections on Revenge: an International Conference on the culture and politics of vengeance	University of Leicester	revenge@le.ac.uk
04-06 Sept 2015	The Ideal Death Show and Good Funeral Awards	Winchester	http://www.idealdeathshow.co.uk/
09-12 Sept 2015	5 th International Conference on Advance Care Planning and EoLC (ACPEL)	Munich, Germany	http://www.acpel2015.org/home. html
10-11 Sept 2015	The Heritage of Death: Landscapes, Sentiment and Practice	University of Stockholm, Sweden	www.erg.su.se/heritageofdeath
16 Sept 2015	Family Troubles Symposium: Care and Change in Diverse Contexts	University of Reading	http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/deathin thefamilyinsenegal/
16-18 Sept 2015	International Funeral Industry Convention	Bologna, Italy	http://www.thanos.org
23 Sept 2015	Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care Conference	Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh	http://www.palliativecarescotland. org.uk/content/annual- conference-2015/
23-26 Sept 2015	The Worlds of Violence	Giardini Naxos, Sicily	www.paneuropeanconference.org
24 Sept 2015	Suicide Bereavement Conference	University of Manchester	www.suicide-bereavement.co.uk
09 Oct 2015	Bereavement complicated by abuse	St. Christopher's Hospice	http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/ education/course/bereavement- complicated-by-abuse
24 Oct 2015– 13 Mar 2016	death: the human experience	Bristol Museums	http://www.bristolmuseums.org.u k/bristol-museum-and-art- gallery/contact-museum/

04-06 Nov 2015	Material traces of mass death: the exhumed object	Marseille, France	objetsfosses@gmail.com
10-12 Nov 2015	Hospice UK's annual conference 2015: The Art and Science of Hospice Care	ACC Liverpool	www.hospiceuk.org/conference
13 Nov 2015	BSA Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement Study Group Annual Symposium 2015	BSA, London	http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/DDB.aspx
04-06 Dec 2015	Exploring the Extraordinary Conference	York Marriott Hotel, York	http://etenetwork.weebly.com/call-for-papers-2015.html
13-15 Jan 2016	Death Down Under	University of Canterbury, New Zealand	http://www.arts.canterbury.ac.nz/conferences/deathdownunder/index.shtml
29-13 Jan 2016	Death and Identity in Scotland	New College, Edinburgh	Susan.buckham@stir.ac.uk
11-12 Feb 2016	Idealized Deaths	University of Jyväskylä, Finland	ilona.pajari@jyu.fi

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