Centre for Death and Society Conference 2014
Social Death
07-08 June 2014
Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institute, Bath

CALL FOR PAPERS

‘Social death’ has been used to refer to the extinction of an individual’s social or legal identity/agency, either before or sometime after physical death, and may be self or other inflicted; it has also been used to refer to the death of a social group or culture. Before physical death, it can entail being treated as a thing or commodity, disintegration of social networks, extreme isolation, or forced removal of individuals and/or groups from their group/land of origin/belonging. The term ‘social death’, often meaning rather different things, has been developed independently by researchers in a range of fields, including gerontology, dementia, psychology and death studies, but also mental health, the history of slavery, and genocide studies. It has been used analytically, metaphorically, and as an untheorised ‘spray-on’ term.

CDAS annual conferences are not general death studies conferences, but focus diverse disciplinary perspectives sharply on a particular topic. This conference will, we believe, be the first time that scholars and practitioners from diverse fields will meet together to discuss the concept of social death – its utility, conceptualisation, history, and politics. As in previous CDAS annual conferences, our aim is to bring together research and knowledge that has hitherto been somewhat fragmented.

Twenty-minute papers are invited from scholars and practitioners from around the world who have used, considered or critiqued the concept of social death. Abstracts (up to 250 words) to be emailed to cdas@bath.ac.uk by 10 March 2014.

The conference will be held in the centre of the world heritage city of Bath, in the amenable surroundings of the Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institute (car park nearby, Bath Spa station 10 minute walk, Bristol Airport 1 hour). The cost, £55 for a single day, £100 for the weekend, includes lunch and refreshments. There will be opportunities to socialise over a drink on Friday evening or meal on Saturday evening (neither included in price).

For further information as it becomes available, visit www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas 01225 386949 cdas@bath.ac.uk