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**Director’s Note**

Welcome to the CDAS Monthly Newsletter’s inaugural Director’s Note. Since being named CDAS Director, and for the last few months, I have been trying to launch the Note. Alas, it’s taken longer than I expected but as we all know death isn’t going anywhere anytime soon.

So welcome and many thanks to everyone for their well wishes and strong CDAS support when we announced that our fearless leader and esteemed colleague Tony Walter was retiring. For those keeping score at home, I’m CDAS Director number four and it is through my predecessors’ hard work, Directors Glenny Howarth, Allan Kellehear, and Tony Walter, that CDAS survived a decade.

Over these past ten years, CDAS built and established itself as the world’s leading interdisciplinary research centre dedicated to studying death, dying, and the dead body.

CDAS truly is one of a kind of and I am extremely grateful to be its newest Director. Indeed, when I originally interviewed for my University of Bath position I said that I wanted the job so that I could one day be the Centre for Death and Society’s Director. Dreams do come true.

Some special thanks in Note #1 to our intrepid Centre Manager, Caron Staley, who has kept CDAS running since it started and is our institutional memory for everything. Without Caron’s tireless support, I have no idea what kind of Research Centre we’d be.

I face some key challenges in this new post, and my immediate objectives are to increase the number of CDAS core members, boost CDAS’s overall finances, expand our international collaborations, and continue to support and produce world class research.

As always, CDAS will continue to involve and invite the broader death, dying, and dead body community (for lack of a better term) to our annual seminars, events, and conference.

Again, many thanks to everyone for your continued support and I really look forward to CDAS’s next ten years of excellence.

John Troyer, Director

**News from CDAS**

**Come and work with CDAS**

Two lecturer in sociology posts are currently advertised in the Department of Social & Policy Sciences, University of Bath, home to the Centre for Death & Society
The University of Bath is an international centre for research and teaching excellence committed to achieving global impact through its research, partnerships and alumni. It seeks to appoint two lecturers in sociology, able to make a significant contribution to research and teaching in sociology at Bath.

We are looking for ambitious and forward-thinking applicants to expand the team of sociologists working in the Department of Social and Policy Sciences. Candidates should be able to provide evidence of completed research of global significance and demonstrate the capacity to produce high quality publications, attract research grant income, carry out rigorous and impactful research, and deliver innovative and high-quality teaching.

We are open to applications from academics in any sub-field of sociology who can offer theoretically informed and empirically rich expertise which will enhance the department’s research priorities and strengths. These include, but are not restricted to, the sociology of the lifecourse especially aging and childhood; conflict, violence and ethnicity; civil society and social movements; health, science and technology; policy and communication.

Applicants are also welcome who can contribute to one of the three research centres in the Department: Centre for Analysis of Social Policy, Centre for Death and Society; Centre for Development Studies. For further details see http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps

Closing date for applications is 16 May 2016, with a proposed start date of 1st September 2016.

Informal enquiries about the post can be made to the Head of Department, Dr Joe Devine by email J.Devine@bath.ac.uk or by telephone on +44(0)1225 383539; or to the Head of Group, Professor David Miller at D.Miller@bath.ac.uk or on +44(0)7786927551

Further information: https://www.bath.ac.uk/jobs/Vacancy.aspx?ref=DC3886

Death and Social Policy in Challenging Times
New edited book by Kate Woodthorpe (CDAS, Bath) and Liam Foster (Sheffield)

The study of death has the capacity to bring together a range of policy areas. Yet death is often overlooked within policy debates in the UK and beyond, and within gerontology. Bringing together a range of scholars engaged in policy associated with death, this collection provides a holistic account of how death factors in social policy. Within this, issues covered include inheritance, palliative care, euthanasia, funeral costs, bereavement support, marginalised deaths and disposal practices. At the heart of the book, the volume recognises that the issues identified are likely to intensify and expand over the next twenty years, as death rates continue to rise.

The book is available now from publishers Palgrave in hard cover and as an e-book, and can be also be purchased from Amazon in hard cover and Kindle editions. http://www.palgrave.com/gb/book/9781137484895

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas cdas@bath.ac.uk
The Unsocial Network – part of the Pint of Science Festival
24 May 2016, 19.30 – 21.30
The Bell Inn, Walcott Street, Bath

Come discover how social media can damage our closest relationships whilst it brings us closer to the dead! Join CDAS members Tony Walter and Sam Carr for a pint of science.

How does technology threaten intimate relationships?
Dr Sam Carr (Lecturer in Education)
Facebook CEO, Mark Zuckerberg, has argued that new technologies undoubtedly foster social connectedness. But that’s not always the case, is it? It’s never that simple! In this talk, I’ll explain how widespread technologies such as Facebook and the rise of internet pornography can shape the fabric of intimate relationships... in more powerful and destructive ways than you might think.

How social media resurrect the dead
Professor Tony Walter (Professor of Death Studies)
A mother types “I think of you all the time and wish that I could telephone you and hear your voice. Now I’ll send this mail up to heaven instead and hope that it reaches you.” This is not a strange thing to write anymore. The pervasiveness of social media means anyone - at any time, any place - can contact both the living and the dead. Even secular people post digital messages to heaven! Does this mean we are entering a new era of relationships between the living and the dead?

Tickets at: https://pintofscience.co.uk/event/the-unsocial-network

Encountering the Corpse: The Dead Body and Technology
27 May 2016, 10.30 – 17.00
University of Bath
A seminar held as part of the ESRC seminar series ‘Encountering Corpses’

This seminar is free and open to all, places are limited.

Speakers at this seminar include:
• Craig Young, Manchester Metropolitan University
• John Troyer, Centre for Death and Society, University of Bath
• Lisa Graves – Bristol City Museum
• Richard Huxtable, University of Bristol
• Phil Olson , Virginia Tech, USA
• Andreia de Sousa Martins, University of Bath

The day will conclude with a round table discussion.

For more information and to register for this event, visit: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/encountering-the-corpse-the-dead-body-and-technology-tickets-24782354690

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas  cdas@bath.ac.uk
About the series
This seminar series aims to critically explore various forms of contemporary encounters with the dead body to develop theoretical perspectives and draw out the policy and practitioner implications for managing and regulating dealing with the dead.

Given that human remains are encountered in a wide range of spaces (funerary, medical, faith based, commercial, media, virtual), the series aims to cover a spectrum of the key types of encounters and to assess the views of a range of people involved with the disposal, management and regulation, and representation of the dead.

More information: https://encounteringcorpses.wordpress.com/

CDAS Conference 2016, ‘Survival’ booking now
18-19 June 2016
Chancellors’ Building, University of Bath

Survival can be among the very best, or the very worst, of human experiences.

It can mean: surviving disaster, accident, illness, HIV, war, genocide, rape, domestic or child abuse, or loss of any kind. It can lead to survivor guilt, post-traumatic stress, ‘surviving’ yet life no longer feels worth living; but also to resilience & post-traumatic growth, living more authentically after surviving a near-death experience or life-threatening illness, choosing to present oneself as survivor rather than victim. It can also mean life after death: post-mortem survival.

Social scientists, psychologists, social workers, philosophers, ethicists, theologians, political scientists, NDE researchers, all have their own understandings of and research into survival.

The 2016 CDAS annual conference will bring together research and knowledge on survival that has hitherto been fragmented.

A draft programme, further information and a booking link for the conference can be found on the CDAS website: http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0107.html

Friends, partners and families visiting Bath with delegates are welcome to join in with the social events, please just let us know when booking.

On-campus booking has been extended until the 6th May, book your room with your registration.

GW4 Doctoral Student Workshop: Surviving your data
20 June 2016
University of Bath

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

cdas@bath.ac.uk
This one day workshop will bring together doctoral students in the fields of death, dying and ageing from the GW4 network of Universities; Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter.

Skills courses on wellbeing in research often tend to focus on the research participants. This day will address the emotional impact of doing research in the areas of death and dying on the researcher. In this one-day workshop, practitioners, early career and senior academics will share their experiences and best practice with current doctoral students. Participants will be asked when booking to submit the ‘top 3’ issues they would like to see addressed, and the broad issues which are identified will be discussed during the day.

Please note that this workshop is only open to doctoral students registered at a GW4 University. We will develop a series of resources based on the day and these will be available free of charge to all after the event via the CDAS website.

Booking is open for this event and places are free but limited. https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/surviving-your-data-tickets-22729454410

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**Death Studies Community News**

**Public Health Palliative Care International (PHPCI)**

Public Health Palliative Care International, was inaugurated during the 3rd International Conference on Public Health and Palliative Care hosted by Milford Care Centre and The University of Limerick, in association with The Irish Hospice Foundation, at The Strand Hotel in Limerick, Ireland. Over two meetings at this conference, in April 2013, a sub group of delegates unanimously decided there was a need for an association to communicate the importance of public health ideas and approaches in palliative care at a global level. Therefore, this association will promote practice learning, professional support, and facilitate local and international communication between members around the world in their individual attempts at embedding a public health approach to the practice of palliative care. We will promote these principles in all our professional dealings with people in all communities, from the youngest to the oldest.

**Aims of the PHPCI**

- To promote the philosophy, values, concepts and methods of health promotion into palliative care services everywhere.
- To support members in their educational and practice needs to meet their goal of health promoting palliative care.
- To provide a regular forum in our conferences (every 2 years) for the exchange of practice wisdom in public health approaches to palliative care.
- To encourage and foster research and evaluation of health promoting palliative care.
• To encourage palliative care to foster professional links and knowledge exchange between colleagues in public health, community health and development, health policy, health education, and health promotion, and end of life care.
• To provide a global forum for communication to members involved in this common endeavour.
• To support, network and mentor students in their efforts to further develop and evaluate this approach to end of life care.
• To collaborate effectively with all organisations that represent people effected by death, dying, loss and care.

For further information about the association and details of how to join, visit:
http://www.phpci.info/

The Co-Care project: research into volunteer-led support for caregivers.
Do you have end of life care experience? Can you help with a new survey?

This project is supported by the National Council for Palliative Care (NCPC) and Dying Matters.

Funded by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), researchers from the Faculty of Health Sciences, Southampton University, together with NCPC, are conducting a survey of how volunteers provide support for family caregivers at home. We know that providing effective palliative and end-of-life care for people at home depends on the work of unpaid family caregivers.

The Co-Care project is building on previous research that suggests that receiving support such as befriending or home visitation may benefit caregivers who are providing care at home. The information from the survey will be used to build a picture of the kind of support that volunteers provide nationally. It will also help us to understand what is most important to volunteers, family caregivers, and managers. Information from the survey will contribute to plans for a larger project to work with volunteers, families, and health care professionals to evaluate the benefits of volunteer-led support for family caregivers in the community. As a caregiver, or someone with knowledge or experience of palliative or end-of-life care, you might be able to help with the survey.

To take part in the survey and for more information please follow this link:
www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Co-Care.

Completing the survey should take around 10-15 minutes. Participation is entirely voluntary and any information you give will be anonymous (unless you give permission to be contacted) and will be treated confidentially.

More information can be found at:
If you have any questions about the survey or the Co-Care project, please contact Dr Christopher Bailey, Lead Investigator, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Southampton, at C.D.Bailey@soton.ac.uk or on 023 8059 7861.

**Compassionate Employers programme launched**

An innovative scheme is encouraging employers to take bereavement more seriously.

The Compassionate Employers programme allows companies and organisations to gain a better understanding of how bereavement among staff can have long-lasting effects on productivity, morale and absenteeism and how to introduce policies and good practice to support staff through loss.

The programme has been developed as a direct response to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) publication ‘Managing bereavement in the workplace – a good practice guide’ launched in September 2014. The programme will provide practical resources developed by experts to help an organisation and their employees respond effectively to a bereaved person in the workplace.

Organisations who want to register with us will have access to a range of resources available. We will also undertake an assessment with the organisation to see if they meet the criteria to be recognised as a Compassionate Employer and if they are successful they will be able to use the registered logo on their own materials. At the end of three years a further review of the organisation will be undertaken to ensure they still meet the Compassionate Employer criteria.

The programme is led by Glenis Freeman. If you have any queries or would like more information, please contact: g.freeman@ncpc.org.uk

Further information at: [http://compassionateemployers.org.uk/](http://compassionateemployers.org.uk/)

**Events, seminars, symposia and conferences**

**Dying Matters Awareness Week 2016: The Big Conversation**
09-15 May 2016
Nationwide

Dying Matters is a coalition of 30,000 members across England and Wales which aims to help people talk more openly about dying, death and bereavement, and to make plans for the end of life. Dying Matters Awareness Week takes place in May each year, with events planned across the country.

If you are hosting your own event, have you registered your event on the Dying Matters events page yet?

Your event can be big or small and if possible, we would like it to be connected to the official Awareness Week 2016 theme, which is The Big Conversation.

[www.bath.ac.uk/cdas](http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas)  \hspace{1cm}  cdas@bath.ac.uk
During the week we will be encouraging the public to have a Big Conversation about what they want for the end of their lives. We will also be encouraging people to take five simple steps to make their end of life experience better, both for them and for their loved ones.

Get more ideas for your event here: www.dyingmatters.org/page/hold-your-own-awareness-week-event

Find out how you can support it here: www.dyingmatters.org/BigConversation

Buy Awareness Packs and other resources here: www.dyingmatters.org/page/BigConversationResources

You can find events close to you by checking the calendar on the Dying Matters website: http://www.dyingmatters.org/

**Materiality of Mourning**
19-20 May 2016
Warwick University

The workshop aims to bring together practitioners involved in supporting the bereaved with academics researching the role played by objects and images in contexts of grief and mourning.

For a full programme and abstracts, and to register for the workshop please visit http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/research/seminars/mourning/

All are very welcome, and practitioners in the fields of bereavement support, healthcare and funeral celebration are particularly welcome. Attendance is free, thanks to the generosity of the Wellcome Trust, but spaces are limited and will be assigned on a 'first come, first serve' basis.

**Palliative Care Research in Care Homes Seminar**
14 June 2016, 10.00 – 15.00
Lancaster University, Bowland North Seminar Room 10

This seminar on palliative care research is being hosted jointly by the Centre for Ageing Research at Lancaster University in partnership with the International Observatory on End of Life Care, Lancaster University and the National Care Home Research and Development Forum. It provides an opportunity to present international perspectives on current palliative care research in care homes.

Professor Deborah Parker (Australia), Professor Kevin Brazil (Belfast, UK) and Professor Sharon Kaasalainen (Canada) will address palliative care research in care homes considering advance care planning, decision making and Namaste Care. There will be time for discussion and consideration of the challenges around palliative care research in care homes.

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas    cdas@bath.ac.uk
Places are limited, and booking is required.

To book a place contact Jan Lyons ([jan.lyons@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:jan.lyons@lancaster.ac.uk)) at the Centre for Ageing Research.
Web: [http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fhm/research/ioelc/#researchseminars](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fhm/research/ioelc/#researchseminars)

**Bereaved Parents' Support Organisation Network (BPSON) national networking event – Grief in a digital age**

17 June 2016
Arden House, University of Warwick
£65

How do we manage grief in a world where *social media* can appear to take over our lives?

This networking event is an opportunity for organisations and individuals that work with parents who have experienced the death of a baby or child, to come together to share experiences, learn from each other and consider best practice.

For more information go to: [www.childbereavementuk.org/studydays](http://www.childbereavementuk.org/studydays)
Contact: [conferences@childbereavementuk.org](mailto:conferences@childbereavementuk.org)

**Sudden death and breaking bad news**

27 September 2016
The County Hotel, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
£65

This study day will provide an opportunity to share knowledge in a range of practice areas related to sudden and unexpected death, and to learn from professionals and bereaved young people and families. This event is for anyone who works in front line services including the NHS, police and other emergency services, safeguarding teams and in a variety of other settings, including social care and voluntary organisations.

For more information go to: [www.childbereavementuk.org/studydays](http://www.childbereavementuk.org/studydays)
Contact: [training@childbereavementuk.org](mailto:training@childbereavementuk.org)

**Child and Baby Funeral Choices**

06 July 2016, 10.00 – 16.00
GreenAcres Burial Park, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire
£75

All professionals working with families following the death of a baby or child benefit from being aware of the choices for funerals that meet the needs and wishes of families. Since launching in 2014, the Child Funeral Charity has promoted the need for information on all choices that should be offered to families at this most tragic time.
Confirmed talks include:

- ‘Special Care Cremations’, John and Jemma Walsh
- ‘Natural Burial for Child and Baby Funerals’, Peter Taylor – GreenAcres Burial Parks
- ‘Ceremonies for Child and Baby Funerals’, Anne Barber, Civil Ceremonies
- ‘Infant Cremation Update’, Tim Morris, Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management
- Mary Tomes Colourful Coffins

Delegate fee includes: all talks, workshops, optional tour of the site, certificates of attendance for CPD purposes, refreshments, lunch, and car parking. Numbers are limited so we ask you to book early.

This event is for any professional working with families who have lost a child, including: funeral directors, crematorium staff, nurses, hospital bereavement officers, bereavement counsellors, charity staff, registrars, celebrants, faith representatives, hospice staff, bereavement midwives and many other professionals.


**Call for papers**

**BSA Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement Annual Symposium 2016**

**Death, Dying, Bereavement and Technologies in the 21st Century**

The ways in which bodies, persons, and technologies intersect are raising questions about mortality - what death is, what it means, and how it is experienced in the 21st Century. The theme of this year’s DDB symposium will engage with these contemporary questions. The convenors are inviting papers on a number of areas, including; the internet and social media; technologised death and dying; bodies, disposal and technologies; and ethical issues related to junctures between DDB and technologies.

Abstracts of up to 250 words are to be submitted by Midnight (GMT) on Monday 12th September 2016 to BSADDB@gmail.com. The symposium will be held on Friday 2nd December 2016 at ICOSS, University of Sheffield.

More details about the study group can be found here:
[http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/DDB.aspx](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/DDB.aspx)

**Hospice UK Annual Conference – ‘People, Partnerships and Potential’**

16-18 November 2016
ACC, Liverpool

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas    cdas@bath.ac.uk
Join Hospice UK and colleagues from across the sector for three days of insight and innovation, as they share and celebrate the expertise within hospice and palliative care.

This year’s conference provides a platform for:
- extending and challenging our experience of the people we work with and for;
- working in partnership – with funders, regulators, other service providers and our local communities;
- recognising and nurturing potential – within individuals and our services.

Do you have a piece of finished or ongoing work – or even a bright idea – that you want to share with the wider hospice and palliative care sector? You could contribute to the conference this year by displaying a poster or giving an oral presentation. This is an excellent way to showcase your ideas on a national platform, bringing benefits for both you and the organisation you represent.

For more details and to submit an abstract, see our call for papers page.

Registration is now open: https://www.hospiceuk.org/what-we-offer/courses-conferences-and-learning-events/hospice-uk-annual-conf

**Jobs, Education and Training**

**Putting Ambitions into Action Programme**
27 June and 15 July 2016, 09:15 – 16:00
The Rowans Hospice, Purbrook, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO7 5RU
FREE

A 2-day course for those working in End of life Care and Palliative Care.

This is a course that will cover many essential End of Life Care topics to improve the quality of care, including:

- Looking at how national and local policies impact and influence every day practice
- Person centred, personal choices and shared decision making
- Sensitive communication
- Spirituality and diversity
- Supporting families
- Loss, grief and bereavement
- Care of the dying in the last few days

For further information and to book: http://www.rowanshospice.co.uk/index.php?id=94
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>07 May 2016</td>
<td>Good Grief: the loneliness of bereavement</td>
<td>Leominster Priory</td>
<td><a href="mailto:j.gibbon@hereford.anglican.org">j.gibbon@hereford.anglican.org</a></td>
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<td>09-15 May 2016</td>
<td>Dying Matters Awareness Week</td>
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<td>The Materiality of Mourning</td>
<td>Warwick University</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 May 2016</td>
<td>Seventeenth Colloquium on Cemeteries</td>
<td>University of York</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Julie.rugg@york.ac.uk">Julie.rugg@york.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>20 May 2016</td>
<td>body ^ space ^ object ^ memory ^ identity Symposium</td>
<td>Coventry University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/research-directories/research-events/2016/body-space-object-memory-identity-Symposium-2016/">http://www.coventry.ac.uk/research/research-directories/research-events/2016/body-space-object-memory-identity-Symposium-2016/</a></td>
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<td>26 May 2016</td>
<td>Cruse Masterclass</td>
<td>Holborn Bars, London</td>
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<td>26-29 May 2016</td>
<td>International Vampire and Arts Festival</td>
<td>Sighisoara, Transylvania, Romania</td>
<td><a href="http://ivfaf.com/">http://ivfaf.com/</a></td>
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<td>31 May 2016</td>
<td>Narratives of decline: the changing patterns of death and ageing in contemporary Japanese religions</td>
<td>University of Manchester</td>
<td><a href="mailto:paulina.kolata@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk">paulina.kolata@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>03-06 Jun 2016</td>
<td>Death, Art and Anatomy Conference</td>
<td>University of Winchester</td>
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<td>University of Warwick</td>
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<td>23-25 Jun 2016</td>
<td>“In the Midst of Life we are in Death”</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ucd.ie/music/conferences">www.ucd.ie/music/conferences</a></td>
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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](http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas).