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**News from CDAS**

**New Director for CDAS!**

After 4 successful years as CDAS Director, Prof Tony Walter is handing over the role to Dr John Troyer.

Tony says: "I have very much enjoyed running CDAS; it is such a collegial team with enormous energy and passion, and we have great support from our host department Social & Policy Sciences at the University of Bath. The enquiries we receive from around the world display the breadth of our work and the global importance of researching the social aspects of mortality."

Tony has reached an age to retire from paid employment at the University of Bath - but not from active involvement in CDAS or from researching, writing and lecturing about death and society. He is as open as ever to invitations from around the world to speak, consult or teach.

John says: "It is both an honour and a privilege to be CDAS's new Director and I look forward to building an even stronger Centre for the future. I am especially grateful for the work done by CDAS’s previous Directors, Glennys Howarth, Allan Kellehear, and Tony Walter. Many thanks to everyone who has supported CDAS these last ten years. I personally look forward to the next decade of growth, scholarship, and public engagement."

To watch a film review of the last 10 years, visit the CDAS homepage: [http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/](http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/)

You can contact John and Tony via our website, just visit our people pages.

**Future Dead: Designing Disposal for Both Dead Bodies and Digital Data. Design competition open**

The Future Cemetery provides the space for high quality research, innovation and creative exploration into the social, cultural and technological aspects of end of life, death and remembrance.

The Future Cemetery Design Competition is a call for responses to design challenges surrounding death, dying and disposal. It is the first competition sponsored by The Future Cemetery research centre; a partnership between Calling The Shots, The Pervasive Media Studio, Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust and the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath. The first Future Cemetery Design Competition is using Arnos Vale Cemetery in Bristol, England as inspiration for the competition because of AVC’s position as an exemplar of innovative and creative Historic Working Cemeteries that focuses on long-term, sustainable development.

[www.bath.ac.uk/cdas](http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas)  cdas@bath.ac.uk
The disposal of human remains extends beyond the purely corporeal to increasingly
digital and virtual remnants of a human life. This has startling implications both for us as
individuals and families and, increasingly, for the business of dying. The Future
Cemetery 2016 Design Competition asks people to imagine a world where both human
remains and a person's digital footprint must be considered at the end of life.

The Future Cemetery Design Award:

- Two months residency at Arnos Vale Cemetery in Bristol
- The option of hot desking at the Pervasive Media Studio in Bristol
- Mentoring
- £5,000 for further project development.

Registration is now open, please fill in the form on The Future Cemetery website
(http://futurecemetary.org/)

Application registration will be accepted until 23:59 (GTM), 31 December 2015. The
deadline for receipt of designs is 08 January 2016.

Social Death: Special Issue of the Journal, Contemporary Social Science

The 2014 CDAS conference on 'Social Death' led to a special issue of Contemporary
Social Science - the journal of the Academy of Social Sciences. The special issue, edited
by CDAS members Jana Kralova and Tony Walter, is now published, and the articles may
be accessed at: http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rsoc21/10/3

Jana's introductory article 'What Is Social Death?' is freely downloadable for the coming
six months.

CDAS Seminar: ‘Cemetery People’
04 February 2016, 14.00 – 17.00
Room 3 East 2.20. University of Bath

This seminar presents current and recent research with people who are key to the
operation of contemporary English cemeteries. The presenters come from diverse
disciplines: archaeology, folklore, heritage studies and sociology.

- Gaelle Jolly
  Cemetery Friends
  *Who decides who’s buried where?*
- Lindsay Udall (University of Bristol)
  *Gravediggers: an oral history*
- Stuart Prior & Helen Frisby (University of Bristol)
  *Who decides who’s buried where?*

This event is free to attend, book your place today: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cdas-seminar-cemetery-people-tickets-18756045838
**CDAS Conference 2016, ‘Survival’**

18 - 19 June 2016  
University of Bath, UK  
Call for papers

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 aims to bring together research and knowledge on survival that has hitherto been fragmented. We invite scholars and practitioners from around the world who are willing to engage openly with and learn from different understandings of survival. 20 minute papers are invited - abstracts (up to 250 words) to be emailed to cdas@bath.ac.uk by 15 February 2016.

Further details will become available via the CDAS website: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas and booking for the conference will open in the New Year.

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**Death Studies Community News**

**News from the GW4 Dying Well Community**

The GW4 Dying Well Community is a group of researchers from the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter who have been exploring issues around Dying Well, in old age generally, and subsequently more specifically with dementia, frailty and advanced brain injury.

The research group are now moving forward with a number of small grants, and are planning a large grant submission in the New Year.

A new blog post on, ‘Facing the future alone,’ from member Liz Lloyd, University of Bristol, is now available. To read this post, and join the discussion, visit:

https://gw4dyingwell.wordpress.com/2015/12/10/facing-the-future-alone/

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www.bath.ac.uk/cdas  

cdas@bath.ac.uk
New twitter community of end of life care knowledge and learning

Professor Bridget Johnston (@BridgetJohnst) is co-hosting a new social media venture with Sarah Russell (@learnhospice) and Laura Middleton Green (@heblau).

The vision is for @WeEOLC #WeEOLC to become a Twitter community of end of life care learning and practice. It will provide a space for sharing evidence and resources (through #WeEOLC #EBP), generating interaction and debate. We actively encourage involvement and discussion about a range of topics related to end of life care, from all roles and in all settings.

They will be developing the community over the next few months to include different ways of engaging and learning, and welcome ideas and suggestions along the way.


Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

MOTH Talks: In the face of death
08 January 2016, 13.30 – 17.00
The School of Communication Design, Falmouth University

Guest Speakers:
- Stephen Cave, Writer, critic and philosopher, Immortality: The Quest to Live Forever and How It Drives Civilization, 2013, Biteback
- Prof. Tony Walter, CDAS, University of Bath, sociologist
- Joseph Macleod, Designer, Closure Experiences

Moth is a research group which, through the discipline of Graphic Design, explores visual language associated with death and end-of-life experiences – creating visual ‘toolkits’ (analogue and digital) as devices for change in attitudes, conventions and context surrounding death issues. It explores the relevance, significance and potential re-launch of traditional symbols, as well as the creation of new ones, acknowledging a fascinating and diverse heritage of death symbolism, to prompt dialogue and bring discussions of death and mortality to the surface.

Tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/moth-talks-in-the-face-of-death-tickets-19781523068
Further information: moth.falmouth.ac.uk

Burials as an integral part of social interaction
PhD Candidate Workshop
29- 31 January 2016

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas     cdas@bath.ac.uk
Rituals, and especially funerary rituals, represent not only the transition to something new, but also form the basis for social interaction. As intentional actions, rituals preserve and create the social identities and relationships which hold societies together. Although, or perhaps because, the sources and the inherent expressiveness of the various disciplines dealing with burials and graves are very different, an exchange between the various strands of research is essential.

Therefore, the aim of this workshop is to bring together established scholars and PhD candidates from different disciplines to present diverse research approaches and to promote an exchange of approaches, theories, methods and results in an interdisciplinary discussion.

PhD Candidates of all disciplines are invited to take part. The participation will be free.

The number of participants will be limited. Please send your registration including your name and institution to markus.duerr@uni-tuebingen.de. The deadline for registration is 15th January 2016.

There will be also the opportunity to give an oral or poster presentation. Oral presentations should not exceed a maximum of 20 minutes. Proposals accompanied by an abstract in English or German of no more than 200 words should be submitted to markus.duerr@uni-tuebingen.de with the subject Ritual and Society. Abstracts should include the name and institution of the applicant and the title of the presentation. The deadline is 31 December 2015.

**Encountering Corpses II**
19th March 2016, 09.00 – 18.00
Manchester Crematorium
£15

Following on from the immensely successful 'Encountering Corpses I' in 2014 we are proud to present a new public event discussing contemporary encounters with human remains.

This event, open to all, will discuss the dead body in relation to the mobilities and economies of their parts. Our first panel will discuss organ donation, organ trafficking and how medical students interact with donated corpses. Our plenary will advocate for public access to human remains for education and emotional edification. Finally, we will address encounters with corpses in terms of cultural and subcultural practices: the dead bodies on Everest and how these relate to the culture of mountaineering, the concentration in contemporary media on the physicality of the celebrity dead body in the immediate minutes, hours and days after death, and the historical and contemporary practices around the preservation of tattooed human skin.
Encountering Corpses II will be held in the spectacular environs of the Manchester Crematorium Old Chapel (constructed 1892).

Also incorporated in the day will be tours of the Manchester Crematorium 'back office' facilities, and a visit to the Greater Manchester Police social centre for lunch and a display on police pathology in the area.

There will be a number of linked events on Friday 18th and Sunday 20th March, details tbc.

For further information and to book: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/encountering-corpses-ii-tickets-19842731143
Details about the series can be found on the CDAS website: http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/research/encountering-corpses/index.html

Digital Legacy Conference 2016
14 May 2016, London

The Digital Legacy Conference is an annual and free conference by DeadSocial & the Digital Legacy Association. Its aim is to help provide knowledge for those working in the end of life sector and society at large.

The 2016 event will take place on 14 May, as part of Dying Matters Awareness Week.

Subject matters addressed may include:
- The world 'before the birth of Facebook' (before Facebook/ BFB)
- Digital legacy
- Digital grief
- Utilising technology to deal with death
- Digital memory loss
- Death in today’s digital world
- Funeral streaming
- UK Laws around digital assets and digital legacy
- Preparing for our own digital death

Those wanting to speak at the event should contact: hello@digitallegacyassociation.org

Call for papers

Futures of the End of Life: Mobilities of Loss and Commemoration in the Digital Economy
21-22 January 2016
Lancaster House Hotel, Lancaster
Our physical and social deaths are becoming increasingly entangled within the webs of our technologically mediated lives. Scholarly thinking about this intersection between contemporary human death, technologies, media, loss and commemoration has been a growing area for interdisciplinary study. Since the seminal and explorative work of Bos (1995) and Sofka (1997), it has attracted interest from researchers in a range of disciplines, including the social sciences, media studies, anthropology, psychology, medicine, as well as computing, design, art and creative practice.

We warmly welcome researchers, artists, designers, developers and non-academic stakeholders and invite contributions that explore different understandings of what constitutes research, knowledge, practice and responsible research and innovation.

We invite contributions that bring analytical, critical, practice-based and creative insights to the use, design and development of technologies entangled at the end of life. Theoretical, empirical, practical and design or art-based research and approaches are welcome. Themes may include:

- The digital economies of death, dying, commemoration and loss
- Dying online or digital mediations of death
- Personalisation and hybridisation of rituals, digital memorialisation, mourning practices
- Digital afterlives, agency and the social presence of the dead
- Digital remains, digital legacy or peri or post mortem data
- The multiple physical, informational, imaginative mobilities of death, loss and memory
- The multiplying temporalities of practices, memories, experiences
- Methodological considerations, e.g. ethics, privacy, value sensitive design

Please submit a 300 word abstract to p.drinkall@lancaster.ac.uk. For artworks or design proposals we also invite examples of practice, images or sketches. Please include full contact information, name, affiliation and email address in the submission. If you have any questions, please contact p.drinkall@lancaster.ac.uk.

**Important information**

- Submission Deadline: 14th December 2015
- Notification of Acceptance: 21st December 2015
- Registration by 4th January 2016

A registration fee of £70 will be charged to cover conference facility costs for salaried participants. PhD students – FREE


**Corpses, Cadavers and Catalogues:**
**The Mobilities of Dead Bodies and Body Parts, Past and Present**
17-18 May 2016
Barts Pathology Museum and the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons, London
An interest in the dead body, and particularly its shifting meanings, mobility and agency can be seen in recent works of museology, geography and history of medicine (Hallam, 2007; Maddrell and Sidaway, 2010; Alberti, 2011; Young and Light, 2013). The biographies of human remains held by museums have been an area of considerable interest for medical museums dealing with their Victorian inheritance. The process by which pathological specimens or samples transform from intimate relics of life to scientific data has been explored by social historians of medicine, anthropologists and archaeologists (Boston et al., 2008; Fontein et al., 2010; Withycombe, 2015). There remains, however, little discussion across these disciplines as well as need to further explore the movement of the dead body, both in the past and present, in order to consider broader questions of power, imperialism and globalisation.

Through this conference, we hope to use the dead body as a starting point for opening up wider debates on embodied knowledge, materiality and meaning-making, the role of the body in structures of inequality, and the challenges of colonial remains in a postcolonial world. We welcome papers from PhD students, early career researchers and heritage professionals, as well as works in progress.

Potential topics include but are not limited to:

- Meanings of different body parts in historical and temporal contexts
- The curation, display, and provenance of medical museum specimens
- The materialities of colonialism and politics of repatriation
- Human remains and the practice of medical history
- The production of scientific knowledge
- Provenance and interpretation of morbid and pathological specimens
- The body refigured as an object
- Creation and movement of embodied knowledge
- How the body can be used to tell stories about the past
- Corpse geographies and body biographies
- The body in feminist and subaltern histories
- Ethics of human remains research and display

To submit a paper proposal, please send an email with a 250-word abstract and a short (100 word) biography to cccConference2016@gmail.com by January 15th 2016. Successful applicants will be contacted by early February 2015 and be expected to register by 1 March 2016 for the conference held 17-18 May.

For further information or informal questions about possible topics, please contact the conference organisers via: cccConference2016@gmail.com.
For more information please visit: https://cccconference2016.wordpress.com/

**Death and Culture**
01-03 September 2016
University of York

How can we, as academics, understand cultural responses to mortality?
Is every response to death – over time and over place - uniquely personal or essentially the same?

This conference focuses on the impact of mortality on culture, and the ways in which the very fact of death has shaped human behaviour, evidenced through thought, action, production and expression. The conference seeks to re-engage with the study of mortality as an academic enterprise, supported by evidence and framed by theoretical engagement. No discipline is excluded and we are encouraging researchers including postgraduates to contribute who might not consider themselves death scholars, with work that overlaps with death and the dead.

We welcome contributions on topics such as but not limited to:
- Death, film and television
- Fame and death
- Historical death
- The dead in place and space
- Law, death and the dead
- Art and death
- Commonplace death

Abstracts should be sent with a 100 word biography to deathandculture2016@york.ac.uk by Friday 13th May.

[Link to website]

Dark Leisure and Music Symposium
16 September 2016
Leeds Beckett University, Headingley Campus, Leeds, West Yorkshire, UK

‘Dark Leisure and Music’ is an interdisciplinary symposium, hosted by Leeds Beckett University, Centre for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, that aims to address issues related to dark leisure research and encourage dark leisure scholarship in music. Dark leisure may be defined as leisure activity that sits on the fringes of modern society tastes, and activity that rejects the mainstream.

Around the turn of the century, Chris Rojek started looking at dark leisure as ‘deviant’ and chose to interpret this type of leisure mostly as detrimental to the individual, in line with criminological approaches. While dark leisure has been investigated by criminologists and psychologists as abnormal behaviour, recent scholarship in this area such as the works of Karl Spracklen, Philip Stone, and D. J. Williams has shown the need to take dark leisure from a different moral perspective than previous research. Moreover, this type of leisure has been scarcely explored in relation to music cultures. Music worlds ‘on the edge’ could be important spaces for dark leisure activity which have Habermasian communicative rationality at heart; and in effect, they could provide essential channels for performing liminal identities.
Proposals of no more than 300 words should be sent to m.s.yavuz@leedsbeckett.ac.uk before 15th May 2016 along with a short running text biography of maximum 150 words.

Selected papers from the conference will be encouraged to submit for possible publication in the journal Annals of Leisure Research as a special issue (volume 21, issue 3, 2018).

More information: http://darkleisureandmusic.mselimyavuz.com/
Contact: m.s.yavuz@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Special issue of Mortality
Researching death, dying and bereavement
Editors: Erica Borgstrom (LSHTM) and Julie Ellis (University of Sheffield)

Proposals are invited for a special edition of the interdisciplinary journal Mortality on the theme of undertaking research in the area of death, dying and bereavement. This call for papers originates from a British Sociological Association Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement Study Group event held in November 2015 on the theme of methodology.

To date there has been limited shared reflection on the opportunities and challenges faced in undertaking empirical research in the areas of death, dying and bereavement. Often loosely understood as a ‘sensitive topic’, we invite papers that will demonstrate how doing death-related research, raises a wide variety of issues that require further consideration beyond it simply being regarded as a sensitive area of study. Potential issues to explore may include:

- Research ethics
- Politics
- Research relationships
- Cultural context and comparative research
- Using research methods – including innovative methods
- Practical issues
- The impact agenda
- Interdisciplinarity
- Boundaries and margins

All papers will have an explicitly methodological focus and will be substantively about matters related to doing research in the area of death, dying and bereavement.

The special issue will be published in 2017. Potential contributors should send a paper outline/ extended abstract of between 800 and 900 words to BSADDB@gmail.com by midnight GMT on 31st January 2016. Submissions should clearly state the issues to be discussed and key arguments the paper will make.

Name and institutional affiliation of the author(s) should be provided, including full contact details. International contributions are encouraged, as are submissions from
authors at all stages of their careers. Informal email enquiries prior to submission can be sent to the editors at BSADDB@gmail.com. Abstracts will be reviewed and potential authors notified by 22nd February 2016.

Authors invited to submit full papers will be required to submit a draft paper of 7,000 words (including references) by 27th June 2016. Submissions will be peer-reviewed and final drafts need to be ready for submission by 1st November 2016. The journal’s style guidelines should be followed for all submissions.

Jobs, research and study opportunities

Developing Skills to Support Complex Discussions in EOL Care
The Rowans Hospice
£200 including all refreshments and course materials

1st Course:
January 27th, February 3rd, 10th & 26th and March 2nd & 9th 2016, 13.30 – 16.30
2nd Course:
September 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th and October 5th & 20th 2016, 13.30 – 16.30

This is an experiential communications course that will support practitioners:

- To communicate effectively with patients, family members, carers and the bereaved on complex issues relating to end of life care, death, dying and bereavement – NHS KSF (level 4)
- To provide emotional support to patients, carers and the bereaved and identify when a person requires referral to a specialist service – Level 2 of the NICE Model of Psychological Assessment and Intervention

It will draw upon your existing experience, knowledge and skills in end of life communication; providing an opportunity to explore the puzzles you will have experienced in your clinical work and develop new strategies for addressing these challenges.

Your learning will be facilitated through the delivery of a modular programme, which will require participants to take skills learnt in each session and put these into practice between sessions.

Target audience: Doctors, Allied Healthcare Professionals, Social Workers, Nurses and those working in Nursing Homes, Care Homes & Domiciliary Care. Having some form of difficult or complex conversations in end of life care within job role is a course requirement.

For further information and to book, contact Grace Ellert (Education Administrator) on 02392 238535 or email grace.ellert@rowanshospice.co.uk

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas cdas@bath.ac.uk
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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Contact/Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>08 Jan 2016</td>
<td>MOTH Talks: In the face of death</td>
<td>Falmouth University</td>
<td>moth.falmouth.ac.uk</td>
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<td>29 Jan 2016</td>
<td>Children &amp; Young People – Loss, Death &amp; Grief</td>
<td>Select Security Stadium, Cheshire</td>
<td><a href="mailto:training@bereavement.org.uk">training@bereavement.org.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>29-31 Jan 2016</td>
<td>Burials as an integral part of social interaction</td>
<td>Eberhard Karls Univeritat Tubingen, Germany</td>
<td><a href="mailto:markus.duerr@uni-tuebingen.de">markus.duerr@uni-tuebingen.de</a></td>
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<td>29-31 Jan 2016</td>
<td>Death and Identity in Scotland</td>
<td>New College, Edinburgh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Susan.buckham@stir.ac.uk">Susan.buckham@stir.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>04 Feb 2016</td>
<td>CDAS Seminar: Cemetery People</td>
<td>CDAS, University of Bath</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0103.html">http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0103.html</a></td>
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<td>06-09 Feb 2016</td>
<td>Dead Good Guides: Rites of Passage Winter School</td>
<td>Near Frome, Somerset</td>
<td><a href="http://www.deadgoodguides.com">www.deadgoodguides.com</a></td>
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<td>11-12 Feb 2016</td>
<td>Idealized Deaths</td>
<td>University of Jyväskylä, Finland</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ilona.pajari@jyu.fi">ilona.pajari@jyu.fi</a></td>
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<td>20 Feb 2016</td>
<td>Dignitas film screening and talk (Barbara Bloomfield)</td>
<td>Bristol Museums</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/">http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/</a></td>
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<td>01 Mar 2016</td>
<td>‘Supporting Forces’ Children and Families in Loss and Bereavement</td>
<td>Clare Charity Centre, Saunderton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:training@childbereavement.org.uk">training@childbereavement.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>13-16 Apr 2016</td>
<td>ADEC Annual Conference</td>
<td>Minneapolis, USA</td>
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<td>14 May 2016</td>
<td>Digital Legacy Conference</td>
<td>London tba</td>
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<td>23-26 May</td>
<td>Can Spirituality transform our world?</td>
<td>Manchester, UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.basspirituality.org.uk">www.basspirituality.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>03-06 Jun</td>
<td>Death, Art and Anatomy Conference</td>
<td>University of Winchester</td>
<td><a href="http://carvedcadavers.wix.com/daconference">http://carvedcadavers.wix.com/daconference</a></td>
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<td>23-25 Jun</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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<tr>
<td>27 Jun</td>
<td>Deconstructing Donation Study Group</td>
<td>Lancaster University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.britsoc.co.uk/media/8815/Deconstructing_Donation_270616.pdf">http://www.britsoc.co.uk/media/8815/Deconstructing_Donation_270616.pdf</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>01-03 Sept</td>
<td>Death and Culture</td>
<td>University of York</td>
<td><a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/about/news-and-events/department/2016/deathandculture/">http://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/about/news-and-events/department/2016/deathandculture/</a></td>
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</tbody>
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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).