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March 2017 Director's Note:

I am genuinely impressed by the number of CDAS 2017 conference abstracts that flooded in at the last minute. Last month, and in so many words, I was making a plea for people to send in ideas for the ‘Death at the Margins of the State’ conference in June. My concerns were unfounded, since it seems everyone who knew about the conference simply waited until one hour before the deadline to submit their abstract. We’ve all been there, and I know how these things work.

So it is clear, I played no role in choosing the conference papers this year and I am only the messenger.

But, in my role as a messenger I want to say that CDAS will be announcing some really exciting new global initiatives at the conference and that as June nears more information will emerge.

At this point, I simply want to reiterate that CDAS will never forget its local origins or commitments while at the same time taking on a larger global presence. I’m being purposefully opaque but will make everything clearer in the near future.

Again, many thanks to everyone who submitted material to the conference selection committee and I hope to see as many people as possible at the conference on June 9-10.

John Troyer, Director

News from CDAS

Join us at the University of Bath 50th anniversary festival
06 May 2017
University of Bath

The University of Bath has been celebrating its 50th anniversary with a year-long series of events which come to a head on 6th May when we throw open our doors to the local community for a day-long festival. Come up to campus and enjoy music, dance and food. Meet some of our amazing scientists and researchers. Take up a new sporting challenge. Join a craft workshop or drop in to demos and talks on science, technology and health.

Join CDAS researchers in the Discover Zone and help with current research into caring and responsibilities at the end of life; get creative with collages to tell us your story, vote in our ball pits on what you think the role of health and social care services should be at the end of life, make your bucket list, write a note for a loved one, and consider how you want to be remembered after you’ve gone. Researchers will be on hand to discuss our work with information on recent projects, please feel free to ask us anything!
Handily coinciding with this year’s Dying Matters Awareness Week, we will also be supporting this year’s message ‘What can you do?’

We’d love to see as many of you there as possible, it promises to be a great free day out!

You can find out all about the Festival on the University web page:  
http://50years.bath.ac.uk/story/event/50th-festival-on-campus/?instance_id=131 
Like the event on Facebook to get all the latest news or follow on twitter @UniofBath #bathunifest

Work with us at Bath

Two posts are currently available in the Department of Social & Policy Sciences, home to CDAS. The closing date for both posts is 13th April, with a suggested start date of 1st September 2017.

Teaching Fellow (12 months fixed term)
Reference: DC4726

The Department of Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath seeks to recruit a Teaching Fellow in Social Policy who will be responsible for delivering high-quality teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. This is an opportunity to join a highly successful and ambitious team of social policy scholars in a University which is globally renowned for the quality of its learning and teaching.

Further details: https://www.bath.ac.uk/jobs/Vacancy.aspx?ref=DC4726

Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Social Work
Reference: DC4725

The University of Bath is an international centre for research and teaching excellence committed to achieving global impact. It seeks to appoint a lecturer in social work, able to make a significant contribution to research and teaching in social work at Bath. The Department of Social and Policy Sciences has a vibrant group of social work academics who are research active and offer one of the country’s most successful teaching programmes.

Candidates should be able to provide evidence of or potential to complete research of international 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 will consider specialisms in any sub-field of social work and are particularly keen to strengthen the department’s interests in adult care, health and gerontology; child protection and care; international social work, social work and welfare.

Further details: https://www.bath.ac.uk/jobs/Vacancy.aspx?ref=DC4725

Please contact Head of Department Dr Joe Devine with informal inquiries: j.devine@bath.ac.uk
Pilot Project: Exploring the needs of “Befrienders” at Age UK Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES)

PI: PhD Student Renske Visser

Renske’s PhD project focuses on the meaning of “home” for older people living alone at the end of life and how older people reflect on their own mortality.

This pilot project focuses on befrienders. Befrienders are volunteers who provide regular contact and support to alleviate loneliness and isolation. They visit an older person in their own home on a regular basis. The majority of befrienders are living in the local community, and helping older people in the local community.

Age UK have a support system in place to help a befriender after their “friend” has died, but support after this bereavement is limited. Little information is available on the long term effects of grieving for the befriender, why the befriender chose to volunteer and how bereavement affects their continuing to be a volunteer. This short term project would be a start in mapping out the needs of befrienders.

The aim is to hold a focus group among befrienders to explore the feelings and needs of befrienders. At the same time this will be an opportunity for befrienders to meet each other, as there is no “befriending” network available. The aim of this project is to both address the feelings and needs of befrienders after a bereavement, and the support they would like to receive in general.

For further information about this project, visit: http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/research/befrienders/

CDAS Conference 2017: Booking open
Death at the Margins of the State
09-10 June 2017
The Edge, University of Bath

Human beings typically grant appropriate death rites to those deemed members of the community; withholding of proper rites often reflects or symbolises exclusion from the political or moral community. The history of dissection, for example, bears witness to this.

Today, the concept of ‘human’ extends in theory to everyone regardless of nationality, gender, abilities, etc., yet in practice citizenship (legal or moral) may for many be precarious or lacking. The stateless and/or those lacking full citizen rights may include asylum seekers, undocumented migrants, those on the wrong side in civil wars, victims of genocide, prisoners, travellers, foetuses, and those deemed to lack mental capacity: their deaths may be endorsed, ignored, stigmatised, or manipulated by the state or powerful institutions. By contrast, those who die to create or defend the state become sacred heroes of the nation. Death and the state are intimately connected, each helping – through inclusion and exclusion - to define the other.
CDAS annual conferences bring together research and knowledge that has hitherto been fragmented. We invite scholars and practitioners from around the world willing to engage openly with and learn from different disciplines and perspectives. Everyone is welcome.

Registration is £140 for 2 days and £75 for a single day, and includes all sessions, lunch and refreshments on the days of attendance, as well as a conference pack. Optional social events are a key part of CDAS conferences, please indicate whether you would like to attend when booking, pay on the day. Booking is now open via our online store.

Conference updates will appear on the webpage: http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0135.html

CDAS Seminar: Terror Management Theory
04 May 2017, 14.15 – 17.00
3 East 2.4, University of Bath, UK

Drawing on cultural anthropologist Ernest Becker’s work, terror management theory (TMT) posits that humans quell the terrifying awareness of mortality by investing in cultural belief systems (worldviews) that imbue life with meaning and individuals with significance and self-esteem. The theory has generated over 500 empirical research studies into not only self-esteem and prejudice but also many other forms of social behaviour.

TMT is a psychological theory with social, cultural and political implications. To date, it has been largely ignored by sociology, cultural studies and death studies, but is increasingly being cited within palliative care. This seminar examines TMT, bringing together proponents and critics working in various disciplines.

Programme:

- 14.15: Welcome: Tony Walter, Centre for Death & Society
- 14.20: Overview of TMT from a Psychological Perspective
  Simon McCabe, Psychologist and Lecturer in Management, Work and Organisation, University of Stirling
- 15.00: The Terror of Death and the Rise of Technology
  Stephen Cave, Philosopher and Executive Director of the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence, University of Cambridge. Author of the best-seller Immortality.
- 15.40: Break
- 16.00: Trying to Find Death in Terror Management Theory
  John Troyer, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social & Policy Sciences & CDAS Director, University of Bath
- 16.40: Closing discussion

This event is free to attend, please register your place via Eventbrite: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cdas-seminar-terror-management-theory-tickets-31410079393
Death Studies Community News

Association for the Study of Death & Society (ASDS) Council elections

Several ASDS Council Roles become due for election in September 2017 including those of President, Membership Secretary, Website Manager, and a general council role. The post of President has a 4 year term of office, the others a term of 2 or 4 years to be agreed with Council members. Council members must be a member of the Association. All Council roles are honorary though travel expenses are payable to attend Council meetings and for other authorised journeys. Council meetings are currently held via video links in Bradford and Bath.

Election of Committee members will be carried out at the Association’s Annual General Meeting which takes place in September at the Associations’ Death Dying and Disposal Conference on Ritual Religion and Magic which is to be held at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston.

Descriptions for these roles can be found on the Associations website. Nominations/expressions of interest must be sent to ASDS Secretary Helen Frisby Helen.Frisby@uwe.ac.uk by 7th July.
For more information about ASDS and to join, visit the website www.deathandsociety.org

Death & Culture Network

The Death and Culture Network based at the University of York seeks to explore and understand cultural responses to mortality. It focuses on the impact of death and the dead on culture, and the way in which they have shaped human behaviour, evidenced through thought, action, production and expression. The network is committed to promoting and producing an inter-disciplinary study of mortality supported by evidence and framed by theoretical engagement.

A new book series from Emerald Publishing is based with the network and expressions of interest of a short (~250 word) outline for Emerald Studies in Death and Culture are invited by email to death-and-culture@york.ac.uk

A ‘Death and Culture Conference’ will be held at the University of York, 06-07 September 2017, details coming soon.

Web: https://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/research/death-and-culture/

Suicide Prevention Toolkit

Business in the Community has partnered with Public Health England to produce an online interconnected suite of toolkits to help every organisation support the mental and physical health and wellbeing of its employees.
These materials are freely available and relevant to all employers, irrespective of your size, sector or familiarity with the subject. They are designed to help employers take positive actions to build a culture that champions good mental and physical health and provide a greater understanding of how to help those who need more support. For larger organisations, the toolkits are also useful resources to share with businesses in your supply chain and across your network.

Every organisation has an opportunity to support and develop a healthy workforce and it doesn’t need to be complicated – these toolkits will help you to understand and act, step by step. They address topics often shied away from in the workplace, and can provide the first step for an employer to encourage an open, healthy and supportive workplace.

For further information and to download the toolkit, visit: http://wellbeing.bitc.org.uk/all-resources/toolkits/suicide-prevention-toolkit

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

Beatific Souls - Child Death in Nineteenth Century Literary & Visual Culture
29 March 2017, 19.30
Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, Queen’s Square, Bath
£4/£2 – pay on the door

In the 19th Century the child in death was predominantly glorified by mainstream culture. In an attempt to suppress the horrors of infant mortality, the Victorians used literature and art to idealise child death on an unprecedented scale.

Using examples from post-mortem photography, bereavement manuals, poetry, prose and its illustrations and sculpture, researcher Jen Baker will examine the various ways child death was presented, and uncover the latent anxieties behind the facades.

Dealing with Controversial History in the Museum: A Research Showcase
05 April 2017
University of Bath, 1W2.103

Museums of all kinds are increasingly called upon to provide a space for reflection on contested pasts, from war and colonialism to the legacies of political violence and genocide. In the run-up to this year’s International Museums Day on the theme ‘Museums and Contested Histories: Saying the Unspeakable in Museums’, researchers from the University of Bath will showcase research from current projects that address the role of museums, historical exhibitions and memorials in presenting ‘dark heritage’ and fostering societal debate about controversial history.
The event will take place on 5 April 2017 in room 1W2.103 on the University of Bath’s Claverton Down campus. Attendance is free and the event will include many opportunities for discussion between researchers and museum and heritage professionals. The event is followed by a wine reception.

For more information please contact Dr Christina Horvath (c.horvath@bath.ac.uk).
Web: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dealing-with-controversial-history-in-the-museum-a-research-showcase-tickets-32293190803

**Cruse Loss and Bereavement public workshops**
Various locations
Various dates starting 11 May 2017

In any business environment, even staff who are confident and competent can find themselves worrying when they have to talk to a bereaved client or colleague. For some companies this happens as a routine part of work, and in every workplace staff will be affected by bereavement

Dates and locations as follows:
London: 11 May, 26 June, 19 September, 17 October, 23 November 2017
Bristol: 16 June
Cardiff: 27 June, 13 October
Manchester: 21 September

The Loss and Bereavement Advanced Skills workshop is for counsellors, therapists, and others working with bereaved people, who want deepen their understanding of grief and improve their existing skills further.
This event only takes place in London on 28 September.
http://www.cruse.org.uk/training/advanced-workshop

The Lois Tonkin and Cruse Bereavement Care Masterclass 2017 builds on the successful events of 2016, bringing this world-renowned speaker to deliver an exciting and interactive session to all those wanting to enhance their skills and practice supporting bereaved people.
http://www.cruse.org.uk/training/masterclass
This event takes place in London (09 May), Cardiff (22 May), Belfast (25 May) and Leeds (27 June).

**Radical change: a blueprint for the next 50 years of dying**
12 May 2017
Royal Society of Medicine, London

This conference celebrates 50 years of the hospice movement, whilst simultaneously recognising that society, care services, the public and professionals will all need to work quite differently to
ensure that people die well in the future. The speakers will bring radical ideas to our thinking, demanding a balance of human, digital and community solutions to make the difference. The conference is jointly organised by St Christopher’s, Hospice UK and the Royal Society of Medicine.


**Taking Funerals Seriously 2: Fresh Perspectives**  
07-09 June 2017  
Woodland Grange, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire

The Church of England's bi-annual conference around funeral ministry returns in June 2017, with a wider look at death, grief and funerals, and fresh perspectives on cultural change around funerals, including trends from other countries which are finding their way to the UK.

The conference includes a wide range of thought-provoking workshops and plenary sessions, given by national and international speakers. Also included is a special visit to the National Funeral Exhibition, the funeral industry's showcase event.

Plenary Sessions include:
- The English Funeral: research insights, public expectations around funerals, death and dying and cultural shifts that are happening in the UK right now
- What makes a good funeral, with insights from current USA trends that are coming our way
- Nurturing death confident congregations
- Issues around funeral poverty
- How the church is still key to public grief

For further information and to book, visit the conference website:  
[https://cofeprojects.eventhq.co.uk/taking-funerals-seriously-2-fresh-perspectives](https://cofeprojects.eventhq.co.uk/taking-funerals-seriously-2-fresh-perspectives)

**New perspectives on the secularization of funerary culture in 19th- and 20th-century Europe**  
15 June 2017  
Liberaal Archief - Kramersplein 23, 9000 Ghent, Belgium

The celebration of the key human rites of passage without church ceremony was a major theme of the 19th-century ‘culture wars’ between anticlerical forces and religious authorities across Europe. Around the mid-19th-century the organisation of civil burials became an important strategy among European freethinkers to weaken the institutional power of religious bodies and clear the ground for new secular practices. During the last decades of the 19th century cremation also became politically and religiously charged in various European countries, as it became a field of experimentation by those seeking secular alternatives to established Christian rites. Christianity kept an important place in the interwar cult of the dead in countries such as France, Britain and Belgium. While secular
funerals lost their militant and anticlerical character in Western Europe, communist regimes in Eastern Europe imposed/favoured secular funerals with varying success, following Marxist-Leninist atheism.

Historians have generally treated the history of conflicts over death rites between anticlerical forces and Catholic/Protestant/Orthodox authorities in purely national contexts, while the topic of secular funerals in communist states has not received a lot of consideration. This international colloquium/workshop brings together scholars working on the history of secularism, atheism and funerary culture in France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Italy, Britain and Romania. This colloquium will facilitate a comparative analysis of the importance of secular funerals to freethinkers around Europe. The aim of the colloquium is to discover transnational links, to compare Western and Eastern European patterns over a longer period of time and to refine our understanding of the various dimensions of the process of secularization.

There is no registration fee. If you wish to attend, please register via mail: info@liberaalarchief.be
Presentations will be given in English and French.

‘A Right to Die?’ – Socio-legal perspectives
18 July 2017, 10.00 - 16.15
School of Law, Keele University

This one day conference will explore some of the current debates about the Law and safeguarding as well as legal processes and equality issues for older gay men and lesbians. Speakers include Davina Hehir, Director of Legal Strategy and Policy, Dignity in Dying, who is to speak about ‘Choice, control and access to services at the end of life: Advocating for the right to die’.

The fee for this conference is £51.23 and there are a limited number of free places for postgraduate students.

For queries please contact Dr Sue Westwood - s.westwood@keele.ac.uk
To register go to http://bit.ly/2lyJwyt

Encountering Corpses
08-09 December 2017
Manchester Metropolitan University

The final event in the ESRC ‘Encountering Corpses’ seminar series will be held on 8-9th December 2017. A programme of events will follow, please save the date.

Details about the series can be found at https://encounteringcorpses.wordpress.com/
Call for Papers

Death, Dying and Disposal 13: Ritual, Religion and Magic Conference
06-10 September 2017
University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK
Deadline extended to 30th April

In popular western culture the number 13 is often unlucky, evoking superstition, or witches. Yet there were 13 members of the last supper, Friday the 13 is lucky in Italy and in Judaism it is the age for rites of passage.

The theme for this DDD is Ritual, Religion and Magic its perception interpretation and role in healthcare, death, dying, and burial.

Individual papers might include, but are not restricted to: death technology and magic, liminality, religion and spirituality in end of life care, ethics and culture at the deathbed, dying inside (and outside) of modern health care, spirituality and the death of animals, rites of passage in dying, superstition and funerals, ritual application in preparing the corpse and burying the dead. Emergent religious and cultural practices in the disposal of the dead, ancestors online, Death, dying and grief in public and on the internet. Talking with the dead, the dead in popular horror, the dead in witchcraft execution or haunting or social rituals associated with the dead body, spirituality or lifeways and deathways.

To submit your abstract, please email your abstract as a Word Document attachment to ConferenceAndEvents@uclan.ac.uk

Please accept our apologies: Unfortunately, we are having issues with the online submission form set up to receive abstracts for this conference. If you have submitted an abstract through the online submission form, please send it as soon as possible by email to ConferenceAndEvents@uclan.ac.uk
(Please note: This request does not apply where an abstract has already been submitted by email.) Abstracts should be no more than 250 words in length. Deadline for submissions has been extended to 30th April 2017.

For further information, please visit the conference website www.uclan.ac.uk/conferences

Examining the Futures of Digital Death

Submissions are invited for a forthcoming special issue of Death Studies, entitled Futures of Digital Death: Mobilities of Loss and Commemoration.

The special issue will feature articles 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:

- Mobilities of death, loss and commemoration
- The digital economies of death, dying, commemoration and loss
- Dying online or digital mediations of death
- Personalization and hybridization of rituals, digital memorialization, mourning practices
- Digital afterlives, agency and the social presence of the dead.

Manuscripts must be received by 29 September 2017. Papers will be double-blind peer reviewed by a group of internal and external reviewers led by the editors.

For further information, please read the full call for papers: http://explore.tandfonline.com/cfp/beh/futures-digital-death

Queries may be addressed to Miriam Schreiter: miriam.schreiter@phil.tu-chemnitz.de

Jobs and study opportunities

Research Associate (Wellcome Trust Project) Global Interventions at the End of Life
University of Glasgow
Deadline: 11 April 2017

The post-holder will take a key role in the delivery of a two year sub-project (third iteration of the ‘world map’ of palliative care development) within the Wellcome Trust funded study ‘Global Interventions at the End of Life’; working closely with members of the project team and the Principal Investigator, Professor David Clark.

For full details about the post and how to apply, visit:
Web: http://www.gla.ac.uk/about/jobs/vacancies/
Job ref: 017391

Further details about the project:
http://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/endoflifestudies/projects/globalinterventions/

Events Calendar

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>29 Mar – 02 Apr 2017</td>
<td>Manipulated bodies: investigating post-mortem interactions with human remains</td>
<td>Vancouver, Canada</td>
<td><a href="mailto:e.craig-atkins@sheffield.ac.uk">e.craig-atkins@sheffield.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>30 Mar – 02 April 2017</td>
<td>Life, Death (and the Rest)</td>
<td>Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol</td>
<td>For more information visit <a href="http://www.arnosvale.org.uk">www.arnosvale.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>31 Mar – 02 Apr 2017</td>
<td>Folklore from the Cradle to the Grave</td>
<td>Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thefolkloresociety@gmail.com">thefolkloresociety@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>01-02 April 2017</td>
<td>Death and the only beauty that lasts</td>
<td>Bristol Buddhist Centre, 162 Gloucester Road, Bristol, BS7 8NT</td>
<td>For more info and to book: <a href="http://www.janparker.co.uk">www.janparker.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>Dealing with controversial history in the museum</td>
<td>University of Bath</td>
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<td>18 April 2017</td>
<td>Stillbirth and neonatal death, an OU Seminar</td>
<td>Open University, Milton Keynes</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wels-research-admin@open.ac.uk">wels-research-admin@open.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>27 Apr 2017</td>
<td>Images of Care and Dying</td>
<td>University of Cambridge</td>
<td><a href="http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/programmes/images-of-care">http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/programmes/images-of-care</a></td>
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<td>29th April 2017</td>
<td>'Christian perspectives on death and dying' conference</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-perspectives-on-death-dying-tickets-27350949426">www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-perspectives-on-death-dying-tickets-27350949426</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>13 May 2017</td>
<td>Dying for Life Festival</td>
<td>Friends Meeting House, Cambridge</td>
<td><a href="http://www.dyingforlife.co.uk/">http://www.dyingforlife.co.uk/</a></td>
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<td>19 May 2017</td>
<td>Eighteenth Colloquium on Cemeteries</td>
<td>University of York</td>
<td><a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/cemetery-research-group/colloquium/">https://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/cemetery-research-group/colloquium/</a></td>
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<td>25 May 2017</td>
<td>Embedding a Partnership Approach to Suicide Prevention: Early Intervention and Sustained Postvention</td>
<td>Central London</td>
<td>Further information and to book online: <a href="http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/HE25-PPE">http://www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/HE25-PPE</a></td>
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| 27 June, 6 July or 18 July 2017 | Supporting suddenly bereaved children and young people | Manchester - 27 June 2017  
Birmingham - 6 July 2017  
London - 18 July 2017 | For further information and to book your place at one of these events  
Tel: 01484 559909  
Email: [jkushner@brake.org.uk](mailto:jkushner@brake.org.uk)  
Web: [www.suddendeath.org](http://www.suddendeath.org) |
<p>| 21-24 Jul 2017 | Death and the Maiden Conference                                      | University of Winchester         | <a href="mailto:deathandthemaiden@winchester.ac.uk">deathandthemaiden@winchester.ac.uk</a> |
| 30 Aug – 02 Sept 2017 | Annual Meeting of the Society for Social                | Boston, Mass, USA               | <a href="http://www.4sonline.org/meeting">http://www.4sonline.org/meeting</a> |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
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<td>08-09 Dec 2017</td>
<td>Encountering Corpses: Final seminar</td>
<td>Manchester Metropolitan University</td>
<td><a href="https://encounteringcorpses.wordpress.com/">https://encounteringcorpses.wordpress.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>06-07 Sept 2018</td>
<td>Death &amp; Culture Conference</td>
<td>University of York</td>
<td><a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/research/death-and-culture/">https://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/research/death-and-culture/</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).