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May 2016 Director’s Note:

From Autumn 2014 through Spring 2016, the Centre for Death & Society worked with the Bristol Museum on the recently closed exhibitions ‘death: the human experience’ and ‘death: is it your right to choose?’ Both exhibitions were extremely well-attended (over 66,000 visitors) and represented truly innovative approaches to multiple end-of-life topics. Indeed, it’s the only project that I have ever worked on that received a review in The Economist magazine.

The Museum’s success was entirely due to the hard-work and perseverance of the exhibition’s curatorial team, Lisa Graves and Amber Druce. In fact, the exhibition was so successful that it was shortlisted for the Museum’s and Heritage Best Temporary Exhibition Award.

What struck me most about the exhibition was how vocal the Bristol City Council was in encouraging all Bristolians to see it. It’s the rare local council that not only supports a ‘death exhibition’ but then also encourages city residents to think about end-of-life decisions. The Museum also made the entire exhibition free to attend, and that, for me, was a key factor in its success.

Working with the Bristol Museum was and is an excellent example of how CDAS uses its research in Public Engagement activities that help the larger general public think about death and dying.

Many Museum visitors left wonderful reactions to what they saw and I’ll conclude this month’s Director’s Note with some samples:

- It’s finally good to talk and hear about death. It is a subject we need to discuss more. More exhibits with controversial topics.
- This exhibition convinced me to register as an organ donor.
- Very though provoking. There is so much connection with death throughout our whole life. I think it is important.
- I enjoyed learning about how death was treated historically and the science we know now.
- I felt comforted by the honest discussion of assisted suicide.
- I feel like I just have lived death by seeing the exhibition. I think I finally have a positive opinion about it. It kind of changed my opinion about it. Thank you. I am not afraid anymore.

John Troyer, Director

News from CDAS

Last chance to book: CDAS Conference 2016, ‘Survival’

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas  cdas@bath.ac.uk
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](http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0107.html)

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

**GW4 Doctoral Student Workshop: Surviving your data**

20 June 2016

University of Bath

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](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/surviving-your-data-tickets-22729454410)
Update on The Future Cemetery/DeathLAB collaboration

In 2012, the Grade I listed Victorian Arnos Vale Cemetery got together with the University of Bath’s Centre for Death & Society, learning and production agency Calling the Shots and Clear Design UK. The idea was to deliver a large-scale project that experimented with new approaches like projection, augmented reality and Bluetooth soundscapes to engage visitors with this stunning but sensitive space. The result, The Future Cemetery, was supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council in the form of the REACT Heritage Sandbox.

In late 2015, The Future Cemetery launched a competition which sought to reimagine a future cemetery at Arnos Vale. Researchers at Columbia University won the competition, drawing on architectural and technological innovations which envisages a network of 'memorial vessels' that would turn 'biomass' into light.

Karla Rothstein, of Columbia University's DeathLAB visited Arnos Vale in May for a preliminary visit, the on-site residency will take place over the summer.

A number of recent press articles show how the idea has captured the public imagination:


Follow The Future Cemetery on Facebook for updates on the project: https://www.facebook.com/thefuturecemetery/

New student joins CDAS

Filipa Alves-Costa joins CDAS as a PhD student in the Department of Psychology at the University of Bath.

Filipa has a Degree in Psychology and Master’s Degree in Justice/Forensic Psychology (University of Minho, Portugal, 2011). She has been working in a variety of fields in Psychology, both from a research and intervention point of view (e.g., domestic violence – intervention and assessment, campus victimisation, cognitive stimulation and adult resilience) in Portugal and in the UK.

Her PhD is entitled 'Homicidal bereavement in the UK: Evaluation of an holistic programme for those bereaved through murder and manslaughter’. The project seeks to add to the limited knowledge of the coping strategies post-experience of those bereaved in this way. There is also little knowledge about the best psychological interventions to support these individuals and it is hoped that the findings from the empirical research
will have both clinical and policy implications, such as potentially validating effective interventions and providing guidance on how best to support such individuals.

You can read more about Filipa and her research at: http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas/people/students/filipa-alves-costa/index.html

CDAS community continues to grow

Since our launch in 2005, the CDAS community has grown in a number of ways. In addition to our core members, staff who are based permanently at the University of Bath, we have a group of associates who research, write and teach with us. PhD students are also a key part of our community, developing their skills as researchers through a variety of means including public engagement, grant applications and academic seminars as part of CDAS’ activities.

Increasingly, our community is developing virtually and we have now passed the landmark 1,000 followers on our Facebook page, joining the nearly 1,500 each on Twitter (@cendeathsociety) and CDAS newsletter distribution list.

Thank you to everyone who supports CDAS, the research we do, the events we run and the news we bring. The academic death and dying community goes from strength to strength with your involvement and support.

Death Studies Community News

‘Thank you’ from Dying Matters

The National Council of Palliative Care and Dying Matters have issued a big thanks to everyone who supported them through Dying Matters week. There was an astounding level of response and it was the most successful Dying Matters Week to date. Whether you supported the event on social media, held or attended an event or had your own “Big Conversation”, they are very grateful.

Clare Henry, CEO of NCPC commented, ‘It looks like 2016 was the biggest Dying Matters Awareness Week ever. We certainly had more social media mentions, more web traffic and it looks like we had more events, more conversations and reached more people than ever before.’

Read all of Claire Henry's Awareness Week Thank You

They would welcome your feedback on the week and the impact all the events made, so if you held an event, please take a few moments to fill out this short survey. There is the chance to win book vouchers worth £25, £50 and £75.

Closing date for the survey is 13th June.

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas   cdas@bath.ac.uk
Your input will help us make Dying Matters Week 2017 even bigger and better.

**Research from Royal London on the financial consequences of the death of a partner**

Women suffer more financially and practically after losing a spouse or long-term partner, according to new research from Royal London.

The research found that 51% of bereaved women reported lower household income, compared to 35% of men. It also found that 45% of bereaved women reported lower disposable income, compared to only 24% of men.

The research found one of the more extreme financial impacts following the loss of a partner was having to downsize or move house. While just one in ten of men downsize or move house, two in five women are forced to move home following a bereavement.

The practical impacts are a consequence of the tendency of couples to split household tasks between them, often along gendered lines. The Royal London research found evidence of this, revealing that bereaved men were overwhelmingly likely to say that their partner took charge of cooking, cleaning and washing and ironing before they died, whereas bereaved women said that their partner had taken charge of car maintenance, dealing with tradespeople, DIY, driving and dealing with technology. The sudden loss of this expertise leaves the surviving partner scrambling to deal with these practical matters for the first time, while also coping with the emotional loss.


**Events, seminars, symposia and conferences**

**The Dead Boat on Wheels**
31 May (8pm), 06 June (6pm) and 08 June (8pm)
Bath Fringe Festival, Burdall's Yard, Bath
£7/£5/£3

The Dead Boat On Wheels follows a fictional story, but based on real events and the research of an arts facilitator that worked in the Palliative Care. It opens questions up surrounding death. What is dying? Are we scared to talk about death? Has modern medicine distanced the human species from our rituals surrounding death? Is the fear of nothingness the new way of fearing hell? Are you scared to die?
"The Dead Boat On Wheels is a performance that talks about death, in order to be able to celebrate life"

More information and tickets at http://www.theruetheatre.com/current-project.html

The Beautiful Burial Ground
29 June 2016
Heslington Church, York
£15

Join us for a special one-day conference, ‘The Beautiful Burial Ground, Simple ways to create a haven for wildlife, for heritage, for people’.

At this conference:
- Hear from specialists in the natural and built heritage
- Attend workshops of your choice
- Meet the many organisations who can help
- Find out about funding
- Claim your reduced priced Burial Ground Action Pack
- Register for continuing support

For more information and to book: http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/

Cremation and Burial Communication and Education 2016
04-06 July 2016
The Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon
Fees from £150 + VAT

This year’s programme is designed to meet the needs of all those involved with the provision of Bereavement Services across the whole of the UK. The event provides the most up to date and relevant information to the sector.

Speakers include:
- Carolyn Heaney, Deputy Director, Portfolio Management, Public & International Health Directorate, Department of Health, on the recent consultation on the Introduction of Medical Examiners and Reforms to Death Certification in England and Wales;
- Suzanne Kochanowski, Head of Race and Faith, Integration and Faith Division, Department for Communities and Local Government, who will be giving us the latest information on the Review of Crematoria Provision and Facilities;
- Dr Simon Cuthbert-Kerr, Senior Policy Lead, Burial and Cremation, Scottish Government, who will provide an overview of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016.
- Judith Bernstein, Head of Coroners, Burials, Cremation and Inquiries Policy Team, Ministry of Justice, who visits our event every year to provide us with her Ministry of Justice Update.
• Dr John Troyer, Director of the Centre for Death & Society, University of Bath, presenting research comparing discourses of death and dying of the 1970’s with the present day.

For more information on these and other speakers, and to register on-line go to: http://www.cbce.org.uk.

Community Development Conference - Each community is prepared to help
18 July 2016
St Christopher's Hospice, London
£60

Public health and community development approaches to palliative and end of life care are now being embedded into public policy as essential parts of what is required to improve people’s quality and experience of end of life care. They have been recommended by both the independent review on choice in end of life care, and the Ambitions framework for palliative and end of life care which has as strand six of its vision “each community is prepared to care”. This conference is essential for anybody who wants to know how to put this approach into practice in their community.

Key Speakers
• Professor Debbie Horsfall - University of Western Sydney
• Professor Allan Kellehear - Academic Director, DHEZ Health and Wellbeing Centre and 50th Anniversary Professor (End-of-Life Care), University of Bradford

This one day conference is being run as a partnership between:
• Public Health and Palliative Care International (UK Branch)
• The National Council for Palliative Care (NCPC)
• Hospice UK
• St Christopher's Hospice

For further information, and to book: http://www.ncpc.org.uk/event/each-community-prepared-help

Suicide Bereavement: Working together to make a difference
Manchester’s 5th National Annual Conference
28 September 2016 (£99+ VAT)
Manchester Conference Centre
Additional workshops: 27 & 29 September 2016 (additional charges)

This event is suitable for those who come into contact with those bereaved or affected by suicide or those who are considering developing a post-vention service.

Programme:
Chair - Malcolm Rae OBE: Welcome to the Manchester suicide bereavement conference
Reagan Blyth: Welcome from Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
Mike Myers and Carla Fine: Touched by Suicide: Bridging the Experiences of Survivors and Clinicians

Coffee break
Coroner Derek Winter: The Coroner’s Investigation
Rob Webster: Coming Clean – Working Together to Reduce the Stigma of Suicide
Sharon McDonnell: Suicide Bereavement Research: Working Together to Make a Difference

Lunch/networking
Workshops (choice of one of the following workshops)
1. Catherine Richardson: Real Time Suspected Suicide Early Alert System
2. Liz Koole: What about Us? ‘Supporting Children After a Suicide
3. Christine Clark: Creating a Suicide Safer Workplace
4. Melanie McDougall: Past, present and future
5. Gillian Haddock and Yvonne Awenat: Psychological treatments to prevent suicide
6. Caroline Kingston: Preventing Suicides on the Railway

Coffee break
Shirley Smith: The Road Ahead
Hamish Elvidge and Amy Meadows: Support after Suicide – A Nationwide Service?
Chair - Malcolm Rae OBE: Reflection and closing remarks

More information http://www.suicidebereavementuk.com/

Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement
An open conference hosted by the International Work Group (IWG) on Death, Dying and Bereavement
05 November 2016
Glasgow
£140

IWG is a worldwide group of those in the forefront of bereavement research and practice in their own countries. It meets every 18 months in a different part of the world, and later this year they will meet in Scotland, in what is being billed as a Celtic meeting, with input also from Wales and Ireland.

In connection with that meeting, IWG invites you to a one day open UK-wide conference - a unique opportunity to hear world leaders in their subjects debate what sociology brings to the study of bereavement. The conference will interest health and social care staff, the funeral industry, counsellors and therapists, planners and educators.

Speakers include:
- Professor Robert Neimeyer, University of Memphis
- Dr Neil Thompson, Writer and Educator, Wales
- Dr Darcy Harris, Western University, London, Ontario, Canada
- Professor David Clark, Glasgow University
- Professor Kenneth Doka, College of New Rochelle, New York State,
Chair: Dame Barbara Monroe CBE

Interactive workshops will consider funerals, volunteering, young people’s services, memorialization, etc.

For full details, and to register for the event, please go to: https://event.iwgscotland2016.co.uk/IWGGlasmgow

For further information, please contact secretariat@iwgscotland2016.co.uk

Call for papers

Death, Dying and Social Work
06 September 2016
Jubilee Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, East Sussex
£60/£30. There are some free places for students, please contact the organisers to be considered.

The Department of Social Work and Social Care at the University of Sussex with the Department of Childhood, Social Work and Social Care at the University of Chichester - in conjunction with the Centre for Social Work Innovation and Research (CSWIR) and the Centre for Innovation and Research in Wellbeing (CIRW) - are pleased to announce an exciting one-day conference exploring death and dying in social work education, research and practice.

The conference will provide a space for researchers, educators and others to meet and discuss this important area of study. Death and dying is located at the heart of much social work practice, whether through direct work with the dying and their families in end-of-life work, through encountering bereaved service users in many areas of practice, or with the risk of death central to safeguarding procedures for children and adults. Personal bereavements may also affect students, educators, social workers and service users in various complex ways - immediately and across the lifespan. The conference seeks to promote research into the relationships between social work, death and dying, and will launch a new interdisciplinary network for researchers, educators and practitioners interested in the study of death and dying within social work education and research.

Call for papers

Proposals are requested on the following themes:
1. Research studies related to social work practice with the dying or bereaved
2. Pedagogical approaches to death and dying within social work education
3. Death and dying within social work settings
4. Ethics and values related to research or practice with death or dying
5. Creative practices and methodologies
6. Inter-disciplinary perspectives on death or dying in social work

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas    cdas@bath.ac.uk
7. Digital practices and death
8. Cultural beliefs and practices around death and dying

Types of proposal

Proposals are welcome from practitioners, students and academics and we also welcome service user perspectives
- Paper (oral) presentations (20 mins)
- Poster presentations
- Workshops (1hr)

Submit your proposal – along with any enquiries you may have - to the organisers: Denise Turner: D.M.Turner@sussex.ac.uk
Tish Marrable: L.F.Marrable@sussex.ac.uk
Proposal Deadline: 17 June 2016, you will be notified regarding your proposal by 5 August.

Further details on the conference, abstract submissions and bookings at: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/newsandevents/events?id=35368

Jobs, Education and Training

Research Studentship (MPhil/PhD)
Faculty of Health & Social Care, Open University
Ref: 9502
Closing Date: 16 June, 2016 - 12:00

The Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies at The Open University is seeking high-quality applications for a full time studentship working with Willen Hospice in Milton Keynes. The project will be a qualitative exploration of where people choose to die in Milton Keynes and will focus on the following key issues:-
- What influences where people die?
- What is the role of the environment and culture of the hospice in Milton Keynes that mean that people choose this over dying at home? Or;
- How do issues of culture, ethnicity and other forms of diversity impact on accessing the hospice service or dying differently?

You are likely to have a background in medical sociology, anthropology or critical health psychology and good knowledge in qualitative research methods.

The studentship commences October 2016.

Web: http://www.open.ac.uk/about/employment/vacancies/research-studentship-mphilphd-9502
Interview date: 14 July 2016
End of Life Doula Training
The New Oriel Hall, Bath
29 – 31 August and 22-23 October 2016

This five-day foundation course is the first part of the full 21-day end of life doula training.

Themes covered include:
- understanding grief
- emotional and spiritual responses to death
- physical changes at the end of life
- palliative care
- increasing comfort and supportive therapies
- rituals and practices within cultural and faith groups
- socio-legal requirements
- communication
- the soul’s journey
- spiritual and self-care practices.

The End of Life Doula role requires a high level of self-awareness, reflection, empathy and communication skills; all are personal qualities which straddle a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. A commitment to personal development is essential. We have found that learners drawn to these courses are often on a personal or vocational journey and may include:
- Lay people with a special feeling for being with the dying, who want to support friends, family or colleagues
- People with a professional background, such as nurses, complementary therapists, counsellors, clergy or nursing home staff, who want to develop skills in end of life support

Therefore, we ask that participants have
- An affinity for this subject.
- A willingness to embark upon a personal journey.
- Maturity, sensitivity, adaptability, empathy and good communication skills and are over 18 years old.
- An awareness of, and are open to, spirituality in all its forms.
- A wish to expand their knowledge and become more confident with death and dying.

The course will bring personal experiences and issues around illness, death and bereavement to the forefront and it is important that learners are aware and prepared to manage these. We gauge this through conversations and the short piece of writing we request prior to accepting the registration fee. If an applicant has recently been through a bereavement, we will discuss the timing of their entry on to the course with them.
For further information and to book: [http://www.lwdwtraining.uk/events/doula-training-part-1-foundation-bath-somerset/](http://www.lwdwtraining.uk/events/doula-training-part-1-foundation-bath-somerset/)

**Events Calendar**

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>24 May 2016</td>
<td>The Unsocial Network</td>
<td>The Bell, Bath</td>
<td><a href="https://pintofscience.co.uk/event/the-unsocial-network">https://pintofscience.co.uk/event/the-unsocial-network</a></td>
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<td>26 May 2016</td>
<td>Cruse Masterclass</td>
<td>Holborn Bars, London</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cruse.org.uk/training/masterclass">http://www.cruse.org.uk/training/masterclass</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>27 May 2016</td>
<td>Encountering the Corpse: The Dead Body and Technology</td>
<td>University of Bath</td>
<td><a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/encountering-the-corpse-the-dead-body-and-technology-tickets-24782354690">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/encountering-the-corpse-the-dead-body-and-technology-tickets-24782354690</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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<tr>
<td>31 May 2016</td>
<td>The Dead Boat on Wheels</td>
<td>Bath Fringe Festival</td>
<td><a href="http://www.theruetheatre.com/current-project.html">http://www.theruetheatre.com/current-project.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>14 June 2016</td>
<td>Palliative Care Research in Care Homes</td>
<td>Lancaster University</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fhm/research/ioelc/#researchseminars">http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fhm/research/ioelc/#researchseminars</a></td>
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<td>17 June 2016</td>
<td>Grief in a digital age</td>
<td>University of Warwick</td>
<td><a href="http://childbereavementuk.org/studydays">http://childbereavementuk.org/studydays</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>20 June 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-25 June 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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<tr>
<td>06 Sept 2016</td>
<td>Death, Dying and Social Work</td>
<td>University of Sussex</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Sept 2016</td>
<td>Sudden death and breaking bad news</td>
<td>Newcastle upon Tyne</td>
<td><a href="http://childbereavementuk.org/studays">http://childbereavementuk.org/studays</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>04 Oct 2016</td>
<td>Children and young people – loss, death and grief</td>
<td>Child Bereavement UK, Bucks</td>
<td><a href="http://www.childbereavementuk.org/courses">www.childbereavementuk.org/courses</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>05 Nov 2016</td>
<td>Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement</td>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>[<a href="https://event.iwgscotland2016.co.uk/IWG">https://event.iwgscotland2016.co.uk/IWG</a> Glasgow](<a href="https://event.iwgscotland2016.co.uk/IWG">https://event.iwgscotland2016.co.uk/IWG</a> Glasgow)</td>
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<tr>
<td>02 Dec 2016</td>
<td>Death, Dying, Bereavement and Technologies in the 21st Century</td>
<td>University of Sheffield</td>
<td><a href="http://www.britsoc.co.uk/media/112390/DDB_021216.pdf?146401179015">http://www.britsoc.co.uk/media/112390/DDB_021216.pdf?146401179015</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).