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News from CDAS

CDAS Seminar: 'How malleable are emotions? The case of grief'
12 November 2015, 14.30 – 17.45
Room 3 East 2.20, University of Bath

This seminar will explore grief: do society and culture influence inner feelings of grief, or only how grief is expressed?

Speakers include:
- Ruth Toulson (Anthropologist, Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore)
  *The transformation of grief in Singapore*
- Clare Gittings (Historian)
  *Universal grief: two English 17c case studies*
- Tony Walter (Sociologist, CDAS)
  *Grief in high vs low mortality contexts*

This event is free, book your place today at:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cdas-seminar-how-malleable-are-emotions-the-case-of-grief-tickets-18755121072

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

This seminar presents current & 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*
- Lindsay Udall (University of Bristol)
  *Who decides who’s buried where?*
- Stuart Prior & Helen Frisby (University of Bristol)
  *Gravediggers: an oral history*

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.

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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

Death Studies Community News

The Good Grief Project

Can there be anything called ‘good’ grief especially when it follows from the death of a child – surely grief is that most abject of conditions in which you are thrown into an endless darkness, where despair overcomes hope, and longing for the love one lost is a pain beyond endurance. How can this be good?

Jane Harris and Jimmy Edmonds are on a journey to find out. Their son Josh died in a road accident in Vietnam in 2011 while he was on a six month extended holiday. He was 22. Their lives have changed but they have learnt to live with the pain (sort of) and this has given them the space to try and discover whether the their ‘bereavement”, the torments and mood swings, the feelings of loneliness, anger and guilt are normal or something specific to the loss of a child.

They received funding from The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust to travel to the USA and Mexico during September and October 2015 under their banner “Travel to Learn, Return to Inspire.” They also received a generous grant from The Jessica Mathers Trust, a bereavement charity in South London.

On their journey they have been producing a documentary film to which they invited bereaved parents (and siblings!), academics and specialists in the fields of trauma and loss to contribute. A crucial element of the film will be their own reflections as they travel with Josh by their side. The Good Grief Project is based on ideas that flow from the concept of ‘continuing bonds’, of not wanting to cut off from the deceased, but of building a new kind of relationship with your child. Their journey, and the film, are

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themselves metaphors and an expression of their own grief for Josh ... and a way of continuing his story and their relationship with him in both life and death.

You can read more about the project, view stories and photos on their website: https://thegoodgriefproject.wordpress.com/

**Events, seminars, symposia and conferences**

**Death and Memory: Soane and the Architecture of Legacy**

to 26 March 2016
Sir John Soane's Museum, London

Eliza Soane - Sir John Soane's beloved wife – died on 22 November 1815. Her heartbroken husband never entirely recovered. This exhibition commemorates 200 years since her death, and examines the effect of this personal tragedy on Soane’s life and work.

Soane was a man fascinated with memorialisation, and was strongly concerned with creating a legacy and shaping memory through architecture. These ideas are seen throughout his career but Eliza’s death blurred the lines between the personal and the professional. Death and Memory looks at elements of Soane’s life – from his family and his home, to his collecting and architectural work - and highlights the recurring theme of mortality.

On display are rarely exhibited drawings for mausolea, funerary sculpture and monuments by architects such as Robert Adam, Piranesi, William Chambers, Nicholas Hawksmoor, John Flaxman and George Dance. These are shown alongside a design for a monument to the Duke of Wellington – one of the last drawings Soane's architectural office created before his death.

Other highlights include original designs for the Soane family tomb which was built after Eliza’s death, and objects from ‘sealed receptacles’ - time-capsules which Soane sealed before his own death with strict instructions to open many decades later.

Web: http://www.soane.org/whats-on/exhibitions/death-and-memory-soane-and-architecture-legacy

**This Mortal Coil**

06 – 27 November 2015
Vivid Projects, Birmingham

This November *Vivid Projects* is thrilled to present ‘This Mortal Coil’, a season of exhibitions, talks and live events exploring representations of death and the macabre. Join us and delve into the darker side of the relationship between art and the body.
In Soviet era Russia it was difficult to get hold of popular music records from the west – the recording industry and music output was ruthlessly controlled by the state. This gave rise to a culture of illicit recording. Many older Russians recall seeing or listening to strange vinyl-like discs as youngsters, discs bearing images of skeletal hands, skulls and rib cages. These records were known simply as ‘Ribs’ or ‘Bones’ and were cut using X-Ray plates lifted from hospitals.

From 6 – 21 November Vivid Projects welcomes X-Ray Audio: Forbidden Soviet Music on the Bone, a ground-breaking project set up by Stephen Coates and Paul Heartfield to research, record, collect and publish the images, stories and sounds of these extraordinary records and the people who made and listened to them.

Wrap up warm and grab a Molotov cocktail at our Cold War Bar on Friday 06 November to celebrate the exhibition launch, which coincides with Digbeth First Friday. Exhibition continues to Saturday 21 November, open Thursday to Saturday, 12-5pm. Admission is free.

On Friday 13 November Stephen Coates, author of the X-Ray Audio project, composer and music producer, will tell the story of the X-Ray records and the bootleggers who made them. Stephen will be joined at Vivid Projects by musician and vintage recording specialist Aleks Kolkowski, who will give a demonstration of recording music onto X-Ray plates from a live performance by local musicians in the space.

Academia meets art on Friday 27 November with a talking Death Salon exploring the myriad connections between death and creative practice. Sponsored by University of Birmingham, researchers from Birmingham and Bath come together with artists for an afternoon of discussion and film. The salon features reflections on the work of artists including Derek Jarman, Ian Breakwell and George Saxon, together with academic perspectives.

For further information on these and other associated events visit: www.vividprojects.org.uk

Extending end of life care to older people with frailty – learning from the SCIOaS Study
26 November 2015, 12.30 – 14.30
Room B129, Medical School, QMC, The Sue Ryder Care Centre for the Study of Supportive, Palliative and End of Life Care
Speaker: Dr Caroline Nicholson, NIHR Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, King’s College London

The SCIOaS study (Establishing Supportive Care needs for frail elders and developing an Intervention to address these in older adult acute medical settings) is aiming to reconceptualise Supportive Care as a framework for improving end of life care for older people with frailty. The presentation will use data from different phases of the study to illuminate both enablers and barriers to timely end of life care. Tentative conclusions to
be discussed with the audience include the usefulness of cumulative complexity theory to forward models of end of life care.

We will start with light refreshments at 12:30, presentation will commence at 13:00. The event is free of charge but please express your interest in attending via e-mail: ann.gibbons@nottingham.ac.uk or telephone: 0115 82 30706.

Further information and updates will be available on the following link in due course: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/srcc/seminars/index.aspx

Exploring the Extraordinary 7th Conference
04-06 December 2015
York Marriott Hotel, Tadcaster Road, York, UK

Exploring the Extraordinary is an interdisciplinary network for those engaged/interested in research into the 'extraordinary' - topics often regarded as paranormal, supernatural, religious, transcendent, ecstatic, exceptional, mystical, anomalous, magical, or spiritual. We regard extraordinary experiences as *those that transcend the mundane*, with interests in the experiences themselves, and how they have influenced and been incorporated into human societies.

Booking is now open for the conference at: http://etenetwork.weebly.com/ete7-conference-2015.html

Panels:

I) Parapsychology: Experimentation and Counselling
II) The Extraordinary and the Sociological Perspective
III) Belief, Folklore and Space I
IV) The Spiritual Self
V) Religion and experience
VI) Popular culture, identity and experience
VII) Belief, Folklore and Space II
VIII) Ritual, music and theatre
IX) Spiritual experience and transformation
X) History, magic and spirits

To read the abstracts, visit http://etenetwork.weebly.com/uploads/4/6/0/3/4603084/ete7_abstracts.pdf

We'd love to see you there! For more information, please visit http://etenetwork.weebly.com or email ete.network@gmail.com, where you can also view previous conference presentations.

death: is it your right to choose?
23 January—13 March 2016

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas  cdas@bath.ac.uk
Bristol Museums

dead: is it your right to choose? will be a powerful and emotive installation of a room at the Dignitas flat near Zurich.

Supported through funding from The Wellcome Trust, this exhibition complements death: the human experience and will encourage debate and discussion around end of life choices whilst the current law on assisted dying in the UK is undergoing scrutiny.

The exhibition will be supported by a series of events starting on 26 January with a panel debate on assisted dying with Silvan Luley from Dignitas and other leading experts from the UK.

Other events include a series of talks, a Q&A and a death fair. More details will be announced soon.
http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/death-is-it-your-right-to-choose/

Call for papers

Can spirituality transform our world? New frontiers in understanding and exploring contemporary spiritualities
Fourth International Conference of the British Association for the Study of Spirituality (BASS)
23 - 26 May 2016
Chancellors Hotel and Conference Centre, Manchester, UK

A three day conference bringing together researchers and scholars from a range of academic disciplines and the creative arts with policy-makers and practitioners from the caring professions, education sector and business communities, to consider the state of play in spirituality studies as well as the dynamic relationship between spirituality and contemporary society.

BASS invites presentations in the form of an oral paper, poster, workshop or performance. The specific aim of this conference is to critically examine four questions, each at the heart of an important critical theme, which are key to the further development and continuing relevance of contemporary spirituality studies. The identification of four cross-cutting themes is intended to facilitate in-depth exploration through a range of media, with potential transferability across disciplines, topics and arenas. Throughout, we aim to explore the transformative power of spirituality when brought to bear on key issues and challenges of our age.

The deadline for abstracts is 09 November 2015.
Thanatos vol. 5 1/2016

Thanatos is a peer-reviewed, multi-disciplinary and a scientific web-journal published by the Finnish Death Studies Association. We publish twice a year a journal that consists of articles, short and long research reports, book reviews, columns and seminar reports. The primary publication language is Finnish, but we do accept manuscripts in English and Swedish as well, however, the costs of proofreading are the responsibility of the author. The journal is peer-reviewed, which means we use fellow scholars in determining the potentiality of the manuscript for publication.

Thanatos aspires to advance dialogue between interdisciplinary scholars and professionals working in the field of death and dying. The association welcomes articles, research reports and reviews, but also essays, columns, conference reports, book/music/movie reviews and interviews related to death, dying and bereavement. We are aiming for broader discussions over the traditional scientific boundaries and to enhance a more holistic way of dealing with subjects such as, for example, hospice care, suicide, bereavement, materiality around death and dying, ageing, (im)mortality and so forth.

Schedule:
- abstracts 30th of November 2015 (thanatos.toimitus@gmail.com)
- information about approved abstracts 17th of December 2015
- manuscripts 1. version 5th of February 2016
- anonymous referee review February-March 2016
- Publication of the issue in early June 2016

Questions and abstracts are to be sent to thanatos.toimitus@gmail.com.

Australian Psychologist: Special Issue on Psychology and End of Life

The Editors of this special edition of Australian Psychologist are calling for original research articles and review articles on the broad theme of psychology and the end of life. End-of-life research and practice is multidisciplinary and could benefit from a stronger psychological perspective. The aims of the special issue are to increase literature and stimulate discourse in psychological approaches to end of life.

We are seeking articles that focus on end-of-life care. A broad definition of end-of-life care is adopted, including topics on diagnosis towards the end of life through bereavement. Manuscripts may focus on:
- patient or caregiver perspectives, including their psychological profiles at the end of life
- psychological approaches to end-of-life care
• trials of psychological interventions to support patients or family at the end of life or family in bereavement
• evidence for the benefits of psychological involvement
• bereavement risk assessment and/or the identification of factors related to poor bereavement outcome
• psychological impacts for health professionals who provide end-of-life care.

With this special issue, we are seeking papers to influence further research and clinical practice, and all papers submitted should have strong clinical and/or research implications for end-of-life care in Australia. A variety of health conditions (e.g., cancer) will be considered.

Important Dates
The target date for publication of this Special Issue is mid-2017. The closing date for submission of abstracts to be considered for this Special Issue is 1 December 2015. Authors of successful proposals will be required to submit a full manuscript by the 30 April 2016.

Preparation of Brief Outline/Abstract
Each author will be asked to first submit an abstract via the manuscript submission portal below (http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/apsych and designate the submission for the special issue on psychology and end of life) by 01 December 2015. The abstract should be 200–250 words in length and must include the following sections: Objective, Method, Results, and Conclusions. It should also demonstrate how the proposed paper aligns with the theme of the special issue. Upon approval, full manuscripts will be invited for review.

Death, Art and Anatomy Conference
03-06 June 2016
University of Winchester, UK

An interdisciplinary conference exploring the intersections between death, art and anatomy, by bringing together art historians, medical historians, and practising artists. The intersection between death, art and anatomy is a largely marginalised area of study, but one this conference hopes to explore.

A major strand of the conference will be addressing a core problem in medical history, that is the growing awareness of human anatomy in Britain between the medieval and early modern periods (c.1350-1560). This will be explored through the study and analysis of extant late-medieval carved cadaver sculptures which largely pre-date Vesalian knowledge of anatomy and suggest sculptors may have had an opportunity to study and recreate, emaciated (and eviscerated) human corpses. This raises the question of what religious and ethical considerations surrounded the creation of such pieces, and how their creators may have gained access to the emaciated dead and/or dying. As such, central to the conference will be the presentation of a newly-commissioned carved cadaver sculpture inspired by historical counterparts, with reflections by the artist, world-leading anatomical sculptor, Eleanor Crook.
Allied subjects such as medieval hospitals, visual culture and death, the inspiration of the dead in medical art, physicality and poetry, and death and medieval theology will also be explored by invited speaker.

Papers are invited that broadly address the theme of death, art and anatomy in the following areas:

- Death and art
- Anatomy and death
- Anatomy and art
- History of anatomy
- History of death
- Religion and anatomy
- Religion and death
- Medieval and early modern death beliefs and practices

Presentations should be in English, and will be allocated 20 minutes each, plus 10 minutes for discussion. Prospective participants are invited to submit abstracts of 200-250 words in Word. Proposals must include name, institutional affiliation (if relevant), a short bio (no more than 100 words) and an e-mail address. Proposals for panel discussions (organised by the participants) will be considered.

Deadline for receipt of abstracts is Friday 11th December 2015

For enquires please contact Christina.Welch@winchester.ac.uk

For more about the conference, http://carvedcadavers.wix.com/daaconference

**Consumption, Markets and Culture: Special Issue on consumption and death**

Deadline for Submission: February 1st, 2016

Death is inevitable and permanent. It is an integral part of our biological and cultural footprint as a species. And while biologists, chemists, paleontologists, and medical examiners deal with the death of the physical body, less focus is placed on the cultural location of death within societies. Yet, the popular press is replete with reports about the modernization of death narratives. Headlines like, “Death Doesn’t Have to be a Downer,” and “Forget Coffins – Organic Burial Pods will turn your Loved Ones into Trees” highlight how consumers are beginning to confront the traditional death ritual narrative by changing from sad to happy voice in memorials to feeding the earth through their bodily remains.

In recent years, there have been an increasing number of calls for research related to consumption of death in all its permutations beyond the topics typically covered in marketing and consumer behaviour. This special issue will serve to cast a wider net and

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a take a deeper dive into the myriad of processes and practices that surround death in consumer culture, relying on a variety of disciplines and methodological orientations.

This special issue seeks to add and expand on the quickly growing interest in death consumption, specifically to facilitate novel theoretical insights.

Possible research topics include but are not limited to:

- material goods and death
- assisted suicide
- green burials
- disposition of a loved one’s possessions
- death and social media
- the meaning of death in consumption
- dark tourism
- violent consumption
- consuming the abject
- death consumption and “taboo”
- the marketing of memorialization
- consumption rituals and death

**Submissions:**
Consumption, Markets and Culture uses Scholar One for manuscript submission. Papers submitted to the special issue will be directed to the guest editors via the online site [http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/gcmc](http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/gcmc).

Authors should follow CMC guidelines for format and especially for references, found at: [http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/gcmc20#.Va5WTRNVim0](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/gcmc20#.Va5WTRNVim0). Authors should engage with and cite relevant CMC papers where appropriate.

Specific questions should be relayed directly to the guest editors
Susan Dobscha, SDOBSCHA@bentley.edu
Jeffrey Podoshen, jeffrey.podoshen@fandm.edu

**Jobs, research and study opportunities**

**Dead Good Guides: Rite of Passage Winter School**
06 - 09 February 2016
East Woodlands Village Hall near Frome in Somerset
Led by Gilly Adams & Sue Gill

Most of us have a profound need to mark the important events in our lives with some kind of ceremony. Often these are the occasions that our culture finds easiest to celebrate – for example, births, marriages and deaths, but there are many other significant life experiences that demand attention. Sometimes a personal or private ceremony is the answer; sometimes a more public event where friends and family can bear witness. In a changing social and cultural environment, where confidence in
traditional religion has often diminished, the challenge is to create appropriate, new rites of passage.

This challenge is the starting point for the Winter School which will examine the Hows and Whys of ceremony and celebration. Beginning with an exploration of the way that ritual has featured in our own lives, we will look at what else might call out for special attention: - beginnings and endings; gains and losses; transitions. We will examine how both positive and negative life events can be distilled into myth and poetry and create meaningful rituals to contain them. We will also look at how witness is an essential part of ceremony, and how music, visual art, the elements and appropriate words can be used to enhance ceremony.

The intention is to provide a balance between inward and outward work, between mental and physical activity. There will be opportunities for listening, participating, pooling ideas, writing, and whatever else arises. Gilly Adams and Sue Gill will provide theory, information, and – they hope – inspiration, but most importantly the course will be shaped to fulfil the needs and aspirations of participants so there will be plenty of opportunities to create ceremony and to experiment and play with new practice in a safe environment. Our working day will be 10am – 9pm, with breaks for shared meals, finishing at 2pm on the last day.

The full fee will be £430 (excluding accommodation but including lunch and supper each day) and a non-refundable deposit of £80 will secure a place now. The balance can be paid in a couple of instalments to be agreed, before the start of the workshop.

Places are limited, booking early is recommended.

Web: www.deadgoodguides.com
Email: gillyadams@tiscali.co.uk or foxandgill@btinternet.com

Events Calendar

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<td>Date</td>
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<td>06-27 Nov 2015</td>
<td>The Mortal Coil</td>
<td>Vivid Projects, Birmingham</td>
<td>[<a href="http://www.vividprojects.org.uk/programme/this-mortal-coil/">http://www.vividprojects.org.uk/programme/this-mortal-coil/</a>]</td>
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<td>10-12 Nov 2015</td>
<td>Hospice UK’s annual conference 2015: The Art and Science of Hospice Care</td>
<td>ACC Liverpool</td>
<td>[<a href="http://www.hospiceuk.org/conference">www.hospiceuk.org/conference</a>]</td>
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<td>12 Nov 2015</td>
<td>How malleable are emotions? The case of grief</td>
<td>CDAS, University of Bath</td>
<td>[<a href="http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0101.html">http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0101.html</a>]</td>
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<td>13 Nov 2015</td>
<td>Methodology: Researching death, dying and bereavement</td>
<td>BSA, London</td>
<td>[<a href="http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/DDB.aspx">http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/DDB.aspx</a>]</td>
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<td>26 Nov 2015</td>
<td>Extending end of life care to older people with frailty</td>
<td>University of Nottingham</td>
<td>[<a href="http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/srcc/seminars/index.aspx">http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/srcc/seminars/index.aspx</a>]</td>
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<td>02 Dec 2015</td>
<td>Marginal Death Research: Doing Edgework</td>
<td>University of York</td>
<td>[<a href="https://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/about/news-and-events/department/2015/death-conference/marginaldeathresearch/#tab-1">https://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/about/news-and-events/department/2015/death-conference/marginaldeathresearch/#tab-1</a>]</td>
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<td>04-05 Dec 2015</td>
<td>Corpses, Burials and Infection</td>
<td>CRASSH, Cambridge</td>
<td>[<a href="http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/filter/2015-12-01">http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/filter/2015-12-01</a>]</td>
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<td>08 Dec 2015</td>
<td>Research in the field of supportive/palliative and end of life care</td>
<td>University of Nottingham</td>
<td><a href="mailto:k.almack@nottingham.ac.uk">k.almack@nottingham.ac.uk</a> or <a href="mailto:glenys.caswell@nottingham.ac.uk">glenys.caswell@nottingham.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>29-13 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>
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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>
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<td>13-16 Apr 2016</td>
<td>ADEC Annual Conference</td>
<td>Minneapolis, USA</td>
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<td>03-06 Jun 2016</td>
<td>Death, Art and Anatomy Conference</td>
<td>University of Winchester</td>
<td><a href="http://carvedcadavers.wix.com/deaconference">http://carvedcadavers.wix.com/deaconference</a></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