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News from CDAS

CDAS Conference 2015: Death and its Futures
CALL FOR PAPERS
05-06 June 2015
University of Bath, UK

To paraphrase Marx, social science tells us not only how society works now, but also how it could be different and how it can be changed! So, we invite 20 minute mind-expanding papers or other contributions that:

- envision 21st century futures of death, dying and bereavement, e.g. predicted trends, scenarios to be avoided, future living and dying that we and our descendants can embrace
- radically re-think end-of-life policies and practices
- set out future research agendas
- showcase innovative research, teaching, practice, or public engagement
- reflect on the interdisciplinary field of death studies – past, present and future

Abstracts (up to 250 words) to be emailed to cdas@bath.ac.uk by 16 February 2015. For an early decision on whether or not your abstract has been accepted, please send it by 4 January.

In June 2015, CDAS will be 10 years old! During Friday late afternoon and early evening, the conference will include a birthday celebration at which CDAS founding director Prof Glennys Howarth and her successor Prof Alan Kellehear will speak, followed by a celebratory conference-cum-birthday dinner. We hope you will be able to join us!

CDAS to lead GW4 research initiative, ‘Dying well after a long life’

CDAS have been awarded a GW4 Initiator grant to develop links with researchers at the Universities of Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter on the topic of, ‘Dying well after a long life’.

The most common age at death in England and Wales in 2010 was 85 for men and 89 for women; the number of older people dying will increase in the next 30 years as the ‘baby boomers’ enter their 80’s.

Government rhetoric talks about ‘successful ageing’ and promoting independence, a rhetoric embraced by fit third agers. However, this neglects many older people who struggle each day with deteriorating physical and mental capacities. The assumption of the Department of Health’s End of Life Care strategy is of the autonomous individual freely choosing how to live out a fairly predictable end of life period, but this is problematic for many elderly people with unclear dependency trajectories and/or less than full mental capacity.

Radically new thinking is required to drive innovative research that can inform philosophy, policy and practice, not only for the frail elderly, but for anyone with high
dependency and mental incapacity who cannot die as free and active agents. This initiative seeks to identify clear areas for research, bring together experts across the South West with the ideas and capacity to develop them further, with a view to putting forward large funding bids in the next eighteen months/two years.

GW4 brings together the South West and Wales’ four leading, research-intensive universities. Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter Universities are collaborating through their research to address the key global challenges for the benefit of society and the economy.
Web: http://gw4.ac.uk/

Seminar series 2014-15

The annual CDAS seminar series has already begun, with ‘The Human Costs of Austerity’ taking place on 22nd September. Thank you to speakers and audience for a highly engaged debate on this subject; the podcast will be available shortly via our website.

The next event in our series will be on 16 December, 14.15 – 17.05, ‘Agency of the Dead’

Whether, and in what cultural/historical/political/personal circumstances, the dead can exert agency, are believed to exert agency, or are mobilised by the living to exert agency, are questions implicit in bereavement research into continuing bonds, and also perhaps in collective memory studies, but has yet to be thoroughly explored. One view is that traditional societies impute agency to ancestors, but Protestant and/or secular modern societies consider such ideas absurd – the living may be influenced by their collective memory of the dead, but not by the dead themselves. The work of a number of colleagues in and around CDAS has touched on such questions, brought into focus this autumn/winter by academic visitor Annika Jonssons’ project on Death, Agency and Enchantment (see below) which explores how some contemporary cultural changes may be imputing more, not less, agency to the dead.

- Annika Jonsson (Karlstad University, Sweden; CDAS/SPS academic visitor)
  Agency, enchantment and continuing bonds - examples from Sweden
- Lisa McCormick (Haverford College, USA; CDAS Associate)
  The agency of dead musicians and composers (tbc)
- Joshua Graham (CDAS)
  Mother doesn't want a fuss - The agency of the dead in American funeral food rituals

Booking for this free event will open in October, details via the website:
http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0075.html

Further seminars are planned on Bioethics (February) and Business Failure (April/May), details will appear here and on the website as soon as we have them.
Malcolm Johnson awarded BSG Outstanding Achievement Award 2014

Professor Malcolm Johnson has been recognised with the Annual Prize for Outstanding Contribution by the British Society of Gerontology (BSG).

Professor Johnson has been a long-standing member of the BSG and was instrumental in transforming the organisation from a small scale network of academics to a fully-fledged, well organised national and international learned society.

The Award was established in 2007, and is made annually to an individual or organisation that, in the opinion of the judges, has made a significant and lasting contribution to British Social Gerontology.

The Award was presented at the Opening Session of the BSG Annual Conference.

Professor Johnson is currently a Visiting Professor in Gerontology and End of Life Care in the Department of Social & Policy Sciences and works closely with the Centre for Death & Society at the University of Bath.

John Troyer at the Morbid Anatomy Museum, New York

During August, CDAS Deputy Director John Troyer was the Scholar in Residence at the Morbid Anatomy Museum in Brooklyn, New York. The Morbid Anatomy Museum had only been officially open about six weeks when his Residency began and it hit two months by the time I finished. The MAM is a new institution and is in the early stages of building its intellectual, artistic, and economic infrastructure.

John curated a group of films for a series he called “Tales from the Celluloid Coffin”. He also presented a group of illustrated lectures on his research. The films covered everything from 1970’s future dystopias (Soylent Green) to contemporary ideas about memorialising the dead (Black Mirror).

The illustrated lectures presented John’s research on a number of topics, including dead body disposal technology, necrophilia laws, and the future of death.


Welcome to Annika Jonsson

Dr Annika Jonsson is a sociologist from Karlstad University, Sweden, who has been successful in gaining a 2 year postdoc award on 'Death, agency and enchantment: the making of continuing bonds', the first 5 months of which will be spent with the Centre for Death & Society in Bath.
Annika will be presenting at our December seminar (see above for details).

**Goodbye and thank you to Trudi Gilbank**

We are sad to be saying good bye to Trudi Gilbank this month. Trudi has been the administrator for the final three years of the Foundation Degree in Funeral Services, seeing our cohorts through their academic careers, and supporting tutors and staff during a difficult transition period.

Trudi also supported the CDAS staff more generally with our seminars and events, meetings and research projects, and she will be greatly missed by all of us.

**CDAS weddings!**

Unusually, this has been a summer of weddings for CDAS! Brought together by their shared interests in death and music, sociologist Lisa McCormick married obituary writer Tim Bullamore - both have been closely associated with CDAS for several years. That was back in June, and then in September, CDAS core member Kate Woodthorpe married Nick Tuckwell. Congratulations and best wishes to both couples!

**Death & Dying in the Media, Print and Internet**

**Crowdfunding a carved cadaver**

Dr Christina Welch, Programme Leader for the MA in Death, Religion and Culture at the University of Winchester, is leading an exciting and unique project to get a transi effigy carved. It will be hand carved by a leading anatomical sculptor from a single piece of wood, and will be based on late-medieval English and Welsh carved cadaver effigies. It is probably the first time in almost 500 years since something like this has been done.

A transi is a recumbent (gisant or lying down) sculpture of a corpse. Carved cadavers were a specific form of after-life memorial for members of the wealthy land owning classes and were related to Roman Catholic belief in purgatory; many senior clerics (bishops and archbishops) also chose to be memorialised in this way. They are characteristic of late medieval northern Europe and were typically carved in stone, although wooden ones were not unknown. There are 38 of these transis in England and 3 in Wales.

A book and touring exhibition are planned should the project be a success. The project hopes to raise £2,000 to cover the cost of the wood and transportation, the sculptor is giving her time for free, and any additional money raised will go towards the cost of transporting the transi (nicknamed Guy the Gaunt) to various locations.
For more information and to support the project, visit the website at: 
http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/guy-the-gaunt

Dying Matters 2014 – a review

The bumper summer edition of the Dying Matters newsletter came out in August. It showcased just a small selection of events which took place during Dying Matters Awareness week in May, including those held in Bath by CDAS. The week was a great success, with national and local press coverage, 530 events taking place nationwide, 300,000 leaflets and other resources distributed and around 570,000 people reached.

Dying Matters Awareness Week 2015 will take place 18-24 May 2015, so save the date and start planning your engagement activities. Resources and ideas can be found on the Dying Matters website: http://dyingmatters.org/YODO

New guidance published by Acas on bereavement in the workplace

Workplace expert Acas published its new guide on managing bereavement in the workplace this month.

It is estimated that one in ten people are directly affected by bereavement, and research has found that a third of employees who had suffered bereavement in the past five years felt that they had not been treated with compassion by their employer. Nearly nine out ten people believed all employers should have a compassionate employment policy that included paid bereavement leave.

Acas' new guide has been developed in partnership with Cruse Bereavement Care, bereavement leave campaigner Lucy Herd, Dying Matters, and many other organisations.

To access the new guide, visit the Acas website: http://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4976

2015 Death Exhibition with Bristol Museums & Art Gallery

Planning is continuing for the ‘Death’ exhibition, due to open 3rd October 2015 in Bristol. Work is underway on community consultation, organising objects and themes, and collaborating on funding bids.

To find out more, check out the blog: http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/blog/death-exhibition/
Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

Complications of Bereavement in Parents and Children
26 September 2014
The Leuven Institute, Belgium

Places are filling up fast for the upcoming event hosted by the Family Bereavement Network in Europe. The seminar will give members of the bereavement support community an opportunity to explore issues relating to the family’s experience of loss, either the loss of a child or bereavement experienced by children. The overall theme of the event is “Complications of Bereavement in Parents and Children”.

During the seminar, our speakers, along with the delegates, will explore a wide variety of themes around the concept of family bereavement. The topics presented will invite us to reflect on the nature of the bereavement experience, from national, international and multicultural perspectives.

Keynote presentations by Dr Atle Dyregrov, Centre for Crisis Psychology, Bergen, Norway and Dr Jose Rocha, Assistant Professor, School of Life Sciences, Porto, Portugal.

You can book your place using the link below:

The Ethics of Choice
15 October 2014
Holiday Inn London–Regent’s Park, Carburton Street, London, W1W 5EE
£150 (NCPC subscribers) £300 for non-subscribers

The Government is considering how to promote more choice for people’s care and support at the end of life, through the review of a choice offer in end of life care.

But what does “choice” mean in the context of care and support at the end of life? How can there be meaningful choices for all sections of the community? What choice is available, if the services and support we’d like aren’t available where we live? What if we want one choice, but our carers want the other? What might we be willing to compromise on in order to achieve some, but not all, of the things we’d like at the end of life?

This conference will:
- Help you to think through some of the ethical issues around choice at the end of life, giving you a chance to reflect, away from the busyness of your day to day life
- Help you to think about how you can change your practice or services to promote more choice
• Give you an opportunity to hear from the National Choices Offer Review Board about their emerging thinking

For more information, or to register for this event please contact Anamica Khare, Events & Training Assistant (a.khare@ncpc.org.uk or 020 7697 1520) or visit the website: http://www.ncpc.org.uk/event/ethics-choice

Supporting suddenly bereaved children and young people
21 October 2014, Manchester (UK)
27 November 2014, London (UK)

This seminar is for anyone caring for children and young people, including teachers; health professionals; police; chaplains; early years educators; child carers; and bereavement and family workers.

Practitioners and academics specialising in sudden bereavement will discuss:
• Insights into how children and young people experience and express grief
• A common-sense approach to helping children, young people and families deal with the horrendous shock of sudden death
• Practical provision of long-term empathetic support to children, young people and families to aid their recovery
• The range of services and resources available for practitioners working with bereaved children and young people

For further information and to book; visit the event website: http://www.suddendeath.org/help-for-professionals/seminars-and-training/2-uncate...
Email: admin@brake.org.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1484 559909.

High Spirits: Special Halloween Event
29 October 2014, 18.30 - 21.00
Barts Pathology Museum, London

Here at the Pathology museum, the dead speak to us metaphorically via their every lesion, fracture or deformity. Many Victorians, however, believed in Spiritualism: they thought the spirits of the dead had the desire and the ability to actually communicate with the living (usually through a medium.) Many famous figures from both the scientific and literary world were believers - including Elizabeth Browning, Alfred Russel Wallace and, perhaps most famously of all, Arthur Conan Doyle who has links with Barts Pathology Museum. Despite numerous examples of mediums been caught out in trickery and fraud, many of the sitters remained certain that they were genuinely in touch with their loved ones.

Join us around the séance tables as magician Ian Keable gives a brief illustrated history of Spiritualism, and demonstrates some spiritualist stunts that would have had your Victorian ancestors convinced they could speak to their own deceased ancestors.

www.bath.ac.uk/cdas                     cdas@bath.ac.uk
Then, sample some tasty alcoholic spirits – rum, whisky, cognac and gin - with dramatic sommeliers from Theatre of Wine at this spirit-themed, special seasonal gathering.

Bookings:  www.2014Barts3.eventbrite.com

**Mexican Day of the Dead**
31 October, 10.00 – 14.00
Bristol Museum & Art Gallery
FREE

Join the Bristol Museums & Art Gallery teams for a celebration of Day of the Dead – an annual Mexican festival where families gather to remember the dead.
- Contribute to the *ofrenda* by adding photos and mementos of your deceased loved ones to a Mexican altar
- Discuss death and funerals over tea and cake at our very first Death Café (Aged 11+)
- Learn more about the Museum’s Mexican collection
- Find out about the Victorian explorer Adela Breton & her collection of Mexican temple painting
- Create your own crafts inspired by Day of the Dead- skeletons, cards and paper flowers


**Spiritual care in palliative care: recent European research and future developments**
24 November 2014
King’s College, London

The Sir Halley Stewart Trust, Cicely Saunders International and King’s College London are delighted to host this one-day international conference to present the latest research in spiritual care in palliative care. The programme will include recent research into priorities for spiritual care research, patients’ and family caregivers’ spiritual needs and preferences for care, the provision of care in community and nursing home settings, healthcare professional training and the assessment of spiritual outcomes.

Confirmed speakers include:
- Rev. Dr. Mark Cobb (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, UK)
- Dr. Enric Benito (Balearic Strategy of Palliative Care, Spain)
- Prof. Carlo Leget (University of Humanistic Studies, NL)
- Dr. Jonathan Koffman (King’s College London, UK)
- Dr. Mieke Vermandere (KU Leuven, Belgium)
- Dr. Marie-José Gijsberts (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, NL)
- Dr. Lucy Selman (King’s College London, UK)
- Mr. Christopher Saunders (London, UK)
The event is aimed at researchers, multi-professional clinicians and policy makers working in the fields of palliative care and/or spiritual care, and invited experts by experience (patients, caregivers and service users).

This event is part of a series of events being held to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the death of Dame Cicely Saunders.

For further information, visit http://www.csi.kcl.ac.uk/spiritualcareinpalliativecare.html

**National End of Life Care Intelligence Network**
15 January 2015
London

The National End of Life Care Intelligence Network (part of Public Health England) and NHS England plan to hold an event for the palliative and end of life care research sector to gain a better understanding of the research areas underway and to explore ideas for working together. We are hoping that representatives from the range of academic, clinical and educational researchers across the UK will attend.

The objectives of the day will be:

- To update on policy and roles in research - Public Health England and NHS England
- To gauge the extent to which current research can contribute to improving end of life care
- To explore what is needed to get from knowledge generation to impact on practice
- To provide a networking opportunity for the end of life care research community, funders and policy makers

To support the day, we are asking researchers to inform us about their areas of research in advance of the day and would be very grateful if you would complete a short questionnaire.

**Next steps**

Please inform us about your research and register your interest in attending this research summit, by completing the short online questionnaire below: https://surveys.phe.org.uk/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=72MM3o92

Please cascade this email to any other research teams that are involved in palliative and end of life care and may be interested in attending our End of Life Care and Palliative Care Research Summit.

Please register your interest by Friday 3rd October; we will be in touch in due course to confirm places.
Call for papers

DDD12: Eastern and Western Ways of Dying and Death
02-06 September 2015
“1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania

The 12th biennial ‘Death, Dying and Disposal’ Conference will for the first time in 2015 take place in Eastern Europe.

Alba Iulia is a city full of history located in Alba County, in the heart of Transylvania, Romania, with a population of roughly 60,000 inhabitants. The main tourist attraction of Alba Iulia is the fortress with its seven bastions in a stellar shape, which was constructed between 1716 and 1735. The “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia and also the National Museum of Unification are located within the fortress. “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia is a public higher education and research institution founded in 1991 that has hosted the “Dying and Death in 18th-21st Century Europe International Conference” from 2008 to present.

The theme of the 2015 DDD International Conference is, ‘Eastern and Western Ways of Dying and Death’. The conference welcomes papers from academic, professionals and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines on any issue which addresses this topic: history, anthropology, sociology, arts, literature, music, archaeology, cultural studies, philosophy, religion, psychology, medicine etc.

Multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and comparative approaches are particularly encouraged. The main aim is to render visible the differences but also the similarities between Western and Eastern ways of understanding and socio-culturally constricting death, in order to foster and enhance the knowledge of the field of death studies.

Abstracts should be between 250-350 words; please also provide a list of keywords. The deadline for submission is 01 April 2015, and electronic submission is via the EasyChair system. Registration opens October 2014.

Further details, a full call for papers and details of how to submit your abstract are available from the conference website: http://death-studies.ro/ddd12/

Dying to Eat: Cross-cultural Perspectives on the Role of Food in Dying, Death, and Afterlives

We invite proposals for a collection of essays on the subject of Dying to Eat: Cross-cultural Perspectives on the Role of Food in Dying, Death, and Afterlives. This proposed book, co-edited by Candi K. Cann and Emily S. Wu, will consist of 12-15 chapters that examine the transactional and transformational nature of food in dying, death, bereavement and the afterlife, and analyses the role and agency of food in these categories from multi-cultural and interdisciplinary perspectives.

We are seeking submissions of new writing from scholars across a spectrum of fields,
including religious studies, theology, food studies, material cultures, anthropology and any other area that explores the intersection of food and dying, death, bereavement, and the afterlife. We will give preferences to works that reference to, or frame the discussion in relation to, religion and/or spirituality.

Proposals should include a 200-300 word abstract, one-page C.V., and potential titles for the chapter, submitted to Candi.Cann@baylor.edu and emily.wu@dominican.edu by 01 November 2014. Accepted contributors will be given further instructions on style and format once accepted.

**Call for Contributions: Edited Volume: Singing Death**

‘Singing Death’ arises out of a day-long symposium and concert combined, generously supported by the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, at the University of Melbourne in August 2013: http://www.historyofemotions.org.au/media/89722/singing-death_poster_web...

The program alternated academic papers on the music, art and literature of death with performances of some of the music associated with it. The editors would like to extend the work of the symposium with a collection of essays focussing on death and music.

The field of enquiry is very broad. We welcome proposals from any intellectual discipline that can engage with the nexus of music and death. Musicological expertise is not essential. We also welcome proposals from those practically involved with the question, for instance music therapists involved in palliative care or grief counselling, or those who organise or perform music associated with death in some way.

Proposals should include:
- An abstract no longer than 500 words
- 3-10 keywords
- A short CV, no more than 10 lines which can include a link to a website

Please indicate to the editors what music you wish to accompany your contribution and whether you can provide it. Recordings can be of live music or of pre-recorded music (permissions will be required when chapter is submitted).

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 30 Sept 2014

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Helen Dell, http://www.helendell.com/, email at helendell@internode.on.net
Dr. Helen Hickey, University of Melbourne, email at helenhickey@bigpond.com
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<th>Contact/Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>01-04 Oct 2014</td>
<td>A matter of life/death</td>
<td>University of Manitoba, Canada</td>
<td><a href="http://www.umanitoba.ca/mosaic">www.umanitoba.ca/mosaic</a></td>
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<td>04 Oct 2014</td>
<td>Bereaved by Addiction Conference</td>
<td>Holiday Inn, Birmingham Airport</td>
<td><a href="mailto:administrator@drugfam.co.uk">administrator@drugfam.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>22 Oct 2014</td>
<td>The future of LGBT ageing: Rethinking research directions</td>
<td>University of Manchester</td>
<td><a href="http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-future-of-lgbt-ageing-rethinking-research-directions-tickets-11987869039">http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-future-of-lgbt-ageing-rethinking-research-directions-tickets-11987869039</a></td>
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<td>22 Oct – 13 Nov 2014</td>
<td>Images of Afterlife</td>
<td>University of Turku, Finland</td>
<td><a href="http://imagesofafterlife.wordpress.com">http://imagesofafterlife.wordpress.com</a></td>
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<td>22 Oct 2014</td>
<td>Kicking the Bucket Festival</td>
<td>Oxford, UK</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kickingthebucket.co.uk/">http://www.kickingthebucket.co.uk/</a></td>
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<td>30 Oct 2014</td>
<td>Exploring Loss Conference</td>
<td>Portsmouth Academy for Girls</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@thebereavementcentre.co.uk">info@thebereavementcentre.co.uk</a></td>
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<td>03 Nov 2014</td>
<td>Day of the Dead 2014</td>
<td>University of London</td>
<td><a href="mailto:info@dyingmatters.org">info@dyingmatters.org</a></td>
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<td>01-07 Nov 2014</td>
<td>To Absent Friends</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
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<td>24 Nov 2014</td>
<td>Spiritual Care in Palliative Care</td>
<td>King’s College, London</td>
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<td>03-07 Dec 2014</td>
<td>The Many Lives of Death: Imagining death and dying through space and time</td>
<td>Washington DC, USA. AAA Conference panel</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elucitt@ucla.edu">elucitt@ucla.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Dec 2014</td>
<td>The Agency of the Dead</td>
<td>CDAS, University of Bath</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bath.ac.uk/spsevent/news_0075.html">http://www.bath.ac.uk/spsevent/news_0075.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>08-11 Apr 2015</td>
<td>ADEC 37th Annual Conference</td>
<td>San Antonio, USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.adec.org/Annual_Conference_Home.htm">http://www.adec.org/Annual_Conference_Home.htm</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>15 May 2015</td>
<td>Cemeteries Colloquium</td>
<td>University of York</td>
<td><a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/cemetery-research-group/colloquium/">http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/cemetery-research-group/colloquium/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Website</td>
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<tr>
<td>05 June 2015</td>
<td>CDAS 10th Anniversary Celebration</td>
<td>University of Bath</td>
<td>Details to follow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05-06 June 2015</td>
<td>CDAS Annual Conference, 'Death and its Futures'</td>
<td>University of Bath</td>
<td>Details to follow</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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)