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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 are delighted to announce that Colin Murray Parkes will also speak; reflecting on some of the lessons he has learned and the strange and amusing happenings he has met in a long acquaintance with death and bereavement.

We hope you will be able to join us!

Further details will appear on the conference web page as they become available:

http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0082.html

Please feel free to circulate the call for papers to anyone you think may be interested in attending.

Teaching Fellow (fixed-term post)

Department of Social & Policy Sciences, University of Bath

The Department of Social and Policy Sciences, home to the Centre for Death & Society, is seeking to recruit a Teaching Fellow in Sociology.

The aim of the post is to actively contribute to teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and to contribute to the Department's outreach activities. This is an opportunity to join one of the top universities in the UK and to collaborate with one of the country's leading groups of sociologists.

The Department is looking for a Teaching Fellow to teach and advise undergraduate and postgraduate students within an established and growing teaching programme of sociology. We are open to applications demonstrating expertise in any sub-field of sociology but an ability to teach units on health and qualitative methods would be an advantage. An ability to teach more widely in the field of sociology is essential.

You should have a higher degree in sociology or a related social science and be able to meet all the essential criteria outlined in the job description. You must also be passionate about teaching and be able to share that passion with others, motivating students and working as part of a team.

This is a full-time, fixed-term post to cover for maternity leave for up to one year.

Closing date for applications; 01 January 2015

The postholder will be expected to start on 2 February 2015.

Interview will take place week beginning 10 January 2015.

If you would like to talk informally to CDAS about this post, please contact Kate Woodthorpe, k.c.woodthorpe@bath.ac.uk

For further information, visit our website:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/jobs/Vacancy.aspx?ref=CC2870>

Death & Dying in the Media, Print and Internet

'Why we need to talk about death'

As a new [Dying Matters Coalition](#) report is released showing that almost half of Britons would feel uncomfortable talking to someone who has been recently bereaved, [Professor Tony Walter](#), Director of the [Centre for Death & Society](#), has spoken about the importance of talking about death, dying and grief.

Speaking on [Radio 5 Live](#) on 10th December, Tony talked about how over the past 50 years we have generally moved from a stiff-upper lip attitude to bereavement, to being much more open about our feelings. However, this has meant that many people are unsure how to express these feelings, and find talking to people who have been recently bereaved particularly hard.

The report coincides with the launch of Dying Matters' ['Being there'](#) campaign, aimed at supporting people with what to say and do after someone has been bereaved, including

over the Christmas period, which can be especially difficult for those coping with the loss of a loved one.

Read more at:

['Why we need to speak about death'](#), University of Bath Opinion Blog

[Dying Matters Coalition](#)

['Being there' campaign](#)

[ComRes survey data](#)

[Radio 5 Live - listen again \(10.12.14\)](#)

Su Chard talks to Saturday Live on Radio 4

CDAS student Su Chard spoke to Saturday Live Radio 4 on 29th November. She discussed what is fast becoming her great interest, how we leave our stories behind when we die and to whom we “bequeath” them or if we do that at all.

Su says that her work leads her more and more to the knowledge that death and dying is all wrapped up with legacy, living and remaining...

You can listen again at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/series/satlive>

Find Me Help launches as microsite

Find Me Help, the UK's most comprehensive search tool for people in the last years of life, their carers, family and friends, has been launched as microsite.

Previously hosted as a section on the Dying Matters website, Find Me Help can now be set up as a brand-compatible microsite, designed to function as a set of pages linked to an organisation's existing website.

Every minute someone in Britain dies, and there are hundreds of services offering support around death and dying, but finding the right one has not always been easy. Find Me Help offers a user-friendly search function to help people find local services as well as those available nationally.

Find Me Help has been funded by Macmillan Cancer Support and developed with the input of people with life-limiting conditions.

For details on how Find Me Help can benefit your local community, and your organisation, please visit the [Find Me Help](#) website. Prices for adding Find Me Help to external organisations' websites start at just £270 per annum.

Add your organisation or service

We want Find Me Help to include as many organisations and services as possible. You can check to see if your organisation is listed at www.help.dyingmatters.org/sp. If it isn't, you can add details quickly and easily. Not only will this help make Find Me Help as

comprehensive as possible, but it will help more people to discover and benefit from the services that your organisation offers.

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

Inform Seminar: Innovation, Violence and Paralysis: How do Minority Religions Cope with Uncertainty?

07 February 2015; 9.30am - 5.00pm

New Academic Building, London School of Economics

What happens when groups lose control of their own destiny? Whether it leads to violence, as in the case of Aum Shinrikyo's response to a potential police investigation in 1995, or to non-violent innovations, as found in minority religions following the death of their founders or leaders; uncertainty and insecurity can lead to great change in the mission and even teachings of religious groups. What does it take to bring back certainty? Bringing together past and current members, as well as academics and practitioners this seminar will explore how minority religions and their members work with notions of uncertainty and insecurity.

Registration is now open and can be done using a [credit/debit card through PayPal](#) or by posting a [booking form](#) and a cheque payable to 'Inform' to Inform, Houghton St., London WC2A 2AE. Tickets (including buffet lunch, coffee and tea) paid by 19 January 2015 are £38 each (£18 students/unwaged). Tickets booked after 19 January 2015 will cost £48 each (£28 students/unwaged).

Trauma, Grief, Loss: The Art of Bereavement Conference

15 May 2015

UCA Farnham GU9 7DS

£45/£15 (limited places for students)

'Trauma, Grief, Loss: The art of Bereavement' is a conference hosted by the International Textile Research Centre to be held on Friday 15th May 2015 at the University for the Creative Arts, Farnham, Surrey. This conference brings together for the first time, a group of writers, makers, and researchers to discuss the importance and varied methods of materialising the trauma of mourning, grief and loss.

There will also be an exhibition 'The art of bereavement' at the Crafts Study Centre which will open from 12th May 2015 until 30th May 2015.

Keynote speakers:

Dr. Brian Dillon, writer, critic and tutor at the RCA in Critical Writing in Art and Design. Dr Dillon's first book 'In the Dark Room' (Penguin, 2005) won the Irish Book Award for non-fiction. It is a memoir, following the death of his parents, exploring how memory works emotionally and culturally and draws on examples from literature, philosophy and visual art. Dr Dillon also curated the exhibition 'Ruin Lust' at Tate Britain in 2014.

Dr David H. Slater, is an anthropologist and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Director of the Institute of Comparative Culture at Sophia University, Tokyo. His research interests range across capitalism, social class, labour, youth culture, urban ethnography and social media. His publications include 'Japan Copes with Calamity: Ethnographies of the Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Disasters of March 2011,' Gill, Steger, Slater (eds) 2013.

The Crafts Study Centre opens at 10.00 for delegates wishing to see '*The Art of Bereavement*' Exhibition before the conference. There will also be an opportunity to visit during the lunch break.

Registration for this event opens February 2015, further information will be available on the website: <http://www.ucreative.ac.uk/artofbereavement>

For queries please email artofbereavement@ucreative.ac.uk

A Rites of Passage Spring School

28-31 May 2015

Swarthmoor Hall, Ulverston, Cumbria

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 Spring School 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 music, visual art, the elements and appropriate words can be used to enhance ceremony.

Fee: £425 includes home cooked lunches and evening meals plus 2 free Dead Good Guides publications – Funerals and Namings – value £20. Deposit of £100 secures your place now & balance payable via agreed instalments before start of the workshop. 12 places available.

Contact: Sue Gill foxandgill@btinternet.com +44 (0)1229 869769 or Gilly Adams gillyadams@tiscali.co.uk +44(0) 29 20552389

Cremation & Burial Conference & Exhibition 2015

06-08 July 2015

Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon

We are pleased to announce details of this now well-established and highly regarded event on the annual conference calendar. It has again been organised in partnership with the Cremation Society of Great Britain, the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities and the Association of Private Crematoria and Cemeteries.

Continuing the on-going co-operation of like-minded organisations the programme will contain presentations on important issues to all those in the death care industry. It will be of particular interest to representatives from cremation and burial authorities who wish to keep abreast of the latest developments affecting their services and facilities.

The Conference Organisers are pleased to confirm that the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Certification Service has granted accreditation for this year's event. This will allow delegates to demonstrate to their employers that attendance at the event contributes to their professional development and in some cases helps employees to satisfy their contractual obligation.

For further details about the conference can be found on their website:

<http://www.cbce.org.uk/index.html>

Call for papers

The Worlds of Violence

9th Pan-European Conference on International Relations

23 - 26 September 2015, Giardini Naxos, Sicily, Italy

Organised by the European International Studies Association in cooperation with the University of Catania

Call for Paper, Panel, and Roundtable Proposals

Deadline 15 January, 2015

The programme chairs of the 9th Pan-European Conference on International Relations invite paper, panel, and roundtable proposals for submission to any of the 64 sections on the 2015 programme:

For information on these sections and their convenors, as well as general information on the conference, please visit the conference website: www.paneuropeanconference.org

Please contact the section chairs for any question regarding their section.

There will be no open section: all paper, panel, and roundtable proposals must fit into the sections listed above and be submitted online to the appropriate sections.

All sections welcome individual paper proposals, and most welcome panel/roundtable proposals as well - please contact section chairs to inquire about this. Each 105-minute panel/roundtable should comprise five papers/presenters plus a discussant who will also act as panel/roundtable chair.

Proposals (with abstracts of 200 words maximum) must be submitted via our online submission system: www.conftool.pro/paneuroconf2015/. The closing date for paper, panel, and roundtable proposals is midnight (CET) on 15 January 2015

For any questions on the conference, please contact us at paneuroconf2015@gmail.com

We look forward to your proposals and to welcoming you in Sicily.

Material traces of mass death: the exhumed object

04-06 November 2015

Marseille, France

Within the context of a historiography and of practices in renewal, the multidisciplinary team wishes to pursue reflections on a particular dimension of the material traces of mass deaths. If mass graves shelter human residues of the victims they also contain various objects, which equally challenge professionals of exhumations, researchers or relatives of the victims. Too often left aside (except by archaeologists), being considered appendices of skeletal left overs, these objects are not only rich in information, but they are also carriers of emotions and multiple interrogations. It is to these objects, signifying per se, their function in the practice of exhumation and their uses posterior to the practices of reburial and maintenance of memory, which this seminar is devoted.

Papers may focus in a non-exhaustive manner on the following themes:

- The object as a source: The object in a mass graves is a major carrier of knowledge: it represents one of the fundamental elements of expertise, anthropological treatment and scientific data.
- The object as a sign: Material traces of the massacre, which constitute the object, refer to the human being whom possessed it as a sort of metonymy and therefore disposes of a stronger evocative power. Thus the objects find themselves in the centre of the museum's representations of mass violence.

The paper proposals, approximately 300 words and written in French or in English, should be accompanied by a brief CV (1 page maximum) and sent before the 12th January 2015 to the following address: objetsfosses@gmail.com

Anthology on Death

Contributors are being sought for an anthology that examines how American ethnic, religious, or racial groups have planned for end-of-life needs or organized their cemetery spaces.

Specially, essays should address the internal or external drives among groups to separate their dead. Questions around how taboos or preferences against mixing the dead shaped access to burial, organization/locale of cemetery spaces, or respective burial societies and their concerns American ethnic groups and their internal and external forces to separate their dead are go to the heart of our anthology.

Please email us at kfletcher@desu.edu & AAmanik@brooklyn.cuny.edu

Jobs and study opportunities

Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Partnership PhD Studentships in the Arts and Humanities

Closing Date: 26 January 2015

The Northern Bridge Doctoral Training Partnership invites top-calibre applicants to apply to its doctoral studentships competition 2015.

More than fifty fully-funded doctoral studentships are available across the full range of arts and humanities subjects, including all areas of theology and religion. Of particular interest to readers of this newsletter is the opportunity to study for a PhD within the department of Theology and Religion at Durham University. This includes projects in the sociology of religion that could be supervised by Douglas Davies, Mathew Guest or Jonathan Miles-Watson. Further details on staff research expertise can be found here: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/staff/current.staff/>

For further information and/or clarification about the application process, please contact Dr Mathew J Guest FRSA, Reader in the Sociology of Religion and Director of Postgraduate Studies, Department of Theology & Religion, Durham University
Tel: (0191) 334 3944
Email: m.j.guest@durham.ac.uk
Web: <http://durham.academia.edu/MathewGuest>
Twitter: @mathewjguest

Northern Bridge is an exciting, AHRC-funded collaboration between Newcastle University, Durham University and Queen's University Belfast. Our aim is to deliver outstanding doctoral education in the arts and humanities, and successful applicants will join a thriving cohort of almost fifty Northern Bridge PhD students recruited through last year's studentship competition. Northern Bridge offers exceptional supervision by academic staff researching at the cutting edge of their disciplines, vibrant research environments that promote interdisciplinary enquiry, and research training and career development opportunities tailored to the needs of twenty-first century researchers.

For further details, please see the Northern Bridge website:
<http://www.northernbridge.ac.uk/>

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, Haverford College, USA

We seek scholars interested in the study of cultural practices surrounding the care, disposal, and memorialization of the dead.

Area of specialization is open, but might include religion, history, archaeology, anthropology, material and visual culture, performance studies, or literature, among other possibilities. Candidates should have broad historical and interdisciplinary interests. Women and members of underrepresented minority groups are especially encouraged to apply.

During the first year of the program, the Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow will participate in a [year-long faculty seminar](#) led by Associate Professor Hank Glassman (East Asian Languages and Cultures) entitled "Attending to the Dead: Mortality, Memory, and Material Culture." Applicants should make clear the nature of their potential contributions to this interdisciplinary seminar. A seminar in the cultural history of death, it will focus on the distillation and concretization of memory and affect in the form of monuments, gravestones, relics, paintings, sound recordings, photographs, and other objects.

In the second year, the Fellow will organize and present a national spring symposium related to his or her fields of interest. This event will be supported financially and logistically by the HCAH.

During each of the four semesters at Haverford College, the Fellow will teach one course, each of which will be either at the introductory/intermediate or the advanced level. Applicants should submit two brief course proposals related to their area of interest, one for a broad-based introductory course, the other for a more specialized or advanced course. The successful candidate will demonstrate readiness to teach a diverse student body.

The deadline for applications is the 13th January 2015.

For further information, visit the Haverford College website:

http://www.haverford.edu/HCAH/center/programs_and_grants/mellon_postdoctoral_fellowship.php

PhD studentship: Impact of different trajectories of dying and associated care settings on the opportunity for a good death

Birmingham, UK

Applications are invited for a 3-year fully-funded PhD Studentship starting October 2015.

End of Life Care (EoLC) is increasingly recognised as an important aspect of provision within the health and social services, both in the UK (Department of Health, 2008) and overseas (Department of Health and Ageing, 2010; Health Canada, 2007). It is also, however, recognised as being under-researched, with frameworks being perceived as inadequate for informing decision making at the end of life (Kinghorn & Coast, 2013;

Normand, 2012). There is particular debate over how to measure the impact of EoLC, but a recently proposed novel method for decision making is to focus on the opportunity for a 'good death' (Coast, 2014) focusing on what is important to those at this stage of life. New measures for assessing the opportunity for a good death have been developed by the University of Birmingham research team which focus on the opportunity for a good death. These focus on the opportunity for a good death for (i) the patient (the ICECAP-Supportive Care Measure, or ICECAP-SCM; see figure 1) (Sutton & Coast, 2014) and (ii) family and friends, or 'close persons', (the ICECAP-Close Person Measure, or ICECAP-CPM).

The team have already completed work that explores opportunities for a good death in the hospice setting for people who are terminally ill (Bailey et al, 2014). The studentship offers the opportunity to develop this work, to explore other end of life trajectories such as sudden death and death following frailty and decline; and other care settings such as hospital and nursing homes. The research study will be qualitative in nature and will focus on questions such as:

- Is it feasible to collect information from patients, close persons (family members, friends) and health professionals in care settings associated with different trajectories of dying?
- What is the impact of different trajectories and associated care settings on the opportunity for a good death?
- What additional factors are associated with the opportunity for a good death in different trajectories and care settings?

Supervision will focus on developing the research protocol, sensitive recruitment of individuals, consenting patients, developing and effecting appropriate methods of data collection, analysing and interpreting data and presenting and defending the thesis.

Further details at: <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/science/jobs/474369-phd-studentship-impact-of-different-trajectories-of-dying-and-associated-care-settings-on-the-opportunity-for-a-good-death>

PhD studentship: Understanding processes of engagement for the disadvantaged dying

Northumbria University

In England, approximately half a million people die each year; a number that is set to rise over the next decade. Approximately three quarters of these deaths are expected, and some are being supported through specialist palliative care services. Whilst much development is yet needed to normalise end of life care in health services, this must happen in acknowledgement of the enduring issue of inequitable engagement with care at the end of life by some groups. These include people with dementia, severe frailty, learning disability, people from black and ethnic minority backgrounds, people in secure or detained settings, and people who are homeless.

Building on theories of social networks and social capital, this PhD will examine the potential processes of engagement with and access to support in death, dying, bereavement and loss by such groups. It will build on two key research strands

undertaken in the department, on the engagement of hard to reach groups in health, and on the management of multimorbidities and palliative care. The research will be qualitative in nature, and will inform the development of public health approaches to end of life care that are cognisant of the engagement pitfalls and potentials within groups that for cultural, capacity, situational or frailty issues for example, do not experience an equal death.

Based at Northumbria University, this PhD will be conducted in close collaboration with the National Council for Palliative Care (<http://www.ncpc.org.uk/>).

Deadline for applications: 19 January 2015

Further information at:

<http://www.findaphd.com/search/ProjectDetails.aspx?PJID=53430>

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Information
19 Jan 2015	Dying Matters Week launch event	Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, London	http://shop.ncpc.org.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT00063
08 Jan – Oct 2015	Good Grief Training	London	www.griefencounter.org.uk/professionals/training/
22 Jan 2015	Bereavement in the Workplace	London	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training
05 Feb 2015	Loss and Bereavement Awareness Public Workshop	London	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training
07 Feb 2015	Inform Seminar: Innovation, violence and paralysis	LSE, London	http://inform.ac/sites/default/files/Booking%20form%20February%202015.pdf
24 Feb 2015	Bereavement in the Workplace	London	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training
11 Mar 2015	Loss and Bereavement Awareness Public Workshop	London and Manchester	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training
08-11 Apr 2015	ADEC 37 th Annual Conference	San Antonio, USA	http://www.adec.org/Annual_Conference_Home.htm
11-16 May 2015	4 th International Public Health & Palliative Care Conference	Bristol, UK	http://www.phpci.info/#!about1/c1f7j

15 May 2015	Cemeteries Colloquium	University of York	http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/cemetery-research-group/colloquium/
15 May 2015	Trauma, Grief, Loss: The Art of Bereavement Conference	UCA Farnham, Surrey	http://www.ucreative.ac.uk/artofbereavement
18-24 May 2015	Dying Matters Week	Nationwide	http://dyingmatters.org/
31 May – 05 June 2015	Residential Research Retreat	Ammerdown Conference Centre, Bath	http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/rrr.htm
05 June 2015	CDAS 10 th Anniversary Celebration	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0082.html
05-06 June 2015	CDAS Annual Conference, 'Death Studies – past, present and future'	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0082.html
06-08 July 2015	Cremation & Burial Conference and Exhibition	Holiday Inn, Stratford on Avon	http://www.cbce.org.uk/index/html
02-05 Sept 2015	Death, Dying and the Disposal of the Body (DDD12)	"1 December 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Romania	http://death-studies.ro/?page_id=292
23-26 Sept 2015	The Worlds of Violence	Giardini Naxos, Sicily	www.paneuropeanconference.org
24 Sept 2015	Suicide Bereavement Conference	University of Manchester	www.suicide-bereavement.co.uk
04-06 Nov 2015	Material traces of mass death: the exhumed object	Marseille, France	objetsfosses@gmail.com

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