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**July 2015**

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## **Cyril Schafer**

We are saddened to report the sudden death of Cyril Schafer on 26 June. Cyril was an anthropologist working at the University of Otago, New Zealand, and one of the driving forces of the scholarly study of death 'down under'. His own research focused on the funeral industry and funeral celebrants.

Cyril was a lovely, intelligent, self-effacing man who never made a fuss of his considerable health problems. He treated everyone equally and was loved by colleagues and friends alike; many of us in the CDAS network will miss him, as will his colleagues and students at Otago and elsewhere in New Zealand. He was many inches taller than the average man – very obviously in physical stature but in other ways too.

<http://www.otago.ac.nz/anthropology/anth/people/schafer.html>

## **News from CDAS**

### **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.

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](mailto:cdas@bath.ac.uk) by 15 February 2016.

Further details will become available via the CDAS website: [www.bath.ac.uk/cdas](http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas)

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

### **GW4 Network, 'Dying Well'**

Following on from a small project funded by the GW4 Alliance (a collaboration between the Universities of Bath, Bristol, Cardiff and Exeter) to form a network looking at, 'Dying Well after a Long Life,' around 25 researchers from those Universities have been successful in gaining further funding to expand the scope of enquiry to, 'Dying Well with Reduced Agency'.

The aim of this project is to better understand end of life care for people with conditions such as dementia, brain injury or in advanced old age, who may have difficulty making decisions independently. The project will draw together academics and practitioners with the goal of increasing our understanding in this area.

A website has now been set up which gives information on the network, the individuals and research groups involved, and the funded projects associated with them. A blog from those involved with the network, and those we are working with to develop further research funding bids, is also running on the website and comment/debate/thoughts are welcome and encouraged from CDAS newsletter subscribers and others interested in this area of research.

A one day conference, 'End of life decisions, brain injury, dementia, frailty', and a series of workshops, 1:1 surgeries, puppetry performances, as well as a public exhibition, 'How do end of life decisions happen', are planned for the 13-14 October in Bristol. The two days will focus on how decisions happen at the end of life, particularly for people with dementia, advanced brain injury, and for those facing multiple morbidities and frailty in extreme old age. We would like to invite charities and support groups dealing with these issues to come along to the public day on 13<sup>th</sup> October; we can provide a space where you can set up a stand, give information, and address specific concerns people may have. We also hope to have a breakout space which can be used for 1:1 conversations as appropriate.

You can view the website at: <https://gw4dyingwell.wordpress.com/>

Follow us on twitter: @dyingGW4

Further details on the events associated with this network will be available on this site, via CDAS social media and website, and via the other network partners from mid-August.

If you would like to be informed about the events and research developments from this network, or are interested in contributing in some way to the public day on October 13<sup>th</sup>, please email [GW4dyingwell@bath.ac.uk](mailto:GW4dyingwell@bath.ac.uk). Please note that we will not be able to respond to queries until after 4<sup>th</sup> August and may not be able to accommodate all requests.

## **Events, seminars, symposia and conferences**

### **Fragility (exhibition) and associated events**

Until 23 August 2015

Fabrica, Brighton

*Fragility* is a new exhibition at Fabrica by Macedonian-born artist Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva.

Commissioned as part of Fabrica's *Into That Good Night* programme, which takes a closer look at mortality and morbidity, *Fragility* generates many questions concerning our attitudes to finitude and decay.

Further information on the exhibition can be found on the website:

<http://fabrica.org.uk/exhibitions/fragility/>

The following events are associated with the above exhibition.

#### **Reaching a Natural End**

Tuesday 28 July 16.00-18.30, Fabrica

Tickets £4/£2 concessions (60+, students, unemployed)

This workshop with Rosie Inman-Cook of the Natural Death Centre focusses on how to achieve a 'good' funeral.

#### **Going Gracefully**

11 August, 18.00, Fabrica

Tickets £4/£2 concessions (60+, students, unemployed)

Led by Hermione Elliott with End of Life Doulas, trained by Living Well Dying Well. A practical, no-nonsense workshop looking at what decisions we can make in advance of our death to ensure that our wishes are known and we are able to go gracefully.

#### **Christianity and the Corporeal**

16 August, 13.00, Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton.

Tickets £4/£2 concessions (60+, students, unemployed)

Artist Elpida Hadzi-Vasileva in conversation with Ben Quash, Professor of Christianity and the Arts and Director of the Centre for Arts and the Sacred King's College London.

Tickets and further information at <http://fabrica.org.uk/all-events/>

### **Death on the Fringe Lectures**

10-31 Aug, 2015

Edinburgh Festival

The Death on the Fringe Lectures provide a unique opportunity to hear some truly thought-provoking talks that will stimulate discussion and challenge established ideas.

Join us in Edinburgh to hear some of the latest thinking relating to death, dying and bereavement from four outstanding speakers:

Mon 10 Aug - Professor Scott Murray – A Better Place to Die: Africa or Scotland?

Mon 17 Aug - Jo Hockley – Dying To Tell

Mon 24 Aug - Dr Jeremy Keen – Living with Dying: Uncertainty and Hope

Mon 31 Aug - Dr Richard Smith – Death: The Upside

Full details: <https://deathonthefringe.wordpress.com/lectures/>

### **Death and Dying: video screening curated by David Lillington**

11 September 2015, 19.00

Danielle Arnaud contemporary art, London, SE11

Despite the humour, the fiction and the fictionalising, realism is the underlying tone of this selection of short films and videos on death, which also represent a number of related genres and approaches. What lightness or fantasy there is, is a measure of the artists' respect for their theme. All the work is both highly engaging and highly engaged, and deals with the idea of death but also with the particular case.

#### **Programme:**

Bartosz Sikorski, *1 bit pixel*, 2009, 40 minutes

Malin Ståhl, *We Didn't Say No*, 2008, 10'20 minutes

Petrina Ng, *Objectivity 3*, 2007, 1 minute

Owen Oppenheimer, *Nowhere Really (redux)*, 2010, 15 minutes

Artavazd Peleshian, *End*, 1994, 8'15 minutes

Ophélie Malassigné, *The Letter*, 2011, 1 minute

Sanna Linell, *Innocent When You Dream*, 2012, 3'10 minutes

Kate Davis and David Moore, *The Cut*, 2010, 2'45 minutes

Fabienne Audéoud, *She Prepared the Staging of her Death*, 2000, 7'30 minutes

Philip Hoffman, *Somewhere Between Jalostotitlan and Encarnacion*, 1984, 6 minutes

Christina Stuhlberger, *25 Years Later*, 2009, 1 minute

Audrey Reynolds, *Lenoir*, 2014, 1'15 minutes

Further information at: <http://www.daniellernaud.com/events/events-index.html>

### **Working with Loss; a Sage & Thyme Course**

23 September 2015, 9.30am – 4.30pm

The Rowans Hospice, Waterlooville, Hampshire

£70 including lunch, refreshments and course materials

A 1-day workshop led by Phil Russell, Lecturer Practitioner Bereavement Service & Jill Short, Nurse Specialist and Education Lead

Join us for this one day workshop on 'working with loss' that we hope you will find interesting and stimulating. The morning session gives us an opportunity to explore how people respond to loss and change and some of the challenges this throws up for us. The afternoon session is a 3 hour SAGE and THYME foundation level workshop helping us support people that are worried and or distressed.

The course provides:

- An exploration of the current theories on grief and loss
- Course hand-outs
- A memorable structured approach for getting into and out of a conversation
- How to empower people who are worried or distressed
- Communication skills that are evidence based.

The course is suitable for anyone who works in a place where you might need to support people who are bereaved; facing some form of loss; or who for some reason are anxious or worried. This includes all sorts of environments, clinical and non-clinical.

For further information and to book, visit the website:

<http://www.rowanshospice.co.uk/index.php?id=94>

## **Medicine Unboxed 2015 explores Mortality**

21-22 November 2015

Parabola Arts Centre, Cheltenham

We will look at life and death and the lines that separate them. We will marvel at how molecules are arranged into life and examine other beginnings and endings, of the universe and how all nature folds and unfolds in time. We will wonder about time. We will hear the sounds of loss and grief and recovery and how death is felt in war, in hospital, in our homes and fields. We will see medicine's hand raised against death and suffering and explore its duties to the living and dying. We will ask what a life costs and what it is worth. We will look at social and cultural differences in the experience of death, how immortality is conceived in mythology and sought in technology, our pursuit of the afterlife, and how fact and imagination meet in our encounter with death.

For an up to date programme, and for more details of the speakers and performers at Medicine Unboxed: Mortality, see [medicineunboxed.org](http://medicineunboxed.org)

Tickets will go on sale in August 2015 via Eventbrite:

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/medicine-unboxed-mortality-tickets-16304418956>

## **Call for papers**

### **Marginal Death Research: Doing Edgework**

02 December 2015, 11:30 - 17:30

The Lakehouse, Heslington East Campus, University of York

There is a sustained western cultural fascination with death, dying, dead bodies and wounds that includes, but is not limited to film, television, artwork, music and literature making death one of the most fertile areas to conduct research. Yet, despite this prevalence of morbidity and death representation within everyday culture it remains overshadowed by the broader death studies research framework that focuses on policy and law - the practicalities of dealing with death, the dying and the dead.

Through the topic of death, this symposium seeks to bring together research which is conducted across a range of disciplines but which is often swept to the edges of death studies due to its cultural nature. It seeks to provide a platform for researchers to present and discuss their death edgework conducted in social science, the arts and humanities and contribute to the growing network of researchers engaging with death in unconventional ways.

We are now welcoming abstracts for our 'Marginal Death Research: Doing Edgework' symposium at the University of York on, but not limited to, the following themes:

- Death in popular culture
- Dead Bodies
- Death and the visual
- Fashion and the dead
- Playing Dead/Dead Acting
- Social Media and Death
- Celebrating Death
- Undeath and the undead

Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words long and must be sent by Monday, October 5th 2015. Please forward abstracts or questions to [death-symposium@york.ac.uk](mailto:death-symposium@york.ac.uk).

See website for more information: <https://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/about/news-and-events/department/2015/death-conference/marginaldeathresearch/#tab-1>

## **Association for Death Education and Counseling 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

13-16 April 2016

Minneapolis, USA

Be a part of the [ADEC 38th Annual Conference](#)! ADEC is seeking submissions on a breadth of topics related to death, dying and bereavement.

ADEC is now accepting [abstract submissions for Concurrent Sessions and Poster Presentations](#) for the 38th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, in April 2016. All submissions must be completed by September 10.

Whether you are submitting an abstract for the first time or you are a regular presenter, your submission is encouraged! Visit the [abstract submission page of the website](#) for

more on the specific submission requirements and instructions for Concurrent Sessions and Posters.

Web: <http://www.adec.org/adec/default.aspx>

## **Jobs, research and study opportunities**

### **Part-time Administrative Assistant with ASDS**

The Association for the Study of Death and Society (ASDS) is seeking to recruit a UK-based self-employed part-time admin assistant (4 hours per week) to help to manage the Association's day-to-day work. The remuneration is £15.00 per hour (£240 per month) and expenses associated with the role (e.g. travel to meetings) will be paid. The successful applicant will be responsible for all other expenses such as NI, tax and pension contributions.

The role will include the following duties:-

1. Providing admin support in preparation for and at ASDS events;
2. Keeping up-to-date membership records in liaison with the Membership Secretary, Treasurer and Webmaster, identifying missing data and gathering this information in order to communicate effectively with ASDS members;
3. Collating material for and drafting an ASDS newsletter (5 editions per year);
4. Attending (ideally in person) Council meetings (usually in January, May and September) and also the ASDS AGM (also usually in September). The role includes taking notes at, and producing minutes of, these meetings.
5. With support from Council members, mapping, recording and reviewing the Association's work and processes.
6. Liaising with members of the ASDS Council to develop a record of their roles and duties;

The successful applicant will be responsible for invoicing the ASDS Treasurer on a monthly basis for payment of remuneration (on a self-employed basis). The position will be reviewed annually and the person in post will be responsible to the Council via the ASDS President.

Please send a written expression of interest which details your skills and any relevant experience (referring to the key duties above) to Julie Ellis at ([julie.ellis@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:julie.ellis@sheffield.ac.uk)). The deadline for expressions of interest is Friday 31st July 2015.

Please direct all informal enquires about the position to Carol Komaromy ([carol.komaromy@open.ac.uk](mailto:carol.komaromy@open.ac.uk)).

For information about ASDS, visit <http://www.deathandsociety.org/>



## **Volunteer researcher needed to evaluate volunteer-led service for patients with dementia and their carers**

St Joseph's Hospice, London

In this time of austerity when people are living longer and budgets are being slashed hospices are having to explore a new way of working which is more sustainable and community led. The Namaste Care Service is a volunteer based project which is having a huge impact on the people with dementia, their carers and volunteers working within it.

This is a pioneering project introducing the Namaste care approach to people affected by dementia by providing home visits. It is funded by St Joseph's Hospice and Hope for Home and offers practical, social and emotional support to people in Newham, one of the most deprived boroughs in the UK. Namaste care is providing quality of life for people with dementia through meaningful activities such as reminiscence, making a memory box, massage etc.

The project has been running for just over 1 year where over 30 service users and volunteers in the local area have been matched and 20+ volunteers recruited.

This could be a high profile project as it will be presented at the Hospice UK conference in November 2015.

If you are interested in evaluating this project please get in touch with Lourdes Colclough (Community Development Manager & Namaste Care Manager) at:  
Email: [colclough@STJH.org.uk](mailto:colclough@STJH.org.uk)  
Tel: 07506 927647

## **Invitation to participate in research with bereaved parents**

Dr Mairi Harper from the University of Stirling is currently running a research project investigating the impact of child loss on bereaved parents in the UK, and factors which contribute to the outcomes they experience.

She is looking for participants and would like to invite CDAS newsletter subscribers to either take part themselves, or consider further distributing the invitation to individuals and groups affected by this issue.

A link to the survey and further information can be found at:  
[https://qtrial2015az1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_1YBY8UrDviHdz6d](https://qtrial2015az1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1YBY8UrDviHdz6d)

Mairi can be contacted at:  
Tel: 01786 466388  
Email: [mairi.harper@stir.ac.uk](mailto:mairi.harper@stir.ac.uk)

## **Events Calendar**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact/Information</b>
Until 23 Aug 2015	Fragility	Brighton	<a href="http://fabrica.org.uk/rxhibitions/fragility/">http://fabrica.org.uk/rxhibitions/fragility/</a>
Until Oct 2015	For Our Tomorrow: Arnos Vale and the Great War	Arnos Vale, Bristol	<a href="http://www.arnosvale.org.uk/">http://www.arnosvale.org.uk/</a>
10-14 Aug 2015	Death & Meaning Making in Europe	Radboud University, The Netherlands	<a href="http://www.ru.nl/radboudsummer-school/courses/philopsophy-religion/@969980/death-and-meaning/">http://www.ru.nl/radboudsummer-school/courses/philopsophy-religion/@969980/death-and-meaning/</a>
10-31 Aug 2015	Death on the Fringe Lectures	Edinburgh Festival	<a href="https://deathonthefringe.wordpress.com/lectures/">https://deathonthefringe.wordpress.com/lectures/</a>
17-18 Aug 2015	2 <sup>nd</sup> International Death Online Research Symposium	Kingston University	<a href="http://deathonlineresearch.net/">http://deathonlineresearch.net/</a>
02-05 Sept 2015	Death, Dying and the Disposal of the Body (DDD12)	"1 December 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Romania	<a href="http://death-studies.ro/?page_id=292">http://death-studies.ro/?page_id=292</a>
02-04 Sept 2015	Reflections on Revenge: an International Conference on the culture and politics of vengeance	University of Leicester	<a href="mailto:revenge@le.ac.uk">revenge@le.ac.uk</a>
04-06 Sept 2015	The Ideal Death Show and Good Funeral Awards	Winchester	<a href="http://www.idealdeathshow.co.uk/">http://www.idealdeathshow.co.uk/</a>
09-12 Sept 2015	5 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Advance Care Planning and EoLC (ACPEL)	Munich, Germany	<a href="http://www.acpel2015.org/home.html">http://www.acpel2015.org/home.html</a>
10-11 Sept 2015	The Heritage of Death: Landscapes, Sentiment and Practice	University of Stockholm, Sweden	<a href="http://www.erg.su.se/heritageofdeath">www.erg.su.se/heritageofdeath</a>
11 Sept 2015	Death and Dying video screening	Danielle Arnaud, London	<a href="http://www.daniellernaud.com/events/events-index.html">http://www.daniellernaud.com/events/events-index.html</a>

16 Sept 2015	Family Troubles Symposium: Care and Change in Diverse Contexts	University of Reading	<a href="http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/deathinthefamilyinsenegal/">http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/deathinthefamilyinsenegal/</a>
16-18 Sept 2015	International Funeral Industry Convention	Bologna, Italy	<a href="http://www.thanos.org">http://www.thanos.org</a>
23 Sept 2015	Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care Conference	Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh	<a href="http://www.palliativecarescotland.org.uk/content/annual-conference-2015/">http://www.palliativecarescotland.org.uk/content/annual-conference-2015/</a>
23 Sept 2015	Working with Loss	The Rowans Hospice	<a href="http://www.rowanshospice.co.uk/index.php?id=94">http://www.rowanshospice.co.uk/index.php?id=94</a>
23-26 Sept 2015	The Worlds of Violence	Giardini Naxos, Sicily	<a href="http://www.paneuropeanconference.org">www.paneuropeanconference.org</a>
24 Sept 2015	Suicide Bereavement Conference	University of Manchester	<a href="http://www.suicide-bereavement.co.uk">www.suicide-bereavement.co.uk</a>
09 Oct 2015	Bereavement complicated by abuse	St. Christopher's Hospice	<a href="http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/education/course/bereavement-complicated-by-abuse">http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/education/course/bereavement-complicated-by-abuse</a>
13-14 Oct 2015	How do end of life decisions happen?	Hamilton House, Bristol	<a href="https://gw4dyingwell.wordpress.com/">https://gw4dyingwell.wordpress.com/</a>
24 Oct 2015– 13 Mar 2016	death: the human experience	Bristol Museums	<a href="http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/contact-museum/">http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/contact-museum/</a>
04-06 Nov 2015	Material traces of mass death: the exhumed object	Marseille, France	<a href="mailto:objetsfosses@gmail.com">objetsfosses@gmail.com</a>
10-12 Nov 2015	Hospice UK's annual conference 2015: The Art and Science of Hospice Care	ACC Liverpool	<a href="http://www.hospiceuk.org/conference">www.hospiceuk.org/conference</a>
13 Nov 2015	BSA Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement Study Group Annual Symposium 2015	BSA, London	<a href="http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/DDB.aspx">http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/DDB.aspx</a>
21-22 Nov 2015	Medicine Unboxed 2015	Cheltenham	<a href="https://plus.google.com/+medicineunboxed/posts">https://plus.google.com/+medicineunboxed/posts</a>

02 Dec 2015	Marginal Death Research: Doing Edgework	University of York	<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>
04-06 Dec 2015	Exploring the Extraordinary Conference	York Marriott Hotel, York	<a href="http://etenetwork.weebly.com/call-for-papers-2015.html">http://etenetwork.weebly.com/call-for-papers-2015.html</a>
13-15 Jan 2016	Death Down Under	University of Canterbury, New Zealand	<a href="http://www.arts.canterbury.ac.nz/conferences/deathdownunder/index.shtml">http://www.arts.canterbury.ac.nz/conferences/deathdownunder/index.shtml</a>
29-13 Jan 2016	Death and Identity in Scotland	New College, Edinburgh	<a href="mailto:Susan.buckham@stir.ac.uk">Susan.buckham@stir.ac.uk</a>
11-12 Feb 2016	Idealized Deaths	University of Jyväskylä, Finland	<a href="mailto:ilona.pajari@jyu.fi">ilona.pajari@jyu.fi</a>
13-16 Apr 2016	ADEC Annual Conference	Minneapolis, USA	<a href="http://www.adec.org/adec/default.aspx">http://www.adec.org/adec/default.aspx</a>
18-19 June 2016	CDAS Conference 2016, 'Survival'	University of Bath	<a href="http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas">www.bath.ac.uk/cdas</a>

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)