

Centre for  
Death & Society  
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

## Centre for Death & Society Newsletter

[Director's Note](#) - [CDAS News](#) - [D&D Community News](#)  
[Events](#) - [Call for Papers](#) - [Jobs](#) - [Calendar](#)

### Director's Note

#### **April 2018:**

This month's Director's Note features CDAS PhD student Chao Fang and is the first in our new series introducing post-grads, visitors and associates of CDAS.

John Troyer, Director





Time flies so fast! I can't believe I have been in CDAS for over three years.

I first came across CDAS when I was doing my Masters in Japan. As a student who was driven to explore further in death and bereavement studies, I was strongly attracted to CDAS in relation to its expertise of interdisciplinary research on death, dying and bereavement.

By arriving at Bath in March 2015 as a PhD student, I was surprised by the supportive atmosphere and the strong concerns with death-related research in CDAS. In the past three years, with the support of everyone in CDAS, I have not only developed my academic knowledge and professional skills as a researcher, but also built connections with scholars and practitioners across the country and the world.

As a PhD student in CDAS, I can not only access the high quality of support and resources, but am also able to participate and even organise various events.

Furthermore, CDAS really enables me to feel being part of the great community. Last year, I was able to contribute to a brand-new collaboration between CDAS and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. By being part of the dialogue between West and East, I feel really proud and excited to see CDAS is working with this leading Chinese institute to explore the understandings of life and death and to further shape the policy-making as well as individual lives in my own country.

Even though my PhD is coming to the final stage, studying in CDAS is and will always be a precious experience in my life. Without the support from everyone in CDAS, especially my supervisor, Dr Christine Valentine, I could not have reached this far. In future, no matter where I would be, I will always be part of CDAS and look forward to seeing more exciting works coming out from the CDAS research network, including not only people in Bath but also those who are connected by CDAS.

Chao Fang

## [CDAS News](#)

### [Dying Matters Awareness Week events](#)

### [Advance Care Planning, decision-making and agency: current practice, research and debates](#)

16 May 2018, 10.00 – 16.30

University of Bath

Presented as part of [Dying Matters Awareness Week](#), this event is an opportunity to learn about recent research related to decision-making and advance care planning in incurable conditions, and the theoretical debates and practical challenges informing that research.

- The challenges of supporting patient-centred decision-making and communicating these decisions across settings  
[Colette Reid](#), *Consultant in Palliative Medicine, University Hospitals Bristol, NHS Foundation Trust*
- Decision-making theory and applicability to advanced renal disease  
[Barry Hole](#), *Nephrologist, Southmead Hospital and PhD student, University of Bristol*
- Advance Decisions: Not Worth the Paper They're (Not) Written On  
[Professor Richard Huxtable](#), *Director, Centre for Ethics in Medicine, University of Bristol*
- End of life care: A scoping review of experiences of Advance Care Planning for people with dementia  
[Kerry Jones](#), *Open University*
- Our Journey and Challenges around End of Life Planning in Dementia Care  
*Samantha Shanks, Team Manager at [Devon Partnership NHS Trust](#)*
- A human rights approach to advocacy for people with dementia: A review of current provision in England and Wales  
[Jeremy Dixon](#), *Lecturer in Social Work, University of Bath*

This event is currently **sold out**, apply to the waiting list at: <https://advance-care-planning-bath.eventbrite.co.uk>

### Homeward Bound: Film Screening and discussion

17 May 2018, 19.00 – 21.30

Elwin Room, BRLSI, 16-18 Queen Square, Bath, BA1 2HN

Seth and Lesley Goodburn were faced with a diagnosis of late stage pancreatic cancer in May 2014 and they began a journey into palliative and end of life care which ended just 33 short and heart breaking days later.

Lesley shares her reflections and insights on their journey after a viewing of the film *Homeward Bound*, she talks about compassionate care, person- and family-centred care, how the person who is dying needs to be part of the decision making process, and what is important for people as they approach the end of their life.



Tickets are free, with a suggested donation of £10 on the night to cover costs. Any surplus will go to Dorothy House Hospice Care. Please book your place at <https://homeward-bound-bath.eventbrite.co.uk>

This event is presented by the [Centre for Death & Society](#), University of Bath and [Dorothy House Hospice Care](#) as part of [Dying Matters Awareness Week 2018](#).

## **[CDAS Conference 2018: The Politics of Death](#)**

08-09 June 2018

University of Bath

£145 both days, £80 single day

Over the last fifteen-years, first world popular culture's interest in human mortality significantly expanded and death and dying achieved new levels of media attention.

But what of death's politics? Or the politics of dying and end-of-life? What role does political power play in everyday experiences of human mortality?

The June 2018 Centre for Death and Society Annual Conference will focus on the Politics of Death and what the discovery and re-discovery of death politics means for power, sovereignty, bioethics, the rule of law, and most importantly - death and dying.

A draft programme is now available to [download from the website](#), bookings remain open until the week before the conference. Everyone is welcome, whether presenting or not.

[Book now](#) via our web pages.

## **Community of Practice update**

Apologies to those of you who have been patiently waiting for announcements about our CoP; industrial action, snow days and other external factors have meant that we had to put plans on hold for a while to focus on immediate issues, but we hope to be able to pick this up again over the next month and will be in touch as soon as we can.

# D&D Community News

## Dying Matters Awareness Week

14- 20 May 2018

Every year in May, Dying Matters and our coalition members host an Awareness Week, which gives us an unparalleled opportunity to place the importance of talking about dying, death and bereavement firmly on the national agenda. In 2018, the week will run from 14th to the 20th of May and we will be asking "What Can You Do... in your community?"

To discover top tips on running a successful event, order resources and share details of what you are doing, [visit the website.](#)

## Good Death Week, Scotland

14-20 May 2018

Through events, activities and online discussion, the Good Death Week invites people to reflect upon the question, "What does a good death mean to you?"

It's an important conversation to have. It helps people to plan ahead and allows families and communities to support each other through the hard times surrounding a death.

You can help to get the discussion started within your group or community. Good Life Good Death Good Grief, the alliance behind the event, offer many different suggestions on how to get involved. You can:

- Host a death lunch
- Host the "It Takes A Village" exhibition which was created for the week
- Play the care planning origami game
- Screen an informational film
- Share information leaflets

Visit the Good Life Good Death Good Grief website for details and resources for all of these. A limited number of £50 [grants](#) are also available to help people host death lunches.

Follow @LifeDeathGrief on [Twitter](#) and on [Facebook](#) or e-mail [robert.peacock@palliativecarescotland.org.uk](mailto:robert.peacock@palliativecarescotland.org.uk) for more information.

## **Flood Projects: call for participants**

Flood Projects are looking to connect with people all over the world who are involved in any rituals

surrounding death for a unique feature film project directed by award-winning filmmaker Amiel Courtin-Wilson. Amiel's previous films have screened at Sundance (Chasing Buddha, 2000) Cannes (Cicada, 2009) the Venice Film Festival (Hail, 2011 and Ruin, 2013) and the Whitney Museum in New York (The Silent Eye, 2016).

The film will be a hypnotic, feature length cinematic poem dealing with the themes of physicality, change and ultimately life and death, featuring a series of impressionistic portraits of the human body after death and funeral rituals around the world - A devotional work charting how we carve out space for our grief, that will enable people to contemplate death in a very meditative and personal manner unlike they have before.

We are interested in all religious ceremonies and all non-religious or personal ceremonies. We are also looking for clinical procedures, and all commemorative rituals, memorials or celebrations.

If you are interested in sharing your ritual with us, or you are a researcher, deathcare practitioner or community leader with links to people who may be interested in having their rituals documented on camera, please forward your details to Alice at [thedeathfilm@gmail.com](mailto:thedeathfilm@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing about your traditions and collaborating with you on this ground breaking feature film.

### **Discover: Special Issue on Death & Dying**

This special edition, guest curated by David Clark, gives a flavour of the opportunities for public engagement and academic scrutiny, in a context where 'how we die' has become a contested space and where dying and death are indeed 'having a moment'.

All articles are available at: [discoversociety.org/](http://discoversociety.org/)

## **Events**

### **Exhibition: Building Memory – The architecture of death and burial in Bath**

14 April – 25 November 2018

Museum of Architecture, Bath

From high Victorian cemeteries through sombre war memorials to a peaceful garden for suffragettes, architecture has the power to commemorate the dead and captivate the living. The celebration of great

lives and commemoration of tragic loss has produced some of Bath's most individual (and often forgotten) structures and spaces. As we mark the centenary of the end of the First World War and the start of Votes for Women this exhibition explores the architectural language of memory in Bath.

[Visit the website](#) for further information.

### **[Victorian Arcadia: A Saturday morning lecture on the Victorian Garden Cemetery](#)**

05 May 2018

Arnos Vale Cemetery

Victorian mourning practices are famous for their dark beauty: elaborate mourning costumes, plumed horses drawing lacquered funerary carriages, and countless mourning ephemera housed in museums and private collections. However, one of the most enduring and culturally important aspects of Victorian mourning ritual was the creation of the garden cemetery.

These cemeteries were inspired by visions of Arcadia: "The tomb in the garden was a place where the living could weep moderate tears, recall the dead to mind, reflect, remember, and keep the departed 'alive' in some way in thought and spirit." (Stevens Curl)

Removing places of grief from the putrefying churchyards in the heart of cities to the beautiful outlying gardens of the Victorian garden cemetery movement transformed the way Victorians interacted with their spaces of mourning.

This talk will be presented by [Romany Reagan](#) a final-year PhD candidate at Royal Holloway, University of London.

[Book now: https://arnosvale.org.uk/events/victorian-arcadia-lecture/](https://arnosvale.org.uk/events/victorian-arcadia-lecture/)

### **[Playing Dead](#)**

17 May 2018

University of York

Playing Dead will bring together academics from across the UK to discuss and analyse the intersections that exist between death, play and culture. Play, in the context of this symposium, is used broadly to speak of leisure and recreational activities more generally and, as such, not only encapsulates the playing of (non-) digital games, but also the consumption of cinema, literature, theatre, etc.

[Free event, booking required](#)

## **PABBS evidence-based Suicide Bereavement Training**

05 June, 10 July or 11 Sept 2018

Manchester

£250 + VAT

- Informed by a three-year study conducted at the University of Manchester
- funded by the National Institute for Health Research (Research for Patient Benefit Programme)
- First of its kind internationally
- A one day highly interactive workshop delivered by two practitioners and includes 8 films, workbook and a 60-page manual for future reference

Aim of the training

- To provide professionals with an opportunity to build their confidence and skills when they come into contact with those bereaved by suicide.

For more information or to register contact:

Paul Higham: 07850 710555

Email: [paul.higham@suicidebereavementuk.com](mailto:paul.higham@suicidebereavementuk.com)

Web: <https://suicidebereavementuk.com>

## **Just Put Me in the Bin: Contemporary challenges around ashes and bodies**

26 June 2018

National Memorial Arboretum

£85 or £65 early bird (before 20 May)

Culture is changing. Technology is changing. Funerals are changing- and there are big sociological and theological questions emerging.

This one day conference is held in the very special context of the National Memorial Arboretum, giving space to listen and reflect as we explore the challenges for all who provide death and funeral care.

Speakers include Professor Douglas Davies, Isabel Russo, Sandra Millar and Joanna Collicut-McGrath, and the day will be hosted by The Rt. Revd. John Inge, Bishop of Worcester.

Topics include:

- Why bodies matter
- Ashes to ashes: then what?
- No goodbye, no problem.

For more information and to book: <https://cofeprojects.eventhq.co.uk/just-put-me-in-the-bin>



## **Cremation & Burial Communication & Education**

11-13 July 2018

Hilton Newcastle Gateshead

The Cremation and Burial Communication and Education (CBCE) event is the national forum which brings together local councils and Private companies from across the UK.

The burial and cremation sectors are embarking upon a period of unprecedented change. New cremation documentation introduced from April 2018, the burial and cremation legal framework under review by the Law Commission, the Medical Examiners Service to go live in April 2019, Defra Process Guidance Notes for Cremation are due to be reviewed and the first wave of abated cremators are now coming up for replacement.

CBCE 2018 will focus on what is happening within the sector and equipping delegates with an invaluable insight in to what the changes are likely to mean for their services. Enabling better planning for the continuing delivery of excellent services.

Who should attend?

- Managers and staff of local authority cemeteries and crematoria.
- Owners and operators of private sector cemeteries and crematoria.
- Funeral directors, bereavement related charities and representatives from other kindred organisations wishing to have a better understanding of the services provided at cemeteries and crematoria.

Registration is now open: <http://cbce.org.uk/2018>

Full, day and half day packages are available.

## **Complicated grief masterclass**

24 and 25 September 2018

London

£275 per delegate, you must attend both days

Child Bereavement UK is delighted to be hosting this two-day masterclass, facilitated by Dr Kathy Shear, Director of the Center for Complicated Grief in New York, and Dr Susan Delaney from the Irish Hospice Foundation.

This masterclass is aimed at bereavement practitioners, including psychotherapists, counsellors, health and social care workers and any professionals who provide bereavement support to adults.

An understanding of the general principles of complicated grief theory, together with some knowledge of attachment and loss theory would be an advantage.

You can [book your place online](#), or you can use our [direct booking form](#).

## Calls for Papers

### **PhD/ MD Student Conference: Research in the field of supportive, palliative and end -of -life care: developing the next generation of researchers**

21 June 2018

University Park Campus, University of Nottingham

£10:00 – but FREE of charge to PCRS members and/or University of Nottingham students

The Palliative Care Research Society (PCRS) in conjunction with the Nottingham Centre for the Advancement of Research into Supportive, Palliative and End-of-Life Care (NCARE) at the University of Nottingham are hosting a day conference for PhD/MD students in June 2018.

This day will include the opportunity to present your work either orally or in a poster, to network, and to attend key note sessions on:

- 'Striving for 'Doctorateness': the written word and the spoken word' to be delivered by [Professor Jeremy J Wellington](#), School of Education, University of Sheffield, UK.
- 'Tips for surviving the viva and the first year post-doc' by [Dr. Louise Bramley](#), Clinical Academic Lead Nurse at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, UK.

We would welcome abstracts of no more than 250 words from students who would like to present their work in the area of supportive, palliative and end-of-life care. Please indicate any preference for oral/poster presentations. We would particularly like to hear about any methodological, ethical or practical issues you are having, at whatever stage you are at in your PhD/MD process.

Closing date for abstracts: 27 April 2018

Abstract submissions & enquiries to: [palliativecareconference2018@gmail.com](mailto:palliativecareconference2018@gmail.com)

### 2018 Postgraduate Bioethics Conference Call for Abstracts

23-24 July 2018

King's College London's [Strand](#) and [Waterloo Campuses](#)

The 2018 Postgraduate Bioethics Conference (PGBC) is hosted by the [Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at King's College London](#).

The PGBC is a two-day annual conference where Master's and PhD students meet and share their bioethics research, as well as develop relevant skills for their academic and professional careers. Considering the multidisciplinary nature of this field of study, the PGBC welcomes postgraduate students from diverse academic backgrounds. As such, this call for abstracts is open to students working in bioethics from the perspectives of philosophy, law, medicine, sociology, and psychology, among many other academic disciplines.

This year, the theme of the conference will be *Bioethics in the Public Square*, focusing on debates within bioethics that extend into matters of political concern. These debates cover a wide range of topics relating to the construction of just societies, the boundaries of our political decisions, and the role bioethicists should play in liberal democracies. We welcome submissions related but not limited to the following topics:

- Fair access to new biotechnologies
- Justice in the allocation of medical resources
- The exploitative potential of practices like surrogacy and organ trade
- Clinical research in socially disadvantaged populations
- The preservation of the environment
- Conscientious objection in medical practice
- Mandatory vaccination
- Policy and population control
- Biobanks and privacy
- The role of experts in the legislation of bioethical matters
- The composition and the extent of the authority of ethics committees

Students interested in presenting their research at the PGBC 2018 may do so with an Oral Presentation (20 minutes presentation + 10 minutes discussion) or a Pecha Kucha Style Presentation (20x20: 20 slides/images, 20 seconds each – click [here](#) for more information).

Applications for both presentation types, for travel bursaries and for general booking closes on 01 May.

For more information on the PGBC 2018: <http://www.postgradbioethics.com/pgbc-2018/>  
To register directly : <http://ime.datawareonline.co.uk/Event-Booking/EventId/1038>

## Jobs and study opportunities

### New PhD scholarship on 'total pain' in palliative care

A new fully-funded PhD scholarship on the philosophical underpinnings of palliative care is now open for applications. The deadline for applications is 13th May 2018.

The PhD candidate will join the [Glasgow End of Life Studies](#) group, which works to develop and promote interdisciplinary approaches to end of life issues. This PhD will provide a scoping review of current understanding of 'total pain' amongst palliative care practitioners and end of life policy-makers in the UK, Canada and Australia.

For more information about the project and how to apply, please go to:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/socialsciences/studentfundingopportunities/postgraduateresearch/cossscholarships/>

### **Dying and Bereavement Student Paper Prizes, 2018**

This year the Dying and Bereavement Interest Group of the Society of Medical Anthropology will award two paper prizes for research in the areas of death, bereavement, mortuary practices, memorialization and/or related rituals.

The Emerging Scholars Paper Award is for undergraduate, graduate students seeking an MA, students in-between a BA and MA program, as well as students who have already obtained their MA.

The Doctoral Student Paper Award is for doctoral students and candidates. Awards will be bestowed at the AAA annual meeting and will be accompanied by a \$100 prize for each paper.

- Papers may be theoretical and/or empirical but should show strong anthropological grounding.
- Papers must be unpublished.
- A cover page must be attached with the author's name, address, phone number, email address, institution, department and program (BA, MA, PhD) or specify independent scholar.

Papers should not exceed 20 pages double-spaced pages in length (~5,000 words) with 12 point font.

Online paper submission due: 01 June 2018 to Dr. Margaret Souza at [Margaret.Souza@esc.edu](mailto:Margaret.Souza@esc.edu). Late submissions will not be accepted.



Visit the [CDAS website](http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas) to view a full calendar of events

#### **Contact us**

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