

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

Newsletter

June 2018

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Director's Note

June 2018:

I always knew that I would write this Directors Note, but I hoped to avoid it.

After 10+ years, CDAS's Intrepid Manager Caron Staley is leaving us for a new position in the University of Bath's Institute of Coding.



It is difficult to exaggerate how much Caron did for CDAS during her tenure. Indeed, I cannot imagine CDAS in its current shape but for Caron's hard work.

Not only is CDAS unimaginable without Caron, my very hiring more-or-less happened because Caron e-mailed me about the job. I have a hunch that some of my University of Bath colleagues might prefer that Caron never sent that e-mail message, but so it goes.

On any given day, Caron runs/organises CDAS events and seminars, puts together extremely complex budgets for complicated funding proposals, keeps the CDAS e-mail Inbox in good order, makes sure people know what CDAS is doing via social media, deals with University HR (which *truly* is a job unto itself), coordinates all the different research projects everyone in CDAS is working on, and makes sure that I know what I'm doing as CDAS Director (on this final point, if you see me with a slightly terrified look in my eyes – Caron's leaving is why).

Watching Caron leave definitely represents a transitional moment for CDAS. We're working hard to find another CDAS Manager and I'm hopeful that we will have someone in the job by the Autumn; that said, *replacing* Caron is impossible.

In addition to everything I've already said, Caron also dutifully creates, edits, and distributes the monthly CDAS newsletter. The newsletter was something that Caron created, now over ten years ago, and it stands out as a key global information resource for everyone interested in death and dying.

It is not an exaggeration, I think, to say that Caron Staley played a fundamental role in shaping well over a decade's worth of death and dying scholarship/engagement around the globe.

Since this is Caron's last newsletter as CDAS Manager, please join me in thanking her for her years of service to the Centre for Death and Society and wish her the best in her new job.

We will be having going away drinks for Caron on Friday, July 06 from 6pm at Graze in Bath. If you are anywhere near Bath, then please join us.

John Troyer, Director

CDAS News

CDAS Spotlight on... PhD Student Jana Kralova

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I hope you may allow me a few words of reflection. I won't talk about my research into social death, nor will I talk about my doctoral adventures. Instead, with your kind approval, I shall ponder a little about the community of research and practice into the death and dying and what it may or may not mean in the contexts of the global challenges.



Food in/security, inclusive economic growth, ever changing labour markets, climate change, displaced populations, the global financial crisis, digital technologies, gender in/equality, international trade and sustainable health care, represent some of the key global challenges that transcend the boundaries of the nation states. As such, they present us with problems and questions which require new approaches to death and dying. Not only do these need to be 'made to measure' but also, flexible in their ability to respond to the unforeseen, unpredictable and the unexpected.

In the recent, fearless & fabulous #CDAS18 #DeathPolitics conference, we saw exceptional awareness of cultural, gender, economic, age and other sensitivities influencing the ways in which research into death and dying is conducted and how it feeds into practice. In doing so, many have set out to unpack the politics underpinning the range of inequalities and injustices testifying that we are *not* in fact, all equal in death. The conference brought to the forefront of my thinking the existential angst: "How about if we are next?"

It only took a few days of snowfall earlier this year on the university campus to experience the first-hand impact of the global market economy (read as: there was no fresh food in the shop, but there *was* some food). A couple of weeks later, I felt my first earthquake. However insignificant on the Richter Magnitude Scale, it has

made a lasting impression on my existential one. That day my mind ran wild. "What is next? Global pandemic? Nuclear war?" (Excuse my positive thinking.)

Thus, I wonder, whether perhaps one of the epistemological challenges in future researching and practicing of death and dying may be the delicate balancing between the specific and the more general: the inherently interdisciplinary and the global.

Conceivably, some contingency-plan-making may be due? Plausibly, we *all* are next.

Optimistically yours,

Jana Králová

If you wish to contact Jana, email her on: j.kralova@bath.ac.uk or tweet on KralovaJ, else Facebook: Jana Kralova.

DDD14 comes back to Bath!

04-07 September 2019

We are delighted to announce that CDAS have been awarded the honour of hosting the next Death, Dying and Disposal (DDD) conference in Bath, September 2019.

DDD conferences are the bi-annual professional meetings of the Association for the Study of Death & Society (ASDS) and are the main professional and academic forum for the meetings of ASDS members, their guests and associates. The conference showcases state-of-the-art academic and professional research or creative work on the topics of death, dying, grief and bereavement, and caregiving. The conferences reflect the multi-disciplinary interests from humanities and behavioural, social and clinical sciences as well as art, music and theatre. All disciplines, stages of career and professions are welcome.

The theme for DDD14 will be, 'Engagement and Education'. Further details and a Call for Papers will follow in due course.

The CDAS Annual Conference will take a break in 2019.

CDAS Early Career Visiting Fellow's Programme

Announced at this year's CDAS Conference, we are pleased to be able to bring news of a new initiative starting this autumn from CDAS. We have always welcomed visiting scholars from around the world and are now in a position to create a formal link to CDAS for researchers without a permanent home in a University.

Further details will be available in the autumn, but the outline is as follows:

- For ECR in Death Studies without permanent employment in a University
- 3 year appointment
- Access to library, CDAS community and University of Bath email account
- Unfortunately, no permanent desk or funding attached to the position
- Opportunities to present work at departmental and CDAS events, as well as annual conference

Applications process coming soon!

DDD Community News

World-First Online Resource to Support People with Intellectual Disability Understand End-Of-Life

Researchers from The University of Sydney, Western Sydney University, HammondCare, and Flinders University, together with Unisson Disability, have worked with CareSearch to develop *Talking End of Life...with people with intellectual disability* (TEL)

TEL is a free online toolkit to help staff and caregivers teach people with intellectual disability about end of life. The target audience includes disability support professionals, people with intellectual disability, families and health professionals.

Each TEL module can be done as a standalone, or you can complete any number of modules in any order. You can do each module on your own, or you can run it as a facilitated group session. Modules include case studies, video examples, teaching tips, problem solving exercises, and reflection questions. TEL uses simple language, so it is easy to understand for many different people

TEL is available now at <https://www.caresearch.com.au/TEL/>

Events

Alive In Conversation: "All people deserve dignity when they die" Talk and Tour

05 July 2018, 19.00 – 21.00. Tour at 19.00, conversation begins at 19.45.

Arnos Vale Cemetery

Over the next few months, Dr John Troyer from The University of Bath will lead a series of conversations with people from the worlds of death, dying and bereavement. Each talk will be preceded by a short tour of the cemetery.

In this first in the series, John talks to retired American Funeral Director Ron Troyer. Ron Troyer is Dr John Troyer's father, so death clearly runs in the family.

Ron Troyer was an American Funeral Director for over thirty-five years in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Ohio. He also taught for many years in Ohio's Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science and at the University of Minnesota's Program in Mortuary Science (his Undergraduate alma mater). Ron Troyer also holds a Master's Degree in Education and did pioneering work on how Funeral Directors become better at their jobs when trained in Grief and Bereavement Counselling. He taught and mentored thousands of Funeral Directors during his time in both higher education and the industry, alongside many years working with The Compassionate Friends, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome families and Parents of Murdered Children".

Dr John Troyer is the Director of the [Centre for Death and Society](#) at the University of Bath. He is a co-founder of the [Death Reference Desk](#) website, the [Future Cemetery Project](#) and a frequent commentator for the BBC. His most recent book is Technologies of the Human Corpse (published by the MIT Press in 2019).

Tickets are available from the [Arnos Vale Cemetery website](#).

[Saving and raising money for the bereaved - training on funeral costs](#)

13 or 17 July 2018

Voluntary Action Islington, London

Quaker Social Action's award-winning Down to Earth service is now offering training for anyone who works with people who may worry about the cost of a funeral. We'll equip you with the confidence to have conversations about funerals and help your clients avoid getting into debt.

Half day course: Suitable for those already comfortable talking about death/ talking to bereaved people or those at the end of life.

13 July 2018 9.30 - 12.30

From £70

Full day course: Suitable for those with less experience or confidence talking about death/talking to bereaved people or those at the end of life.

17 July 2018 9.30 - 4.30

Voluntary Action Islington, London
From £120

Book online at: www.quakersocialaction.org.uk/funeraltraining

Want us to come to you or something tailored to your needs? We also do in-house and bespoke training. Contact us for more details on info@qsa.org.uk or 020 8983 5030

Exhibition Lecture: Origins in Stone

18 July 2018, 18.30 – 20.00

Museum of Bath Architecture, Bath

As part of a series of lectures stemming from the current exhibition, 'Building Memory – The architecture of death and burial in Bath', guest speaker Ricky Pound discusses the architectural references to Death and Rebirth in Lord Burlington's House and Gardens at Chiswick, one of London's most iconic Georgian properties.



Ricky Pound had the privilege of managing both Chiswick and Marble Hill House in Twickenham from 1996-2014 for English Heritage. He is considered an expert on both historic houses and has published research on the symbolism within the art and architecture of Chiswick House and Gardens. He is a broadcaster and gives lectures and guided tours to numerous audiences including groups from the National Trust, the Arts Society, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Royal Academy and many others museums and organisations.

Written in Stone

Emily Wills (Poet) and Su Chard (Celebrant/photographer) are working in collaboration with Gloucester City council on a 10 month project called Written in Stone. It is a project exploring how words are used at Gloucester Crematorium. This will be done using photography and creative writing, involving observation and listening as well as inviting and enabling the participation of staff and visitors. The project concludes at Gloucester crematorium Mulberry rooms on Friday October 26th at 7:00 p.m. with an evening of poetry, photographs and music (played by Lydia Kenny 2018 Gloucestershire Young Musician of the year.) Emily will read the poems that she has written her residency at the crematorium, poems written especially for use at a loved ones funeral and popular poems often read at funerals. This event will last about an hour and will be followed by refreshments and discussion. All Welcome.

For more information contact Su Chard suchard17@gmail.com.

Gloucester Crematorium Open Day

21 July 2018, 10:00- 14.00

As part of the **Written in Stone** project the crematorium is having an open day. There will be ours behind the scenes, questions answered and a chance to take part in Written in Stone project. Share a favourite poem, leave something unsaid on the "unsaid tree", bring your words to our project but most importantly bring your presence. The beautifully maintained grounds of Gloucester Crematorium are beautiful to wander in and then you could extend your day take time to explore Gloucestershire. All welcome.

Working with bereaved teenagers

27 September 2018

The Beethoven Centre, London

Understand more about teenagers' responses to grief to help you communicate with them and provide appropriate support.

Learning outcomes

- explore the world of the teenager and develop a deeper understanding of the struggles teenagers face
- gain an understanding of the theories of loss and mourning in relation to teenagers
- recognise the diverse needs of bereaved teenagers
- explore our own experiences of loss and how it impacts on us when we observe the grief of others
- identify ways to encourage emotional literacy in adolescents
- gain information about Child Bereavement UK, other similar support organisations and resources available.

This training is for all professionals who encounter bereaved teenagers in the course of their work, whether in the statutory or voluntary sector.

Hospice UK National Conference: Transforming Palliative Care

27-28 November 2018

Telford International Centre

Hospice UK's conference brings together everyone involved in leading hospice, palliative and end of life care for adults, children and young people.

The two-day conference provides a unique forum to discuss the current and forthcoming issues facing our community and to discover new thinking from outside of our sector.

The conference is packed with stimulating plenary and parallel sessions, and opportunities to network with peers and meet major providers of services and products. It combines high level strategic thinking, application into practice and lessons from real world examples.

The conference is for hospice and palliative care leaders at independent and NHS hospices, hospitals and other settings and we create the programme with both clinical and non-clinical leaders in mind.

From the bedside to the boardroom, this is an event for chief executives, trustees, clinical directors, nurses and doctors, as well as senior staff working in income generation, communication, operations and HR.

Calls for Papers

Medicalisation of death and dying: systems, practices and politics

Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB)

13 - 14 September 2018

In this workshop, we will address the medicalisation of the end of life through a social sciences lens. We are interested both in zooming in on the social and moral dynamics taking place at the bedside, and taking a broader view of institutional and political frameworks. We invite contributions based on empirical data that explore the occasionally contradictory and paradoxical systems, practices, and politics in the medicalisation of death and dying.

Contributions may address, but are not limited to:

- The impact of healthcare systems and economic constraints on the end of life (Welfare State models, market-oriented health care reforms, policy and institutional changes).
- Healthcare practices relating to death and dying (new frontiers in curative treatment and palliative care, personalisation of treatment, legal instruments and decision making, grief and bereavement support, mortuary practices).
- Moral and political dynamics of death and dying (issues regarding citizenship and personhood, dignity, quality of life, access to healthcare).

The deadline for the submission of abstracts was the 21st June, but the organisers would be happy to receive enquiries after the deadline, please get in touch as soon as possible: medicalisationofdeath.workshop@gmail.co.

The full call and details of how to submit your abstract can be found here: <https://calenda.org/444195>



Contact us

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