



Centre for Death & Society

Newsletter

May 2018

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Director's Note

May 2018:

It is almost time, once again, for the [CDAS Annual Conference](#) in June.

This year's conference on the 'Politics of Death' from June 8-9 in the always-engaging campus arts building, The Edge, will be fantastic.



The response to the CFP was overwhelming and this year's conference is by far our most international. We've got attendees and presenters coming from well over 15-different countries and covering an enormous range of topics.

Indeed, I'm really looking forward to it.

CDAS will also be making some announcements about new opportunities to work with everyone here.

There is still time to attend the conference, and you can register by [clicking here](#).

You have my personal guarantee that this year's CDAS conference will not disappoint.

John Troyer, Director

CDAS News

CDAS Spotlight on... PhD Student Sarah Griffiths

I've now been studying my PhD for almost three years part-time, based across CDAS and the Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies, putting me in the fortunate position of being able to access research expertise and support across two areas of the University of Bath.



My research looks at the politics of virtual memorialisation, focusing in particular on the memorialisation of 9/11.

Memorialisation of national-level traumatic events traditionally takes place in physical form. This is achieved by designing and building a monument which is intended to last for generations, to ensure that the event can never be forgotten. Memorials of this type are therefore made out of materials which will stand the test of time, such as stone, and they become the focus for regular acts of commemoration on key dates, particularly anniversaries. These forms of memorialisation play a part in shaping the nation's political culture.

However, online forms of memorialisation are now increasingly common, as the internet has become a part of our daily lives. These take the form of dedicated memorial websites, social media pages, or even spaces in virtual graveyards. These sites can provide regular updates or comments on the memorialised event, and allow people to interact with them.

Whereas official, physical memorials tend to reflect the dominant national narrative of the event, members of the public can create virtual memorials to remember the event in a way which they feel is most appropriate.

My research will analyse online memorialisation of 9/11, particularly the 9/11 Memorial & Museum's Facebook page, and alternative memorials created by members of the public, which address perceived gaps in the national memorialisation narrative.

Through this analysis, I will explore questions around the messages the various memorials are promoting, differences between alternative memorial viewpoints, and the ways that the public engages with them. If virtual memorialisation can shape political culture in the same way as physical memorials, then the fact that members of the public can create alternative memorials could have an important impact on national narratives.

Sarah Griffiths

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.

Dr John Troyer selected as an Alumnus of Notable Achievement at the University of Minnesota

Director of the [Centre for Death & Society](#), [Dr John Troyer](#) was selected as an Alumnus of Notable Achievement (ANA) in the [College of Liberal Arts](#) at the University of Minnesota for 2018.

The ANA programme celebrates College of Liberal Arts alumni for their accomplishments and examples of leadership, both in their careers and community service. Since its start in 1994, only 1% of the College's 157,000 alumni have received this honour. This distinguished award comes in recognition of John's career as a globally recognised scholar on death, dying, and end-of-life issues and his leadership of the University of Bath's Centre for Death & Society.

Dr John Troyer said: "It's a great honour to be recognised by the University of Minnesota for my work in death and dying as well as at the University of Bath. I am a second generation Minnesota alumnus (both my parents received their degrees there), so the entire Troyer family is pleased with this achievement."

John and his family will attend the College of Liberal Arts Outstanding Alumni Awards dinner in June where he will officially be presented his award.

Events

Professor Sue Black on All That Remains: A Life in Death in Bath

31st May 2018, 20.00

Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath

£7 (Standard), £16.99 (Incl. Book)

Professor Sue Black's pioneering career as a forensic anthropologist has taken her from St Thomas' Hospital in London, to the front line of international criminal cases and disasters. She is acclaimed for her work in the 1999 investigation in Kosovo, the aftermath of the 2004 Tsunami, and the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and she is currently Professor of Anatomy and Forensic Anthropology at the University of Dundee.

Examining key cases from her lab, crime scenes, and international crises, world-renowned Black joins us for a fascinating evening tracing the development of forensic science, and the lessons she has learned from death. Her accompanying book, *All That Remains* is an utterly gripping, wise, and unique look at its many faces.

[Click here for more information and to book places](#)

Memorial crosses along Polish roads

09 June 2018

University of Gdansk, Poland

This seminar gives an overview of a current project, 'Memorial crosses along Polish Roads', which aims to describe the form and function, and to explain the meaning of erecting memorial crosses along public roads in Poland. The main research questions of the project are the following: Why are crosses placed at accident sites in Poland? By whom, and to what extent is a memorial cross identified with religion and to what extent with other categories of meaning?

To find out more about this half-day seminar, the project, or to attend, please [visit the website](#).

The Politics and Practice of Deathscapes and Diversity: Policy-briefing Report Launch Event and Exhibition

13 June 2018, 11.00 – 16.00

The Meadow Suite, University of Reading

In light of increasing ethnic and religious diversity, there is a need for diversity-ready cemeteries, crematoria and remembrance sites in the UK. The AHRC-ESRC Deathscapes & Diversity research project has investigated the politics and practices of migrant and minority cemetery and crematoria provision in four case towns in England and Wales, working with local providers and communities. The project is supported by the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Institute for Cemetery and Crematorium Management, and aims to catalyse a more inclusive policy and research agenda across the sector.

A policy-briefing report for local and national government and other service providers will be launched at the University of Reading on 13 June, outlining challenges, opportunities and examples of good practice for cemetery and crematoria spaces and practices in multicultural England and Wales. During the day, the report will be presented to and workshopped with a variety of stakeholders, including diverse user groups, academics, local authority planners and bereavement services. In addition, there will be a photographic exhibition portraying culturally diverse cemetery and crematorium practices, and the experiences of project participants.

The launch is by invitation only, but there are a few spaces remaining, please contact b.mathijssen@reading.ac.uk by 01 June if you would like to attend.

The photographic exhibition will subsequently travel to Newport, Swindon, Northampton and Huddersfield in July 2018 and an online version will be available on the project website from September 2018.

See: www.deathscapesanddiversity.org.uk

Encountering Emotions in Academia

13 July 2018

Manchester Metropolitan University

You are warmly invited to participate in a day of exploring and engaging emotionally and bodily with the effects of researching and teaching of sensitive issues. Despite the growth in publications focusing on the role of emotions in different contexts including academia, this research is under-developed across a range of disciplines. More importantly, there is a lack of practical consistent responses to the impacts of researching and teaching of sensitive issues which we aim to address as a collective.

This is an opportunity to co-create and shape approaches and responses to the opportunities and challenges that researching and teaching sensitive issues present. Our aim is to offer a safe space and a different atmosphere in which to share our experiences and where emotions can be encountered, discussed and shared, whilst recognising the difficulties around debating the personal impacts of engaging in emotional work.

Key contributions will be led by invited speakers to provoke group discussion:

- Dr Donna Poade (Management, Exeter) - Dark Tourism research experience and emotions.
- Dr Yasmin Gunaratnam (Sociology, Goldsmiths) - empirical performance and emotions.
- Dr Claire Moon (Sociology, LSE) - praxis and the need for resources and what form they might take.
- Zivarna Murphy (Hull York Medical School) - encountering the dead body in anatomy units in PhD research – ethics and practicalities.
- Dr Thomas Wimark (Human Geography, Stockholm University) – emotions in research on LGBTQ+ migrants into Sweden, emotions in research and the life course, and discussant.

Full details can be seen [on the website](#), and you can [book tickets here](#). Tickets are limited to 40 places only (£25 waged/£5 student/concessions – plus please sign up for £5 for after-event wellbeing activities).

This event is convened jointly by [Dr Donna Poade](#) of the University of Exeter and [Professor Craig Young](#) of Manchester Met. Please contact us if you have any queries not answered on the booking pages.

The event is supported by Manchester Met's Research Centre for Applied Social Sciences (RCASS) and School of Science and the Environment.

Death Online Research Symposium (DORS4)

15 – 17 August 2018

The University of Hull, UK

The 4th Symposium of the International Death Online Research Network will explore the ways in which online connectivity is changing how, when and where we engage with death and dying and how we invest death-related practices with meaning in the online environment.

Confirmed Keynote Addresses:

- Professor Charles Ess, University of Oslo, Norway

- Dr Elaine Kasket, psychologist and author of forthcoming book: *All the Ghosts in the Machine*

The conference will host a special workshop for participating Post-Graduate students and early career researchers.

For further information, contact [Dr Jo Bell](#). [Registration is now open online.](#)

Online booking for conference accommodation at The Courtyard (conveniently located on the main University of Hull campus) will be available soon. To reserve accommodation at The Courtyard contact: beyondevts@hull.ac.uk

If you are interested in joining the Death Online Research Network, please contact [Dr Stine Gotved](#).

Suicide Bereavement: Breaking the Silence

26 September 2018

The Mercure Manchester City Hotel, Manchester

£120 +booking fee + VAT

This international conference is a collaboration between Suicide Bereavement UK and Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust. It provides a platform whereby individuals can network, learn from each other and share good practice in this newly developing field in the UK. Over 350 delegates, from several countries attend this event and it is always over-subscribed.

More information and how to book available now [from the website.](#)

Calls for Papers

Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement Conference 2018

Novotel Manly Pacific, Manly, Sydney, Australia

06-10 August 2018

Presenting at the third Australian Grief and Bereavement Conference will provide the opportunity to share your knowledge, research and clinical content to a bereavement-focused audience in Australia. We encourage submissions from everyone with an interest in this field and who would like to share their research and practice findings.

We invite options for presentations, which include:

- Individual paper presentations
- Symposia
- Abstracts
- Poster sessions
- Practice forum
- How-to sessions

Submissions can be made via [the Presentation Portal](#). For further information on the presentations, arrangements for speakers and to submit your abstract, please check the [Australian Grief and Bereavement Conference website](#).

The call for presentations closes on 15 June 2018.

Societies, Special Issue: 'The Socio-Political Context of Death and Dying'

This Special Issue of *Societies* invites scholars to examine both the social and political circumstances in which death and dying are experienced. The issue pays close attention to the abundant socio-political changes, nationally and internationally, which directly and indirectly influence how people die or experience the death of a loved one. The last ten years alone, not only in the UK, the care of the dying and bereaved has seen increasing interest by governments, while medical, clinical and technical approaches pertain. People die in hospitals, hospices or other institutions more often than they die in the comfort of their own home. The ambiguity of identifying when one is ready to die keeps medicine attuned to the task of preserving and prolonging life. This issue would like to explore in more detail the socio-political context in which death is experienced and examine how shifting societal and political attitudes influence how we die and vice versa. Finally, the issue is interested in bringing together both empirical and theoretical papers, aiming at conceptualising the current governance of death and dying, while focusing on the impact of the former on the latter.

Further details including how to submit are available via the [journal website](#).

Jobs and study opportunities

PhDs in the Social Sciences with Graduate Teaching Assistantships

School of Psychological & Social Sciences, York St John University

Building on work from the 'deviant leisure' research cluster, specifically on social engagement with videogames, this PhD would focus on an empirical investigation into the relationship between death, virtual space, narratives and dialogue. Staff in the School are presently exploring this area in relation to open world gaming; developing this in new directions would involve exploring the gaming experiences of a multitude of different gamers, alongside the collaborative development of innovative methodological approaches to data collection. The project would seek to understand the social entanglements between types of game players, multiple iterations and experiences of death – both implicit and explicit (Spokes 2017) – narrative structures, and the spatiality of open game worlds including, for example, urban/rural space, realism, sociality and violence. The intention is for this PhD to combine theoretical insight with empirical rigour, and there will be opportunities to co-publish with staff factored in throughout.'

Further information about this post can be found [here](#). .

For informal enquiries please contact [Dr Matthew Spokes](#)

Closing date: 07 June 2018.



Contact us

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