

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society Newsletter

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Director's Note

The Centre for Death and Society's academic home, the Department of Social and Policy Sciences, is hiring four new Professors in different fields.

If you or anyone you know wants to work with CDAS and is looking for a senior post in any of these areas then please do apply.

I am more than happy to discuss any of these posts with anyone who is interested. Do not hesitate to get in touch or pass my e-mail address along: j.troyer@bath.ac.uk

The jobs are now live and the closing date for all posts is 13 December 2017.



Please do spread the word about these academic posts across all your networks. This is an excellent opportunity to become part of CDAS.

- [Professor in Global Public Health](#)
- [Professor in Criminology](#)
- [Professor in Public Policy and International Development](#)
- [Professor in Social Policy](#)

John Troyer, Director

CDAS News

Welcome to new members and associates

We are pleased to welcome another new associate to the CDAS team this autumn.

[Su Chard](#) is an independent funeral celebrant in Gloucestershire. She also co-leads a project called Chance to Chat which enables people to tell the stories of their lives to family members or those that support them. In addition, she works with Bristol schools supporting them to consider the memorialisation process after they have lost a pupil or staff member. Su completed her MSc with CDAS in 2017 and continues to research with us on a number of topics of interest.

CDAS Conference 2018: The Politics of Death

08-09 June 2018

University of Bath, UK

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.

For a list of suggested topics, and for further information as it becomes available, please [visit the conference webpage](#).

Please send a 300 Word abstract to cdas@bath.ac.uk by 28 February 2018.

Community of Practice

In 2013 CDAS hosted an innovative '[Date with Death](#)' evening where we brought together stakeholders, community organisations and academics in a speed-dating event to network and engage.

Building on the success of the Date with Death, we are now organising two 'Community of Practice' sessions that aim to bring together practitioners, stakeholders, policymakers, academics, and other interested parties to build a community of like-minded individuals to work on priority areas of policy, practice and research related to Death, Dying and Bereavement in the South West of England. Essentially, we want to facilitate and foster a community of people and organisations that places the South West as the UK's hub of expertise and best practice in death, dying and bereavement.

And we want you to be part of it.

This session is an invite-only event held on 15th November. There are two sessions, afternoon or evening, to choose from according to your commitments.

Both sessions will be held in [BRLSI](#) in the centre of Bath and are free to attend. Refreshments will be provided but regrettably we cannot provide travel costs.

[Read more about the Community of Practice](#)

Contact us for further information and to register: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Managing Death: A Comparative Framework

05 December 2017, 13.15 - 14.45

Chancellors' Building, 4.1, University of Bath

Speaker: Prof Tony Walter

Several aspects of modernity – including rationality, commodification, occupational differentiation and the rise of the professions (not least medicine), and longevity - profoundly shape how contemporary societies manage death, dying and loss. At the same time, different modern nations and cultural groups display significant differences in how they manage death. How may these differences be conceptualised? This paper outlines the framework I will be using for a book to be written for Sage that takes national and cultural differences as seriously as it takes modernity itself; risk, economic security and insecurity, and globalisation also get a look in. I will be particularly pleased to receive feedback from colleagues with expertise in cross-national analysis.

This seminar is part of a departmental series in the Department of Social & Policy Sciences at the University of Bath.

Please email cdas@bath.ac.uk if you would like to attend.

D&D Community News

Memorial For David Kennedy

You are invited to a commemoration evening for our colleague and friend, David Kennedy, who died in March. This will take place on Thursday 30th November at the University of Hull, in [Wilberforce Lecture Theatre 29](#), from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Doors will open at 6pm, and there will be music and refreshments.

David was a poet, writer, editor, academic, researcher and a gifted teacher. He was always interested in ideas and the arts, passionate, enthusiastic, blunt, and had a wide hinterland outside the sometimes narrow confines of academia. His deep interest in art was exemplified in his last poetry collection *The Apple and the Mountain* (Shearsman, 2015), concentrating on Cezanne. Kelvin Corcoran has said of this work 'it is simply about seeing... To look at the paintings and read these poems simultaneously is a deep and rare pleasure.'

He was also a great 'behind the scenes person', with a sharp eye for detail, putting much effort into the practical work needed for creative work to come to

fruition. He ensured that people made their deadlines, that information for students was written clearly, that teaching materials were kept up to date and accessible, and that colleagues were empowered and supported to deliver the best service possible .

David also gave help and advice (sometimes unwelcome, and very forthright, and often unacknowledged) to struggling writers and poets. He was loyal, and didn't forget people. He had a strong moral core, which translated into practical organisational help.

Because David had worked in industry for many years before becoming an academic, he appreciated the freedom and variety of his work, and relished the chance to present complex ideas to students, to whom he was passionately committed. Many students have mourned the loss of David, and a wide cross-section of people has been touched by his death. We want to reflect that richness in this tribute to him.

We recognise that this will inevitably be a sad occasion, but we hope it will also be joyous. David's incisive and analytical mind applied itself to working on commemoration in his later years. His involvement in the [Crossing Over network](#) recognised the importance of 'End of Life' planning, and the need for talking about death. He attended Crossing Over conferences, was involved in Death Cafes, and worked closely with archaeologists on delivering creative writing workshops in a hospice. David set great store by our need to remember, and we know that there are many people who wish to have some way of remembering him.

You are most welcome to attend but please register – [you can book online here](#).

If you do find that you can come at a very late stage then do turn up in any case, we would not turn anyone away.

There are still a couple of places available if you would like to speak for 5 minutes each about David and/or his work. If you wish to participate, could you please contact both ray.french@hull.ac.uk and k.mckay@hull.ac.uk. We will get back to you soon after that to confirm speakers, and a running order. We've also been struggling to pin down some of David's favourite music for the event, so if anyone could help us with that it would be much appreciated.

We hope you can attend this event. Please RSVP, and do pass on the details to anyone who may be interested.

Events

[Game over? Dying to talk about death and life](#)

10 November 2017, 15:00 - 20:00

University of Reading: IoE and MERL, 4 Redlands Road, Reading
RG1 5EX

Join us for a post-Halloween and Mexican Day of the Dead inspired celebration of life at the University of Reading's Institute of Education (IoE) and The Museum of English Rural Life (MERL).

Workshops: 15.30–18.45

Experience a carousel of workshops around loss and death informed by research, suitable for all ages, involving art, music and digital technologies including 3D Hangman, 3D printing, badge-making, face painting, music composition and much more. Highlights include The Wall of Tears, The Labyrinth, Death cafe, and an interactive taxidermy talk with Jazmine Miles-Long, a well-known ethical taxidermist and artist.

Talks: 18.45–20.00

- Lucy Coleman Talbot (researcher, writer and co-founder of the internationally acclaimed 'Death and the Maiden' project).
- Kevin Toolis (journalist, writer and BAFTA-winning film maker).

All workshops are free, but advance booking is recommended

Contact: Dr Yota Dimitriadi

Email: y.dimitriadi@reading.ac.uk

Book: [Eventbrite](#)

[Death and Time: BSA Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement Study Group Annual Symposium](#)

01 December 2017

BSA Meeting Room, Imperial Wharf, London, UK

The programme is now confirmed for the annual BSA Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement annual symposium. Please find all details below and follow the link to view the programme, book of abstracts and to register.

[Programme and abstracts are now online.](#)

Registration is OPEN
BSA member: £30
Concessionary member: £20
Non-member: £45
Non-member PG Researcher: £35
Lunch and refreshments will be included.

Web: <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/key-bsa-events/death-and-time/>

1st Global Conference: Music And...Death

02 - 03 December 2017

Vienna, Austria

The death of a lover, child, spouse, partner, parent, friend is the loss of someone unique and irreplaceable – a presence in our lives never to be seen, held, heard or felt again. The tragic loss of familiar, iconic, well-loved public figures and celebrities, the unexpected deaths of people through murder, violence or terrorism, heart rending loss through illness, disease or natural disasters all remind us of the fragility and vulnerability of our lives. In times like these music is often our companion providing comfort in the incomprehensibility of loss.

Music And...Death marks the launch of an exciting new series of inclusive interdisciplinary projects focusing on the many roles of music within human living, thinking and feeling. This event will explore all historical and contemporary genres of music to map the ways in which music imagines, expresses, confronts, wrestles and gives us ways of responding to and coping with dying, death, grief and remembrance.

Web: <http://www.progressiveconnexions.net/interdisciplinary-projects/music-and/music-and-death/conferences/>

Pop-Up Death Cafe on a Narrowboat

09 December 2017, 14.30 - 16.30

Mystic Moon, Bradford on Avon Marina (*The exact location will be confirmed to those who book a place*)

A chance to talk about life and death, and what really matters to you.

Come and join Sue Brayne, author of *The D-Word: Talking about Dying* for a conversation about death, dying, and end-of-life over a cup of tea and a piece of cake.

To book a place, please email Sue: sue.brayne@gmail.com or call 07729 468289 (Places are limited so early booking is advisable.)

Coming aboard is entirely at your own risk, and access is very limited for those with disabilities. Not recommended for those who have been recently bereaved.

Calls for Papers

'The presence of absence: Tensions and frictions of pregnancy losses'

Guest editors: Karolina Kuberska and Sarah Turner

Deadline: 20 December 2017

As part of the [Death before Birth project](#), we are seeking to guest edit a special issue of an academic journal. This is a call for abstracts with a view to preparing a special issue proposal for Women's Studies International Forum, whose editorial team have expressed initial interest in a special issue on this topic. The issue will focus on 'The presence of absence: Tensions and frictions of pregnancy losses'.

At this stage, we are accepting abstracts for consideration; a full call for papers can be downloaded from the [project website](#).

Please send your abstracts (up to 300 words), along with a 1-page CV with relevant publications, to Dr Karolina Kuberska (k.kuberska@bham.ac.uk) or Dr Sarah Turner (s.i.turner@bham.ac.uk) before 20th December 2017. Authors will be notified whether their abstract is accepted by mid-January 2018. Complete papers will be expected by the 1st August 2018

Dark Tourism Research Group Meeting

15 - 16 February 2018

Inholland University, Amsterdam, Netherlands

This Dark Tourism Conference aims to provide a forum for international educators, scholars, researchers, industry professionals, policy-makers, and graduate students to present and evaluate emerging paradigms and discuss pioneering practices within the broader cultural tourism field. Dark tourism is defined as the act of travel to sites of death, disaster, or the seemingly macabre within the visitor economy. As such, the idea of 'dark tourism' raises fundamental questions of the interrelationships between the touristic representation of death and the cultural condition of society.

We are seeking conceptual and/or empirical-based papers that seek to shed light on the various aspects of dark tourism and related subjects such as contested heritage, ethics, management and marketing of 'dark' venues, education, visitor experiences and management, resource stewardship and positioning these venues in a wider context.

For the full call for papers, and further details, [visit the website](#).
Deadline: 01 December 2017

Fifth International Conference of the British Association for the Study of Spirituality (BASS)

17 - 19 May 2018
Coventry University

In an exciting new collaboration, the 2018 BASS International Conference will be a joint venture with the European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health (ECRSH). This is in recognition of the academic interests that BASS shares with ECRSH. The conference will be designed in a spirit of international co-operation and collegiality in the field of the study of spirituality, which is an important part of our mission.

The main theme of the conference will be *Forgiveness and Reconciliation in Health, Medicine and Social Sciences*.

You are warmly invited to participate in this biennial gathering of researchers, scholars and practitioners from many nations, and to submit abstracts for oral presentations, symposia or posters on related topics in your own academic or professional context.

Deadline for the submission of abstracts is 31 October 2017.

Information about the acceptance of your abstract will be sent by the end of

February 2018. You are encouraged to register now to take advantage of reduced rates. Registration can be cancelled in the event of non-acceptance of an abstract.

We very much look forward to meeting you.

[Register for the 2018 conference](#)

[Submit your abstract until 31 Oct 2017](#)

[Visit the BASS website and read the Conference and Abstract invitation.](#)

VIII International Congress: Images of Death

28 October - 02 November 2018

Pachuca Hidalgo, Mexico

The 8th congress is established as an interdisciplinary field where death will be discussed from multiple social dimensions: cultural, symbolical, political, religious, ideological, economics, etc. Thus, are welcome contributions of different knowledge and culture areas that analyse death, act of dying and dead people as a social category: we will receive researches coming from cemetery studies, history, psychology, geography, anthropology, theology, public politics, plastic arts, art history, architecture and urbanism, landscaping, sociology, demography and others. We are also interested in the struggles and subjects that nowadays have appeared around the violent deaths phenomenon. We'll accept academic proposals around the world that study any territorial reality.

Conference languages: Spanish, Portuguese or English

Deadline for receipt of abstracts: 31 March 2018

Email: 8imágenesdelamuerte@gmail.com

Web: <https://www.uaeh.edu.mx/convocatorias/2052/ingles.html>

Jobs, courses and study opportunities

[Call for Doctoral Fellowships](#)

[Unfinished Business: The Politico-Religious Lives of \(Missing\) Human Remains in Vietnam and China and their Diasporas in Europe](#)

A new research collaboration between the Department of Religious Diversity of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen and the Centre for Thanatology of the Radboud University, Nijmegen is seeking highly-qualified and motivated candidates for up to three PhD research positions. The full time research positions are jointly funded by the Max Planck Institute (3 years) and Radboud University (1 year).

Research focus: Dealing with the Dead among Vietnamese and Chinese. This research program reflects on the meanings, forms and effects of practices of bodily disposal and handling of mortal remains. It aims to bring together a diversity of perspectives on the body and its disposal alongside the lingering presence of ancestors, ghosts, shamans, and the like, which tell the story of a persistent afterlife. Through ethnographically situated studies the program will critically engage with current theory, comparative ethnography and historical inquiry to explore what analytical convergence can be there in the relations between the living and the dead.

For full details, [visit the website](#)
Deadline for applications: 15 December 2017



Visit the [CDAS website](#) to view a full calendar of events

Contact us

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