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October 2014

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News from CDAS

CDAS Conference 2015: Death and its Futures

CALL FOR PAPERS

05-06 June 2015

University of Bath, UK

To paraphrase Marx, social science tells us not only how society works now, but also how it could be different and how it can be changed! So, we invite 20 minute mind-expanding papers or other contributions that:

- envision 21st century futures of death, dying and bereavement, e.g. predicted trends, scenarios to be avoided, future living and dying that we and our descendants can embrace
- radically re-think end-of-life policies and practices
- set out future research agendas
- showcase innovative research, teaching, practice, or public engagement
- reflect on the interdisciplinary field of death studies – past, present and future

Abstracts (up to 250 words) to be emailed to cdas@bath.ac.uk by 16 February 2015. For an early decision on whether or not your abstract has been accepted, please send it by 4 January.

In June 2015, CDAS will be 10 years old! During Friday late afternoon and early evening, the conference will include a birthday celebration at which CDAS founding director Prof Glennys Howarth and her successor Prof Alan Kellehear will speak, followed by a celebratory conference-cum-birthday dinner. We are delighted to announce that Colin Murray Parkes will also speak; reflecting on some of the lessons he has learned and the strange and amusing happenings he has met in a long acquaintance with death and bereavement.

We hope you will be able to join us!

Further details will appear on the conference web page as they become available:

http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0082.html

CDAS Seminar: The Agency of the Dead

16 December 2014, 14.15 - 17.05

Chancellors' Building 4.10, University of Bath

Whether, and in what cultural/historical/political/personal circumstances, the dead can exert agency, are believed to exert agency, or are mobilised by the living to exert agency, are questions implicit in bereavement research into continuing bonds, and also perhaps in collective memory studies, but has yet to be thoroughly explored.

One view is that traditional societies impute agency to ancestors, but Protestant and/or secular modern societies consider such ideas absurd – the living may be influenced by their collective memory of the dead, but not by the dead themselves. The work of a number of colleagues in and around CDAS has touched on such questions, brought into focus this autumn/winter by academic visitor Annika Jonssons' project on *Death, Agency and Enchantment* which explores how some contemporary cultural changes may be imputing more, not less, agency to the dead.

Programme:

- 'Agency, enchantment and continuing bonds - examples from Sweden'
Annika Jonsson (Karlstad University, Sweden; CDAS/SPS academic visitor)
- 'The agency of dead musicians and composers' (tbc)
Lisa McCormick (Haverford College, USA; CDAS Associate)
- 'Mother doesn't want a fuss - The agency of the dead in American funeral food rituals'
Joshua Graham (CDAS)

This event is free and open to everyone, please [reserve your place](http://store.bath.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&deptid=21&catid=199&prodid=2867) via our online store: http://store.bath.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=1&deptid=21&catid=199&prodid=2867

Death & Dying in the Media, Print and Internet

Cost of dying rises seven times faster than cost of living

This month saw the release of the 2014 AXA SunLife Cost of Dying Report, with contributions from researchers at the Centre for Death & Society. It highlights that the cost of dying has jumped by over 10 per cent to £8,427 – one of the fastest rises in the report's history.

This year's increase is attributed to a significant rise in estate administration costs, by nearly 40 per cent. The average cost of hiring a professional, such as a solicitor to help manage the affairs of a deceased loved one, now accounts for more than a third of the overall cost.

As costs continue to rise, 'funeral poverty' – the national funeral funding shortfall – now stands at nearly £200 million, 125 per cent higher than four years ago, with the situation expected to deteriorate over coming years. SunLife projects that funeral costs will continue to rise considerably, to an estimated £4,489 by 2019.

[Dr Kate Woodthorpe](#), who has been advising on the report, suggests: "The costs associated with the end of life are rising and it is worrying that people are not prepared for what they may have to face."

“It is important to remember that at a time of great emotional upheaval, the financial implications of someone dying are not simply about money. They also include questions of who is responsible for the funeral and the estate, and their administration. Putting some plans in place while you are in reasonable health, however informal or formal, big or small, can go a long way to facilitating a smoother passage for those left behind.”

To read the full story, visit the University of Bath webpages:

<http://www.bath.ac.uk/research/news/2014/10/16/cost-of-dying-report/>

Download the report:

<https://www.sunlifedirect.co.uk/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=19327353063>

For more on this story in the press:

http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/news/news_0215.html

The Revival of Death: 20 years on

In a guest blog for the University of Glasgow’s End of Life Studies Group, CDAS Director Prof Tony Walter reflects on his book, ‘The Revival of Death,’ which is 20 years old this year. Below is an extract from the blog:

‘I have had many such conversations with journalists since I published, exactly 20 years ago, *The Revival of Death*, a sociological book analysing the ‘revival’ of interest in death and dying. Today’s journalist, like every journalist I’ve spoken to, supposed this revival is just five or ten years old. Each asks about repression and taboo.’

‘In my 1994 book, I showed how there is indeed a need to discuss death, dying and bereavement, but not because death is a natural thing for humans to discuss which has somehow got repressed in contemporary Britain. Rather, I argued that dying, funerals, mourning and afterlife beliefs are continually evolving, and we find ourselves nowadays in new situations in which new preparations for dying, new kinds of funerals, new ways of handling grief, and new ways of talking about the dead need to be – and indeed are being – developed. And to develop them, we need to talk – within our families, and within society at large. We know that the death we might hope for, and indeed that our granny experienced, is unlikely to be the death we ourselves will encounter. Through such talk, individuals, families, and society create and re-create ways to die, to funeralise, to mourn.’

To read the full post, visit: <http://endoflifestudies.academicblogs.co.uk/the-revival-of-death-two-decades-on-by-tony-walter/>

Launch of ‘Plan If...’ from the Childhood Bereavement Network

A new resource, Plan If, launched this month from the Childhood Bereavement Network. It is aimed at all parents and helps them ensure that their children have the right conditions to provide stability and security if they were to die while they are still young.

If things haven't been sorted out in advance, this leaves many families unprepared for the future.

- A parent with children under 18 dies every 22 minutes in the UK
- For people of parental age, at least one in four deaths is unexpected.
- One in 20 sixteen year olds have had a parent die.

Plan If isn't meant to be morbid or to make people worry: it's about simple, practical things everyone can do [This week](#), [This month](#) and [This year](#) to plan for their family's future. And once it's done, you can relax and get on with enjoying life.

For further information, visit Plan If...:

<http://www.planif.org.uk/>

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

Putting Ambitions into Action: New ambitions for end of life care

12 November 2014

Thistle Marble Arch, 54 Bryanston Street, London W1H 7EH

£150 for NCPC Subscribers £300 for Non-Subscribers

The last 12 months have seen critical developments in end of life care. The Leadership Alliance for Care of Dying People has published Five Priorities for Care which are now being implemented. The government has set up an independent review into a 'national choice offer' to improve people's quality and experience of end of life care. The Care Quality Commission is carrying out a thematic review for end of life care and there is a national focus on improving the quality of evidence and intelligence. NHS England has said that it will not be refreshing the End of Life Care Strategy but will be looking instead to identify new ambitions and actions for improvement. The Neuberger review into the Liverpool Care Pathway emphasised that we need "a national conversation about dying."

It is against this background that we are holding our second national state-of-play conference for end of life care, bringing together key leaders, partners and organisations to consider the future and debate what a genuinely ambitious agenda for change should be. This will make a significant contribution towards generating a truly transformative national ambition for end of life care and enable participants to contribute to the national conversation about dying, explore the future and inform their own strategic priorities and plans.

Who should attend?

- People with personal experience of end of life care
- Commissioners, decision-makers and service providers: Strategic Clinical Networks, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health & Wellbeing Boards, Public Health, Chief Executives, Directors of Services and managers from all settings
- Local authority, social care and housing providers
- Health and social care policy makers

- Anybody working in palliative and end of life care: hospices, care homes, hospitals, GPs, community and district nurses
- Academics from palliative care, medical ethics, law and beyond

For more information, or to [register](#) for this event please complete the online booking form:

http://shop.ncpc.org.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT00054&utm_source=DM&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Ambitions

Kicking the Bucket Festival

Until 13 November 2014

In a host of different venues in Oxford and Oxfordshire over a span of four weeks we offer you a smorgasbord of original, enjoyable and challenging experiences; over 40 events and nearly 100 participants. The main concentration of activity is around the hub weekend of 30 October - 02 November.

For further information visit the Festival website:

<http://www.kickingthebucket.co.uk/>

Death, Inequality and Social Difference

BSA Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement study group symposium is on 14 Nov 2014

BSA Meeting Room, Imperial Wharf, London

£25 students; £35 BSA members; £40 non-members

Founded in the early 1990s, since its inception the aim of this study group is to provide a simultaneously stimulating and safe space to share ideas related to death, dying and bereavement. It encourages postgraduate students and early career researchers especially to contribute at the annual symposium.

Link to programme and abstracts: <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/DDB.aspx>

Link to register:

<http://portal.britsoc.co.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT10364>

Spaces are limited. Register early to avoid disappointment!

Vanishing Entities

14 November 2014, 18.00 – 22.00

Limewharf, Vyner St, London E2 9DJ

'VANISHING ENTITIES' gathers together and opens a Pandora's Box of happenings focused on the big issue of life and death.

During the evening a series of audience participatory and interactive pieces will unfold, including a so-called death café: a group directed discussion of death. 'VANISHING ENTITIES' will also showcase films, performance lectures, live art events and scientific dance performances.

Death is inevitable: a journey into infinite mystery that adds a whole new existential dimension to life. It can be taken for granted, repressed or misunderstood, this blind departure point of the life force from the body. But is physical death really the end of man?

Such an interrogation is like consulting an encyclopaedic or runic stone for definite answers only for other more complex questions to fly out! Narratives are constructed to begin & end, appear & disappear in an age-old cycle, bridging the chasm between birth and death.

Blending the creative projects of 17 specially invited artists, 'VANISHING ENTITIES' is part of this year's London Science Festival.

For tickets and further information: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vanishing-entities-a-pandoras-box-of-happenings-on-life-and-death-tickets-13717871523>

A Record of Undying / George Saxon & D. John Briscoe (1949 - 2013)

Until 15 November 2014

Exhibition at Vivid Projects, Birmingham

In 2013 artist George Saxon commenced development on the central work for exhibition, 'A Record of Undying' in collaboration with his late partner D. John Briscoe (1949-2013). With Briscoe as subject, he developed intimate photographs and films shot during the period leading up to and including his partner's death.

A RECORD OF UNDYING is a profound and powerful experience; an unflinchingly personal exploration of contemporary attitudes to critical illness and bereavement. Saxon's practice as an artist is embedded in the handling, preservation and temporality of film material and he uses it to represent the body. The depiction of death or dying and the artist's consideration or response to loss is a recurring theme in the visual arts yet the depiction is usually literary or historical. This work is rooted in lived experience.

The exhibition launched at Vivid Projects on Friday 3 October, and continues to Saturday 15 November.

Opening hours are Thursday - Saturday, 12-5pm and admission is free.

<http://www.vividprojects.org.uk/>

Research Design Service South West: Residential research retreat

31 May – 05 June 2015

Ammerdown Conference Centre, near Bath, UK

- Do you have a great idea for a research project?
- Do you need to apply for significant research funding?
- Do you need a sustained period of quality time with dedicated support to develop your research project?

The Research Design Service South West is offering a unique opportunity to researchers in health and health care across the South West of England. The Residential Research Retreat provides an opportunity for research teams to develop high quality research proposals suitable for submission to national peer-reviewed funding schemes. The aim of the Retreat is to provide the environment and support to promote rapid progress in developing proposals over a relatively short time period.

The Retreat is open to health professionals and academic partners working within the South West. Your team could win a place on the Retreat, which will be held at the Ammerdown Conference Centre, near Bath in Somerset from 31 May to 5 June 2015 inclusive. The deadline for submission of applications is 1pm Wednesday 7 January 2015.

Visit our Retreat webpages to find out more:

www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/rrr.htm

Call for papers

DDD12: Eastern and Western Ways of Dying and Death

02-06 September 2015

“1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia, Romania

The 12th biennial ‘Death, Dying and Disposal’ Conference will for the first time in 2015 take place in Eastern Europe.

Alba Iulia is a city full of history located in Alba County, in the heart of Transylvania, Romania, with a population of roughly 60 000 inhabitants. The main touristic attraction of Alba Iulia is the fortress with its seven bastions in a stellar shape, which was constructed between 1716 and 1735. The “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia and also the National Museum of Unification are located within the fortress. “1 Decembrie 1918” University of Alba Iulia is a public higher education and research institution founded in 1991 that has hosted the “Dying and Death in 18th-21st Century Europe International Conference” from 2008 to present.

The theme of the 2015 DDD International Conference is, ‘Eastern and Western Ways of Dying and Death’. The conference welcomes papers from academic, professionals and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines on any issue which addresses this topic:

history, anthropology, sociology, arts, literature, music, archaeology, cultural studies, philosophy, religion, psychology, medicine etc.

Multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and comparative approaches are particularly encouraged. The main aim is to render visible the differences but also the similarities between Western and Eastern ways of understanding and socio-culturally constricting death, in order to foster and enhance the knowledge of the field of death studies.

Abstracts should be between 250-350 words; please also provide a list of keywords. The deadline for submission is 01 April 2015, and electronic submission is via the EasyChair system. Registration is now open.

Further details, a full call for papers and details of how to submit your abstract are available from the conference website: <http://death-studies.ro/ddd12/>

Jobs, training and education

Cruse Bereavement Care training courses for professionals

With over 50 years' experience, Cruse is the UK's largest bereavement support charity and gives direct support to over 40,000 bereaved people every year. We have a longstanding reputation for excellence in bereavement support and offer training to individuals and organisations who want to improve the way they interact with, and support, bereaved customers, clients, and colleagues.

Bereavement in the Workplace Public Workshops:

London: 14th November 2014, 22nd January 2015, 24th February 2015

Our one-day public workshops have been developed in line with the new ACAS guidelines concerning Managing Bereavement in the Workplace. They will be helpful for anyone who wants to understand the issues, responsibilities and support surrounding bereavement in the workplace, and how to communicate with employees and colleagues suffering after loss, creating a supportive working environment going forward. Providing effective support enhances productivity, reduces absenteeism and improves morale, and Cruse training can help organisations achieve this.

These interactive, informative courses are recommended for HR personnel, line managers and small- to medium-sized business owners.

Loss and Bereavement Awareness Public Workshops:

London: 19th November 2014, 5th February 2015, 11th March 2015.

Manchester: 11th March 2015

In any business environment, even staff who are confident and competent in their interactions with others can find themselves feeling apprehensive when confronted by a bereaved client or colleague. Yet for some companies, this is a fairly common

occurrence. Our one-day loss and bereavement workshops will help staff and managers to make a caring and professional response, which can significantly enhance the quality of service and support given.

- Learn how to support bereaved clients and colleagues.
- Gain a strong understanding of bereavement issues and the factors affecting the grieving process.
- Learn about how different cultures view grief.
- Improve your communication and inter-personal skills.
- Ask questions and share your experience.

To book, or for more information, call 0208 939 9547 or email training@cruse.org.uk
<http://www.cruse.org.uk/training>

Good Grief Training 2015

Stephens House, Finchley, London, N3
 From 08 January 2015

Applications are currently open for Grief Encounter's annual Good Grief Training programme. This ten month course, accredited by Middlesex University, helps professionals understand the emotional and physical responses a child might experience in grief, and gives them the skills and confidence to help them navigate their way out of that abyss. In it, founder Shelley Gilbert MBE introduces the Upward Spiral of Grief Theory and welcomes experts from inside and outside the organisation to lead sessions including current theory, trauma and working therapeutically with young people.

This course is suitable for professionals whose working lives brings them into contact with bereaved children and young people. This might include but is not limited to: counsellors, psychologists, professionals working in schools, medical professionals, social workers, religious workers and police officers.

For more details and to book please see:
www.griefencounter.org.uk/professionals/training/ or contact
training@griefencounter.org.uk.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Information
To 13 Nov 2014	Kicking the Bucket Festival	Oxfordshire - various	http://www.kickingthebucket.co.uk/
To 15 Nov 2014	A Record of Undying	Vivid Projects, Birmingham	http://www.vividprojects.org.uk/
30 Oct 2014	Exploring Loss Conference	Portsmouth Academy for Girls	info@thebereavementcentre.co.uk

01-03 Nov 2014	Making Sense of Dying and Death	Prague, Czech Republic	http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/probing-the-boundaries/making-sense-of/dying-and-death/call-for-papers/
03 Nov 2014	Day of the Dead 2014	University of London	info@dyingmatters.org
01-7 Nov 2014	To Absent Friends	Scotland	http://www.toabsentfriends.org.uk
07 Nov 2014	What should research in hospices look like?	St Christopher's Hospice, London	http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/education/course/what-should-research-in-hospices-look-like
12 Nov 2014	Putting ambitions into action	Thistle Marble Arch, London	http://shop.ncpc.org.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT00054&utm_source=DM&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Ambitions
14 Nov 2014	Death, inequality and social difference	BSA London Meeting Room	http://www.britsoc.co.uk/media/66256/DDB_2014_call.pdf?1403692731378
14 Nov 2014	Bereavement in the Workplace	London	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training
14 Nov 2014	Vanishing Entities	Limewharf, London	http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vanishing-entities-a-pandoras-box-of-happenings-on-life-and-death-tickets-13717871523
19 Nov 2014	Loss and Bereavement Awareness Public Workshop	London	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training
20-22 Nov 2014	International Association for the Philosophy of Death & Dying Conference	California State Polytechnic University	http://www.philosophyofdeath.org/call-for-abstracts/
24 Nov 2014	Spiritual Care in Palliative Care	King's College, London	www.csi.kcl.ac.uk
03-07 Dec 2014	The Many Lives of Death: Imagining death and dying through space and time	Washington DC, USA. AAA Conference panel	elucitt@ucla.edu
16 Dec 2014	The Agency of the Dead	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0075.html

08 Jan – Oct 2015	Good Grief Training	London	www.griefencounter.org.uk/profesoians/training/
22 Jan 2015	Bereavement in the Workplace	London	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training
05 Feb 2015	Loss and Bereavement Awareness Public Workshop	London	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training
24 Feb 2015	Bereavement in the Workplace	London	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training
11 Mar 2015	Loss and Bereavement Awareness Public Workshop	London and Manchester	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training
08-11 Apr 2015	ADEC 37 th Annual Conference	San Antonio, USA	http://www.adec.org/Annual_Conference_Home.htm
15 May 2015	Cemeteries Colloquium	University of York	http://www.york.ac.uk/spsw/research/cemetery-research-group/colloquium/
18-24 May 2015	Dying Matters Week	Nationwide	http://dyingmatters.org/
31 May – 05 June 2015	Residential Research Retreat	Ammerdown Conference Centre, Bath	http://www.rds-sw.nihr.ac.uk/rrr.htm
05 June 2015	CDAS 10 th Anniversary Celebration	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0082.html
05-06 June 2015	CDAS Annual Conference, 'Death Studies – past, present and future'	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0082.html
02-05 Sept 2015	Death, Dying and the Disposal of the Body (DDD12)	"1 December 1918" University of Alba Iulia, Romania	http://death-studies.ro/?page_id=292

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