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June 2016

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June 2016 Director's Note:

Since June 2009, CDAS has organised an annual conference. The CDAS 2016 conference on 'Survival' convened 18-19 June, and like its predecessors, the event brought together a diverse array of thinkers. Indeed, I always find the CDAS conference loaded with compelling ideas and research.

What makes the conferences work, I think, is the eclectic mix of researchers and practitioners all committed to studying death, dying, bereavement, and the dead body. I always hear fascinating and memorable papers as well as meet new colleagues.

CDAS will announce the 2017 conference theme and call for papers in the coming weeks, so get ready.

More than anything at CDAS conferences I enjoy meeting fellow Americans who always seem to say a version of the following: "You're so lucky to work in such an awesome centre."

It's true. I am lucky and it is totally awesome.

John Troyer, Director

News from CDAS

Bereavement Benefits: Committee publishes Government response

The Work and Pensions Committee published its Ninth Report of Session 2015–16, on *Support for the bereaved*, ([HC 551](#)) on 31 March 2016. The Government's response was received on 25 May 2016 and published on 22 June 2016. CDAS' Kate Woodthorpe acted as special advisor to the Committee.

- [Support for the bereaved: Select Committee report](#)
- [Support for the bereaved: Government Response to the Committee's Ninth Report of Session 2015–16](#)
- [Inquiry: Bereavement benefits](#)
- [Work and Pensions Committee](#)

'Following the Committee's recommendation the Government has said it will consider undertaking a coordinated review of burials, cremations and funerals. The Government has also committed to work with stakeholders to agree the elements of a standard funeral and what a reasonable cost of this would be. The Government has recognised that information for bereaved people could be improved and has said the Committee's recommendations around communication will be considered as part of a holistic review.

The Committee will continue to press the Department for Work and Pensions for further details on the ongoing work into funeral costs. The Committee welcomes the Government's commitment to review the period the new Bereavement Support Payment is paid for, and was pleased to hear that the Government is sympathetic to the sensitivities around cessation of the payment on the anniversary of the death. However, it is disappointing that the Government continues to ignore the needs of bereaved children of co-habiting couples. There is no reason for the Government to rule this issue out of scope if its own inquiry into bereavement benefits. The Committee does not accept that proving cohabitation is a 'lengthy complex process', as this is already done for other benefits.' <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/work-and-pensions-committee/news-parliament-2015/bereavement-benefits-government-response-16-17/>

CDAS Seminar: End of Life Care

Thursday 10 Nov 2016, 14.15 – 17.15

University of Bath, 3 East 2.20

This seminar examines end of life care in a variety of settings.

End of life decisions in a general hospital: findings from doctorate

[Jo Wilson](#), Consultant Nurse (Palliative Care), Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust and CDAS PhD student

Reporting on findings from summer 2016 visit to North America

Anna Magnowska, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Palliative care, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust and [Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship on Legacy Projects in end of life care](#)

The role of care homes in end of life care: findings from 2016 research for Public Health England

[Malcolm Johnson](#), Visiting Professor of Gerontology and End of Life Care, University of Bath

Living and dying with a learning disability: Findings from a UK study on the last months of life of 240 people with a learning disability.

[Stuart Todd](#), Reader in Intellectual Disability Research, University of South Wales

The seminar is free and open to all, please just register via Eventbrite so that we know you are coming: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cdas-seminar-end-of-life-care-tickets-26279373313>

Death Studies Community News

New study suggests that genes go on working up to 48 hours after death (via The New Scientist)

Research from the University of Washington has discovered evidence of genes working for up to 2 days after death in mice and zebrafish; and there are hints that this this could also be the case for humans. This holds implications for the safety of organ transplants, it could assist pathologists in pinpointing the exact time of death, and will certainly add to the debate around the definition of death.

Full story: <https://www.newscientist.com/article/2094644-hundreds-of-genes-seen-sparking-to-life-two-days-after-death/>

Dying Matters Awareness Week – Dates for 2017

08-14 May 2017

Nationwide

Awareness Week is an unparalleled opportunity to place the importance of talking about dying, death and bereavement firmly on the national agenda. Next year will be our eighth Awareness Week. With each passing year, the week has grown in size and impact, with increasing numbers of people getting involved.

During Awareness Week, our coalition members host hundreds of events across England and Wales, reaching thousands of people. The events are bolstered by extensive media coverage, local, national and international.

Next year, as ever, we'll be supporting Awareness Week with a full range of resources, including new information materials to promote your event and engage the public, advice on organising your own events, resources to help you get media coverage, and much more.

Web: <http://www.dyingmatters.org/page/AwarenessWeek2017>

“Hiding who I am” The reality of end of life care for LGBT people

This report, published this month by Marie Curie, draws on the experiences of LGBT people with terminal illnesses and their partners which were gathered as part of Marie Curie-funded research projects by the University of Nottingham and King's College London.

Issues highlighted by the report included lack of understanding about different family structures and dynamics, and people feeling under pressure to constantly “come out” to different care professionals, which can be particularly challenging for older people who grew up when it was still illegal to be gay.

Marie Curie also highlighted the need for more training for healthcare professionals, including its own nurses, and also said more research was needed into the experiences of LGBT people nearing the end of life, especially when it came to bisexual, trans and younger LGBT patients.

The full report can be accessed at:

<https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/globalassets/media/documents/policy/policy-publications/june-2016/reality-end-of-life-care-lgbt-people.pdf>

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

The CORPSE Project: new perspectives on the body after death

30 June 2016, 17.30 – 20.00

Bartlett Gallery, Bethnal Green, London

500,000 people die a year in England and Wales. We will all one day be part of that statistic. The Corpse Project is asking how we can best lay our dead bodies to rest. We have found that people mostly don't know that much about the corpse and aren't always that happy about their experience when a relative dies and choices have to be made.

- What are the real pros and cons of burial, cremation and new approaches, for us and for the Earth?
- What do people not usually part of the 'death scene' - urban teenagers, people from different faiths and members of the trans community - think, feel and want for the future?
- What does science tell us about burial and the 'ashes' from cremation?
- How can we help new approaches for the 21st century be developed?

We have our first answers and invite you to hear them on the day of publication. A limited number of places are now open to the public. Please join us! Refreshments provided. Come ready to share your thoughts and be part of shaping the The Corpse Project.

We are glad to acknowledge the support of the Wellcome Trust, and Sacred Stones for this event.
[Book now via Eventbrite.](#)

Death on the Fringe

05-29 August 2016

Edinburgh, various venues

Death on the Fringe is an award-winning series of shows and events looking at death and dying which takes place during the [Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#) – a festival within a festival. Some events are serious, some are comical – but they all make you think about what it means to live well and die well.

It is part of the ongoing charity-led campaign, [Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief](#), which works to promote more openness about death, dying and bereavement. The campaign's aim is to make

people aware of ways to live with death, dying and bereavement and help them feel better equipped to support each other through those difficult times.

For details, see <https://deathonthefringe.wordpress.com/>

Doing Death

05 September 2016

University of Sheffield

£10 – ASDS members, £20 – non members

Doing Death is a workshop for post graduate students and early career researchers hosted by the Association for the Study of Death and Society (ASDS). This one day workshop offers the opportunity to explore and share experiences of studying and researching death related subjects, develop understanding of public engagement activity, increase knowledge of getting published and locating job opportunities.

There will be opportunities to network and make contacts with others working in related fields, develop your career plans and find out about the ASDS and what it has to offer. At the end of the day there will be the (optional) opportunity to attend an informal presentation from Dr Aline Gaus, an Associate Lecturer for Social Science from the Department of Lifelong Learning at Sheffield University, entitled 'Improvising Ritual: How to commemorate the death of the modern soldier?'

To book a place at the *Doing Death* workshop visit http://www.deathandsociety.org/pages/events-detail.php?news_id=120 for a downloadable booking form

Call for papers

Bioethics in Theory: Bioethics in Practice

Postgraduate Bioethics Committee Conference

31 Aug – 01 Sept 2016

University of Bristol

The theme of this year's conference is 'Bioethics in Theory; Bioethics in Practice' and will encompass three sub-themes: 'Bioethics in Theory, 'Bioethics in Practice' and 'Bioethics in Law'.

In addition, a three-minute thesis competition will be held on 31 August 2016.

We will be celebrating the 10th iteration of this annual conference and the 20th anniversary of the host organisation, The University of Bristol's Centre for Ethics in Medicine.

Confirmed academic speakers currently include:

- Professor Richard Huxtable, Professor of Medical Ethics & Law, and Director of the Centre for Ethics in Medicine at the University of Bristol.
- Professor José Miola, Professor of Medical Law, University of Leicester.
- Dr Wing May Kong, Chair, Institute of Medical Ethics and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Endocrinology and Ethics, Imperial College London.
- Dr Jonathan Ives, Senior Lecturer in Biomedical Ethics and Law, University of Bristol.
- Dr Lucy Frith, Reader in Bioethics and Social Science, University of Liverpool.
- Mr Paul Woodgate, Society & Ethics Research Funding Adviser, Wellcome Trust.
- Dr Zuzana Deans, Teaching Fellow, University of Bristol.
- Dr Giles Birchley, Senior Research Associate in Healthcare Ethics.

We are pleased to announce that we can offer free accommodation for all for the night of Wednesday 31st August at Wills Hall, University of Bristol, the venue for day one of the conference. Lunch and refreshments will also be provided.

To celebrate the 10th iteration of the PBGC and the 20th anniversary of the University of Bristol's Centre for Ethics in Medicine, there will be a complementary networking dinner on the evening of Wednesday 31st August, please let us know on the registration form if you wish to attend, have any dietary requirements or allergies.

Details of how to submit an abstract (deadline 8th July), how to participate in the Three Minute Thesis Competition, how to book, and information on travel bursaries can all be found on the website: http://www.postgradbioethics.com/?page_id=27

Death, Dying, Bereavement and Technologies in the 21st Century

BSA Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement Study Group Annual Symposium
02 December 2016
University of Sheffield

For decades now, technological advances in specialist fields such as medicine have changed attitudes and expectations about death and the experience of dying. However, as technologies have become more ubiquitous in our everyday social and domestic lives, the ways in which death, dying and bereavement can be technologically mediated are increasing and becoming more diverse. From online memorials to apps that self-monitor physiological health and/or decline, the ways in which bodies, persons, and technology intersect are raising questions about mortality - what death is, what it means, and how it is experienced in the 21st Century. This is a diverse field and we welcome abstracts which interpret the theme and the notion of 'technology' broadly – including more 'mundane' technologies that shape the experience of 'end of life'. The purpose of this day is to highlight research and practice that contributes to and extends our thinking on this topic.

For this one-day symposium, we invite academics and practitioners to submit abstracts on the theme of technologies and death, dying and bereavement. Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- The internet and social media
- Photography
- Digital legacy and inheritance
- New medical technologies/ technologised death
- Technology and immortality
- Tech-based cultures - e.g. tech-death metal movement
- Materiality of technologies
- Bodies, disposal and technologies
- Methodological contributions about studying technologies
- Theoretical contributions on technologies of death
- Ethical issues related to intersections between DDB and technologies

Abstracts of up to 250 words are to be submitted by Midnight (GMT) on Monday 12th September 2016 to BSADDB@gmail.com.

More details about the study group can be found at <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/groups/social-aspects-of-death,-dying-and-bereavement.aspx>

Please visit the event website to register at:

<http://portal.britsoc.co.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT10550>

Transmortality 2017: The Materiality and Spatiality of Death, Burial and Commemoration

03 - 04 March 2017

Luxembourg City

Death, dying and burial produce artefacts and occur in a spatial context. The interplay between such materiality, spatiality and the bereaved who commemorate the dead yields interpretations and creates meanings that can change over time. In this conference, we want to explore this interplay by going beyond the consideration of simple grave artefacts on the one hand and graveyards as a space on the other to examine the specific interrelations between materiality, spatiality, the living and the dead.

We invite papers from all disciplines, from academics and professionals alike, to reflect on the materiality and spatiality of death, burial and commemoration – for example, concerning cemeteries and other spaces of remembrance. We suggest the following non-exhaustive list of themes:

- Agency of materiality and spatiality
- Theoretical considerations regarding materiality and spatiality in sepulchral culture
- Innovative research methods in this field
- Ethics in the study of death, burial and commemoration
- Ideology and/or politics
- Regional and cultural contexts, including migration and transborder issues related to sepulchral culture

We welcome and strongly encourage the submission of ongoing research projects, such as doctoral theses. There is no limit on disciplines, research fields, approaches, regions, periods, confessions, etc. This open invitation extends to professional groups and lay people concerned with taking care of those who are dying or bereaved, as well as of bodies that have already expired, and of memorialisation. However, all considered papers need to be explicit in their consideration of issues of materiality and spatiality in death, burial or commemoration.

There is no conference fee. Reimbursement for travel and/or accommodations costs might be possible upon application.

Submission

Abstracts of no more than 1,000 words, written in English, should be submitted to thomas.kolnberger@uni.lu AND christoph.streb@uni.lu by Thursday, 1 December 2016. Abstracts will be reviewed and accepted contributions notified by Monday, 3 January 2017.

For more information about the conference, please visit <https://transmortality.uni.lu/>

3rd International Death Online Research Symposium & PhD course/workshop:

Method and content

Symposium: March 06-08 2017

PhD course/workshop: March 06-08 & 09-10 2017

Aarhus University, Denmark

Studies of online sociocultural practices related to death and dying constitute, more and more, a recognized field. Happily, the contributors to this area come from across a great variety of academic disciplines such as media sociology, (media) aesthetics, cultural studies, psychology, (visual) anthropology, the history of religion, philosophy, linguistics, to name a few. For this third Death Online Research Symposium, we welcome all relevant academic presentations of ongoing or recently completed or ideas for future academic research - on all kinds of death related online practices. As a special focus for 2017, we want to inspire particular focus on how we construct the contexts for study and the methodologies we use to do our research. We welcome especially papers that are empirically, theoretically and/or methodologically focusing on:

- How do we deal with the online/offline distinction, which persists as a way of making sense of phenomena and contexts, but may inadequately describe how our research contexts are interwoven, remediation of earlier known practices, or
- How are the practices we study historically, thematically, conceptually, aesthetically, and materially related to various kinds of other (perhaps offline, perhaps not) practices?
- How is the individual and social configured?
- What are the interrelations of fiction-based and non-fiction based practices?
- How are our epistemological or methodological premises transformed through our research or vice versa, how do our premises impact our research design and practices?

We welcome academic presentations in the following categories:

- Individual papers/group papers
- Paper panels and/or fishbowl/panels presenting academic discussions in clearly framed and thematized sessions Theoretical, methodological and empirical papers

When sending your abstract, please indicate 3 keywords for the planned Presentation. If you want to host a fishbowl, please send an abstract for the theme, questions and the participants of your group (3-5 participants).

Please submit an abstract to Dorthe Refslund Christensen, main organizer, nordrc@cc.au.dk (of max 250 words for individual/group papers and of max 500 words for panels/fishbowls) no later than 01 September 2016.

Email nordrc@cc.au.dk to express your interest in the PhD course. Formal enrolment for both activities through the website will be up and running during the fall of 2016.

Manipulated bodies: investigating post-mortem interactions with human remains: a session of the Society for American Archaeology Conference

29 March – 02 April 2017

Vancouver, Canada

This session seeks to draw together new research examining post-mortem interactions with the dead, building on the recent wealth of interest in this topic among researchers from diverse backgrounds to highlight potential comparative perspectives across social, cultural and temporal contexts.

Following death the human body becomes the focus of a diverse range of activities that include, but are not limited to, burial in the earth. The unburied dead include those who receive non-burial forms of funerary treatment and individuals whose remains are intentionally exhumed or unintentional disturbed. Examining the archaeological traces the unburied dead can illuminate the diverse interactions with, and perceptions of, dead bodies and body parts in the past. This session seeks to draw together new research that examines post-mortem interactions with the dead including both non-burial modes of treatment and manipulation of human remains. This might involve: analysis of human remains from non-burial contexts; studies of funerary treatments of the body which do not culminate with insertion into the ground; or investigation of post-burial activities that result in the exhumation, manipulation and/or display of human remains above ground, whether this occurs soon after death or much later. This session aims to highlight potential comparative perspectives across social, cultural and temporal contexts, thereby examining the reasons why, contexts within and means by which the material body is manipulated after death.

The SAA offers a fee waiver for non-archaeologists who would have no reason to join the society other than to present at the conference. This would mean non-archaeologist speakers would only pay the conference fee of about \$150.

The deadline for proposals is 08 September 2016: expressions of interest should in the first instance please be directed to:

Dr Lizzy Craig-Atkins

Lecturer in Human Osteology, University of Sheffield

Tel: 01142 222906

Email: e.craig-atkins@sheffield.ac.uk

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Information
29 June 2016	The Beautiful Burial Ground	Heslington Church, York	http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/
30 June 2016	The CORPSE Project: new perspectives on the body after death	Bartlett Gallery, London	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-corpse-project-new-perspectives-on-the-body-after-death-tickets-26135317438
04-06 July 2016	Cremation & Burial Communication and Education Event 2016	Stratford-upon-Avon	http://www.cbce.org.uk/
06 July 2016	Child and baby funeral choices	GreenAcres Burial Park, Beaconsfield	http://www.iccm-uk.com/iccm/library/CFC_Seminar_Invitation.pdf
18 July 2016	Community Development Conference	St Christopher's Hospice	http://www.ncpc.org.uk/event/each-community-prepared-help
29-31 July 2016	Is Heaven for Real?	University of Winchester	http://store.winchester.ac.uk/browse/extra_info.asp?compid=1&modid=2&catid=94&prodid=298
05-29 Aug 2016	Death in the Fringe	Multiple venues, Edinburgh	https://deathonthefringe.wordpress.com/
08-12 Aug 2016	Death & Meaning Making in Europe	Radboud University, The Netherlands	http://www.ru.nl/radboudsummerschool/courses/history-philosophy-religion/vm-more-courses/death-and-meaning-making-europe/
29-31 Aug and	End of Life Doula Training	New Oriel Hall, Bath	http://www.lwdwtraining.uk/events/doula-training-part-1-foundation-bath-somerset/

22-23 Oct 2016			
31 Aug – 01 Sept 2016	Bioethics in Theory: Bioethics in Practice	University of Bristol	http://www.postgradbioethics.com/?page_id=27
01-03 Sept 2016	Death and Culture	University of York	http://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/about/news-and-events/department/2016/deathandculture/
05 Sept 2016	Doing Death	University of Sheffield	http://www.deathandsociety.org/pages/events-deatil.php?news_id=120
06 Sept 2016	Death, Dying and Social Work	University of Sussex	http://www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/newsandevents/events?id=35368
16 Sept 2016	Dark Leisure and Music	Leeds Beckett University	http://darkleisureandmusic.mselimyavuz.com/
20 Sept 2016	Cruse Masterclass	Holborn Bars, London	http://www.cruse.org.uk/training/masterclass
27 Sept 2016	Sudden death and breaking bad news	Newcastle upon Tyne	http://childbereavementuk.org/studydays
28 Sept 2016	Suicide Bereavement: Working together to make a difference	Manchester Conference Centre	http://www.suicidebereavementuk.com/
04 Oct 2016	Children and young people – loss, death and grief	Child Bereavement UK, Bucks	www.childbereavementuk.org/courses
05 Nov 2016	Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement	Glasgow	https://event.iwgscotland2016.co.uk/IWG_Glasgow
10 Nov 2016	CDAS Seminar: End of Life Care	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0132.html
02 Dec 2016	Death, Dying, Bereavement and Technologies in the 21st Century	University of Sheffield	http://www.britisoc.co.uk/media/112390/DDB_021216.pdf?1464011179015
03-04 Mar 2017	Transmortality 2017: The Materiality and Spatiality of Death, Burial and Commemoration	Luxembourg City	https://transmortality.uni.lu/

06-08 Mar 2017	Death Online Research Symposium and PhD workshop	Aarhus University, Denmark	nordrc@cc.ac.dk
29 Mar – 02 Apr 2017	Manipulated bodies: investigating post- mortem interactions with human remains	Vancouver, Canada	e.craig-atkins@sheffield.ac.uk
08-14 May 2017	Dying Matters Awareness Week 2017	Nationwide	http://www.dyingmatters.org/page/AwarenessWeek2017

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