

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society

Newsletter

October 2018

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Director's Note

October 2018:

And after a short hiatus, welcome back to the Centre for Death and Society monthly newsletter

I will keep this Director's note short(ish) and simply direct your attention towards a number of noteworthy newsletter items.



First off, the Call for Papers for the 14th International Conference on Death, Dying, and Disposal (DDD14) being held here at Bath September 4-7, 2019 goes LIVE on 3 Oct 2018! I am personally looking forward to seeing everyone in Bath next year for the conference.

Secondly, and this is a key issue – we're looking for Sponsors for different DDD events in September 2019. You will see a page about DDD14 Sponsorship opportunities and if you or a company you work for are interested in sponsoring different DDD events then do not hesitate to contact me (j.troyer@bath.ac.uk) or the CDAS Main Office (cdas@bath.ac.uk).

You will also find information in the newsletter about CDAS's new Early Career Visiting Fellow Programme. As promised we have included some very short guidelines on how to apply for the ECR Visiting Fellow Programme and I would encourage anyone with any questions to directly email me. I realise that 'Early Career' is a nebulous word, so don't hesitate to apply if you think you might meet the criteria and are interested.

Please join us on Tuesday October 23 for CDAS Visiting Scholar (University of Tokyo) Professor Norichika Horie's presentation on *The Status of Rei (spirits) of the Dead in Japanese Society*. (Tuesday 23 October, 1.15 – 2.30 pm, Chancellors' Building 3.11).

Some CDAS people news: Well done to Drs Chao Fang and Andreia Martins van den Hurk for successfully defending their Ph.D.'s over the summer. Welcome to Emma Ford, who has taken over from Caron Staley.

Everyone in CDAS is looking forward to the 2018-2019 academic year.

CDAS News

CDAS Spotlight on our PhD Students

We would normally focus on one particular student in this section but, as we have had several key successes over the past few months, we felt we would like to take the opportunity to celebrate those successes.

Huge congratulations go to Chao Fang and Andreia Martins van den Hurk who passed their vivas over the summer with minor corrections.

Andreia's title of her thesis is *The Virtual Wake in Brazil*.

Chao's thesis is on '*Bereavement and motivation in three contrasting cultures: Britain, Japan and China*'.

CDAS Early Career Visiting Fellow's Programme – Applications now welcome

We announced the new CDAS Early Career Visiting Fellow's Programme in our last newsletter. This opportunity extends our programme of welcoming visiting scholars from around the world so that we are now able to create a formal link to CDAS for researchers without a permanent home in a University. We are now welcoming applications for this programme.

Benefits of the programme include:

- Access to the library, CDAS community and University of Bath email account
- Opportunities to present work at departmental and CDAS events, as well as annual conference
- 3 year position
- Unfortunately there is no desk or funding attached to this programme

Eligibility criteria:

- Applicants must be an ECR in Death Studies (broadly defined) **without permanent employment** in a University

How to Apply:

- Send a one-page research proposal (no more) and a current CV to cdas@bath.ac.uk
- This is a rolling deadline and applications can be made at anytime

THE 14TH
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON THE
SOCIAL CONTEXT OF

**DEATH,
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WED 04 - SAT 07 SEPTEMBER 2019
UNIVERSITY OF BATH, UK

THEME:

**ENGAGEMENT &
EDUCATION**



In our last newsletter we announced that CDAS had been awarded the honour of hosting the next Death, Dying and Disposal (DDD) Conference in Bath, September 2019. We are very excited about this and plans are well underway for providing a memorable Conference.

The theme for DDD14 will be '**Engagement and Education**'. We are delighted to announce that the **Call for Papers will open on 3rd October 2018**. We welcome all submissions related to death, dying and disposal but specifically papers related to:

- The role/purpose/possibility of death studies;
- The visibility of death as a social issue;
- Heritage, museums and the cultural sector;
- The knowledge economy;
- Media work;
- Public education;
- Meaning of expertise;
- Experiential knowledge;
- Working with non-academic audiences;
- Historical and archaeological narratives;
- The political economy of death;
- The politics of death, dying and disposal.

Full details of the Call for Papers are attached and can also be viewed [here](#).

Submission deadline is 20 Feb 2018. Please submit all abstracts [here](#).

For further information please contact us at infoddd@bath.ac.uk or call ++44 1225 384515.

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Sponsorship and Branding Opportunities!

The DDD conference 2019 is set to be the biggest ever. Celebrating the 10th birthday of the Association for the Study of Death and Society (ASDS) and hosted in the UNESCO World Heritage city of Bath we are expecting up to 200 leading academics and practitioners from across the globe. Promote your organisation through one of our exciting sponsorship opportunities. Benefit from face to face marketing, meeting new customers, strengthening relationships and networking.

Sponsorship packages from £200 - £5000 available, including:

- Sponsorship of the Gala Drinks Reception at the Roman Baths
 - Headline sponsorship of the main lecture theatre
 - Branded items for inclusion in delegate bags
- Sponsorship of the ASDS 10th anniversary celebration cake

For further information please contact Emma or John by emailing infoddd@bath.ac.uk or call ++44 1225 384515.

DDD Community News

In the Media

Old Peoples Home for 4 Year Olds

Starting on 8 Oct, 9pm, Channel 4.

Last year, the first series of this Channel 4 'experiment' in intergenerational engagement proved to be an unexpected popular success. Series 2, this time set in a large retirement community in Nottingham, takes place over a period of 12 weeks where the older people -aged between 81 and 102- meet the 4 year olds daily for twice as long, to see if the changes are sustainable. An exercise in reviving human existence at the far end of life. Professor Malcolm Johnson is again one of the 'experts', who are both advisers and on-screen. The first of five programmes is broadcast on Monday October 8th at 9-00pm and each of the four successive Mondays.

On the day of the final episode, November 5th, Series One is shortlisted for a prestigious Grierson Documentary TV Award. Malcolm will attend the ceremony at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London.

Events

User Not Found

Tue 16 October 2018 6pm & 8.30pm at The Edge, University of Bath.

This performance piece is about our digital identities after we die. Written by Chris Goode of Dante or Die, in collaboration with Dr John Troyer the performance looks at how grief and bereavement interact with modern technologies.

For further information please visit <https://www.edgearts.org/whats-on/performance/user-not-found/>.

The Status of *Rei* (spirits) of the Dead in Japanese Society

Tuesday 23 October 2018, 1.15 – 2.30pm, University of Bath, Chancellor's Building 3.11. Presentation by Norichika Horie, Associate Professor, University of Tokyo

Japanese people's wariness of religious groups increased in 1995 after Aum Shinrikyō's sarin gas attack on subway stations in Tokyo. It seemingly led to a suspicion against discourses that presuppose the reality of spirits or ghosts. And yet, according to surveys, more than half of Japanese people believe in spirits or ghosts of the dead. Contemporary Japanese belief in spirits is informed by Japanese folk religion (including influences of Buddhism and Shinto) and vocabularies appropriated from British spiritualism and American New Age. In the 2000s, a "spiritual boom" happened, with mediums (or "spiritual counsellors") attracting people both through the mass-media and the spiritual marketplace. Its popularity, however, led to strong opposition from sceptics, and media exposure started to fade. The Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011 changed this. NHK,

Japan's public service television, showed a documentary that reported people bereaved by the Earthquake sensing the presence of the dead. Viewers were generally supportive of the program's contents. This paper deals with the contents and viewers' reactions, showing that Japanese people's attitudes toward spirits of the dead changed from pejorative to sympathetic.

Norichika Horie norick.h@nifty.com is an academic visitor with CDAS/SPS for the month of October.

Written in Stone

Friday 26 October 2018 7pm – 8.30pm, the Arbour Rooms, Gloucester crematorium, Coney Hill GL4 4PA. Free entry.

The nine month arts project looking at the words we bring to Crematoriums and how we use them there is coming to an end with a concert where the work of Emily Wills, Poet in residence, and images taken by Su Chard will be presented in concert form. Lydia Kenny, Gloucestershire's Young Musician of the year 2018 will punctuate the poetry, playing her own improvisations of music often used in funeral services. The project has been a wonderful adventure for all involved and this evening of music, words and images should be informative, interesting and enjoyable. For more information contact Su Chard suchard17@gmail.com.

Rites of Passage Autumn School

2 – 5 November 2018, The Malt Kiln, Bardsea, nr Ulverston, Cumbria

For artists, teachers, community arts workers, story tellers and anyone with a creative interest in acquiring the skills to make ritual and ceremony in their own lives.

This is a unique opportunity to work with Sue Gill and Gilly Adams who have been leading these special workshops together for more than twenty years. Of their last workshop in Frome in March 2018 a participant wrote:

It was one of the best trainings I've done with a great balance of teaching and direct experience that kept me active, immersed and reflective throughout. Laughter, tears, community, landscape, sacredness and plenty of profanity - marvellous.

We will look at the work of the independent celebrant and the theory of Rites of Passage. We offer an invitation to reflect on ceremony in our own lives, with particular reference to what is missing and why. We will collaborate on ways to devise and create new ceremonies, both indoors and in landscape, using symbolism and the elements, myth and storytelling. We share the process and practice of ceremony and ritual in depth and hands on, in a supportive and safe environment. We share information on professional networks, practice and resources.

The workshop fee is £395.00, includes meals, excludes accommodation.

A deposit of £75 secures one of the 12 available places, and the balance may be paid in instalments by 2nd Nov. We have the last 4 places left.

For further information go to www.deadgoodguides.co.uk/?p=2774 or email

foxandgill@gmail.com or_gillyadams@tiscali.co.uk. Or call Sue on_01229 869 769 or Gilly on Gilly 029 2055 2389.

The Sense of an Ending: Stories, meanings and understandings

28 November 2018, Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care annual conference, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh

Bookings are now open for Scotland's premiere event for anyone involved in the care and support of people reaching the end of life. Delegates will have an opportunity to learn, network, share and challenge perspectives. Topics will include: realities and complexities of shared-decision-making; addressing future challenges for the NHS at 70; social care; lack of meaning and making sense at the end of life. Speakers include Christian Busch, Hospital Chaplain, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen; Paul Gray, Director General for Health and Social Care for the Scottish Government and Chief Executive of NHS Scotland; Deans Buchanan, Consultant in Palliative care Medicine, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee; Donald Macaskill, Chief Executive, Scottish Care.

To book a place please visit:

<https://www.palliativecarescotland.org.uk/content/booking/>

Oxford Centre for Education and Research in Palliative Care Seminar Series

Caring in a Culturally Diverse World, 23 November 2018, Sobell Study Centre, Oxford, cost £120. An opportunity to hear people of enormously different backgrounds and world views teasing out how we care for ourselves and one another in a world and workplace where things can't be fixed. Our experience comes from experience in our discipline of end of life care and dealing with patients and relatives who are deeply distressed by their situation.

Culturally Sensitive palliative care: Meeting the needs of gender and sexual minorities, 26 April 2019, Oxford, cost £120. Despite the considerable social change that the UK has witnessed in relation to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights, significant evidence indicates that LGBT people face additional challenges when accessing palliative and end-of-life care services. This study day explores the issues and needs of LGBT people, with a specific emphasis on those needing and receiving palliative and end-of-life care. It provides participants with the opportunity to reflect on, and identify ways of providing, culturally sensitive care for LGBT people, their partners and families and within a palliative care context.

Death & Dying: Real life experiences, 7 Mar 2019, Sobell Study Centre, Oxford, cost £120. This study day will concentrate upon using real-life experiences of palliative care patients, family, carers and professionals, to consider experiences and issues surrounding death and dying. Consideration will also be given to topics such as Advance Care Planning, resilience and identification of holistic symptoms experienced as the end of life approaches

For further information on these and other seminars please contact ssc@ouh.nhs.uk

[Refugee Experiences of Grieving the Dead](#)

Thursday 7 Feb 2019, 1-5pm, 83 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5ES. A seminar organised jointly by the Death, Dying and Bereavement Group, Open University and Centre for Death & Society, University of Bath.

Bereavement research has been conducted largely on peaceful western populations, but has barely addressed grieving the death of significant others that is often part of refugees' experience. Meanwhile, research and action with refugees have focused more on trauma and on loss of home, community, status, job, etc than on grief for deceased friends and family. This seminar seeks to begin to address this gap. Refugees' experience of bereavement is immensely varied - from witnessing family members being killed before leaving one's home country or dying en route, to the many Jews who got out of Vienna in 1938 but didn't know for up to a decade which other family members had survived. Speakers include Kerry Jones, Open University <http://www.open.ac.uk/people/kj4483>; Shahaduz Zaman, University of Sussex <https://www.bsms.ac.uk/about/contact-us/staff/dr-shahaduz-zaman.aspx> and Maurice Stierl, University of Warwick <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/people/stierl/>.

Click [here](#) to book your place.

[Research](#)

[Lancet Commission on the Value of Death](#)

CDAS is one of the GW4 Partners in a two year venture to explore and revise the relationship between medicine and dying and death. Professor Malcolm Johnson, (CDAS member) is one of the 17 international membership of the Lancet Commission led by Dr Richard Smith who was Editor of the BMJ for thirty years and Professor of Surgery at Bristol University, Jane Blazeby.

The GW4 'Value of Death Network' will address the global challenge of the critical relationships between medicine, living well and death. It will examine how death is being medicalised and the implications of current practices for different populations including the poor and underserved communities. There is "a culture of medical excess" resulting in difficult decisions on when to treat and when to "say no". It requires values to be placed on life and death. Yet medicine and society struggle to talk about death. Moreover, little research has been done on what dying well means especially for populations who struggle, structurally and physically to live well. A change in cultural and medical attitudes to death and dying is required which is informed by all sectors of society, including those whose voices are considered 'hard to reach' and for whom there is a research inequality.

The Network will link expertise and creativity from GW4 members with a Lancet Commission addressing this issue. This will allow delivery of a globally influential output and inform research led by GW4 members.

Calls for Papers

BSA Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement symposium

Friday 25 January 2019, University of Salford

The next BSA Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement symposium will be a joint event with the BSA's Violence and Society study group. It will take place on Friday 25th January 2019 at the University of Salford and the theme is Death and Violence.

The call for abstracts for the symposium is now out and we are inviting academics and practitioners to submit abstracts on the theme of violence in relation to death, dying, and bereavement. We are particularly keen to encourage a broad and diverse set of papers that engage with (but are not limited to) the following issues:

- Death, violence and inequalities
- Political violence and mortality
- Death and displacement
- Death and violence in popular cultures
- 'Dark' spaces and violent death/s
- Digital technology, violent deaths and voyeurism
- 'Bad' (violent) deaths
- Bereavement, trauma and memorialization following violent death
- Methodological and ethical issues in the study of violence and death

Submit abstracts of no more than 250 words to BSADDB@gmail.com by midnight GMT Monday 22nd October 2018. With your submission please include your name, affiliation and contact details. Presentations will be 20 minutes long with additional time for questions.

For more information please visit <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/key-bsa-events/death-and-violence/>

Bereavement Care Journal – Special Edition

The journal *Bereavement Care* is planning a special themed edition for Winter 2019.

The theme is '**Bereavement support 1959-2019 and beyond**'.

The theme has been chosen to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee of the UK charity **Cruse Bereavement Care**. However, the special edition will take an international focus and is seeking contributions that will challenge readers to reflect upon how bereavement support, theory and best practice have evolved from their early days in the 1950s to the present time. We also invite authors to consider controversies, challenges and possibilities for the future. The edition tasks itself to engage with ideas, practice and personal experience that are pertinent to our international readership and as such submissions will need to address this. **Colin Murray Parkes** will be providing the Foreword / Editorial for the Special Edition.

Call for Papers

We are looking for: research that will be peer reviewed; reviews of seminal books and art projects/works; articles of that address issues of practice; and personal reflections. Word counts for submissions will vary but range from 1,500 – 5,000 words approximately. All work will need to have been previously unpublished.

We would be specifically interested in papers that explore:

- Changes and controversies in theories of grief / bereavement;
- Changes in the delivery of bereavement care and support and the theoretical and professional drivers for this
- The public health model of bereavement
- Complicated grief / prolonged grief – how this has been addressed from a range of viewpoints (to include neuroscientific perspectives)
- Community approaches / Peer support for bereavement
- Children's bereavement services / Children's hospices – a history
- Support for diverse populations and issues of social justice

Submission Guidelines

If you are interested in submitting a paper for this edition please contact the Managing Editor, Jessica Mitchell at jessica.mitchell@cruse.org.uk by the 15 October 2018 with a simple outline of your idea. The journal's Editorial Board will select the ideas that are to go forward and final submission of papers will be required in Spring 2019.

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

Contact us

Email: cdas@bath.ac.uk

Web: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

Tel: 01225 386949 (Mon-Wed only)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/centrefordeath

Twitter: @cendeathsociety

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