



**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND POLICY SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BATH
CLAVERTON DOWN
BATH BA2 7AY
UNITED KINGDOM**

EMAIL: cdas@bath.ac.uk

WEB: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/centrefordeath>

TWITTER: @cendeathsociety

January 2016

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News from CDAS

CDAS Seminar: 'Cemetery People'

04 February 2016, 14.00 – 17.00

Room 3 East 2.20. University of Bath

This seminar presents current and recent research with people who are key to the operation of contemporary English cemeteries. The presenters come from diverse disciplines: archaeology, folklore, heritage studies and sociology.

- Gaelle Jolly
Cemetery Friends
- Lindsay Udall (University of Bristol)
Who decides who's buried where?
- Stuart Prior & Helen Frisby (University of Bristol)
Gravediggers: an oral history

This event is free to attend, book your place today:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cdas-seminar-cemetery-people-tickets-18756045838>

CDAS Conference 2016, 'Survival'

18 - 19 June 2016

University of Bath, UK

Call for papers

Survival can be among the very best, or the very worst, of human experiences.

It can mean: surviving disaster, accident, illness, HIV, war, genocide, rape, domestic or child abuse, or loss of any kind. It can lead to survivor guilt, post-traumatic stress, 'surviving' yet life no longer feels worth living; but also to resilience & post-traumatic growth, living more authentically after surviving a near-death experience or life-threatening illness, choosing to present oneself as survivor rather than victim. It can also mean life after death: post-mortem survival.

Social scientists, psychologists, social workers, philosophers, ethicists, theologians, political scientists, NDE researchers, all have their own understandings of and research into survival.

The 2016 CDAS annual conference aims to bring together research and knowledge on survival that has hitherto been fragmented. We invite scholars and practitioners from around the world who are willing to engage openly with and learn from different understandings of survival. 20 minute papers are invited - abstracts (up to 250 words) to be emailed to cdas@bath.ac.uk by 15 February 2016.

Further details are now available via the CDAS website: www.bath.ac.uk/cdas and booking for the conference will open in the next couple of weeks.

Missed it? CDAS event podcasts now available

Want to come to CDAS events but it's too far to travel, not at a convenient time, or too expensive to come here in person?

Where possible, we are now recording our seminars and conference sessions so that you can view the sessions in your own time and at your own pace. Whilst it can't replace the real thing, you can now access our expert speakers and their presentations whenever you want.

[https://uniofbath.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Sessions/List.aspx?#folderID="1ee567ab-5e64-487a-a47c-17284e2e535f"](https://uniofbath.cloud.panopto.eu/Panopto/Pages/Sessions/List.aspx?#folderID=)

We're sorry it's taken a while, but all of the sessions* from last year's conference are also now available to view.

*We can only make sessions available if we have the permission of both the presenter and the chair of the session. If there are sessions you are interested in on the programme but which don't appear on the recordings, please contact us directly and we may be able to put you in touch with the speaker.

Bereavement through substance misuse project publication

'There are limits on what you can do': Biographical reconstruction by those bereaved by alcohol-related deaths (Valentine, C., Templeton, L. and Velleman, R.) In T. Thurnell-Read (Ed.) *Drinking Dilemmas, Space, Culture and Identity*. London, New York: Routledge, Chapter 12, 187-204. <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138931145>

This chapter forms part of an edited collection (from the BSA Sociological Futures series), which examines the diverse symbolic meanings of drinking in a range of social, political and economic contexts. Drawing on data from research¹ which has interviewed 106 adults, including six couples, bereaved following a drug and/or alcohol related death, it analyses a sub-sample of interview narratives from family members bereaved following a death associated with serious alcohol problems. In so doing, it identifies dilemmas they encountered in attempting to make sense of and live with both the life and the death and how these reflected a social context lacking in support and understanding.

With policy and practice initiatives related to excessive drinking focused on prevention, control and treatment, those grieving someone whose drinking could not be treated or their death prevented, are inevitably excluded. Indeed, they serve as reminders that such efforts may fail, suggesting that dependency on drink and/or other substances may be a far more complex and nuanced issue than is apparent.

¹ An ESRC funded study, 'Understanding and responding to those bereaved through their family members' substance misuse', (2012-2015).

To read more about this project and associated activities, visit the [project page on the CDAS website](#).

Social Death: Special Issue of the Journal, Contemporary Social Science

The 2014 CDAS conference on 'Social Death' led to a special issue of Contemporary Social Science - the journal of the Academy of Social Sciences. The special issue, edited by CDAS members Jana Kralova and Tony Walter, is now published, and the articles may be accessed at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rsoc21/10/3>. You can also now access the introduction to the journal by David Cantor, which can be downloaded as an mp3 file.

Jana's introductory article 'What Is Social Death?' is freely downloadable for the coming six months.

CDAS Student runs the Bath Half for Age UK

CDAS PhD Student Renske Visser will be running this year's Bath Half to raise money for the local Age UK in Bath.

Age UK B&NES is a completely independent, local charity, and whilst they are part of the Age UK family, using the same name, they fundraise themselves and spend the money raised locally according to the needs of the community.

Renske's research is entitled, 'Care and cost at end of life.' Many of Renske's research project participants were recruited via Age UK, and they have also supported our recent GW4-funded project, 'Dying well with reduced agency,' so this is a great opportunity to give something back to them!

If you would like to support Renske, please consider making a donation via the following link: <https://www.justgiving.com/Renske-Visser>.

Death Studies Community News

Launch of Dying Matters Awareness Week 2016

Monday 18th January saw the Dying Matters Awareness Week launch in London. This was a sell-out event, with around 160 delegates in attendance, which made it ideal for networking and hearing about people's plans for Dying Matters Awareness Week itself (9th - 15th May).

The event was opened by the CEO of the National Council of Palliative Care and the Dying Matters Coalition, Claire Henry, who launched their new materials and announced the theme of this year's Awareness Week – [The Big Conversation](#).

Presentations and photographs of the event are now available on the Dying Matters website, along with ideas and resources for running your own event.

<http://www.dyingmatters.org/BigConversationlaunch>

Trustees wanted for Highgate Cemetery, London

Highgate Cemetery is looking for new trustees to help guide the development of England's most famous Victorian cemetery. There are two vacancies.

This year, the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust is seeking candidates with skills and experience in the following areas: Historic environment/heritage especially with regard to architecture and conservation planning; Community engagement; Practical HR experience and skills. All the trustees are volunteers, and are not paid for their services as trustees. In addition to their duties as trustees, some also volunteer in other ways for the Trust but this is not a requirement. For more information and a role description see www.highgatecemetery.org/news.

To apply, you should submit a CV and covering letter by 26 February 2016 to chairman@highgatecemetery.org. You should explain how your background enables you to make a special contribution in these areas. You do not have to be a member of the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust to apply but you will have to join before your name goes forward for election. They expect to interview in early March. The board may appoint one of its recommended candidates for approval at the AGM, and the others go forward for election.

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

Death: is it your right to choose?

Until 13th March 2016

Bristol Museums

Death: is it your right to choose? will be a powerful and emotive installation of a room at the Dignitas flat near Zurich.

This exhibition complements [death: the human experience](#) and will encourage debate and discussion around end of life choices whilst the current law on assisted dying in the UK is undergoing scrutiny.

We have chosen to use a re-creation of a room at the Dignitas flat near Zurich as a thought-provoking starting point for this discussion.

Dignitas is an organisation which is founded on the principle 'To live with dignity – to die with dignity.' They believe that everyone has the right to make their own decisions about how they want to die. One of the things they do is offer people the opportunity to end their own life.

The reproduction of the room will be surrounded by displays relating to the wider spectrum of opinions on Assisted Dying including many personal testimonies.

The space will allow visitors to explore their own feelings about the debate through a sensory as well as an intellectual experience guided by medical, ethical, philosophical and emotive elements.

[Read more from curator Lisa Graves, watch videos from the exhibition and find further reading on our blog.](#)

The Mental Capacity Act and Advance Care Planning training workshops

01 or 08 March 2016

NCPC offices, London

The National Council for Palliative Care (NCPC) will be running their training workshops on Tuesday 1st and Tuesday 8th March. Just a few minutes away from King's Cross station and about a 15 minute walk away from Euston station, their new offices have purpose-built training rooms, making it ideal for our full-day sessions.

This full day workshop will focus on two main topic areas:
The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) and Advance Care Planning (ACP)

The MCA session will focus on the guiding principles of the Act using real practice examples. There will also be guided exercises using case study examples to support learning and application to practice.

The ACP session explores the challenges of advance care planning conversations and will aim to provide staff with the knowledge and skills to start, and continue, conversations with people as they approach the end of their lives.

[REGISTER HERE for 1st MARCH](#)

[REGISTER HERE for 8th MARCH](#)

Please note that the workshops are limited to 20 places

For more information and location, [please visit the NCPC website](#).

For any other queries, email Training Project Lead, Beth Lloyd-Williams (b.lloyd-williams@ncpc.org.uk).

Capacity in end of life care: ethics in practice

03 March 2016, 09.00 – 16.00

[Clarke Willmott LLP](#), Bristol

The Centre for Ethics in Medicine, University of Bristol, in conjunction with Clarke Willmott LLP will be holding a conference on legal and ethical dilemmas in the care of individuals who lack capacity.

This conference develops work on dying well with reduced agency, which is being undertaken by researchers in [the GW4 Dying Well network](#). It will be of interest to medical practitioners and agencies supporting individuals facing the challenges of loss of capacity. They will be looking at the practical applications of The Mental Capacity and Care Acts with a range of speakers drawn from academic and practising lawyers in this field.

They are also delighted to announce that the keynote speaker will be Baroness Ilora Finlay. Baroness Finlay was previously President of The Royal Society of Medicine, is a Crossbench Member of The House of Lords, and is also Chair of the Mental Capacity Forum.

To book for this event, or to find out more, contact:

victoria.james@clarkewillmott.com

Further information: <https://www.clarkewillmott.com/event/capacity-and-end-of-life-care-ethics-in-practice/>

Call for papers

Special issue of Mortality

Researching death, dying and bereavement

Editors: Erica Borgstrom (LSHTM) and Julie Ellis (University of Sheffield)

Proposals are invited for a special edition of the interdisciplinary journal [Mortality](#) on the theme of undertaking research in the area of death, dying and bereavement. This call for papers originates from a [British Sociological Association Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement Study Group](#) event held in November 2015 on the [theme of methodology](#).

To date there has been limited shared reflection on the opportunities and challenges faced in undertaking empirical research in the areas of death, dying and bereavement. Often loosely understood as a 'sensitive topic', we invite papers that will demonstrate how doing death-related research, raises a wide variety of issues that require further consideration beyond it simply being regarded as a sensitive area of study. Potential issues to explore may include:

- Research ethics
- Politics

- Research relationships
- Cultural context and comparative research
- Using research methods – including innovative methods
- Practical issues
- The impact agenda
- Interdisciplinarity
- Boundaries and margins

All papers will have an explicitly methodological focus and will be substantively about matters related to doing research in the area of death, dying and bereavement.

The special issue will be published in 2017. Potential contributors should send a paper outline/ extended abstract of between 800 and 900 words to BSADDB@gmail.com by midnight GMT on 31st January 2016. Submissions should clearly state the issues to be discussed and key arguments the paper will make.

The Materiality of Mourning

19-20 May 2016

Warwick University

Grief and bereavement are human constants, affecting all of us, across time, religions and cultures. Yet our responses to them are both emotionally and culturally conditioned, and can take a variety of forms. For historians, the remnants of past grief are often revealed to us through physical memorials: a tombstone, a carved epitaph, or a cherished possession which passes into the ownership of the bereaved. The physical object stands as a tangible remnant of embedded sets of relationships, emotions and desires which it is the job of the historian to unpick.

This workshop sets out to explore the role of material objects and images in the processes of grief, mourning and commemoration, across a range of time periods and cultures. The aim is to open up awareness of the different ways of studying this material, allowing for cross-disciplinary insights which will deepen our understanding of both present and past societies, while allowing for the recognition of social and cultural differences. The network will draw together scholars from the Arts and Humanities, together with those working in other disciplines, especially the social sciences, to explore the importance of materiality in the experience of grief, mourning and remembrance. In particular, it seeks to draw together recent work in three separate areas, memory studies, the expression of emotion in historical societies, and research into the agency of material objects and images in order to inform our understanding of how objects and images work within different funerary cultures.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 29 February 2016

Contact: zahra.newby@warwick.ac.uk

Further details:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/research/seminars/mourning/>

Transnational Death, an edited volume

Editors: Eerika Koskinen-Koivisto, Samira Saramo, and Hanna Snellman

Publisher: Finnish Literature Society (SKS), Studia Fennica Ethnologia series (the final publishing decision will be made after the review process)

When people move and migrate, at some point families face the loss of their loved ones. Death in the transnational migrant context raises questions of distance and distinct traditions: What kinds of options for burial and commemoration rituals exist in different places and cultures? How are such practices shaped by time and place? Where and how do people themselves wish to be buried, and how do burial choices speak to identifications with home? Is it important for relatives to be present at funerals and to be able to visit graves? How can transnationalism be viewed through deaths occurring at war or peacekeeping in distant frontiers? How are funerals and mourning rituals arranged in unusual circumstances when people are on the move, such as during the current refugee crisis? How has death and mourning been narrated by migrants, and how do these narrations speak to transnationalism and identity?

This volume addresses the practices and representations of transnational death. It welcomes articles based on ethnographic and historical studies of transcultural mourning and commemorative practices in migrant families, communities, and transnational cemeteries, with a broad geographic lens. Abstracts (300 words) and a short bio can be sent to eerika.koskinen-koivisto@helsinki.fi by 29 February 2016.

'Narratives of decline: the changing patterns of death and aging in contemporary Japanese religions'

31 May 2016

Japanese Studies Workshop, University of Manchester

Narratives of decline are embedded in both academic and popular discourses concerned with religion in today's Japan. As contemporary Japanese society is faced with serious challenges of rapidly aging population, declining local communities, low fertility rate, and problematic social welfare measures, Japanese religious institutions are equally affected and confronted by stagnation and negativity in the public discourse. This one-day interdisciplinary workshop aims to address the narratives of decline from a range of disciplinary perspectives incorporating sociological and anthropological discourses, and beyond.

The workshop will explore how Japanese religions, including both established religious traditions and "new religions", address these challenges through reinventing their symbolic practices and adopting new forms of social engagement. Along with highlighting the discussion on narratives of decline in Japanese religious traditions, the event also aims to establish a network of researchers working in the area of religious studies in contemporary Japan. Papers are invited which address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- rituals and narratives of death and dying
- aging society and religion

- faith-based welfare relating to death and elderly care
- narratives of religious decline

Submission of Proposals:

Please send an abstract of 250 words maximum and a short bio (100 words, including affiliation and area of study) by 1 March 2016 to both Paulina Kolata paulina.kolata@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk and Aura Di Febo aura.difebo@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk

Successful applicants will be notified by 15 March 2016.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Information
24 Oct 2015–13 Mar 2016	death: the human experience	Bristol Museums	http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/contact-museum/
To 26 Mar 2016	Death and Memory: Soane and the Architecture of Legacy	Sir John Soanes Museum, London	http://www.soane.org/whats-on/exhibitions/death-and-memory-soane-and-architecture-legacy
23 Jan – 13 Mar 2016	Death: is it your right to choose?	Bristol Museums	http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/
29 Jan 2016	Children & Young People – Loss, Death & Grief	Select Security Stadium, Cheshire	training@bereavement.org.uk
29-31 Jan 2016	Burials as an integral part of social interaction	Eberhard Karls Univeritat Tübingen, Germany	markus.duerr@uni-tuebingen.de
29-31 Jan 2016	Death and Identity in Scotland	New College, Edinburgh	Susan.buckham@stir.ac.uk
04 Feb 2016	CDAS Seminar: Cemetery People	CDAS, University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0103.html
04 Feb 2016	death : the human experience' Curator talk	Bristol Museums	http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/

05 Feb 2016	Death professionals in conversation	Bristol Museums	http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/
06-09 Feb 2016	Dead Good Guides: Rites of Passage Winter School	Near Frome, Somerset	www.deadgoodguides.com
11-12 Feb 2016	Idealized Deaths	University of Jyväskylä, Finland	ilona.pajari@jyu.fi
16-19 Feb 2016	Advanced Bioethics course, 'Suffering, Death & Palliative Care'	Nijmegen, the Netherlands	http://www.iqhealthcare.nl/en/education/advanced-european-bioethics-course-'suffering-death-and-palliative-care'/
20 Feb 2016	Dignitas film screening and talk (Barbara Bloomfield)	Bristol Museums	http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/
27 Feb 2016	Contemporary Death – talk (John Troyer)	Bristol Museums	http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/
01 Mar 2016	'Supporting Forces' Children and Families in Loss and Bereavement	Clare Charity Centre, Saunderton	training@childbereavement.org.uk
01 Mar 2016	Mental Capacity Act and Advance Care Planning workshops	NCPC offices, London	http://www.ncpc.org.uk/mca-acp
03 Mar 2016	Capacity in end of life care: ethics in practice	Clarke Willmott LLP, Bristol	https://www.clarkewillmott.com/event/capacity-and-end-of-life-care-ethics-in-practice/
05 Mar 2016	Death Fair- workshops, stalls, demonstrations, death café and film screening relating to practical aspects of funerals, death and dying.	Bristol Museums	http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-museum-and-art-gallery/whats-on/
08 Mar 2016	Mental Capacity Act and Advance Care Planning workshops	NCPC offices, London	http://www.ncpc.org.uk/mca-acp

19 Mar 2016	Encountering Corpses II	Manchester Crematorium	https://www.eventbrite.com/e/encountering-corpses-ii-tickets-19842731143
23-24 Mar 2016	NCPC Conference: An ambitious new world: building the future for palliative and end of life care	Keele University	http://www.ncpc.org.uk/event/inaugural-ncpc-annual-two-day-conference-and-awards
13-16 Apr 2016	ADEC Annual Conference	Minneapolis, USA	http://www.adec.org/adec/default.aspx
09-15 May 2016	Dying Matters Awareness Week	UK wide	http://www.dyingmatters.org
14 May 2016	Digital Legacy Conference	London tba	hello@digitallegacyassociation.org
17-18 May 2016	Corpses, Cadavers and Catalogues	Barts Pathology Museum	https://cccconference2016.wordpress.com/
19-20 May 2016	The Materiality of Mourning	Warwick University	http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/classics/research/seminars/mourning/
23-26 May 2016	Can Spirituality transform our world?	Manchester, UK	www.basspirituality.org.uk
31 May 2016	Narratives of decline: the changing patterns of death and ageing in contemporary Japanese religions	University of Manchester	paulina.kolata@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk
03-06 Jun 2016	Death, Art and Anatomy Conference	University of Winchester	http://carvedcadavers.wix.com/dacconference
18-19 June 2016	CDAS Conference 2016, 'Survival'	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0107.html
23-25 Jun 2016	"In the Midst of Life we are in Death"	University College Dublin	www.ucd.ie/music/conferences

27 Jun 2016	Deconstructing Donation Study Group Conference	Lancaster University	http://www.britsoc.co.uk/media/8815/Deconstructing_Donation_270616.pdf?1443538970835
01-03 Sept 2016	Death and Culture	University of York	http://www.york.ac.uk/sociology/about/news-and-events/department/2016/deathandculture/
16 Sept 2016	Dark Leisure and Music	Leeds Beckett University	http://darkleisureandmusic.mseli.myavuz.com/

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