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September 2016

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September 2016 Director's Note:

The Autumn conference season is in full swing. On September 17 & 18, the annual [FutureFest](#) event was held at London's Tobacco Dock. As with previous years, FutureFest peered into the 'future...' to see what kinds of changes humans can expect. Or, at least, think about expecting until said change never occurs, e.g., owning your own personal jet pack.

I was there, along with CDAS Ph.D. student Andreia De Sousa Martins, and Associate Hannah Rumble to discuss the Future of Death in an exhibition called 'Love and Death.' It turns out that conference/festival curators and producers really like content about the 'future of death' since 1.) audiences are always interested and 2.) it's a safe bet, i.e., death is always somehow knowingly in the future.

Digital Death Researcher Stacey Pitsilledes, Independent Funeral Director Louise Winter, and Thanatologist Panagiotis Pentaris, also joined us at FutureFest to discuss end-of-life planning with festival attendees. Over the course of two days, we estimate that we directly spoke with nearly 200 people about what they want done with their dead body or their postmortem online profile. I discussed dead body disposal with people and found the one-on-one conversations fascinating. Unsurprisingly, everyone wanted to think about and then write down their wishes.

Stacey Pitsillides put the exhibition together and I am hopeful that it appears again at a different venue. More than anything the two-day event demonstrated that many people will actively discuss end-of-life planning when given the opportunity.

Or, as the title of the talk I gave at FutureFest put it: Death is the Future. Death is Always the Future.

John Troyer, Director

News from CDAS

Two new core members for CDAS

We are pleased to welcome two new members to CDAS this year; [Abbie Jordan](#) and [Stefanie Gustafsson](#).

Abbie has joined us from Bath Spa University and was previously an Associate of the Centre, working with Paula Smith in our Department of Psychology. Abbie's primary area of interest is that of paediatric pain, with a secondary research focus on bereavement after loss of a baby. Abbie's work focuses on examining the experiences of families after the loss of a baby, focusing specifically on the issues of identity, experiences of parenting in the context of loss and loss after a multiple birth. Abbie is also a member of the Centre for Pain Research at the University of Bath.

Stefanie is based in the University's School of Management where she is a Prize Fellow in Human Resource Management. She is currently designing a research project looking at death and work.

CDAS Conference 2017: Call for Papers

Death at the Margins of the State

09-10 June 2017

The Edge, University of Bath

Human beings typically grant appropriate death rites to those deemed members of the community; withholding of proper rites often reflects or symbolises exclusion from the political or moral community. The history of dissection, for example, bears witness to this.

Today, the concept of 'human' extends in theory to everyone regardless of nationality, gender, abilities, etc., yet in practice citizenship (legal or moral) may for many be precarious or lacking. The stateless and/or those lacking full citizen rights may include asylum seekers, undocumented migrants, those on the wrong side in civil wars, victims of genocide, prisoners, travellers, foetuses, and those deemed to lack mental capacity: their deaths may be endorsed, ignored, stigmatised, or manipulated by the state or powerful institutions. By contrast, those who die to create or defend the state become sacred heroes of the nation. Death and the state are intimately connected, each helping – through inclusion and exclusion - to define the other.

- What deaths and whose deaths are denied respect?
- How, why, and with what consequences for defining 'us and them', 'human and non-human'?
- How do those without citizenship die and how are they disposed of and mourned?
- How do funerals mark lives deemed worthless?
- How are marginalised deaths and the bodies of the marginalised dead exploited – by politicians, media, medicine, museums, and the global trade in body parts and ancient human remains?

Abstracts are invited for contemporary or historical papers from any discipline or profession exploring the relationship between death and exclusion from community or state. The conference will interest those in a wide range of fields, including, for example, death studies, politics, anthropology, history, archaeology, international relations, international development, refugee & migration studies, social policy, photography, cultural studies, psychology and funeral celebrancy.

CDAS annual conferences bring together research and knowledge that has hitherto been fragmented. We invite scholars and practitioners from around the world willing to engage openly with and learn from different disciplines and perspectives.

20 minute papers are invited - abstracts (up to 250 words) to be emailed to cdas@bath.ac.uk by 27 February 2017.

Further details about the conference and how to book will be made available in the New Year. Prices are likely to be £135 for 2 days and £75 for a single day, but this is subject to confirmation.

Conference updates will appear on the webpage:

http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0135.html

CDAS Seminar series 2016/17

CDAS Seminar: Religious Responses to Contemporary Western Death Practices

Thursday 13 October 2016, 14.00 – 17.00

University of Bath, 3East 2.20

This seminar will explore religious responses to society's policies and practices concerning dying, funerals and disposal of the body. The focus is contemporary western societies.

- *Promote, Oppose, Resist, Compensate: 4 ways religions interact with death practices*
[Tony Walter](#) (University of Bath)
- *Outdoor Funeral Pyres: Davender Ghai vs Newcastle City Council*
[Shirley Firth](#) (University of Winchester)
- *'Our Bodies Belong to God': Cardiff Muslims' response to The Human Transplantation Act 2013*
[Mansur Ali](#) (Cardiff University)
- *Religious objections to end of life planning in the USA*
[John Troyer](#) (University of Bath)

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-religious-responses-to-contemporary-western-death-practices-tickets-27525364105?ref=ebtn>

CDAS Seminar: End of Life Care

Thursday 10 Nov 2016, 14.15 – 17.15

University of Bath, 1WN 3.11 (please note room change)

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>

Let's talk about death

Funeral Poverty has been in the news a lot recently, most recently with a parliamentary debate on the issue on 14th September in the House of Commons.

CDAS' Dr Kate Woodthorpe has contributed her expertise to the debate over a number of years, and acted as special advisor to the 2016 Work and Pensions select committee report, '[Support for the Bereaved.](#)'

You can read more about Kate's contribution, and the thoughts of other major contributors to the debate on Patricia Nilsson's blog: <http://patricianilsson.com/funeralpoverty/>

'Why we need to find a cure for 'social death''

CDAS PhD researcher Jana Kralova has written a further piece for The Conversation on her PhD topic of Social Death: <https://theconversation.com/why-we-need-to-find-a-cure-for-social-death-59997>

Jana is investigating the concept of social death which occurs when the social existence of a person or group ceases. With persons, it can occur before or after physical death.

Jana is co-editor (alongside Prof. Tony Walter) of a special issue of [Contemporary Social Science](#), the journal of the Academy of Social Sciences, on the theme of social death which was published September 2015. Her open-access chapter answers the question "What is social death?"

Death Studies Community News

New end of life strategy for England

The Department for Health has published what is, in effect, its updated end of life care strategy for England. 'Our Commitment to you for end of life care. The Government Response to the Review of Choice in End of Life Care' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/choice-in-end-of-life-care-government-response>

Its ambition is “for everyone approaching the end of life to receive high quality care that reflects their individual needs, choices and preferences.”

Law Commission for England and Wales consultation on Burial and Cremation reform

The Law Commission for England and Wales has recently opened a consultation on the areas of law that it should review in its next programme of law reform.

They would welcome your views on reform to the law governing burial and cremation. To assist in deciding which projects to take forward, they are particularly interested to hear what the problems in the law are, any information you can provide about the scale of those problems, and what you consider to be the likely benefits of reform (for example, economic, societal and environmental benefits); facts, statistics, and indications of time spent or money lost, as well as the non-financial impact of problems with the law, are all helpful.

Full details of how to respond to the consultation, including a response questionnaire, are available at <http://www.lawcom.gov.uk/13th-programme-of-law-reform-consultation/>.

Please send any email responses to programme@lawcommission.gsi.gov.uk. The consultation closes on 31 October 2016.

New Death Studies Journal launched in Brazil

'Revista M', a Portuguese-language death studies journal has been launched in Brazil, available online at <http://www.revistam-unirio.com.br/>. Its first issue is on 'Death, Power and Politics'.

Articles for the second issue, on 'Death, Tradition and Contemporaneity', should be submitted by 30 September 2016. The journal publishes original articles, from areas such as anthropology, architecture, arts, law, philosophy, geography, history, medicine, psychology, public health, sociology and urban planning. Texts should be submitted in Portuguese, Spanish, English and French,

with priority given to publication in the first two languages; articles in English or French approved for publication should, if possible, be translated into Portuguese.

Good Funeral Awards 2016

The 'Oscars of the Funeral World' were held on 8th September in London. This year's event was hosted by former GMTV host Penny Smith, with more than 250 people attending to applaud their friends and colleagues.

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees. You can find full profiles of all the winners at <http://goodfuneralawards.co.uk/>

Events, seminars, symposia and conferences

"Let ME tell you what I want"

Diealog Workshop, Planning for End of Life

01 October 2016, 09.30 – 16.00

Unitarian Chapel, 49 East Street, Bridport, DT6 3JX

£20 on the day

How to plan for our end of life so we can live life the way we choose until the end: this all day workshop will help us discuss and decide what we want, and begin to take the practical steps for Advance Decisions & Statements and the other important aspects for our ageing/caring/death/dying.

This workshop is intended for the general public, paid and unpaid Carers and as a training tool for everybody involved in providing end-of-life care.

Reserve a place or enquiries:

Email: info@consciousageing.org

Tel: 07887840663

(please also inform us if you have a life-limiting illness.)

Life. Death. Whatever

October 2016

Sutton House, London

In collaboration with the National Trust's Sutton House the 'Mary Poppins of Death' Louise Winter and end-of-life doula Anna Lyons present *Life. Death. Whatever.*

Throughout the month of October, Sutton House will host an eclectic line-up of events, installations and workshops curated by the duo, encouraging creative reflection on life, death and everything in-between and including an exciting series from [The Good Funeral Guide](#). Think chemists, cemetery angels, poets, perfumers, puppeteers and DJs meeting to celebrate the inevitable - wherever it is we're all going to end up and our journey to getting there.

There'll be cocktails, cake, tea, tears and much more.

Sutton House, the oldest residence in east London, features a Tudor kitchen, Jacobean and Georgian interiors, an Edwardian chapel, medieval foundations, 1980s graffiti under the roof and an urban oasis with an edible garden.

More information: <http://www.lifedeathwhatever.com/>

London Month of the Dead

October 2016

Throughout October 2016 and concluding on All Souls Day, we will be hosting The London Month of the Dead, investigating the capital's relationship with its deceased residents. Events will include a tour of Hyde Park's pet cemetery, a private view of the Museum of London's bone archive, taxidermy workshops and a series of weekend death salons with talks on subjects ranging from public dissection and body snatching to reincarnation and funereal folklore. Each salon will feature a pair of speakers, authorities in fields such as osteology, forensic pathology and the paranormal, who will offer their own perspectives and insights on mortality in the city.

All the events will be hosted at the chapels in two of the capital's great gardens of sleep, Brompton and Kensal Green. Both are part of the 'Magnificent Seven', the glorious septet of Victorian cemeteries that became showcases for neo-classical and new-Gothic architecture within six miles of St Paul's Cathedral.

The London Month of the Dead has been curated by a Curious Invitation and Antique Beat to inform, entertain and provoke on the subject of death and London cemeteries.

Full information: <http://www.londonmonthofthedeath.com/index.html>

Kicking the Bucket: A festival of Living and Dying

24 October – 13 November 2016, main weekend 04-06 November
Oxford, various venues

Why another festival of living and dying in Oxford? Because we are all still mortal, there's a lot to discover and we have amazing resources in our city and beyond.

Every time the festival happens people tell us they feel less anxious, better informed, inspired even to engage with their lives differently. There is more and more media coverage on death, but nothing beats being together with other people engaging with the subject.

- Wanting to start a difficult conversation?
- Trying to do some planning?
- Looking for a fresh approach?
- Feeling alone around death and dying?

This festival is for you.

Further information: <https://kickingthebucket.co.uk/>

Social Aspects of Death Dying and Bereavement

05 November 2016

St Stephen's Church, Glasgow

£140

The International Work Group (IWG) for Death, Dying and Bereavement, a non-profit organisation, supporting leaders in the field of death, dying and bereavement in their efforts to stimulate and enhance innovative ideas, research, and practice. All members have demonstrated a capacity for *leadership* in some aspect of the field of Death, Dying & Bereavement.

This one day event is hosted by the IWG for Death, Dying and Bereavement and co-hosted by members from Scotland, Wales and Ireland and is being supported by Scottish Government. The conference is open to non IWG members and will include participants from across the UK. Delegates will be welcomed from health and social care, from local and central government, from academia and the third sector and from the funeral industry. It will bring a number of high profile speakers to explain the importance of exploring the role of wider social factors in shaping people's experiences of death, dying and bereavement. Keynote presentations will seek to counterbalance psychological understandings with sociological insights and will address a variety of social mediators.

Keynote speakers include:

- Professor Robert Neimeyer, University of Memphis, USA;
- Dr Neil Thompson, Independent Writer and Educator, Wales;
- Dr Darcy Harris, King's College at Western University, London, Ontario, Canada;
- Professor David Clark, Glasgow University;

- Professor Kenneth Doka, College of New Rochelle, New York State, United States.

The conference will be chaired by Dame Barbara Monroe CBE, Special Commissioner of the Royal Hospital Chelsea and a Trustee of Marie Curie.

For further information and to book: <http://event.iwgscotland2016.co.uk/events/social-aspects-of-death-dying-and-bereavement-being-held-on-5-november-2016-st-stephen-s-church-glas/event-summary-879df3db2a5c4793a66b73e37431be4a.aspx>

Closing date for registration is Friday 07 October 2016

Death & Dying: exploring Christian perspectives

The Temple of Peace and Health, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3AP

16 November 2016, 09.15 – 16.45

£7.50

‘Death and Dying; exploring Christian perspectives’ is an ecumenical initiative exploring death, religion, ethics, and current clinical and legal issues.

Join us for a day of talks, conversation and debate addressing:

- Advance decisions and ‘living wills’ – making plans around end of life decisions for yourself
- The withdrawing of medical treatments at the end of life – making decisions for those who have lost the ability to decide for themselves
- Assisted dying – legal, social and theological perspectives

Confirmed speakers include Rev. Prof. Paul Badham (Dignity in Dying), Robert Preston (Living and Dying Well), Usha Grieve (Compassion in Dying), Professor Sue Wilkinson (Advance Decision Assistance), Professor Jenny Kitinger and Professor Celia Kitinger (Coma and Disorders of Consciousness Research Centre, Universities of Cardiff/York).

Tickets and further information: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/death-and-dying-exploring-christian-perspectives-tickets-27350982525?aff=es2>

Please note: This is one of a series of 'Christian Perspectives on death and dying' events that will be held across the UK supported by the Paristamen CIO charity. (A similar event is happening in Gloucester on 5th November). Follow us on Twitter @XNdying for information about the full range of events.

Call for Papers

Skeletons, Stories and Social Bodies Conference

24 – 26 March 2017

University of Southampton

A three day interdisciplinary conference hosted by the Department of Archaeology and the Centre for Learning Anatomical Sciences at the University of Southampton.

This conference aims to cover a wide range of areas related to death, anatomy, attitudes to the body, mortuary practices, and more, and aims to cover various aspects of death through presentations, discussion panels, and tailored workshops and abstracts are now being accepted.

SSSB is an interdisciplinary conference, and invites abstracts which cover a range of aspects of death and anatomy. It encourages individuals from all areas and stages of study to consider submitting an abstract, and whether they are from a commercial/industrial or academic background.

You may submit an abstract for a podium presentation, a Pecha Kucha presentation (see website), or a poster presentation.

A full call for papers and further information can be found on the website:

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

Twitter: @sssbconf

Six Feet Under: Exploring Death in Popular Culture (ACLA 2017)

Utrecht University, Utrecht, the Netherlands

06 – 09 July 2017

This is a call for presentations for a proposed seminar to be held as part of the American Comparative Literature Association's Annual Meeting.

With the understanding that interdisciplinarity is the key to exploring such a profound and intricate field of study, the seminar invites submissions that include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- death bed scenes, funerary rites, bereavement
- death of celebrities
- aesthetics of gore; macabre and popular reception
- reversible death, immortality, and the undead
- thanatography
- death in comic books
- cartoon characters facing death
- death anxiety and comedic relief
- dirges, songs of salvation, death metal
- collective death in human extinction movies
- the death of the beloved in romance movies
- envisaging death: material culture and photography

- video games industry and the creation of the (un)limited deaths/ lives
- contemporary popular culture and folklore
- displaying death in news, TV shows: patterns and policies

Those interested are encouraged to contact the seminar organizers (adriana.teodorescu@gmail.com, kundudevaleena@gmail.com) before uploading their abstracts to ACLA website (<https://www.acla.org/annual-meeting>). The ACLA's online submission portal will be open between September 1 and September 23 2016.

Further information at:

<https://www.acla.org/six-feet-under-exploring-death-popular-culture>

The Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Disposal 13

Ritual, Religion and Magic

06-10 September 2017

University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK

In popular western culture the number 13 is often unlucky, evoking superstition, or witches. Yet there were 13 members of the last supper, Friday the 13th is lucky in Italy and in Judaism it is the age for rites of passage. The theme for this DDD is Ritual, Religion and Magic; its perception, interpretation and role in healthcare, death, dying, and burial.

Individual papers might include, but are not restricted to: death technology and magic, liminality, religion and spirituality in end of life care, ethics and culture at the deathbed, dying inside (and outside) of modern health care, spirituality and the death of animals, rites of passage in dying, superstition and funerals, ritual application in preparing the corpse and burring the dead. Emergent religious and cultural practices in the disposal of the dead, ancestors online, Death, dying and grief in public and on the internet. Talking with the dead, the dead in popular horror, the dead in witchcraft execution or haunting or social rituals associated with the dead body, spirituality or lifeways and deathways.

Please submit your abstract via online form by 28 February 2017. Abstracts should be no more than 250 words.

Abstract submission:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhGbf4qgPskRFHkSPJ3oW04SLW4i3KfpUZ7MWS9jPyC_H69aQ/viewform?c=0&w=1

Contact dsayer@uclan.ac.uk or Elizabeth J Roberts EJRoberts@uclan.ac.uk for enquiries.

Tweet #DDD13 to start a trend, @DuncanSayer.

Events Calendar

Date	Event	Location	Contact/Information
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/
Oct 2016	London Month of the Dead	London, various	http://www.londonmonthofthedeath.com/index.html
01 Oct 2016	Let ME tell you what I want	Bridport, Dorset	info@consciousageing.org
03-30 Oct 2016	Life. Death. Whatever	Sutton House, London	http://www.lifedeathwhatever.com
04 Oct 2016	Children and young people – loss, death and grief	Child Bereavement UK, Bucks	www.childbereavementuk.org/courses
13 Oct 2016	CDAS Seminar: Religious responses to contemporary western death practices	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0139.html
17 Oct 2016	Working with Loss, Sage & Thyme Course	The Rowans Hospice	https://www.rowanshospice.co.uk/index.php?id=94
21-24 Oct 2016	Dead Good Guides: Rites of Passage	Swarthmoor Hall, Cumbria	foxandgill@btinternet.com gillyadams@tiscali.co.uk
24 Oct – 13 Nov 2016	Kicking the Bucket Festival	Oxford, various	https://kickingthebucket.co.uk/
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

16 Nov 2016	Death & Dying: Exploring Christian perspectives	Cardiff	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/death-and-dying-exploring-christian-perspectives-tickets-27350982525?aff=es2
02 Dec 2016	Death, Dying, Bereavement and Technologies in the 21st Century	University of Sheffield	http://www.britsoc.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
24-26 March 2017	Skeletons, Stories and Social Bodies Conference	University of Southampton	http://www.ssbconference.co.uk/
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
09-10 June 2017	CDAS Conference 2017, 'Death on the Margins of the State'	University of Bath	http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0135.html
06-09 Jul 2017	Six Feet Under: Exploring Death in popular culture (ACLA17)	University of Utrecht, The Netherlands	https://www.acla.org/six-feet-under-exploring-death-popular-culture
06-10 Sept 2017	DDD13: Ritual, religion and magic	University of Central Lancashire	https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfhGbf4qgPskRFHkSPJ3oW04SLW4i3KfpUZ7MWS9jPyCH69aQ/viewform?c=0&w=1

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