

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

Centre for Death & Society Newsletter

[Director's Note](#) - [CDAS News](#) - [D&D Community News](#)
[Events](#) - [Call for Papers](#) - [Jobs](#) - [Calendar](#)

Director's Note

February 2018:

One of CDAS's greatest PR tools is its monthly newsletter. Indeed, my job more-or-less happened because of something I read in the newsletter.

Every month, intrepid CDAS Manager Caron Staley assembles and edits the newsletter in order to keep everyone on our mailing list in the know. The newsletter functions as a key resource for many CDAS friends and colleagues around the world.

There's a great Ph.D. project to be had going through 12 years of CDAS newsletters and noting how all things death and dying are simultaneously the same and different.



Over the next few months we will roll out new content and features in the newsletter.

This month, for example, we feature a short piece by current CDAS Visiting Scholar Dr. Miriam Sitter who is a Research Associate at the Institute of Social and Organizational Pedagogy at the University of Hildesheim in Germany.

Next month, we will start a newsletter space for CDAS Postgraduate students to discuss their research and on-going projects. CDAS has an active Postgraduate community and it is important to flag up that work for all to see.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the submission deadline for the 2018 CDAS Conference on the *Politics of Death* is next week. Please consider submitting a proposal if you are interested in this year's theme. More information is available here: http://www.bath.ac.uk/sps/events/news_0162.html

As always, many thanks to Caron for her steadfast production of the CDAS newsletter.

John Troyer, Director

CDAS News

CDAS Conference update

The 2018 CDAS Conference, '[The Politics of Death](#)' call for papers is still open until 28 February so please do send yours in to cdas@bath.ac.uk by the deadline.

The conference is now open for booking [via our online store](#). All delegates must book for the conference. Priced at £145 for both days and £80 for a single day, this includes all conference sessions, a conference pack, lunch and refreshments. As is usual with CDAS conferences, a get together to meet your fellow delegates will take place in a local pub on the Thursday evening and an informal conference dinner will take place on Friday. Friends and family are very welcome at these social events.

The full call for papers, details about the conference, venue and accommodation as well as the booking link can be found [on the CDAS website](#). If you have any questions, please contact us at cdas@bath.ac.uk

CDAS Visiting Fellow, Miriam Sitter

We are pleased to welcome Miriam to CDAS and the Department of Social & Policy Sciences at the University of Bath for 6 weeks as a Visiting Fellow. Below is an introduction to Miriam and her work.

I am a sociologist and work as a Research Associate at the Institute of Social and Organizational Pedagogy at the University of Hildesheim in Germany. As part of a participatory research project, I am currently exploring, together with children, how children form inclusion and how they rate and perceive this. In addition to these research duties at the university, I work as a mourning group leader and chairman at the "LÖWENZAHN" Centre for Mourning Children and Young People in Hannover. Here, children and adolescents are accompanied by an interdisciplinary team in their grief.



For a total of six weeks, I will be a Visiting Scholar and part of this Department. It would therefore be a great pleasure for me to get to know you and to talk with you about the various topics of childhood, to get an insight into your research experiences about death and bereavement as well as bereavement support in society, and to exchange some ideas.

CDAS is a unique place for me to empirically advance my sociology of knowledge studies into the mourning processes of children and their consolation in the imaginary as well as their search for normality. Therefore, I would be also pleased to report on my practice and experience in our Mourning Centre, to offer insights into the German discourse of grief, as well as on policies and social work here.

I am sure that there are overlaps with some of your projects that maybe encourage a joint international research collaboration in the future.

I look forward to meeting you.
Warm regards
Miriam (via cdas@bath.ac.uk)

D&D Community News

[Dying Matters Awareness Week 2018: What can you do?](#)

Plans for Dying Matters Awareness Week are now well underway!

There was a successful launch event on Tuesday February 6, with over 100 attendees. The first session was broadcast live, and you can watch it again on the [Dying Matters Facebook page](#). You can check out the reactions and tweets from the day with our [Storify](#).

Across the country people and organisations are planning their Dying Matters Awareness Week activities – register yours [here](#) and find out more about the Awareness Week and how to get involved [here](#).

Materials and resources for 2018 are now on sale [here](#).

To keep in touch, sign up for the [Dying Matters newsletter](#) or follow us on Twitter and Instagram on @DyingMatters and Facebook.

User Not Found: Social Media as Immersive Performance

Call for Participation

Workshop on Thursday 1st March 2018 at Reading University 13.00 – 16.30

'User Not Found: Social Media as Immersive Performance' is a research project based at the University of Reading funded by The Arts and Humanities Research Council. It brings together experimental theatre company Dante or Die with technology agency, Marmelo, Reading's Film, Theatre & Television Department and the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath.

Dante or Die is devising a performance, User Not Found, in which the central character experiences bereavement and mourning via the digital traces of his dead partner on social media. The performance will focus on the relationship between life, death, identity and social media. It will use every day social media technology to engage audience members via an App developed by Marmelo Digital to immerse spectators in the experience of the bereaved character.

Since the topic of the performance is social media technology and death, the project is keen to draw on the expertise of those people who work in areas connected to death or dying, for example, grief counsellors, funeral directors, social media developers, lawyers, palliative care practitioners to understand how they address the issue of an internet legacy. It is hoped that the experience of those in the field of the management of death will feed into the process of devising the performance.

The workshop will be an opportunity for you to discuss and inform the performance with the theatre company to address questions around:

- how the creation of an internet archive shapes our legacies
- grieving, memories and virtual identities
- wi-fi, the internet and death rituals
- commemoration via the internet

You will be invited to a light lunch in the Film, Theatre & Television Department at the University of Reading, followed by discussion workshop and exchange of ideas. The project will pay the travel expenses of participants. Following the workshop, you will be invited to a preview performance and post-show discussion at South Street Arts Centre in Reading on 27th June 2018 before the performance goes on tour to The Roundhouse in London followed by the Edinburgh Festival and a UK tour.

If you are interesting in taking part please contact: [Professor Lib Taylor](#) (Principal Investigator), [Dr John Troyer](#) (Co-Investigator) or [Lucy Jeffery](#) (Post-Doctoral Research Assistant).

<https://research.reading.ac.uk/usernotfound/>

Twitter: @UserNotFound_18

[Discover Society: Special Issue on Death & Dying](#)

This special edition, guest curated by David Clark, gives a flavour of the opportunities for public engagement and academic scrutiny, in a context where 'how we die' has become a contested space and where dying and death are indeed 'having a moment'.

All articles are available at: discoversociety.org/

Events

[Life, Death \(and the Rest\)](#)

22-25 February 2018
Arnos Vale Cemetery

This annual 4-day event of talks, walks, theatre and film that supports a growing social movement talking about death, and how we remember our loved ones, is back.

There will be the opportunity to come to a [Death Cafe](#) where people drink tea, eat cake and discuss death. Join in with one of our fascinating [Morbid Curiosity](#) tours, or learn about [Memorial Tattoos](#) with Dr John Troyer. Carla Valentine, mortician and friend of Arnos Vale, is back. She was recently interviewed by the [BBC World Service](#) about her [Dead Meet Dating](#) site and wedding at the Cemetery last October. This time she's here to talk about our relationship with human remains and why she advocates public display, interaction with the deceased and activities in graveyards.

Film and theatre form an important part of the festival and we will be welcoming the nationally acclaimed '[The Many Doors of Frank Feelbad](#)' by Bootworks Theatre. An intimate and interactive performance based around bereavement, specifically for younger audiences aged 4 and over, on Saturday 24 February at 2pm and 4pm. Also [The Death Show](#) the perfect opportunity to celebrate your own mortality, laugh, cry, stick two fingers up at the grim reaper and discover why talking about death is ultimately life affirming.

Take a look here for our [6 Things to See and Do](#) during the festival, or download the [Life, Death \(& the Rest\) brochure 2018](#)

[Forthcoming events at Dorothy House Hospice, Winsley](#)

[End of Life Care Study Day – Spiritual Care](#)

06 March 2018, 09.30 – 15.00, £50

A study day exploring how spiritual and/or religious 'meaning' affects the way individuals understand and adjust to life-changing and/or limiting illness and identify

the challenges of equity of access to spiritual care for diverse groups and individuals. For those working in a health, care or therapeutic environment, especially those working with patients and families affected by life limiting illnesses or those approaching the end of life.

[What complicates grief & loss?](#)

21 March 2018, 09.30 – 16.00, £80

Do you have contact with patients & families pre / post bereavement? This course will enable you to recognise the key factors that complicate grief for individual adults and children, as well as families. Factors complicating grief could include things such as suicide, trauma, and difficult relationships. Specifically for all those working with people affected by complex grief, loss or change.

[Change, Loss and Grief](#)

27 March 2018, 09.30 – 16.00, £80

This study day will be especially helpful for people working with individuals, families and children who are experiencing major life change and loss. It will introduce you to working with clients who are healthily adjusting to the emotional and social impact of significant life change, including bereavement as a result of death.

For further details of these and other courses, and to book, [visit the website](#).

Funeral March

Barts Pathology Museum

Named one of CNN's Ten Weirdest Medical Museums in the World, Barts Pathology Museum differs from others due to its quirky, interesting events and desire to bring pathology alive. Next month is 'Funeral March', with a series of multimedia events to explore the often confusing, delicate and difficult to navigate world of grief and funerals.

14 March - [Funeral Fashions and the Victorian Mourning Craze](#) (with Amber Butchart)

21 March - ['The Griefcast' comedy/death podcast LIVE](#) (with Cariad Lloyd)

28 March - ['Outside the Box' a one woman show](#) (with award winning celebrant and burial ground owner Liz Rothschild)

End of Life Care: Addressing the Issues and Meeting the Challenges

Wednesday 21 March 2018

The Open University, Milton Keynes

The theme of the conference is addressing the issues in end of life care and the ways

in which the health, social care and academic community can and are mitigating the impact of these challenges. The conference will focus upon inequalities, tackling variations and addressing the practical issues in meeting the needs of individuals towards the end of their life.

Speakers include:

- Prof Julia Verne, Public Health England
- Prof Tony Walter, University of Bath
- Dr Ben Dietsch, Willen Hospice
- Dr Shadahuz Zaman, University of Sussex

There will also be a viewing of A Time to Live documentary with a Q&A roundtable with the producer and affiliated OU academic.

[Registration:](#) £35 per person, some free spaces are available

'A Love That Never Dies'

18 May 2018 (UK Premier)

Prince Charles Cinema, London

A LOVE THAT NEVER DIES is a personal journey by two bereaved parents Jane Harris and Jimmy Edmonds and a love letter to their son Josh. Their son died in a road accident in South East Asia seven years ago and they now honour him with their own journeys: to Vietnam and the place where he died, to Varanasi, India and a road trip across the USA, where they meet with other families who have also lost a child, all of whom have found grief variously isolating, transformative yet ultimately life enhancing.

A poetic film in a culture that is still uneasy talking about death, dying and bereavement it gives a hopeful voice to grief in ways that will move and inspire.

For more details about the film, and for dates and venues of other screenings, please [visit the website](#), #LoveNeverDiesFilm

Supporting suddenly bereaved children and young people

Thursday 21 June, central Manchester, Thursday 28 June, central Birmingham, Thursday 5 July, London, Thursday 22 November, Cardiff.

Led by a variety of academics and expert practitioners, these essential seminars provide a practical overview of best practice in supporting suddenly bereaved children and young people.

Offering an excellent professional development opportunity to all school teachers and support staff, healthcare workers and counsellors, these events provide expert guidance on how to help children cope and recover from the shocking impact of a

sudden bereavement, and offer a great chance for professionals to develop their skills and knowledge.

Speakers will cover:

- Symptoms and emotions that children and young people who have been suddenly bereaved may experience;
- Insights into methods that practitioners can use to best support suddenly bereaved children;
- A discussion of the ways in which children and young people comprehend and understand grief;
- Sign-posting to a range of services, resources and organisations that are available for practitioners working with bereaved children and young people.

These seminars cost just £71 + VAT to attend.

[Find out more](#) and [book your place today](#).

Second National Convention for Celebrants

27 September 2017

Kettering Conference Centre

£95 (incl. VAT)

This year's Convention is full of seminars, workshops and demonstrations which will run throughout the day, delegates can choose which to attend.

Just some of the workshop sessions include:

'Come to a Death Café' Experience a Death Café run by expert Death Café host Emma Curtis.

See what happens and how the café works and, of course, there will be cake! At a further workshop, Emma will explain exactly how to run a death Café.

'More Choice than Coffee', Wendy Coulton

There can be positive benefits for the bereaved if funeral services are not held in crematorium chapels. This workshop will explore the different options and provide a sound checklist on how to identify potential alternative venues, and how to plan and conduct memorable funeral services in them.

'Upskill your poetry delivery technique'

Well-delivered poetry and readings really matter, improve your delivery with help and techniques from an expert.

Registration closes: Monday 10th September

Further details and a booking link are available [on the website](#).

Calls for Papers

Death Online Research Symposium (DORS4)

August 15 – 17, 2018

The University of Hull, UK

The 4th Symposium of the International Death Online Research Network will consolidate links between existing and new network members and provide opportunities for the discussion of ongoing and new orientations in the interdisciplinary field of death online. The meeting will explore the ways in which online connectivity is changing how, when and where we engage with death and dying and how we invest death-related practices with meaning in the online environment. We warmly welcome new members to the network as well as old friends.

Confirmed Keynote Addresses:

- Professor Charles Ess, University of Oslo, Norway
- Dr Elaine Kasket, psychologist and author of forthcoming book: *All the Ghosts in the Machine*

Themes and perspectives of the symposium

For this 4th Death Online Research Symposium we invite abstracts for oral presentations of new, recently completed, or ongoing research or ideas for future academic research on all kinds of death related online practices. We welcome qualitative and quantitative work which expands our understanding of the current and future trends in death online research from a variety of disciplines, addressing any of the following themes:

- Digitally mediated dying and narrative
- Digitally mediated grieving and memorialising
- Death online and embodied experience
- Digital afterlife, post-mortem identity and digital legacy
- Technological developments in the death care industry
- Digital immortality
- Online vs offline experiences
- Theorising online life and death
- Ethical challenges for studying death online.

The conference will host a special workshop for participating Post Graduate students and early career researchers. We particularly welcome submissions from these groups. All submissions will be peer-reviewed, and we envisage publication of selected full papers in a special issue of an academic journal in the field as well as a collection of writing from the symposium in an open-access online platform.

Important information

Submission format: 300 word abstract

Submission deadline: March 15th, 2018

Submission feedback: April 15th, 2018

Registration open: May 1st, 2018

Registration fee: £125 (£75 students). This will cover morning and afternoon refreshments and lunch for the 3 days and conference dinner on day 2.

All submissions and enquiries should be submitted to [Dr Jo Bell](#) marked "Death Online Research Symposium Submission" in the subject field. Abstracts should be no longer than 300 words. Please include full contact info (name/s, institutional / organisational affiliation and email address) in the submission. Submissions will be anonymised before review.

The online registration and payment site will be open from 1st May 2018. There will also be information available here for booking options for accommodation. You can stay on The University of Hull campus at The Courtyard for £50 per night (including breakfast) or £45 per night (excluding breakfast). We will make cheaper options such as 'air b & b' available where possible.

If you are interested in joining the Death Online Research Network, please contact [Dr Stine Gotved](#).

Jobs and study opportunities

Human Rights, Human Remains: Forensic Humanitarianism and the Politics of the Grave

Research Officer, London School of Economics, Sociology Department
Salary from £34,736 to £36,296 pa inclusive of London allowance

This is a fixed term full-time appointment for three years.

We invite applications to work on an exciting research project 'Human Rights, Human Remains: Forensic Humanitarianism and the Politics of the Grave'. This is a project funded by the Wellcome Trust. The aim of this project is to research the history, cases and contexts, and ethical implications of forensic investigations of mass graves arising out of state and war crimes.

This is an excellent opportunity for a burgeoning qualitative social researcher to work on this sociological project.

Working in close collaboration with the Project Lead (Principal Investigator), Dr Claire Moon, you will be expected to support her in the design and conduct of fieldwork, literature reviews, analysis of interviews, some Spanish to English translation, organising knowledge-exchange activities in London and Mexico, the management of project-specific social media, and preparing data for data sharing platforms.

You will have, or be near to completing, a PhD in sociology or a related social science in one or more of the following areas: human rights, humanitarianism, political violence, death and dying, justice or science and technology studies. You must be

able to demonstrate the following: experience of designing and conducting fieldwork, including recruiting participants; experience of designing, conducting, coding and analysing qualitative interviews; experience of conducting literature surveys; an ability to analyse and research complex ideas and theories and apply appropriate methods and concepts to empirical data; a commitment to high quality academic research and a high standard of research ethics; written and spoken fluency in Spanish and English and the ability to conduct consecutive interpretation from Spanish to English; the ability to organise and manage public engagement activities.

Excellent IT skills and communication skills are essential, as is the ability to work both independently and in a team. The post-holder will also need excellent organisation and planning skills. The post will involve fieldwork in Mexico.

The other criteria that will be used when shortlisting for this post can be found on the person specification, which is attached to the vacancy on the LSE's online recruitment system.

We offer an occupational pension scheme, generous annual leave and excellent training and development opportunities.

For further information about the post, please see the [how to apply document](#), [job description](#) and the [person specification](#).

If you have any technical queries with applying on the online system, please use the "contact us" links at the bottom of the [LSE Jobs page](#). Should you have any queries about the role, please email Louise Fisher at L.C.Fisher@lse.ac.uk.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 16th March 2018 (23.59 UK time). Regrettably, we are unable to accept any late applications.



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

Contact us

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