

Centre for  
Death & Society  
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF  
**BATH**

## Centre for Death & Society

### Newsletter

**October 2019**

[Director's Note](#) - [CDAS News](#) - [CDAS Community](#)

[News](#) - [Events](#) - [Call for Papers](#)

## Director's Note

### October 2019

Over the last two-years, CDAS began a series of research projects in China. On September 30, one strand of those projects came full-circle when CDAS and Shanghai Academy signed a Memorandum of Understanding research agreement covering multiple projects on ageing, end-of-life care, and the development of hospices in China.

The MoU signing follows-on from a similar agreement that CDAS signed with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in June 2017.



This most recent signing involved three colleagues from Shanghai Academy, as well as Professor Ian White, the University of Bath's Vice-Chancellor and President.

I recommend that everyone take a few minutes to read [this University of Bath article about the CDAS-Shanghai MoU signing ceremony](#). It really captures the width and depth of what CDAS is doing around the globe.

Special thanks to CDAS Early Career Research Fellow Dr. Chao Fang, who did his Ph.D. with team CDAS and remains instrumental in establishing and maintaining our ties in China.



#### **MoU Ceremony Attendees Left to Right:**

**Dr. Paula Smith** (Department of Psychology and Centre for Death and Society, University of Bath), **Associate Professor Lin Pan** (Director of Research, Shanghai Academy), **Associate Professor Yang Huijun** (Director of the Secretariat Department, Shanghai Academy), **Professor Ian White** FEng, Vice-Chancellor and President (University of Bath), **Professor Li Youmei** (First Vice President of Shanghai Academy, Chairwoman of the Chinese Sociological Association and Professor of Sociology at Shanghai University), **Dr. John Troyer** (Director of the Centre for Death and Society, University of Bath), **Dr. Chao Fang** (Centre for Death and Society Research Fellow), **Professor Qian Liu** (Renmin University of China and CDAS Visiting Scholar), **Harriet Sheridan** (Internationalisation Office, University of Bath).

# CDAS NEWS

## In the Year 2020: Death, Dying, Technology and Human Mortality CDAS Conference 2020. Call for Papers

26-27 June 2020, University of Bath

We are delighted to announce that we are now inviting abstracts for oral and poster presentations for next year's CDAS conference to be held at the University of Bath, on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 June 2020.

In a world... where over the last twenty-years, first world popular culture's interest in human mortality significantly expanded and death and dying achieved new levels of media attention.

What has the last twenty-years of death, dying, and technology produced for human mortality? And what might the next twenty-years hold? What role does technology now play in the everyday experiences of human mortality?

The June 2020 Centre for Death and Society Annual Conference will focus on Death, Dying, Technology and Human Mortality and what the discovery and re-discovery of human technology means for power, sovereignty, bioethics, the rule of law, and most importantly-- death and dying.

Possible topics could include:

Assisted dying

Activism and death politics

Science and Technology Studies of Death and Dying

Death Technologies across time

Feminist critiques of death politics across time

The history of death focussed activism (e.g., AIDS and ACT-UP, Black Lives Matter, etc.)

Power relationships between the state and the individual

The economics of death and poverty

Future Technologies for Death and Dying      Past/Present/Future Dead Body

Disposal Technologies

The politics of death nostalgia

Death and social class

Debates around life and death and personhood

State ordered executions and capital punishment

Death technologies of power, control, discipline, and preservation

Cultural appropriation and commodification

Isolation at the end of life

The commodification of death experiences

Political protests and dead political leaders

(Neo)colonialism and death politics

The politics of post-mortem evidence in policy making and with policy makers

Human Rights Law and genocide

Urban planning and deathscapes

**Please send a 300 Word abstract to [cdas@bath.ac.uk](mailto:cdas@bath.ac.uk) by 28 February 2020.**

## [Early Careers Visiting Fellowship](#)

Applications have been coming in for the NEW CDAS Early Career Visiting Fellow's Programme. This opportunity extends our programme of welcoming visiting scholars from around the world. Applicants must be an ECR in Death Studies (broadly defined) **without permanent employment** in a University.

To apply please send a one-page research proposal (no more) and a current CV to [cdas@bath.ac.uk](mailto:cdas@bath.ac.uk).

## [CDAS Community News](#)

### [Arnos Vale Cemetery's Natural Burial Woodland Wins Industry Award](#)

Huge congratulations to our friends at Arnos Vale Cemetery in Bristol for scooping a prize at the National Cemetery of the Year Awards. The Memorial Awareness Board (MAB) has been promoting and organising the Cemetery of the Year Awards for nearly 20 years. This year Arnos Vale Cemetery won the 2019 **Silver** prize in the Natural Burial Ground category of the National Competition and received the award at the 'Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management Learning Convention and Exhibition' earlier this month.

## [Events](#)

### [The Scientific and Medical Network - 'The of Art of Dying'](#)

Thursday 17 October 2019, Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution

Dr Peter Fenwick is an eminent neuropsychiatrist, neurophysiologist, academic and leading expert on disorders of the brain. He is senior lecturer in neuropsychology at Kings College London, John Ratcliffe Hospital and consultant at Broadmoor and the Institute of Psychiatry.

Dr Fenwick's provocative research, includes near death experiences, deathbed visions as well as the experiences of hospice and palliative care workers. This has led to a belief that consciousness may be independent of the brain and therefore able to survive the death of an individual.

His latest book, 'The Art of dying' looks at how other cultures ie Tibetan, Swedenborg, have dealt with the dying process, comparing them with phenomena reported through recent scientific research at the Maudsley hospital.

Entrance £5. Book early with: [cindybeadman@hotmail.com](mailto:cindybeadman@hotmail.com)

## **Festival of Death and Dying 2019: Inspiring a Death Friendly Society**

1-3 November 2019. Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet and Wells.

This festival seeks to retire the death taboo and make the Mexican tradition of the Day of the Dead on 2 Nov an opportunity to celebrate the lives of those we loved ... and, maybe, even take a look at what lies ahead for all of us. Events include: Elim Connect centre, Wells: learn how to shroud a body; Bocabar, Glastonbury: Death-friendly music night on Friday; Goddess House, Glastonbury: Coffee and Coffins plus many more. To find out more please visit [deathfest.co.uk](http://deathfest.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/deathfest2019/](http://www.facebook.com/deathfest2019/).

## **To Absent Friends – Scotland’s Festival of storytelling and remembrance**

1-7 November 2019, Scotland

To Absent Friends, the people’s festival of storytelling and remembrance, returns for a sixth year from 1 – 7 November, and invites everyone in Scotland to take time to remember their ‘Absent Friends’.

The festival is a chance to remember loved ones who have died, through stories, celebrations and acts of reminiscence. Anyone can participate, in whichever way they choose.

This year, the festival is launching in Dundee on the evening of 31 October with an illuminated lily garden, hosted by Dundee University. Lily gardens are also planned for the Grassmarket in Edinburgh, Haining House in Selkirk and Lundin Links in Fife. Meanwhile, Glasgow Museums together with social enterprise, Invisible Cities, are taking the opportunity to remember the homeless people who died on the city’s streets last year. Remembering The Invisible will see 47 pairs of shoes placed on the Concert Hall steps, then dispersed around the city, taking the clues to their story with them.

There are many different events and ways to get involved. Visit the festival website, [www.toabsentfriends.org.uk](http://www.toabsentfriends.org.uk) for further details or contact Robert Peacock on [robert.peacock@palliativecarescotland.org.uk](mailto:robert.peacock@palliativecarescotland.org.uk) or 0131 272 2735.

## **Raising money and reducing costs for the bereaved**

Upcoming 2019 dates: 12th November

Gain skills and knowledge to better support your clients in this practical and interactive workshop.

½ day course – from £70

[Book online](#)

## **Dying for Change: Evolution and Revolution in Palliative Care, Hospice UK Conference**

20 – 22 November 2019, ACC Liverpool

Hospice UK’s National Conference is back in Liverpool, 20-22 November 2019 and brings together more than 800 hospice and palliative care professionals from across the sector. Nothing about this year’s Conference is similar to previous year’s – we have a big, bold, dynamic theme and a delegate programme that will provide the opportunity to

deconstruct what we do, look at where we are headed, and devise a bold new strategy to meet the many challenges we face.

The call for sponsors and exhibitors is now open. For further information please click [here](#).

### **[CDAS Seminar: New Research on Death and Dying Trends in Asia](#)**

27 November 2019, University of Bath

CDAS visiting scholars Dr Qian Liu, Dr Ryosuke Morooka and Akia Miyazawa will present on:

**The Features of End of Life Care Policies and Practice in China: Illustrated with field work in the Hospice Ward in a Beijing Hospital**, Dr Qian Liu, Institute of Anthropology, Renming University, China

**End-of-life experiences in the social and historical context of Japan**, Dr Ryosuke Morooka, Institute of Education, Shimane University, Japan

**Japanese tree burial and its social context: cemetery management issues in contemporary Japan**, Akia Miyazawa, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba, Japan

Further information on this event can be found [here](#).

### **[BSA Death, Dying and Bereavement Annual Symposium 'Death & Relationships'](#)**

5 December 2019, University of Sheffield

While physical death occurs to the embodied individual, those who die and those who knew the deceased are embedded within a wider network of relationships. As such, a developing body of sociological literature recognises the value of looking beyond the individual in the context of death and dying. Applying relational perspectives to the end of life can develop our understanding of both the living and the deceased, as well as the connection between the two. Yet it is important to acknowledge that relationships extend beyond human interaction and can include bonds with a variety of non-human 'others' such as pets, projects, places and material objects. These connections play a significant role in everyday life, be it positive or negative, but their salience in death, and dying in particular, requires further sociological exploration. The chosen topic for this year's symposium is therefore an inclusive one and we welcome abstracts which interpret the theme of 'relationships' at the end of life broadly. The aim is to highlight research and practice that contributes to and extends thinking in this area.

The programme includes:

Plenary: A Love that Never Dies, Jane Harris and Jimmy Edmonds, The Good Grief Project

Session 1: Placing death and dying: On the work of relationships in making place at the end of life, Annelieke Driessen(1), Erica Borgstrom(2) and Simon Cohn(1), (1)LSHTM, (2)The Open University; Ending before it truly begins – the continuing relationship between bereaved parents and their baby as facilitated by a children's hospice, Rosa Mendizabal, UCL and Jayne Price, Kingston University London; Caring out of love?:

Older, frail spouses' experiences of looking after their partner at end-of-life, Tessa Morgan, University of Cambridge.

Session 2: 'We're treating that person as that person, not as that illness': The Relationality of Suffering in Palliative Care work, Natalie Richardson, University of Sheffield; Relationship between HORFP and the deceased body, Imogen Jones, University of Leeds; Nurses' early and ongoing encounters with the dying and the dead: A scoping review of the international literature, Jan Draper and Kerry Jones, The Open University.

Session 3: 'Sticky' Relationships with the Dead: An Adaptation of Continuing Bonds, Laura Towers, University of Sheffield; A relative absence: exploring professional experiences of funerals without a congregation, Nicola Turner, University of Nottingham; Still caring, still faithful: relating life and death in pet cemeteries and crematoria, Fenella Eason, University of Exeter.

Click here for Registration info: <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/key-bsa-events/death-and-relationships-bsa-social-aspects-of-death-dying-and-bereavement-study-group-annual-symposium/>.

### **[Before I go Accredited Training in End of Life Care Plan Facilitation January 2020](#)**

Applications from every country are invited for the next intake of this online course, beginning end January 2020.

Primarily of interest to health professionals, counsellors, coaches, educators, celebrants or others interested in enabling others to create good end of life plans.

The course is spread over 7 months, and graduates will be licensed to facilitate Before I Go Method® courses and individual sessions with those wishing to take care of their end of life matters, but who are not getting round to it (that is 80% of everyone who say they are interested in doing something!)

For further information please visit: <https://beforeigosolutions.com/big-training/>

### **[Histories of Death: An International Symposium](#)**

19 – 21 February 2020, University of Turku, Finland

Our understandings of death come with long and complex histories, shaped by culture, place, time, power, and identities. Historical analysis allows us to better understand the paths that have led to the recent move toward "death positivity," and the popularity of death doulas, "death cafes," alternative and ecological burial solutions, and new understandings of grief. The interdisciplinary and rapidly growing field of Death Studies raises awareness about how we die and mourn, and the ways social factors – class, migrant background, and gender, among them – can result in unequal access to "good death" in many countries and communities today. This International Symposium seeks to delve into the many varied and interwoven Histories of Death to further explore the traditions, ideologies, and institutions that shape our experiences with death.

Death sets people into action, caring for the dying, the deceased, and the grieving in ways that range from the intimate to the professional. The Histories of Death

Symposium invites researchers to share their work and engage in dialogue about the different ways people have approached dying, death, and mourning from everyday, cultural, and structural perspectives.

The Symposium is hosted by the John Morton Center for North American Studies at the University of Turku's Department of Philosophy, Political Science, and Contemporary History. The Symposium is funded by the Academy of Finland.

### [Dying Matters Awareness Week 2020 – Dying to be heard](#)

11 – 17 May 2020

The 2020 theme of **Dying To Be Heard** will focus on how to help by listening. How many people want to talk about death, but feel they have no one to talk to about it? How many people are Dying To Be Heard?

We'll have some tips on active listening, and reassure people that you don't need to be an expert on wills, funerals or advance care planning: [the Dying Matters website](#) has signposts to all the relevant information.

### [Active Grief Weekend](#)

15 – 17 May 2020, Manifold Farm, Derbyshire

Registrations for our next ACTIVE GRIEF WEEKEND are now open.

Run by and for the bereaved, these retreats are available to all who have suffered the death of a child of any age, from any cause and no matter how long ago. They are also extremely popular and we recommend early booking.

Click [here](#) for more information.

## [Call for Papers](#)

### [The 5th International Symposium of the Death Online Research Network](#)

27 – 29 May 2020, Copenhagen, Denmark. Submission deadline 23 October 2019.

We invite abstracts for oral presentations of new, recently completed, or ongoing research, and/or new ideas relating to methods, challenges and interdisciplinary convergences on death related online practices. We welcome presentations that explore how qualitative, quantitative and practice-based research expands our understanding of the current and future trends in death online from a variety of disciplines and perspectives. The abstracts can expand on the symposium theme in relation to any of the following areas:

- Digitally mediated dying and narrative
- Digitally mediated grieving and memorialising
- Digital afterlife, post-mortem identity and digital legacy
- Technological developments in the death care industry



- Digital immortality
- Sensitive research data challenges
- Theorising online life and death
- Ethical challenges for studying death online.

The symposium 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 as well as a collection of writing from the symposium in an open-access online platform. More info on the symposium blog: <https://blogit.itu.dk/dors2020/>

### **[NW ADEBS Symposium 2020. Everyday Immortality: Exploring What We Leave Behind](#)**

7 November 2020. Proposals due 15 November 2019

The Northwest Association for Death Education and Bereavement Support (NW ADEBS) and the Center for Community Engagement at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling are pleased to present this collaborative, one-day Symposium for professionals and community members. One of the primary concerns in consideration of end of life is whether and how we will be remembered. The Everyday Immortality Symposium will explore the question of legacy and what we leave behind after our death, through lenses including practical, biological, ecological, social, psychological, digital and more.

We welcome presentation proposals for 75-minute workshops on relevant topics. Suggestions might include: human composting and other emerging options for human remains, innovative strategies for memorializing ourselves or those we love, digital legacies, ethical wills, resources for recording life narratives, ways to honor and preserve cultural legacies, living wakes and other end of life celebrations.

Email all proposals by 15 November 2019 to [nwadebsrfp@gmail.com](mailto:nwadebsrfp@gmail.com) or visit this [Google form link!](#)

### **[Interdisciplinary Conference: "How Do we Tell the Children?"](#)**

Thursday to Saturday, 30 January to 1 February 2020 and Thursday to Saturday, 27 to 29 February 2020, Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. Submission deadline 30 November 2020

This event, open to all irrespective of religious affiliation and to those who have none, will bring together members of the public, practitioners, creative artists and scholars working across the arts, humanities, sciences and theology, whose work, research and working/creative practices relate to death and dying.

Proposals for 20-minute talks and workshops (up to 3 hours) are invited from participants working in any discipline, and at all career stages or professions. All sessions are intended as starting points for interdisciplinary exchange and discussion, which is why the academic components need to be short and informal.

Our audience is fellow academics, practitioners, pastors and artists as well as students and the general public.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- Theological Reflections on Death, Dying, the Pastoral Care of the Dying and Funereal Practices
- Literature written for Children
- Creative Writing (for Children)
- Death, Children and the Gothic
- Death, Children and Art
- Death, Children and Spirituality
- Therapeutic and religious approaches to working with Children
- Neuro-Diversity / Disability Studies, Children and Grief
- Wellbeing and Grief for Children
- Grief in Children's Education
- Children's Understanding and Experience of Grief
- Children's Grief in the Media and Popular Culture
- Death, Grief and Diversity in Children's Lives

If you would like to participate, please submit a short bio (50 words) and a brief (max. 200 word) abstract by 30 November 2019 to [sibylle.erle@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:sibylle.erle@bishopg.ac.uk) and [peter.green@bishopg.ac.uk](mailto:peter.green@bishopg.ac.uk), indicating what your academic or creative approach to death, dying, loss and grief.

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

**Contact us**

Email: [cdas@bath.ac.uk](mailto:cdas@bath.ac.uk)

Web: [www.bath.ac.uk/cdas](http://www.bath.ac.uk/cdas)

Tel: 01225 386949 (Mon-Wed only)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/centrefordeath](http://www.facebook.com/centrefordeath)

Twitter: @cendeathsociety

*To unsubscribe, please email [cdas@bath.ac.uk](mailto:cdas@bath.ac.uk)*