

Centre for
Death & Society
(CDAS)



UNIVERSITY OF
BATH

CDAS CONFERENCE 2015

DEATH & ITS FUTURES



University of Bath

05-06 June 2015

DELEGATE BIOGRAPHIES AND PHOTOGRAPHS



Introduction and welcome

Tony Walter

Conference 2015 convenor

Birthdays and anniversaries are a good occasion to consider the past and look to the future, to evaluate what we have been and done, and to plan what we wish to be and do – a time to reflect and to make resolutions. So CDAS's 10th anniversary prompts us to consider trends and future projections of how societies manage death, and specifically to consider the current state of death studies – research and teaching.

We welcome you to join in our collective reflection on death and its futures.

Each CDAS conference is tightly focused on a theme, so typically half the delegates have never been before. So if that's you and you don't know anybody, don't be shy! The chances are that the person sitting next to you doesn't know anybody at the conference either, and would love you to introduce yourself. The conference is small and friendly and great for networking, but the time will whiz by - so don't wait for someone else to start the conversation!

Here you will find brief biographies and an accompanying photograph of the speakers and delegates to the conference, as well as CDAS staff.



Nick Abercrombie was trained as a sociologist and for the first twenty years of his career was employed as an academic in UK universities. During that time his main academic interests lay in the sociology of culture and he is the author, co-author or editor of 18 books. For the last fifteen years of his career, he worked in university management, retiring in 2004 as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor of Sociology and Emeritus Professorial Fellow of the Institute of Advanced Studies, Lancaster University. He is currently a Visiting Professor at Bath University.



Simon Allen took his first funeral in 1991 and continues as full time work. He was one of three in the British Humanist Association that devised a new training scheme in 1992 for funeral Officiants and that scheme is still in use today, albeit updated. He was involved in training over 110 Officiants. Now working as an independent, mainly in West Hertfordshire and North London. He is often asked to go further afield being regarded as the 'family's Officiant' called back for each new ceremony that is needed. Families have asked him to take funerals in Hertford, Herefordshire and Hampshire, so as to secure his services. Consequently, he has worked at 43 different crematoria and 41 cemeteries as well taking wedding and naming ceremonies. He says, "Ceremonies brings together almost everything that I have done in my life. My love of words, both written and spoken, and the enjoyment of making an event 'work' by coordinating all of the components." Simon has given papers at conferences since 1993, both to specialist groups and directly to the funeral trade. He first addressed CDAS in 2007 at DDD8.



Dr Michael Arnold is Head of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Melbourne, Australia. His on-going teaching and research activities lie at the intersection of contemporary technologies and our society and culture. Michael's research projects include a study of digital technologies in relation to death, and in particular, the design, use and social implications of digital memorials.

Anne Baden-Daintree is a Teaching Fellow in English Literature at the University of Bristol. Her current research is concerned with the development of literary elegy over the past few decades, and particularly its interaction with other creative responses to bereavement including site-specific installations, photography and other visual art forms, other literary genres including memoir and children's books, and journalism and social media. Anne's research interests more generally revolve around literary representations of grief and mourning, in both medieval and 20th/21st century texts. She has published on a range of medieval literary subjects, and is currently working on a monograph entitled *The Grieving Subject: Loss and the Courtly Dynamic in Late Medieval French and English Poetry*, and also on an edition of a fifteenth-century household anthology of lyric poetry.



Anne Barber is Managing Director of Civil Ceremonies Ltd, now operating successfully for over 14 years. She established Civil Funerals in the UK in 2002 and the Institute of Civil Funerals in 2004; she remains President of the Institute. The company develops life-stage ceremonies, ceremony products and services to meet the changing needs of society and delivers professional national qualifications for those conducting ceremonies.

Anne's previous career included the role of Project Director at Lifecycle Marketing Ltd and Distribution Director with Bounty Services (UK) Ltd. She has been instrumental in the introduction of naming and couples ceremonies into the UK as well as civil funerals. She has developed and has trained over 500 celebrants in the national qualification Level 3 Diploma in Funeral Celebrancy.

Her qualifications include a BA (Hons) Degree in Business Studies and an MBA. She has written and published *The Complete Guide to Naming Ceremonies* and in 2011 established the website

www.funeralmap.co.uk as a resource for the bereaved and the trade website www.celebrantsupplies.co.uk for those conducting ceremonies. In 2014, with industry colleagues, she established the Child Funeral Charity, of which she is a trustee.

www.childfuneralcharity.org.uk.



Erica Borgstom is a trained anthropologist with an interest in medical anthropology and dying studies. She has recently completed her PhD on choice and end-of-life care in England. Her work ethnographically explored end-of-life care policy and its translation into practice, as well as the experiences of those living with chronic and/or terminal illness. She is currently based within the Primary Care Unit, University of Cambridge. Erica is Membership Secretary of the Association for the Study of Death and Society and a co-convenor of the British Sociological Association Study Group for the Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement.





Michael Brennan is a Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Liverpool Hope University, UK. His research interests are located primarily within the sociology of death and dying, where he has published in journals including *Death Studies*; *Mortality* and *Theory, Culture & Society*. His recent books include *The A-Z of Death and Dying: Social, Cultural and Medical Aspects* (2014, ABC-CLIO) and *Mourning and Disaster: Finding Meaning in the Mourning for Hillsborough and Diana* (2008, Cambridge Scholars Publishing). He has previously served as Director of the Center for Death Education and Bioethics at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, USA and as Associate Editor of the journal *Illness, Crisis & Loss*.



Dr. Candi K. Cann is an assistant professor of religion at Baylor University and a Visiting Fellow to Princeton University in Fall, 2015. She recently published her book *Virtual Afterlives: Grieving the Dead in the Twenty-First Century* with the University Press of Kentucky, and is currently editing a second book titled *Dying to Eat*, about the intersection of death and food in grieving and mourning the dead around the world.



Professor David Clark is a sociologist at the University of Glasgow. He founded the International Observatory on End of Life Care at Lancaster University in 2003 and has wide ranging interests in the history and global development of palliative care. He has a particular knowledge of the life and work of Dame Cicely Saunders and has edited her letters and selected publications. He has been active in the global mapping of palliative care and has contributed to several regional Atlases, as well as the *Global Atlas of Palliative Care* published by WHO in January 2014. He recently completed a monograph on the *Project on Death in America* and is currently writing a book on the history of palliative medicine. He holds a Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award for a global study entitled *Interventions at the End of Life*, commencing in 2015.

Chao Fang is a first-year PhD student in CDAS at University of Bath. He majored in Japanese language and culture for his Bachelor Degree in China (2010), and he obtained Master Degree in Philosophy and Cultural Sciences in Hokkaido University, Japan (2014). His main concern is bereavement research, particularly, how motivation works in the process of bereavement and how bereavement behaviour is influenced by it. At this moment, he is focusing on psychological theories of motivation and tries to apply these theories to explain how bereavement behaviours are motivated. Furthermore, he is going to look at how the different social-cultural contexts shape the motivation of the bereaved differently.



Dr Helen Frisby is an expert on the history, material culture and folklore of death, dying and funerals, who has appeared on the History Channel discussing Victorian funerals with Johnny Vaughan, and most recently on BBC Radio 4, discussing the uses of salt in popular funeral customs. Helen is particularly interested in working with material-visual culture and folklore as sources of historical evidence, and theoretically with the concepts of custom and tradition, popular/vernacular culture and 'history from below'. Meanwhile her undergraduate History teaching interests broadly cover the emergence of Western society, culture and identity since c.500CE. She has also taught on the Foundation Degree in Funeral Services at the University of Bath. Helen is a member of the Royal Historical Society, Committee Member of the Folklore Society and General Council Member of the Association for the Study of Death & Society (ASDS). Her article *Drawing The Pillow, Laying Out and Port Wine: the moral economy of death, dying and bereavement in England, c.1840-1930* has just been published in *Mortality* journal. Current projects include 'Grave Communications: an oral history of gravedigging', and a monograph on the moral economy of the working-class Victorian funeral.



Clare Gittings is a historian with an impressive track record over 20 years of publishing high quality research in the history of death and dying. She is foremost in her field as an early modern historian of death and dying, and provides an essential link with the museums sector. She has worked with Tony Walter on a recent project looking at burial on private land. She has recently retired from her post as learning manager at the National Portrait Gallery in London where she ran the schools programme.





Joshua Graham is a PhD student within the Centre for Death & Society at the University of Bath.

His research interests are in alternative religious movements, Popular Culture, Social Construction of Sex and Gender, Anthropology of Food, and Death Studies. His current research explores modern mourning and funeral practices using the presence or absence of food at collective mourning events to compare practices in the UK and USA.



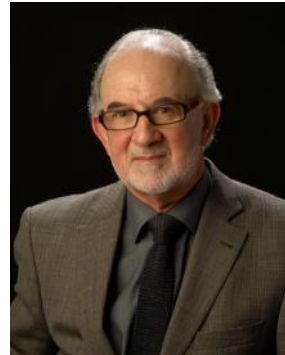
Glennys Howarth was the Founding Director of the Centre for Death and Society. She is a professionally qualified educator and an active researcher who has been researching and publishing in the field of death and dying for over twenty years. Her publications include: *Death and Dying: a sociological introduction*, (2007), Polity. Glennys has been centrally involved in a number of initiatives that have assisted in establishing the study of death and dying as a significant field both in the UK and internationally. This has included the establishment of a series of international multi-disciplinary conferences, *The Social Context of Death, Dying and Disposal*, and the well-established, peer-reviewed, international journal of death studies, *Mortality*.



Dr. Nina R. Jakoby is a Senior Research and Teaching Associate at the Institute of Sociology, University of Zurich (Switzerland). Currently she is a Research Associate at the Centre for Death & Society (CDAS), University of Bath. Her main research areas are the sociology of emotions, sociological theories, empirical social research, and family sociology. Her current research focuses on grief, loss and identity, and virtual cemeteries.

Malcolm Johnson is a Visiting Professor with the Department of Social & Policy Sciences and active member of CDAS. He was one of the founding members in 2005.

Malcolm's research and consultancy includes extensive work on the long term care of older people, theories of ageing and on assessment issues. Over the past fifteen years it has extended into end of life care and spirituality in later life.



Annika Jonsson is a senior lecturer at the department of sociology at Karlstad University, Sweden. In 2014 she received a two year postdoc grant and has since then spent six months at CDAS as a visiting scholar. She is currently visiting Centre for Research on Families and Relationships at the University of Edinburgh. Her research is primarily based on interviews and concerns how continuing bonds are construed in contemporary Sweden and, to some extent, the UK. An important



Since 2010, **Paul Kefford** has operated as an independent funeral celebrant serving the bereaved in Bath and North Wiltshire, creating life-story ceremonies to say goodbye to loved ones; he is currently training as an end of life doula. After time at both Durham and London Universities (studying theology and philosophy), he was previously a senior civil servant in the Cabinet Office (1992-2009), taking a career-break in 2009 to care for his father. He worked for two years in the Prime Minister's Social Exclusion Unit and had three years as one of The Prince of Wales' private secretaries with responsibility *inter alia* for HRH's interests in integrated healthcare, hospices, and 'healthy living, healthy dying'. He lives in the Wiltshire countryside with his four-legged companion, Alfie, who helps him practice mindful living.





Allan Kellehear is Academic Director of the DHEZ Health and Wellbeing Centre and 50th Anniversary Professor (End-of-Life Care) at the University of Bradford, UK. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (FACSS), President of the Association for the Study of Death and Society (ASDS) and co-founder with Libby Sallnow and Suresh Kumar of the International Public Health and Palliative Care Conference series.



Jana Kralova is a PhD student with CDAS studying social death. Her research project observes repeatedly occurring structural similarities of the social death in existing academic discussions and across selection of disciplines. She aims to develop an overarching theoretical framework which will; a) critically examine social death concept b) scrutinise the social processes involved c) suggest how these processes may be used in the best interest of the concerned people d) suggest social death as an antithesis of well-being. Jana previously qualified as a social worker and has worked in various care settings, assisting children with severe learning difficulties and autism, adults with sight impairment and those in frail old age. She is an outstanding member of postgraduate community; her research inspired the 2014 CDAS Conference, she has been awarded a first prize for her poster submission by SWDTC as well as a grant by University of Bath for a public engagement project aimed at the prevention of social death. Jana aspires to develop a professional career as an academic.



Ellen Kristvik is a senior researcher at Health Services Research Centre at Akerhus University Hospital, Lørenskog, Norway. She has a PhD in social anthropology and is also a qualified nurse. Her interests concern social and cultural aspects related to sickness and health, and questions connected to values and prioritizations in the health care services. Death and dying are important topics in much of her research. She has conducted a research project on treatment decisions for cancer patients with metastatic disease, and is at present working on plans for a project on cancer patients' preferred and actual place of death, as perceived by bereaved partners. Another current project concerns the loss of stillborn children, and crucial aspects of leave-taking and bereavement.

Aleksandra Kurowska-Susdorf:

PhD Candidate at the University of Gdansk, Poland. Her scholarly interests include multicultural education, autobiographical pedagogical approaches and death studies. Her dissertation considers Kashubian death rituals in postmodern conditions. She is analysing educational dimension of participation in death rites and the *empty evening* in post-mortem images.



Martin Ltyje is a trained social educator and researcher from Denmark working within the field of educational psychology. He is currently associated with the Faculty of Education at the University of Cambridge, where he is completing his PhD. Martin's research, in collaboration with The Danish Cancer Society and the Egmont trust, explores the experiences of parentally bereaved children returning to school and evaluates the support they receive from such institutions. Martin has 6 years of experience working with childhood bereavement. He has published articles on issues relating to school bereavement support systems, as well as the attitudes and needs of teachers working with bereaved students in their classes. Martin is interested in all areas related to childhood and family bereavement, including grief support, coping and risk factors, resilience, policymaking and student voice.



Mary Ellen Macdonald, PhD is a medical anthropologist with postdoctoral training in Pediatric Palliative Care. In addition to her appointment as Assistant Professor in the Division of Oral Health and Society, she is affiliated with the McGill University departments of Pediatrics, Oncology, the Ingram School of Nursing and Biomedical Ethics Unit. She is also Core Faculty in the McGill Centre for Medical Education. She chairs the McGill Qualitative Health Research Group <http://www.mcgill.ca/mqhrq/>. Her main research interests include oral health in vulnerable populations, palliative care and bereavement research, cultural aspects of health and illness with Indigenous communities, and health professions education research.





Andréia Martins got her Bachelor Degree in Social Communication with emphasis on Journalism (2009), and her Masters in Anthropology (2013) from the Federal University of Paraíba, Brazil. She has been awarded a Graduate School Scholarship to be able to study the Virtual Wakes in Brazil at the University of Bath. Before starting her PhD in October 2014, Andréia worked as a reporter for a news website (2013-14) and as a communication advisor for a Human Rights NGO (2009-14), both in the city of João Pessoa, Brazil.



Jane McCarthy is Reader in Family Studies, Open University. My primary research focus concerns the family lives of children. I am currently working with Ruth Evans at Reading University on a Leverhulme funded project, Death in the family in urban Senegal, <https://www.reading.ac.uk/geographyandenvironmentalscience/Research/ges-leverhulme.aspx>. Relevant publications include: *Young People, Bereavement and Loss: Towards an Interdisciplinary Approach*, Jane Ribbens McCarthy, 2006, Open University Press; *Family Troubles? Exploring Changes and Challenges in the Family Lives of Children and Young People*, edited by Jane Ribbens McCarthy, Carol -Ann Hooper and Val Gillies, 2013, The Policy Press; 'Embodied relationality and caring after death', with Raia Prokhovnik, *Body and Society*, 2014. I am also an editor for *Bereavement Care*.

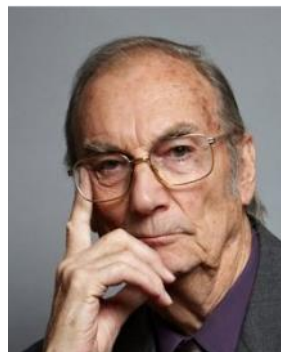


Lisa McCormick is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Haverford College (Philadelphia, USA). She teaches and conducts research in the areas of cultural sociology, sociology of the arts, self and identity, social theory, and qualitative methods. Her book, *Performing Civility: International Competitions in Classical Music* will be published in September by Cambridge University Press. While on sabbatical next year (2015-2016), she will be a visiting researcher at CDAS where she will be working on a series of articles on music and death.

Lesley McKay joined the University of Bath in December, 2014 as the Research Administrator for the Department of Social & Policy Sciences. Lesley supports research staff within the Department of Social & Policy Sciences and works closely with departmental colleagues, as well as external project partners, other stakeholders and a number of University departments to ensure that research is visible and accessible. Lesley provides administrative, impact and public engagement support to Principal Investigators (PIs) and research staff for a series of externally funded research projects within the Department of Social & Policy Sciences.



Colin Murray Parkes is Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist to St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham and President for Life of Cruse: Bereavement Care. Recent work has focused on prolonged grief disorder, traumatic bereavements (with special reference to violent deaths, armed conflict, and the cycle of violence) and on the roots in the attachments of childhood of the psychiatric problems that can follow the loss of attachments in adult life. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Bath University in 2013.



Ruth Penfold-Mounce is Lecturer in Criminology in the Sociology Department at the University of York. Her broad research interests are in celebrity and popular culture, crime and death. Ruth has a deep seated commitment to understanding and exploring the value of popular culture regarding issues such as death, the macabre and corpses. This is well encapsulated by her work with Darren Reed on the zombie genre series *The Walking Dead* by suggesting it is an effective form of social science fiction ('The Walking Dead as Social Science Fiction' in Hubner, Leaning and Manning (2015) *Zombie Renaissance*). Ruth has also developed a fascination with forensics and the dead which is currently being explored through the mythology surrounding organ donation and transplantation and popular culture which has been in part inspired by her recent publication 'Corpses, Popular Culture and Forensic Science: Public Obsession with Death' in *Mortality*. Other key publications include her book *Celebrity Culture and Crime* (2009) and also 'Consuming Criminal Corpses' (2010) in *Mortality*.





Panagiotis Pentaris is currently completing a PhD under Professor Adam Dinham at the Faiths & Civil Society Unit, Goldsmiths, where he also acts as Lecturer in Social Work. His research focuses on the marginalisation of religion and belief from healthcare policy and practice, especially in the area of end-of-life care. Panagiotis is the Chair of Bereavement Network Meeting for Indigenous Practices, and a Country Director for the International Peace Centre Africa, Kenya. Outside of his focus on thanatology, Panagiotis is one of the Lead Coordinators of the faithXchange research network and Associate Editor of the NOMOS Journal, an online journal that publishes material engaging the intersection between contemporary expressions of religion and popular culture.



Kristian Pollock is a Principal Research Fellow in the Sue Ryder Care Centre for the Study of Supportive, Palliative and End of Life Care at Nottingham University. She studied social anthropology at the Universities of Edinburgh and Cambridge and has carried out qualitative research in a wide range of health service settings. She has a longstanding interest in patient and public understanding of health and illness and communication between patients and health care professionals. Her recent work has focused on the study of death and dying, particularly communication in Advance Care Planning, end of life care on acute hospital wards, and the salience of palliative care ideals of 'the good death' for patients and the wider public.



Shirley Potts joined Child Bereavement UK in 2012 to lead the DH-funded Regional Development Project which sought to improve bereavement support in six areas of deprivation in England. Prior to this, Shirley spent ten years as a university lecturer maintaining her interest in bereavement issues following seven years at a children's hospice where she was responsible for counselling and bereavement support. She has an M.A. in Counselling and an M.Sc. in Educational Research, is a member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She has spoken widely on bereavement issues, has authored a book (*Everylife: death, bereavement and life through the eyes of children, parents and practitioners*), and contributed chapters to various other publications, as well as several journal articles on the subject of bereavement – most recently in the Journal of Early Childhood Research: <http://ecr.sagepub.com/content/early/2013/01/25/1476718X12466201>

Ashley Rudolph and **Nikki Salkeld** are Senior Lecturers in Graphic Design at Falmouth University. Over the last two years they have established a research project entitled *MOTH* which seeks to unhide death. Collaborative practice is central to all of their activities, working with students and colleagues as equal partners in discovery and communication..

They see themselves as emerging researchers in this field with an expertise in graphic design and an interest in graphic anthropology: how design shapes, and is shaped by cultural values and social practices with practical relevance to our relationship with death.

Projects include:

- *Moth Cabinet of Curiosity / Good Designers Write*. Using objects/signs as triggers for creative thinking and problem solving.

- *Symbols of Death*. Exploring enduring desires to make peace with death: rituals, words, symbols and artefacts.

- *Sacred Type*. A typographical exploration of monumental headstones. Embracing the eclectic and capturing the sentiment.

- *Undead Type*. A *typographic anthropology*, building typefaces from individual monumental characters.

- *Memento Mori*. Contemporary expressions of Vanitas and Memento Mori

- *In The Face of Death*. Creating a meaningful graphic system of symbols, which focus on ideas and beliefs at the end of life, (the moment at which we die).

<http://moth.falmouth.ac.uk/>



Dr Julie Rugg is a Senior Research Fellow in Social Policy and Social Work at the University of York, UK. Dr Rugg directs the Cemetery Research Group and has published extensively on the history of cemeteries and on policy relating to both the dead body and disposal of the dead. She sits on the Burial and Cremation Advisory Group at the Ministry of Justice, and is an Honorary Vice-President of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. Her most recent monograph, published in 2013 by Manchester University Press, is entitled *Churchyard and Cemetery: Tradition and Modernity in Rural North Yorkshire*





Dr Hannah Rumble is a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology at the University of Exeter. She is also on the Editorial Board for the journal *Mortality* and the Early career researcher's Representative on the General Council of the Association for the Study of Death and Society (ASDS). Her publications include a co-authored book with Continuum/Bloomsbury called *Natural Burial: Traditional - Secular Spiritualities and Funeral Innovation* (2012) and numerous journal articles with former colleagues at CDAS/University of Bath. Dr Rumble has also been known to perform stand up comedy, produce documentaries and curate art exhibitions in the name of 'death education'.



Philip Satherley is the Research & Policy Manager for end-of-life rights charity Compassion in Dying and Dignity in Dying. Compassion in Dying is a national charity whose aim is to inform people about their current end-of-life rights. Dignity in Dying campaign for the legalisation of assisted dying for terminally ill, mentally competent adults. The two are sister organisations, and share a desire to see individual choice at the heart of end-of-life decision making. Compassion in Dying supports the uptake of existing legal rights but is not involved in Dignity in Dying's campaign. Philip has a background in medical sociology and healthcare research.



Sarah Schwarz is an archaeology PhD student at the University of Southampton, who has combined her research interests in human origins and bioarchaeology to research Neanderthal mortuary practices. Through her research she hopes to understand how burials and other practices became established in human culture, and in turn understand why human species are able to mourn their dead. By conducting research such as this, she hopes to challenge the stereotypical view that Neanderthals were unintelligent and inferior to our own species, while at the same time encouraging tolerance of the views of all cultures (archaeological and present) in relation to their disposal methods for the deceased. As a former Open University student, Sarah is passionate about public engagement and adult education. Having started as a Lifelong Learning student at the University of Southampton, she has been eager to give back to the department which started her on her path to archaeology and has recently become a tutor on the Lifelong Learning programme. You can find out more about her work on Twitter: @archaeosarah

Dr Julie Seymour is a Senior Lecturer in Medical Sociology at the Hull York Medical School (HYMS), Hull, United Kingdom. Her research interests focus on family and childhood practices in relation to body donation, health and illness, emotional labour, work-life balance and domestic labour. Her current research focus is on the emotional labour of Anatomy Unit staff with families of body donors at refusal and post donation and the impact of this on family narratives and future donation intentions. She is also interested in the forms of memorialisation and 'Continuing Bonds' activities that family members carry out during the period the body is at the Anatomy Unit. She is a member of the ESRC Research Seminar group 'On Encountering Corpses: Political, Socio-economic and Cultural Aspects of Contemporary Encounters with Dead Bodies'. Recent publications include Dermott, E. and Seymour, J. (eds) (2011) *Displaying Families: A New Concept for the Sociology of Family Life*, and Seymour, J. (2015) 'The Transgressive Potential of Families in Commercial Homes' in Casey and Taylor (eds) *Intimacies, Critical Consumption and Diverse Economies*.



Josefine Speyer is a UKCP registered psychotherapist and clinical supervisor with a special interest in death education and the natural death movement. A co-founder of the Natural Death Centre (1991), (www.naturaldeath.org.uk), co-founder of the Befriending Network (1994). (<http://www.oxbel.org.uk>). Co-editor of the Natural Death Handbook's fourth edition (2003), contributor to the Natural Death Handbook's Writings on Death, published by the Natural Death Centre (2012). With Dr. Mary Murray she produced a paper in 2009 based on research into after death communications and similar phenomena 'Psycho-spiritual transformation through bereavement'. It was published online in the 2011 newsletter of the Royal College of Psychiatry, London.

She was a supervisor at a bereavement service for many years. She holds death education workshops, Natural Death Salons, courses and talks. Since November 2012 she has hosted Death Cafés at her home, in Oxford and in Lewes. She holds monthly Death Cafés in Hampstead, London. www.facebook.com/deathcafehampstead. She organises the annual Poetry Challenge in London, www.thepoetrychallenge.org.uk



Caron Staley is the Centre Manager at the Centre for Death & Society, University of Bath. She also heads the research support office for the Department of Social & Policy Sciences which provides tailored support for colleagues in developing their activities and related impacts as well as data and financial management.

Caron works particularly closely with the members and associates of CDAS, providing project management support and handling all communications from the CDAS team.





John Troyer started his post at the University of Bath in September 2008. He was an RCUK Research Fellow, now a Lecturer, in the Department of Social and Policy Sciences and is Deputy Director of the Centre for Death & Society.

Within the field of death studies, John focuses on delineating and defining the concept of the dead human subject. John is currently developing ideas on 'Future Cemetery', a project in partnership with Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust and Calling the Shots.



John Valentine was an early adopter of the 'portfolio' style of self-employment. He trained as a stonemason in the early 70s and, until his retirement last year, was one of three directors of a small masonry contracting company working in London and the Home Counties. He trained with BHA as a funeral celebrant in 1994, and has since taken some 2000 ceremonies in South London. Since 2003 he has been a member of the training team for the Diploma in Funeral Celebrancy run by Civil Ceremonies Ltd. He has published three full-length books, only one of which, on stone carving, is still in print. In 2001 he was awarded an MSc from Leicester University.



Renske Visser was awarded a University of Bath scholarship to study end of life care in the UK and the way families negotiate the care of an ageing adult at the end of life. She began in October 2013, and within her study will be asking who takes responsibility for the care and costs associated with dying and death? As part of this, she will be looking at intergenerational relationships and responsibilities.

As a Social Anthropologist, **Kathryn Walker** observes, analyses and records human diversity, behaviours, and beliefs found in different societies and cultures. Kathryn's academic background in Fine Art as well as Psychology informs her research, leading to explorations into environmental and socio-cultural factors that relate to human experience and interaction in diverse communities. Kathryn is currently a fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute and a member of the British Sociological Association. With CEDAR CIC Kathryn is researching and collecting data through participant observation and report writing.

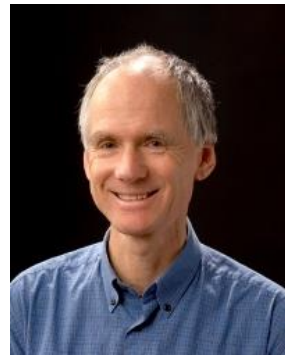


Tony Walter is the UK's only Professor of Death Studies and Director of the Centre for Death & Society.

Over the past twenty years has focused on researching, writing and lecturing on death in modern society.

He has helped promote the interdisciplinary study of death and society, and collaborated with colleagues in, for example, religious studies, history, archaeology, linguistics, psychology, social work, geography, computer science, medicine, and gerontology.

Tony also works with the churches and Civil Ceremonies Ltd, training funeral celebrants.



Emily West trained in both quantitative and qualitative social science research, and gained a BSc in Social Anthropology with professional accreditation in London in 2006. A sustained interest in palliative care and the end of life took her to Romania for research, and then on to a PhD in Medicine in Amsterdam - with time also spent in London and Genova - exploring how end of life care varies according to the setting it is delivered in.

Outside of academia, her research considers the different liminalities of death and the dying process through sound and digital exploration. In 2014, she co-founded Digital Death Drive alongside designer Stéfan Schäfer to explore digital possibilities for death, memorialisation and the afterlife.





Judith Wester is an academic who has committed herself to transferring contemporary research on death, dying and bereavement into language everyone can understand. She has taught at college, university and community levels, believing everyone from young to old can benefit from death education. Her vast experience includes working with home-care hospice, children's hospital, and developing death studies programmes in higher education. She also trained and worked as an HIV hot-line crisis counsellor. As a trustee and vice chair for a mental health charity, she became certified in suicide prevention in 2010. She is also on the steering committee of LGBT SAND (Safe Ageing—No Discrimination), which addresses the needs of vulnerable elderly lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people at end of life. Dr Wester's enthusiasm for empowering people through education can be contagious.



Sharon Young is a final year PhD student at Kingston University, South West London. Her thesis examines the discourse on assisted suicide from a human rights perspective using historical debates in the House of Lords, a case study on the organisation Dignity in Dying and focus group discussion with participants from Death Cafe Hampstead.

Prior to her PhD studies, she completed an MA in Human Rights in 2012 after a career as a Physiotherapist working in Neurology and Rehabilitation. Her research interests include public engagement with end of life issues and human rights activism. She co-facilitates Death Cafe Hampstead with Josefine Speyer.