

In the face of death

Friday 8th January 2016
School of Communication Design
Falmouth University

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

IN THE FACE OF DEATH

1.30 – 1.45

Welcome

Ashley Rudolph, Senior Lecturer.
Nicola Salkeld MA(RCA), Senior Lecturer.
BA(Hons) Graphic Design, Falmouth University
School of Communication Design.

1.45 – 2.15

Stephen Cave is a writer and philosopher, he has written essays, features and reviews on many philosophical, ethical and scientific subjects. He writes regularly for the Financial Times, and has also written for the New York Times, the Guardian, Wired and others. He has appeared on BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 4, Deutschlandradio Kultur, Österreichischer Rundfunk and elsewhere. His internationally acclaimed first book, *Immortality: The Quest to Live Forever and How It Drives Civilization, was published in English and other languages in spring 2012. Stephen, who speaks fluent German, lives in Berlin with his wife Friederike von Tiesenhausen and their many daughters. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

2.15 – 2.45

Tony Walter. *Facing Death, Facing Loss.* *Vernacular symbols of loss in a post-Protestant society.* Protestantism has profoundly shaped western European cultures of mourning. Banned from caring for their dead, Protestants could (officially) only remember the dead. In reaction, grief's emotions came to be creatively expressed in vernacular symbols: nature, the romantic, the gothic, candles, music and angels.

Tony Walter is the world's only Professor of Death Studies. He was a freelance writer for many years, before becoming Lecturer, then Reader, in Sociology at the University of Reading 1994-2007.

Over the past twenty five years he has researched, written and lectured on death in modern society, e.g. funerals, afterlife beliefs, personal bereavement and public mourning, human remains in museums, new discourses of spirituality, death in the news media and in online social media.

He joined the University of Bath in 2006. From 2011-15, he was Director of the University's Centre for Death & Society. Now an Honorary Professor, he continues to work with CDAS, gives presentations around the world and is writing three books that bring together his past 25 years' work.

2.45 - 3.15

Tea break

3.15 – 3.45

Joe Macleod. *Closure Experiences*
We are now encouraged to drunkenly stumble from purchase to purchase, with any sense of longevity and responsibility removed. Long term side effects of this are exemplified in the Product, Service and Digital landscapes that we frequent. The consequences of our behaviour results in a changing climate, industries fined billions for mis-selling and individuals casually eroding their personal online reputations.

Joe Macleod has been working in the mobile design space since 1998 and has been involved in a pretty diverse range of projects. At Nokia he helped develop some of the most streamlined packaging in the world, he created a hack team to disrupt the corporate drone of powerpoint, produced mobile services for pregnant women in Africa and pioneered lighting behavior for millions of phones. For the last four years he has been key to establishing ustwo as the UK's best digital product studio, with 180 people globally in London, New York and Sweden, while

also successfully building education initiatives, curriculums and courses on the back of the Include Design campaign which launched in 2013. He now works independently on projects and is currently focusing on his work around Closure Experiences.

3.45 – 4.00

Lucy Willow & Mercedes Kemp.

Senior Lecturers in BA(Hons) Fine Art. The Falmouth School of Art. *Café Morte.* *Lost for Words* is a culmination of the work of *Café Morte* to engage in and encourage discussion around the subject of death with a wider community of artists, curators and healthcare professionals. It has been curated with the intention of creating a thoughtful and contemplative space for both artists and audience to reflect on their own personal interpretations on death and how it is represented in art and literature. The works are varied, expressed through a variety of different media and address through physical means the often, unthinkable concept of absence and loss.

4.00 – 4.30

Round up and questions to the panel.

4.30 – 5.30

Private View. In the face of death
In a collaborative project between Falmouth University and Augsburg University of Applied Sciences, entitled *In the face of death.* Communication students were asked to design a graphic system of symbols, creating meaningful and applied visual language to print, artifacts, digital and social media platforms. It focused on ideas and beliefs at the end of life, (the moment at which we die) and the consequences of that.

.....

Name

Birth date