The 11th International Death, Dying and Disposal conference
“Where theory meets practice”

The Open University, Milton Keynes is delighted to be hosting the 11th International Death, Dying and Disposal conference in September 2013.

Bringing together practitioners and academics from a range of disciplines in the humanities and practice, DDD11 will explore how ideas impact upon the reality of death and dying and how practice impacts upon ideas. We will include the role of literature, empirical research, art, history, religion and cultural diversity in a range of keynote presentations and invited papers from peer reviewed abstracts. Presentations will be themed into strands and will comprise the major forum for sharing ideas.

DDD11 is ideal for anyone interested and working in death, dying and disposal at practice and academic levels. Sharing ideas outside of disciplinary and practice boundaries impacts how attendees view and understand the role that death, dying and disposal plays in societies. The range of speakers and attendees at previous conferences has undoubtedly made the event innovative and exciting – we envisage DDD11 being no different.

Keynote speakers

Dr Hilary Cass
President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health,
Improving end-of-life care for dying children

Dr Roy Palmer
HM Coroner, Southern District of London
What death means when the cause is not known

Professor Myra Bluebond Langner
An anthropologist’s role in palliative care
(Including accounts from her seminal text, ‘The World of Dying Children’).

Professor Victor Sage
Exploring the role of death and dying in the gothic novel

Professor Glennys Howarth
A sociological approach to death and dying

Dr Marion Bowman
Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies, The Open University
Glastonbury festival and the performance of remembrance
Expert Panel Discussion: Saturday 7th September

Theory meeting practice in palliative care, disposal and bereavement care.
Chaired by BBC Radio Presenter, Winifred Robinson

Personalised funerals and memorialisation

Crazy Coffins Exhibition, Thursday 5th – Sunday 8th September
We are pleased to welcome Crazy Coffins to DDD11. Crazy Coffins Director, Mr John Gill will be opening the exhibition with a short talk about the evolution of a demand for personalised coffins.

Graham Dolphin, Art exhibition ‘This must be the place’, Thursday 5th – Sunday 8th September
We are delighted that artist Graham Dolphin will be joining us with his exhibition, This must be the place. He will be giving a talk to introduce his work which has seen him recreate some of the spontaneous memorials left by fans after the death of their idols.

Visits and events

Olney Green Burial Ground and Crownhill Crematorium, Friday 6th September
We will also be offering two optional excursions to Crownhill Crematorium in Milton Keynes and the Green Burial Ground in Olney, both of which will further explore the theory behind the popular practice of personalising funerals.

There will be a musical event in the church in the grounds of The Open University.

Find out more

Conference date: Thursday 5th September – Sunday 8th September 2013
Venue: The Open University Campus, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes
Price: There are a range of conference packages available from 1 day to 4 day passes, starting from £150. Please see our website for full details and prices.
Register: To find out more about this event and to book your place please visit our website www.open.ac.uk/hsc
Abstracts: We welcome papers from all disciplines and interests on the conference theme. Abstracts should be 250-300 words in length and should be sent to hsc-re-events@open.ac.uk

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is Monday 4th March 2013.
If you have any queries please contact us at hsc-re-events@open.ac.uk