

The research network **Death Online Research** in collaboration with **DIGMEX (The Existential Terrains-program at Stockholm University funded by the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation & the Marcus and Amalia Wallenberg Foundation)** present:

Call for papers and announcement of ph.d. course/workshop DORS3:
**3rd International Death Online Research
Symposium & ph.d. course/workshop:
*Method and content***

Time and place:

Symposium: March 6.-8. 2017 at Aarhus University, Denmark

Ph.d. course/workshop: March 6.-8. And 9.-10. 2017 at Aarhus University, Denmark



Timeschedule

Symposium: Monday, March 6: Starting with lunch around 12 (registration from 10-12) – Wednesday March 8.

Ph.d. course/workshop: as symposium (paper presentations and special assignments for ph.d students + Thursday/Friday 9-16 workshop)

Themes and perspectives of the symposium

Studies of online sociocultural practices related to death and dying constitute, more and more, a recognized field. Happily, the contributors to this area come from across a great variety of academic disciplines such as media sociology, (media) aesthetics, cultural studies, psychology, (visual) anthropology, the history of religion, philosophy, linguistics, to name a few. For this third Death Online Research Symposium, we welcome all relevant academic presentations of ongoing or recently completed or ideas for future academic research - on all kinds of death related online practices. As a special focus for 2017, we want to inspire particular focus on how we construct the contexts for study and the methodologies we use to do our research. We welcome especially papers that are empirically, theoretically and/or methodologically focusing on :

- How do we deal with the online/offline distinction, which persists as a way of making sense of phenomena and contexts, but may inadequately describe how our research contexts are interwoven, remediations of earlier known practices, or
- How are the practices we study historically, thematically, conceptually, aesthetically, and materially related to various kinds of other (perhaps offline, perhaps not) practices?
- How is the individual and social configured?
- What are the interrelations of fiction-based and non-fiction based practices?
- How are our epistemological or methodological premises transformed through our research or vice versa, how do our premises impact our research design and practices?

Keynotes

We are happy to announce that the following international research profiles have confirmed their participation in the symposium:

Jed Brubaker, Assistant Professor in the department of Information Science at the University of Colorado Boulder, www.jedbrubaker.com

Postmortem Interaction

The explosion of personal data precipitates an astounding quantity and variety of post-mortem data in the traces we leave behind. With this

explosion comes questions around how we should use and interact with the data of those who have died. From uncanny encounters with the dead on Facebook to algorithmic services such as LivesOn that promise a form of digital immortality, encounters with post-mortem data are often described as “creepy.” However, they do not have to be.

Post-mortem data is opening up a new interaction space in need of research, design, and services experimenting with ways to maintain, reflect on, and use these data. In this keynote, I focus on possible pro-social futures for post-mortem interaction that imagine an era after sequestration. As death is becoming increasingly “everyday”, I argue that post-mortem interaction provides us an opportunity to design moments of remembrance that are equally every day.

Connor Graham, Senior Lecturer and Research Fellow, National University of Singapore, <https://tembusu.nus.edu.sg/people/connor-graham>

Human Mortality and Humanness, Online Life and Death

This keynote presentation will explore what versions of humanness, particularly human mortality, have been embedded in and reinforced by the everyday information and communication technologies (ICTs) associated with both online and offline behaviour. This exploration will take place through examples from the past and in recent time. It will then shift the consideration of ICTs from understanding them only as behaviours to realizing them as material things and situated in discourses. This reflection will also present the possibilities of theorising online life and death in terms of *infrastructure, networks* and *human-technology relations* in particular cultural and temporal contexts. This treatment will end with a position on what humanness and human mortality can be investigated today and what they might mean in the future.

Michael Hviid Jacobsen, Professor of Sociology, PhD, Director of Studies at the Master’s Program in Humanistic Palliative Care, Research Coordinator for SAGA, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Aalborg University, Denmark, <http://personprofil.aau.dk/102117>

Beyond Ariès - Contours of 'Spectacular Death'

This presentation will provide parts of a framework for thinking-with and thinking-beyond the important ideas of Philippe Ariès in defining and understanding our contemporary culture of death. The purpose of the presentation is to try to encourage us to reconsider and to develop our current conceptual apparatus within death studies.

Annett Markham, Professor MSO of Information Studies, School for Communication and Culture, Aarhus University, Denmark,

[http://pure.au.dk/portal/da/persons/annette-markham\(6767c3a9-b4fa-49af-84ef-e0eb3313c14f\).html](http://pure.au.dk/portal/da/persons/annette-markham(6767c3a9-b4fa-49af-84ef-e0eb3313c14f).html)

Methods as Ethics: Challenges for studying death online

In this final keynote address, Annette Markham will discuss some of the most pressing challenges of analyzing social practices in digitally-saturated contexts. In an era when digital and physical contexts overlap, what counts as 'data'? What do we pay attention to, when the flows of communications are not only material and intensely local but also global and networked in ways we cannot possibly track? How do we make sense of 'the social' in social networks when much of our everyday sensemaking is not visible because it occurs in the interstices, the liminal, the between? Drawing on future-oriented approaches to ethnographic practice, Professor Markham offers a framework of remix that enables researchers to find generative and innovative methods for studying the complexity surrounding death culture and practices in the digital era.

We welcome academic presentations in the following categories:

- Individual papers/group papers
- Paper panels and/or fishbowl/panels presenting academic discussions in clearly framed and thematized sessions
- Theoretical, methodological and empirical papers
- When sending your abstract, please indicate 3 keywords for the planned presentation
- If you want to host a fishbowl, please send an abstract for the theme, questions and the participants of your group (3-5 participants)

Please submit an abstract to Dorthe Refslund Christensen, main organizer, nordrc@cc.au.dk (of max 250 words for individual/group papers and of max 500 words for panels/fishbowls) no later than **September 10, 2016 (new extended deadline)**. All submissions and enquiries should be marked DORS3 in the subject field and mailed in 'word' as attached file. Please include full contact info (author name, university affiliation and email address) in the submission.

Reviewing: Submissions will be anonymised by the organisers before reviewing. 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.

We will get back to you with information on acceptance of papers and more practical informations no later than October 15, 2016.

Preliminary programme will be out no later than October 25, 2016.

Conference website and formal registration will be up and running from August 2016.

Themes and perspectives of the ph.d. course/workshop

Students and researchers in the field of Death Online studies come from a wide variety of academic fields such as media sociology, (media) aesthetics, psychology, (visual) anthropology, the history of religion, cultural studies, philosophy, linguistics, to name a few. This implies that the field is inhabited by a large number of various methodologies and conceptualisations, some of which are used in classical ways while others are transformed and negotiated through the meeting with methodologies from other related fields. This ph.d. course teaches on choosing and developing methods that are adequate for the purpose they should serve, in the field of Death Online Studies. We welcome ph.d. students on Death Online related practices from any academic field.

The idea of the ph.d. course is to teach ph.d. students in the field of Death Online Research to reflect on the body of methodologies they use or want to use in their scientific work through the use of mappings and through collaborative work with colleagues in the field.

The first 3 days of the course will consist of taking part in the Death Online Research Symposium through attending the keynote- and paper sessions and by giving a short paper in relation to the themes outlined for the symposium. During the conference ph.d. students will also be given an assignment to be worked out in small groups during the 3 days about the methodologies used in the various papers of the conference. It will be a mapping assignment.

The last two days of the ph.d. course will be a workshop where we will reflect on the various and very different methodologies that have been used throughout the symposium and begin to practically mapping out various methodologies and their interrelations and adequacy in the actual work of the participating ph.d. students.

Confirmed instructors for the ph.d. course include Annette Markham, professor, and Dorte Refslund Christensen, associate professor, School for Communication and Culture, Aarhus University, DK.

It is free of charge for ph.d. students to attend the ph.d.course (five days with symposium, workshop, meals and joy!)

Write a mail to nordrc@cc.au.dk to express your interest in the ph.d. course. The formal enrollment through the website will be up and running during the fall of 2016

Please, feel free to share the call for the symposium and the ph.d. workshop with relevant colleagues and students.