

Social Aspects of Death, Dying and Bereavement (DDB) study group Annual Report 2014

1. Established: 1991

2. Current Membership Figure: 61

The membership list has recently been updated. Members on the existing database were contacted and asked to opt-in to remain as a member of DDB (hence a reduction in membership numbers when compared with last year). We also gathered information about members – their current institutional affiliation and career stage. This will help us to think about the needs of the group when planning future events for the Study Group. Once the BSA membership renewals for 2015 have been processed (post Feb 28th) we will cross check the current DDB members list with the BSA membership records to ascertain how many individuals are also members of the BSA.

3. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (according to Sept 2014 statement)

Income: £1500

Expenditure: £1024.25

4. Aim/s of SG:

The aim of this study group is to provide a simultaneously stimulating and safe space to share ideas related to death, dying and bereavement. It encourages postgraduate students and early career researchers especially to contribute at the annual symposium.

5. Review of Year:

The principle activity of the study group is the annual symposium held in November each year. In 2014, the theme of the symposium was death, inequality, and social difference.

6. Key Activities during year 2014

As noted above, the principle activity of this study group is an annual symposium. The symposium this year was held on Friday 14th November in the London Meeting Room and was attended by 23 people. Fourteen abstracts were received, 8 were accepted for presentation, including presenters from non-UK based institutions. As with previous years, we have put the slides (where permission has been given) up on the BSA DDB website.

The day brought together sociologists, social workers, art historians, anthropologists, and voluntary organisations. The group continues to draw in large non-academic audiences to the annual symposium. It generated stimulating and fruitful discussions about what inequalities exist, and how they may be critically addressed in research and practice. We have submitted a short blurb about the day to be featured in Network.

We have also reviewed our Study Group webpage and refreshed the content and updated any broken web links.

7. Concluding Remarks:

The academic study of death and dying continues to grow and DDB plays a significant role in its development. The co-convenors are looking into writing a piece that brings the main themes from previous years together.

8. Convenor/s Name/s:

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3rd February 2015

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10. SG weblink: <http://www.britsoc.co.uk/specialisms/DDB.htm>