

## Rethinking the Dead: the anthropology of death and burial

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<b>Date</b>	16 January 2016	<b>Time</b>	10:00 – 16:45
<b>Venue</b>	Madingley Hall Madingley Cambridge		
<b>Tutor</b>	Trish Biers, PhD	<b>Course code</b>	1516NDX017

**Director of Programmes** Emma Jennings

**For further information on this course, please contact** Clare Kerr, Public Programmes Coordinator  
01223 746237 [clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk)

**To book** See: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk) or telephone 01223 746262

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### Tutor biographies

Dr Trish Biers is bioarchaeologist in the Dorothy Garrod Laboratory for Isotopic Analysis, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge. She also is a member of the Education and Outreach team at the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (MAA). Her PhD research focused on Peruvian mummies and musculoskeletal anatomy looking at identity of people under control of the Inka Empire. Her research interests include the study of ancient diet & disease, gender and the dead, Memento Mori, and the ethics of human remains for study and display. She has been involved with museum work, archaeological fieldwork, and outreach for almost two decades.

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### Day school content:

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Why *is* the skull such a fascinating subject for artists? And why are catacombs popular tourist destinations? These are just some of the questions we will discuss in this course about the unique and unusual ways we honour and inter our dead. Burial sites, human remains, grave goods, and memento mori have embedded information to offer not only about the deceased, but also shifts in ideology of living populations. How and why was mummification used in the first place? This course will present a wide range of topics relating to the beliefs and treatment of the dead, across cultures and through time, with current research including how archaeologists are using biomolecular evidence to access how identity is encoded in bones and teeth. There will also be discussion of new

and unique ways contemporary society interacts with the deceased, featuring cremation ash tattoos, jewelled skeletons, and woodland burials.

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**Programme:**

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09:30	Terrace bar open for pre-course tea/ coffee
10:00 – 11:15	Session 1: Death and Burial – Overview of the study of death in archaeology and anthropology. Major themes and contributors will be discussed/ ethics of display.
11:15	Coffee
11:45 – 13:00	Session 2: The Ancient Dead – A discussion of burial practices across time and region/history of mummification/ case studies/burial objects/what does science about identity of the dead.
13:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Session 3: Memento Mori and the death tourist – Places of memory and death monuments/ mourning jewellery and gem-encrusted skeletons/charnel houses and spaces of commemoration.
15:15	Tea
15:30 – 16:45	Session 4: Ashes to ink: new ways of engaging with the dead – Death and popular culture/cremation art/ innovation in death and dying.
16:45	Day school ends

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**Reading and resources list**

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Listed below are a number of texts that might be of interest for future reference, but do not need to be bought (or consulted) for the course.

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Author	Title	Publisher and date
Parker-Pearson, M.	<i>Archaeology of Death and Burial</i>	History Press, 2003
	<a href="http://www.deathreferencedesk.org/">http://www.deathreferencedesk.org/</a>	

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**Additional information**

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**Venue**

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:

<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

## Refreshments

Tea and coffee and lunch will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on [ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk) or +44 (0)1223 746262.

**Note** Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

*Information correct as of:* 04 January 2016