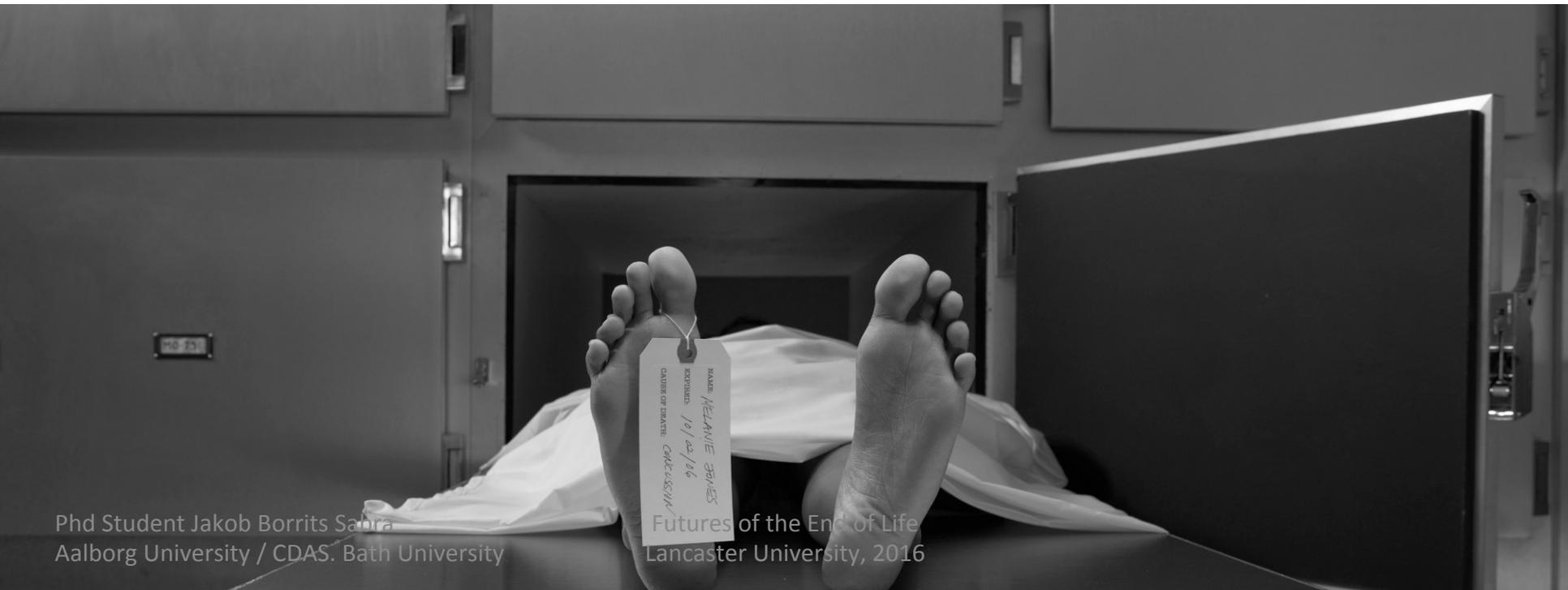
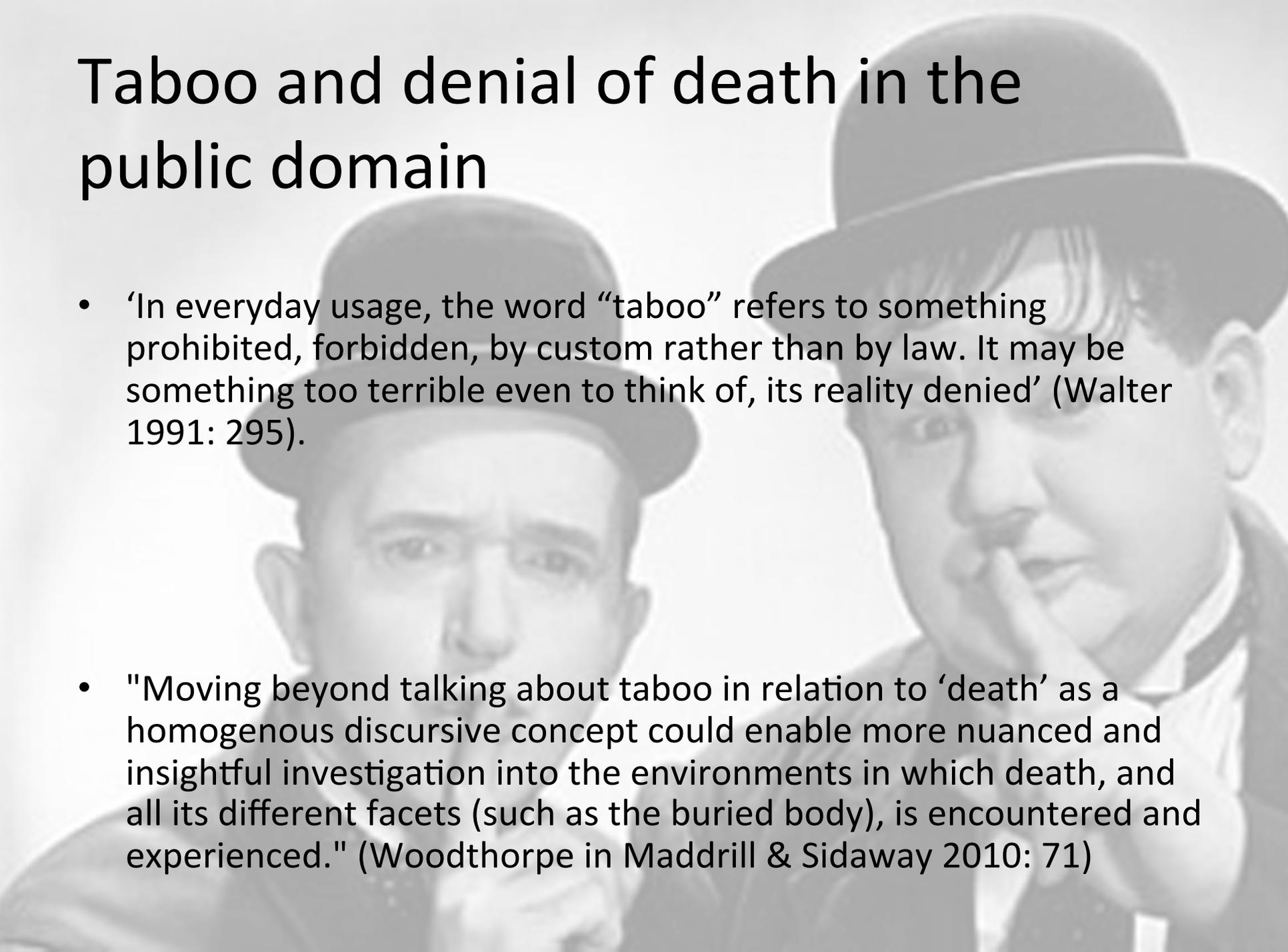


# Future Dead: Designing Disposal for Both Dead bodies and Digital Data

PhD Student Jakob Borrits Sabra  
Aalborg University / CDAS Bath University



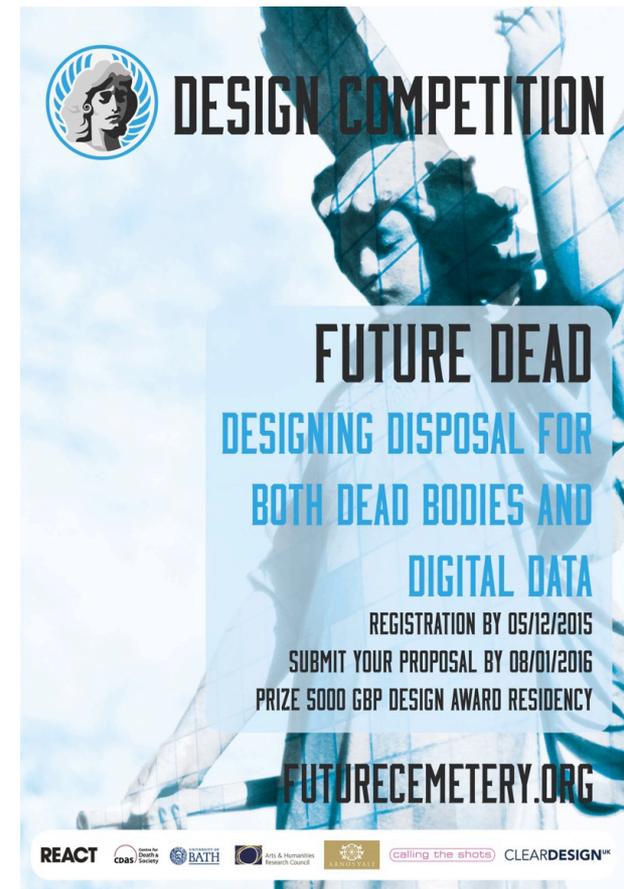
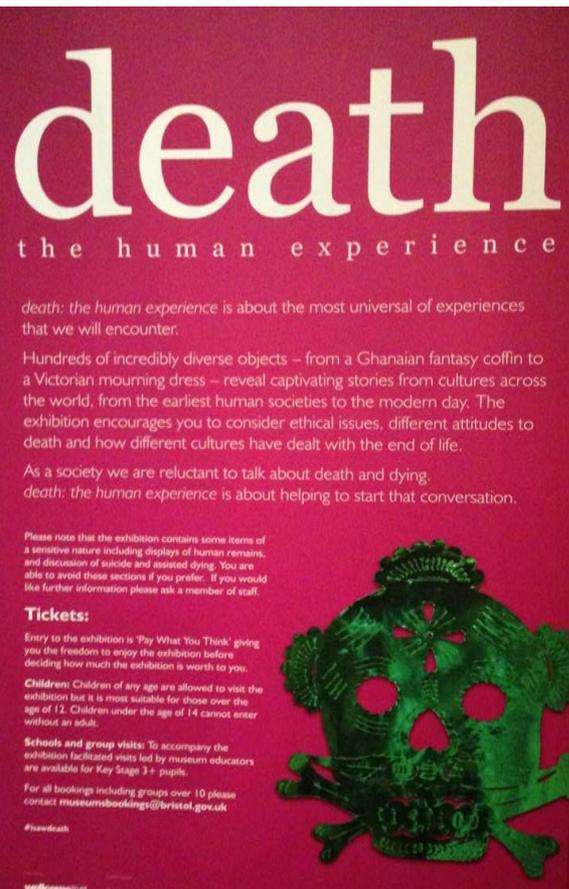
# Taboo and denial of death in the public domain



- 'In everyday usage, the word "taboo" refers to something prohibited, forbidden, by custom rather than by law. It may be something too terrible even to think of, its reality denied' (Walter 1991: 295).
- "Moving beyond talking about taboo in relation to 'death' as a homogenous discursive concept could enable more nuanced and insightful investigation into the environments in which death, and all its different facets (such as the buried body), is encountered and experienced." (Woodthorpe in Maddrill & Sidaway 2010: 71)

RQ: How is death, burial and disposal of the body perceived by a British urban public?

RQ: Has death has been liberated from social and individual emotional regulation or is it constrained by societal taboo and psychological repression?

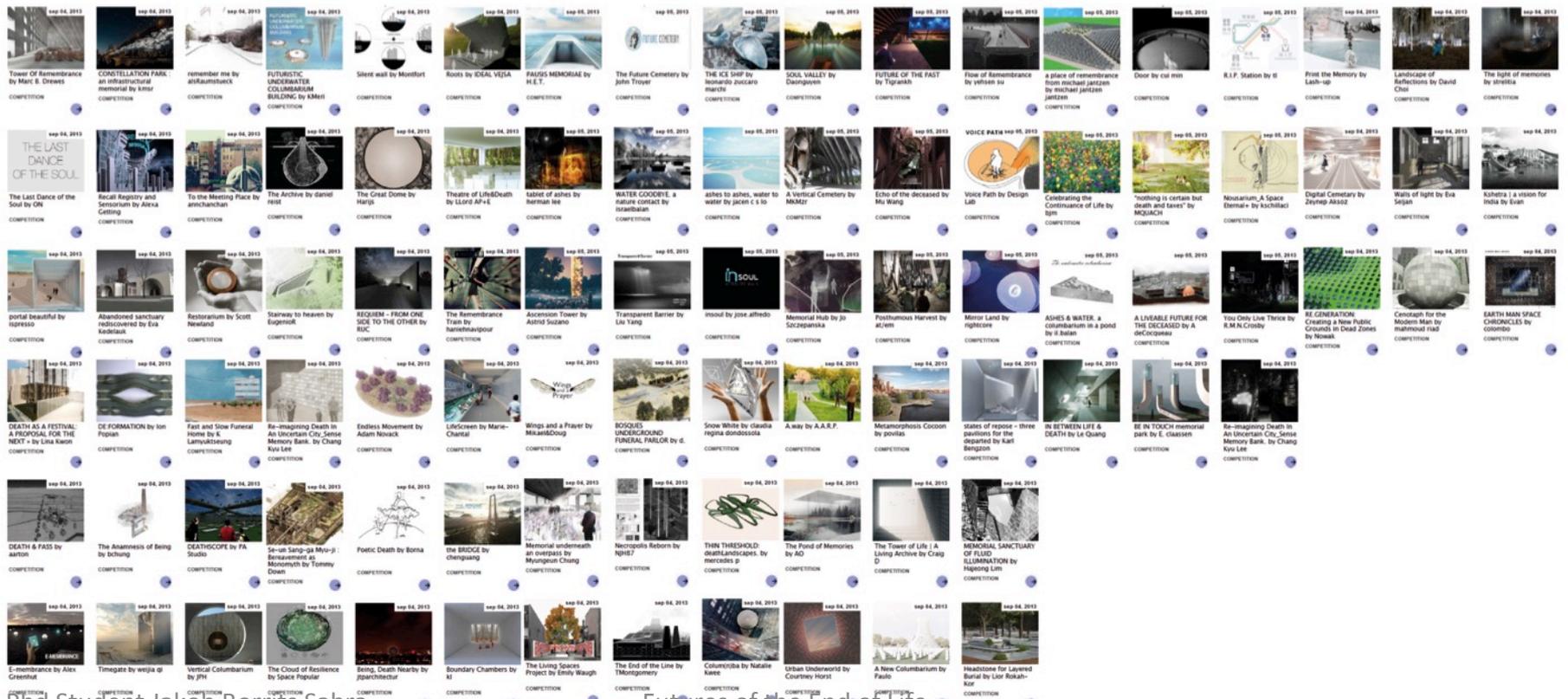


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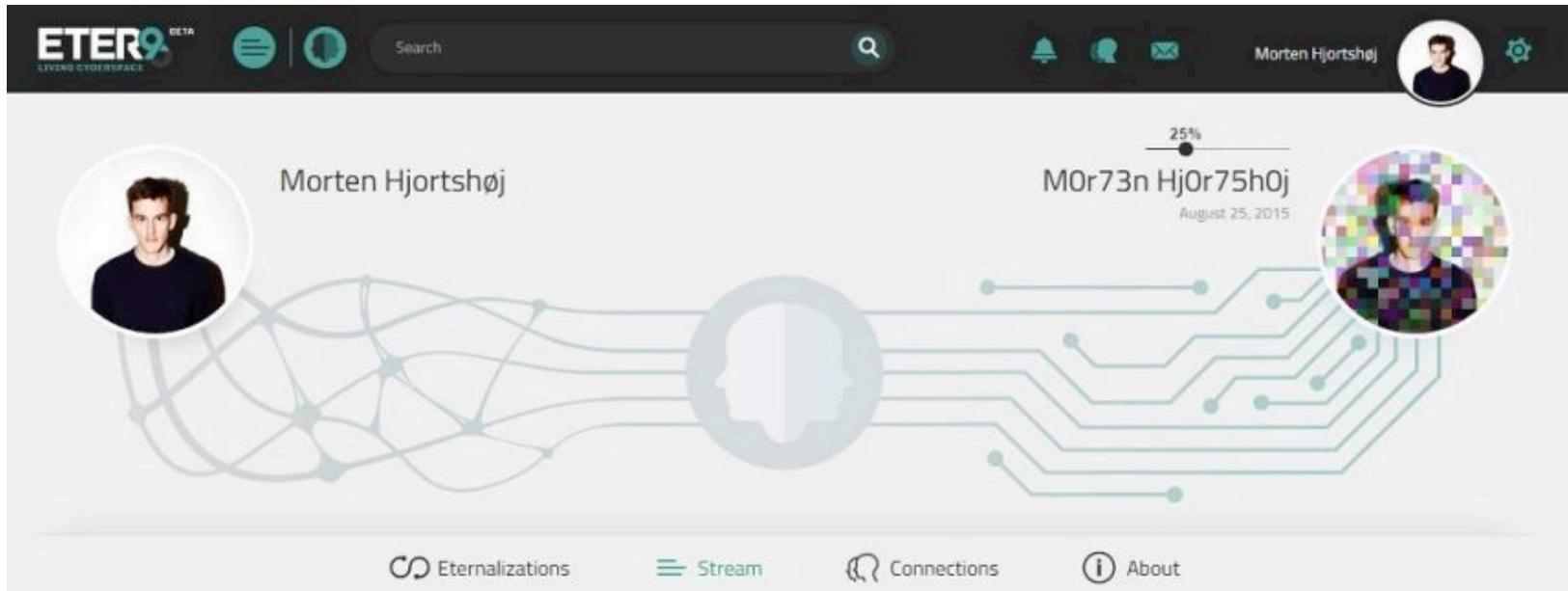
Futures of the End of Life  
Lancaster University, 2016

# Re-imagining death

# Re-mediating death









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Futures of the End of Life  
Lancaster University, 2016









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Lancaster University, 2016





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Futures of the End of Life  
Lancaster University, 2016

Today's Specials  
& gummy treats

Death Cafe

DRUNKEN GRANNY'S WAKE £6.50  
£10 WITH GRANNY'S TEA SYRUP  
THE SPIRIT OF LORD EARL  
GIN AND EARL GREY TEA £6.50



**What would help you be able to be more comfortable talking about death?**

Coverbillede

everywhere, but  
it's on my list."

Til minde om  
Hollie Rebekah  
Gazzard Susan Sontag

Tidslinje Om Venner Billeder Mere ▾

Bartender hos The King Teddy og Hair Designer hos Fringe Benefits & La Bella Beauty  
 Tidligere: The Edge Hair and Beauty og Steiner Leisure

Har studeret på Reflections Training Academy  
 Studerede fra 2010 til 2012

Fra Gloucester, Gloucestershire

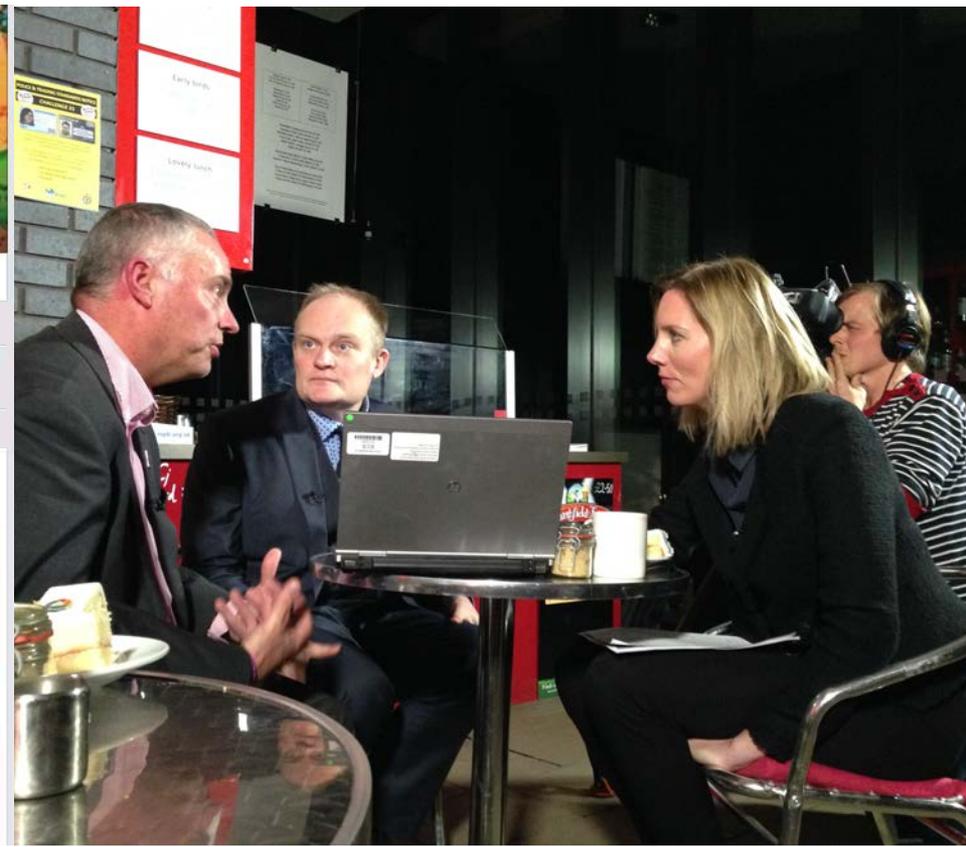
782 venner

VENNER · 782

Kae Robinson  
 Bill Topping  
 Kieran Mark Bowes  
 Dan Smith  
 Vicky Moore  
 Sophie Berriman

Tidligere i 2015 HØJDEPUNKTER ▾  
 2014 HØJDEPUNKTER ▾

Hollie Rebekah Gazzard har opdateret sit profilbillede.  
 2. februar 2014 · 🌐





# death

the human experience

*death: the human experience* is about the most universal of experiences that we will encounter.

Hundreds of incredibly diverse objects – from a Ghanaian fantasy coffin to a Victorian mourning dress – reveal captivating stories from cultures across the world, from the earliest human societies to the modern day. The exhibition encourages you to consider ethical issues, different attitudes to death and how different cultures have dealt with the end of life.

As a society we are reluctant to talk about death and dying.

*death: the human experience* is about helping to start that conversation.

Please note that the exhibition contains some items of a sensitive nature including displays of human remains, and discussion of suicide and assisted dying. You are able to avoid these sections if you prefer. If you would like further information please ask a member of staff.

## Tickets:

Entry to the exhibition is 'Pay What You Think' giving you the freedom to enjoy the exhibition before deciding how much the exhibition is worth to you.

**Children:** Children of any age are allowed to visit the exhibition but it is most suitable for those over the age of 12. Children under the age of 14 cannot enter without an adult.

**Schools and group visits:** To accompany the exhibition facilitated visits led by museum educators are available for Key Stage 3+ pupils.

For all bookings including groups over 10 please contact [museumbookings@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:museumbookings@bristol.gov.uk)

#haveadeth



# attitudes to death

Are all deaths the same?

Are some deaths more acceptable than others?

Does the way someone dies affect how we feel about it?

Please note: This section contains  
material that some may find unsettling,  
such as child death and suicide.

# reflection

This area is designed as a breathing space to help you to reflect on what you have just seen.

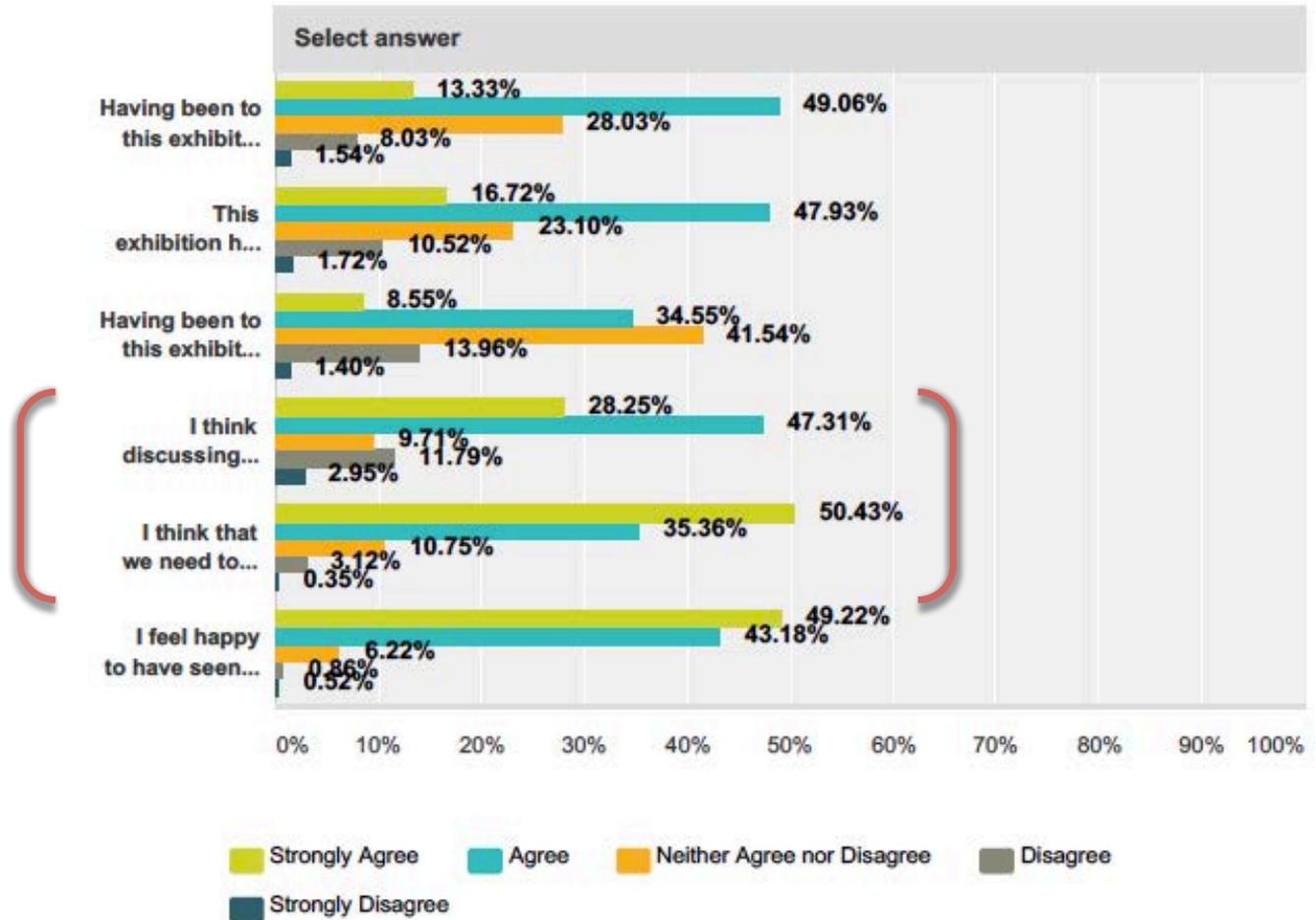
You are encouraged to write down any thoughts or feelings you have now you have been through the exhibition.

If you have been affected by what you have seen or heard in the exhibition there are leaflets and other sources of information available as you leave the gallery.

Start the conversation.  
Make your thoughts known...  
...if we all understand where we're heading  
Perhaps we can all enjoy the ride!  
Let's talk about death.

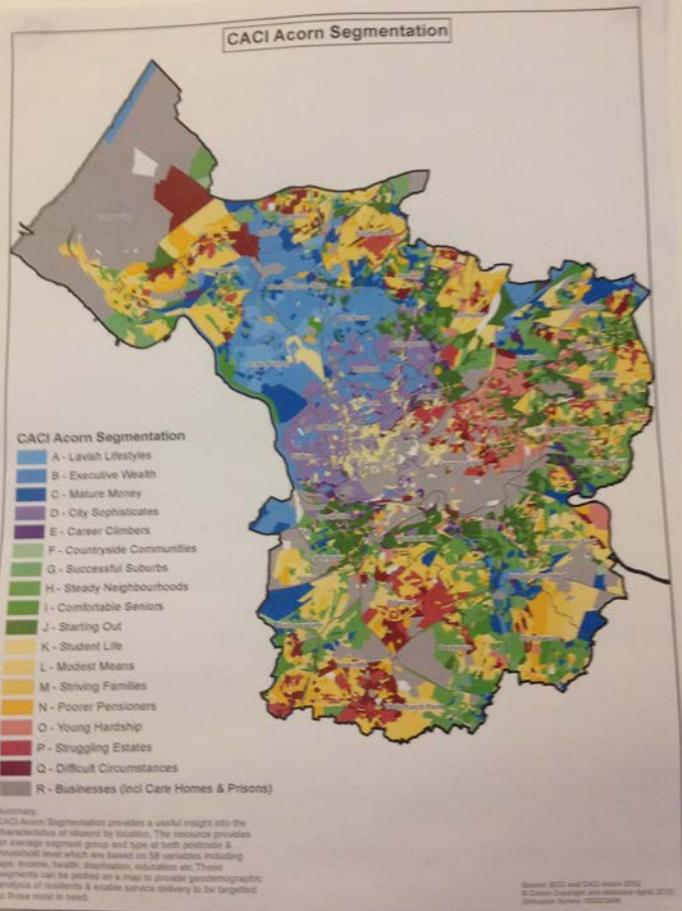
# Q10 Please read the following statements and tell us if you agree or disagree with them.

Answered: 589 Skipped: 257



# Death: The Human Experience exhibition.

## User Survey (n=589)



- Q10-D: I think discussing death and dying can often feel inappropriate or taboo in society

Strongly Agree + Agree: 75,56 %

- Q10-E: I think that we need to discuss death and dying more in society

Strongly agree + Agree: 85,79 %

# The Future Cemetery Project

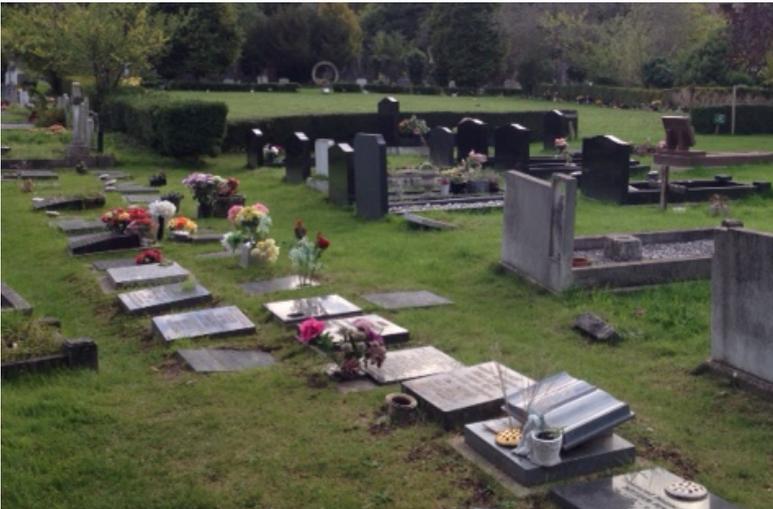
**Partners:** Arnos Vale Cemetery + REACT + Pervasive Media Studio + Watershed + Calling the Shots + Center for Death and Society + Bath University

The Future Cemetery provides the space for high quality research, innovation and creative exploration into the social, cultural and technological aspects of end of life, death and remembrance.

- *The body*
- *The biological self*
- *The digital self*
- *Space and public domain*



# The Future Cemetery project



Phd Student Jakob Borrits Sabra  
Aalborg University / CDAS. Bath University

Futures of the End of Life  
Lancaster University, 2016

→  
CEMETERY  
THEATRE  
THE LABS

←  
GARDEN CEMETERY  
THE LABS THEATRE  
GALLERY

→  
SITTING ROOM  
THE KITCHEN ♣♣♣  
PLAYGROUND  
PLAYROOM  
THE MAZE

**REACT**  
PRESENTS...

↑  
NEWSROOM  
STUDY  
LIBRARY  
BEDROOM  
THE CWTCH  
WAITING ROOM  
BREATHING ROOM

**THE  
ROOMS**



**FUTURE CEMETERY?**

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HAPPEN TO YOUR BODY WHEN YOU DIE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HAPPEN TO YOUR DIGITAL ESTATE?

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO HAPPEN TO YOUR SOCIAL NETWORK PROFILE WHEN YOU DIE?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED?

HAVE YOU TOLD YOUR NEXT OF KIN ABOUT YOUR WISHES?

DO WE NEED SPACE FOR CEMETERIES IN THE FUTURE?

LIKE THIS  
DEATH IS TRAGEDY  
BYE GUYS  
LOVE YOU  
I LEFT THE STOVE ON  
I AM SELF ESTEEM  
HOPE MY FUNERAL IS FANCY DRESS

LONG LIVE ALL DOGS  
I HAVE MADE YOU LAUGH  
I AM A DOG

HEAD  
RIP  
NIP  
MAY IT BE  
D M  
M B  
UDET





PhD Student Jakob Borrits Sabra  
Aalborg University / CDAS, Bath University



Futures of the End of Life  
Lancaster University 2016



WHEN I DIE MY EPITAPH SAYS...

KEEP IT DELETE IT

WISH I WAS IN A FOREST

FOR NOW I'M HERE

BEAT IT

WELL OF COURSE

LIKE THAT

THAT'S A WARM

CHEERS THEN

I DID IT

ALL FLEAS IS GRASS

IT DO YOU

I PRETENDED I LIKED YOUR LOOKING

IT TOLD YOU I WAS

TRY TO LIVE TODAY

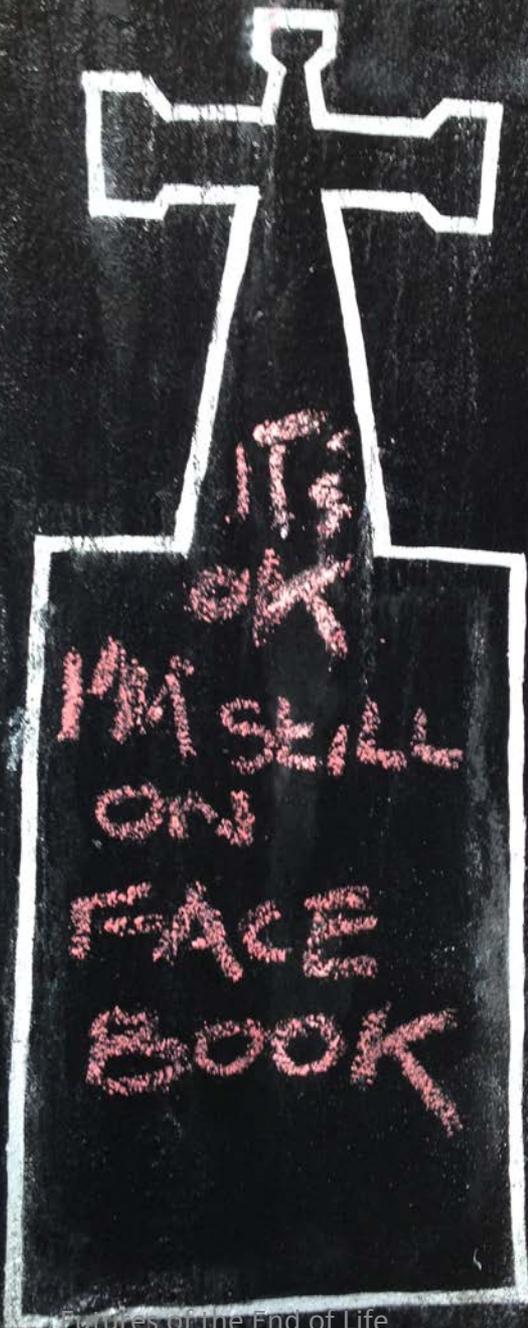
IMMORTALITY

SH. MOTHER

BRB GONE TO SPIN THE CIRCUS

Phd Student Jakob Borrits Sabra  
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Futures of the End of Life  
Lancaster University, 2016



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Aalborg University / CDAS. Bath University

Figures of the End of Life  
Lancaster University, 2016





# DESIGN COMPETITION

## *Future Dead: Designing Disposal for both Dead Bodies and Digital Data*

- How can the concept and practice of 'Disposal' be understood to encompass the organic and the inorganic, the physical and the digital?
- How might relations between the body, the person, and digital memories be unfolded, intertwined, separated or combined?
- Should disposal of the body be followed by disposal of remnant digital interactions?
- Does the right to be dead also mean the right to be forgotten?
- Finally, what role can future cemeteries play in managing new disposal possibilities and realities?
- How can these points be addressed within Arnos Vale Cemetery's Strategic Challenges?

Phd Student Jakob Borrits Sabra  
Aalborg University / CDAS. Bath University



# DESIGN COMPETITION

## FUTURE DEAD DESIGNING DISPOSAL FOR BOTH DEAD BODIES AND DIGITAL DATA

REGISTRATION BY 05/12/2015

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL BY 08/01/2016

PRIZE 5000 GBP DESIGN AWARD RESIDENCY

[FUTURECEMETERY.ORG](http://FUTURECEMETERY.ORG)

REACT

CDAS  
Centre for  
Death &  
Society

UNIVERSITY OF  
BATH

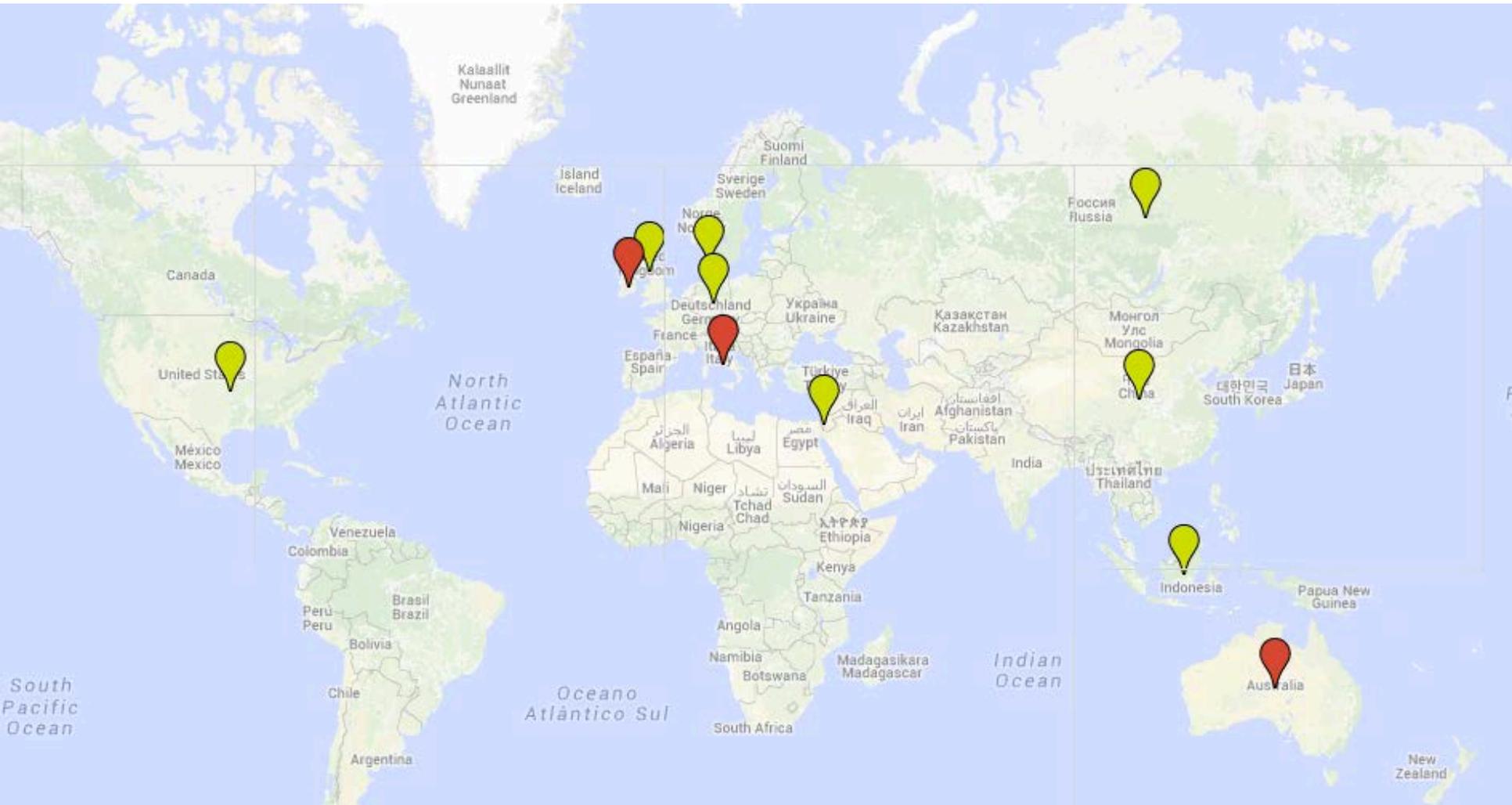
Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

ARNOSVALE

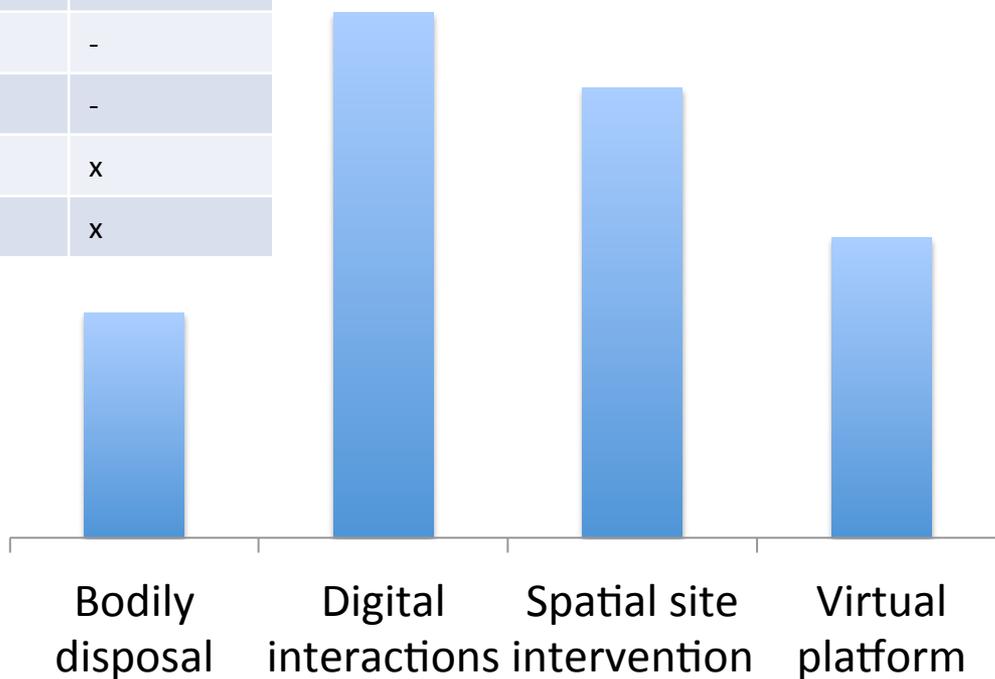
calling the shots

CLEARDESIGN<sup>UK</sup>

# 31 applications out, 9 proposals in



Proposal	Bodily disposal	Digital interactions	Spatial site intervention	Virtual platform
A	x	x	x	-
B	-	x	-	x
C	-	x	x	-
D	-	x	x	x
E	x	x	x	-
F	-	-	x	-
G	x	-	x	-
H	-	x	-	x
I	-	x	-	x



# Sum up

- Death generates public interest and value in a cultural economy
- A sensitive and difficult start-up-industry
- Absence both privately and publicly, few plan their funeral ahead
- Public engagement, visual display and active participation generates communication.
- Spaces for reflection establishes and connects mental spaces – wellbeing?

