



# LOSS & BEREAVEMENT IN A CULTURALLY DIVERSE SOCIETY

**11th OCT 2011**  
London Conference



Ethnic Health Initiative  
[bmehealth.org](http://bmehealth.org)

**ETHNIC HEALTH INITIATIVE**

Promoting a better understanding of BME  
psychological health and well-being



# LOSS & BEREAVEMENT IN A CULTURALLY DIVERSE SOCIETY

This one day conference will critically explore the ways in which loss and bereavement is understood and experienced by individuals and groups from various cultures and backgrounds. All of the great world religions provide us with solutions to the universal problem of death.

The conference will bring together clinicians who have experience in providing therapeutic and social care interventions in the bereavement sector and across cultures. Learning points and good practice will be shared. The challenges experienced and possible limitations will also be discussed via anonymised case vignettes.

## Who Should Attend?

This conference will be relevant to all interested in this field as well as all professionals, including those from Local Authorities and NHS trusts across the UK, Psychiatrists, GPs, Psychologists, Psychotherapists, Counsellors, Early Intervention Teams, CPN's, OT's, Social Workers, Chaplains, Community Faith Leaders & Healers, Equality Leads, Community Development Workers, Service User Representatives, Charities, Third Sector, Educational Establishments, Academics and Policy makers.



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## PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

9.00 – 9.30

Registration, Tea & Coffee

9.30 – 10.40

**COLIN PARKES**

DEATH AND BEREAVEMENT ACROSS CULTURES

CHAIR & INTRODUCTION

10.40 – 11.30

**TONY WALTER**

GRIEF AND CULTURE

11.30 – 11.45

Tea & Coffee

11.45 – 12.30

**AZIZ SHEIKH**

UNDERSTANDING THE END OF LIFE CARE NEEDS OF SOUTH ASIAN SIKH AND MUSLIM PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

12.30 – 1.00

Morning Q&A Session

1.00 – 1.45

Lunch

1.45 – 2.35

**DAWN CHAPLIN**

BEREAVEMENT IN THE ABRAHAMIC FAITHS: CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS AT END OF LIFE WITHIN AN ACUTE HOSPITAL SETTING

2.35 – 3.25

**JAN OYEBODE**

THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CULTURE, RELIGION AND RESPONSE TO BEREAVEMENT

3.25 – 3.40

Tea & Coffee

3.40 – 4.30

**DIANA MURUNGU**

SPIRITUALITY, INTERFAITH AND PALLIATIVE CARE

4.30 – 4.45

Afternoon Q&A Session

4.45 – 5.00

Plenary, Closure & Evaluation sheets



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## Speaker Profile

**Colin Murray Parkes** OBE MD FRCPsych is Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist to St Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham. Formerly Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry, The Royal London Hospital Medical College, The Tavistock Institute of Human Relations and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, St Joseph's Hospice, Hackney. He is the author of: *Love and Loss: the roots of Grief and its Complications*. Routledge, London & NY (2006). *Bereavement: Studies of Grief in Adult Life*; publ. Pelican, London and Routledge, London & New York (4th Ed with Holly Prigerson, 2010) With Robert Weiss, *Recovery from Bereavement*, publ. Basic Books, New York & London (1983) With M. Relf and A. Couldrick, *Counselling in Terminal Care and Bereavement* (1996) publ. British Psychological Society. His recent work has focused on traumatic bereavements (with special reference to violent deaths and the cycle of violence) and on the roots in the attachments of childhood of the psychiatric problems that can follow the loss of attachments in adult life. He was awarded an OBE by Her Majesty The Queen for his services to bereaved people in June 1996.

**Tony Walter** is Professor of Death Studies at the University of Bath. He has written, taught and lectured extensively on social aspects of death and dying, including funerals, palliative care, bereavement, afterlife beliefs, public mourning, and media representations, and exhibitions of human remains. His books include *On Bereavement: The Culture of Grief* (Open University Press 1999), and *The Eclipse of Eternity: A Sociology of the Afterlife* (Palgrave Macmillan 1996). He is currently researching relationships between the living and the dead, not least in the age of the internet; also the role of informal social networks in supporting those caring for a dying relative at home.

**Aziz Sheikh** is Professor of Primary Care Research & Development in the Centre for Population Health Sciences at The University of Edinburgh. He has a long-standing interest in investigating the relationship between faith, ethnicity, health and healthcare delivery and he has published widely in this field in leading peer-reviewed publications. He is co-editor of *Caring for Muslim Patients* and *Caring for Hindu Patients and Palliative Care for South Asians: Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs*.

**Dawn Chaplin** is the Project Director for the Birmingham Bereavement Care Project. Dawn's interest focuses on improving the quality of end of life and bereavement care, and training, education and support for staff who provide this care. Dawn has an interest in research in this area and undertook a PhD exploring Bereavement in the Abrahamic faiths. Dawn has several publications relating to Bereavement care and bereavement pathways in acute hospital settings. Her publications include: 'A Bereavement Care Service for All'. *Nursing Times*. October (2003). 'Quality of Life after Liver transplantation for hepatitis C infection'. *Quality of Life Research Journal* October 2007. 'Developing an end of life care pathway to improve nurses' bereavement care'. *Nursing Times*. January (2009). 'Support for the bereaved'. *Nursing Standard* vol23 no44 (2009)

**Jan Oyebo** B.A.(Hons), M.Psychol.(Clinical), Cert. NHS Management, PhD. is the Director of the Clinical Psychology Doctorate at the University of Birmingham and spends one day a week in clinical practice as a consultant clinical psychologist with older people in Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust. Her areas of research and clinical interest focus on the psychology of later life including the impact of illness, dementia, care giving and bereavement. Jan's aim through the work she does is to help older people and their families by raising understanding of their life experiences. Her relevant publications include: Suhail, K, Jamil N, Oyebo JR, & Ajmal, MA (2011) Continuing bonds in bereaved Pakistani Muslims: Effects of Culture and Religion. *Death Studies*. 35, 22-41. Hussein, H. & Oyebo, JR, (2009) Influences of religion and culture on continuing bonds in a sample of British Muslims of Pakistani origin. *Death Studies*. 33, 900-912. LaFontaine, J, Ahuja, J., Bradbury, N., Phillips, S. & Oyebo, J. (2007) Understanding dementia amongst people of minority ethnic groups. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*, 60, 605-614.

**Diana Murungu**  
See website for details



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