

# Creative responses to dementia care now available in German



Dr Simon Grennan.

A BOOK representing creative responses to dementia care, through carers' eyes and produced in a new visual format by a collaboration including an academic from the University of Chester, is now available in Germany.

*Parables of Care. Creative Responses to Dementia Care, As Told by Carers* is a research-based comic book, originally published in English in October 2017. It has now been released in German, translated by Dr Andrea Hacker, from the Open Science Team at the University of Bern.

The short comic book was created by

Dr Simon Grennan, from the Department of Art and Design, University of Chester; Dr Ernesto Priego, from the Centre for Human Computer Interaction Design, City, University of London and Dr Peter Wilkins from Douglas College, Vancouver, Canada.

The book includes 14 informative and touching stories, drawn by Simon with Christopher Sperandio, which were adapted by more than 100 case studies of real-life dementia care situations described by a range of carers. These case studies in which the comic book is based are available at <http://carenshare.city.ac.uk/>

The small international team looked to expand the accessibility of this archive of carers' stories and found that by creating short graphic art stories they could portray the emotion conveyed in these situations. Each story involves only four panels and is just one page long. Unlike clinical descriptions, this form enhances the affective aspects of each story, putting the reader at the centre of situations that are often on the verge of incomprehensibility, but which are all resolved. In this respect, each story is universalised and becomes a parable.

The book is available open access to dementia carers and the general public as part of ongoing engagement, training and development programmes at City, University of London, the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust and The Faculty of Health

Sciences at Douglas College, Vancouver, Canada Vancouver.

Download *Parables of Care* (original English version) from City Research Online, City, University of London:

<http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/18245/>

Download *Parabeln der Pflege. Kreative Reaktionen in der Demenzpflege*, von Pflegenden erzählt [*Parables of Care* German version] from City Research Online, City, University of London:

<http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/21252/>

For more information visit:

<https://blogs.city.ac.uk/parablesofcare/>



## Natural History course opportunity for Dale



A GRADUATE Teaching Assistant in the Department of Geography and International Development recently completed a course in London with specialists from the Natural History Museum.

Dale Tromans was one of only 15 PhD students and early career earth and environmental science researchers chosen from across the UK to take part in the palaeoecology (the ecology of fossil animals and plants) course, fully

funded by NERC (the Natural Environment Research Council).

Dale said: "We focused on five different palaeoecological proxies over the five days of the course: beetles, chironomids (e.g. midges), diatoms (single-celled algae), pollen, and vertebrates. The course was a truly great experience, led by leading researchers in the field of palaeoecology, and it was a privilege to have been able to attend."