

**In Plain Sight: Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict**

*Panel Discussion and Book Launch*

Monday 04 November 2019

18.00-20.00

Keynes Library, 43 GordoSquare  
Birkbeck, University of London

**EVENT REPORT**

*Many thanks for support from:*



## Event Overview:

On Monday 04 November, 2019 in the Keynes Library at Birkbeck, University of London, the SHaME Research Hub hosted a book launch for SVAC, to mark the publication of their collection of essays, *In Plain Sight: Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict*.

The evening commenced with an introduction by Prof Joanna Bourke, PI of the SHaME Research Hub, who introduced the work of SHaME before introducing the theme of the evening.

This was followed by introductions by the editors of *In Plain Sight*, Gaby Zipfel, Regina Mühlhäuser and Kirsten Campbell.

This was followed by short talks by Dubravka Zarkov, who presented on behalf of Urvashi Butalia, Publisher and Director of Zubaan Books, who was unable to attend as a result of problems with securing a visa, as well as presenting her own paper – Intersectionality – A Critical Review.



The floor was then opened up to questions from the audience, after which Joanna Bourke concluded the evening and invited everyone to continue the conversation over wine and nibbles.

## Attendance:



Invitations were initially sent to a closed list, provided by Gaby, Regina and Kirsten. The event was later publicized more widely through internal mailing lists at Goldsmiths and Birkbeck, and via Twitter.

The event venue – Keynes Library, 43 Gordon Square, Birkbeck, University of London – had a capacity of 40 people. 27 people registered to attend (this number included four of the SHaME team). 15 people attended on the night. Including members of the respective research groups, that meant 25 people in total were in attendance, which suited the size of the room quite well.



## Feedback:

We received feedback from eight participants.

1. How did you hear about the event?
  - a. People reported having heard about the event via email from the organisers, through the Goldsmiths Sociology Department, and through the SHaME website.
  - b. One attendee noted that the event 'could have been better advertised outside network'.
    - i. My (RS) impression is that the event was intended for a selected audience from among the editors' contacts. For future events, it might be good to clarify whether the invitations are 'closed' or 'open'.
2. Why did you attend?
  - a. Responses included:
    - i. 'Heard previously about SVAC. The book looked interesting'
    - ii. 'Work in this field'
    - iii. 'Interest in subject'
    - iv. 'Because it looked interesting'
3. What was your view of the book launch?
  - a. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, including:
    - i. 'The most interesting talks!'
    - ii. 'Yes, very good length & nice venue!'
    - iii. 'Great'
    - iv. 'Excellent'
    - v. 'Very interesting talks by the editors'
    - vi. 'Very interesting & informative. Has made me think about my own research from a new perspective' (\*!!!\*)
  - b. There was one piece of constructive criticism about the length:
    - i. 'Too many speakers! Cut down to two'.
4. Did you buy a copy of the book?
  - a. 3 - Yes
  - b. 3 - No, but will / didn't have cash to hand
  - c. 2 - No
5. Would you attend another event in the future?
  - a. A resounding Yes, apart from the attendee who thought there were too many speakers ('hmm. Fewer speakers?')

*We thought the evening was a success and we hope you did as well!*



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