

# SHaME Research Hub Launch

*Launch Event & Drinks Reception*

Friday 29 November 2019  
18.00-20.00  
Keynes Library, 43 Gordon Square  
Birkbeck, University of London

## EVENT REPORT

*Many thanks for support from:*



## Event Overview:



On Friday 29 November, 2019 in the historic Keynes Library at Birkbeck, University of London, the SHaME Research Hub hosted our official project launch, introducing our Wellcome Trust-funded interdisciplinary research hub to an audience of academics, practitioners and interested members of the public.

The evening commenced with an introduction by Prof Joanna Bourke, Principal Investigator of the SHaME Research Hub, who introduced the overall work of SHaME, as well as her own research projects, and spoke about some of the philosophical and theoretical ideas about shame that inform our work.

Each team member then spoke about their individual projects in relation to one of the themes from the SHaME acronym – Sexual, Harms, Medical, Encounters.

Postdoctoral research fellow, Dr Stephanie Wright, was unfortunately unable to attend the Launch, so her work on how the 'sexual' in sexual violence was defined in Francoist Spain was presented by senior associate fellow of the project, Dr Caitlin Cunningham, who also spoke about this theme in relation to her own work on sexual violence in nineteenth-century California.

Dr Ruth Beecher, also a postdoctoral research fellow, addressed the wide-range of 'harms' that result from child sexual abuse and why as a research hub we often favour the term 'sexual harms' rather than 'sexual violence' to describe our work.

PhD Candidate, Emma Yapp, spoke about the 'medical' aspects of sexual violence, highlighting the central position medical institutions often occupy in responses to sexual violence. Emma's research specifically focuses on the use of psychiatric evidence in the courtroom.

Finally, Adeline Moussion, also a PhD Candidate, spoke about the 'encounters' that take place between victim/survivors and therapists/feminists in relation to her research, and focused in particular on the interpersonal and inter-psychic aspects of these professional encounters.

Following these presentations, Joanna introduced the rest of our team – James Gray, our documentary filmmaker, based in Glasgow; and Dr Louise Hide, associate fellow, whose research looks at the history of failures of care in institutions for older people. SHaME Public Engagement and Events Coordinator, Rhea Sookdeosingh, spoke about our commitment to engaging practitioners and interested publics with our research and highlighted our past and upcoming events, and the role of our website in reaching a wide audience.

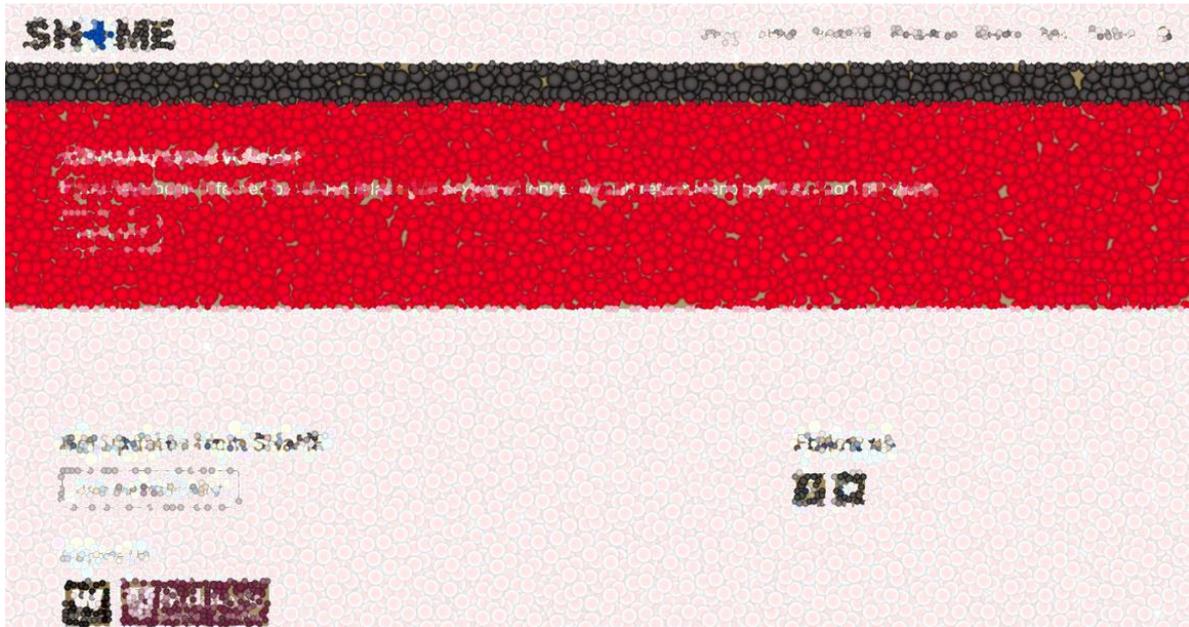
Joanna concluded the presentations by drawing attention to our developing Visiting Fellows scheme and highlighting our plans to grow the SHaME network, before thanking everyone for attending and extending an invitation to continue the conversation over drinks and canapes.

## Attendance:

Invitations were sent to a closed list comprised of the team's academic, professional and media contacts. Invitations were also sent to the SHaME mailing list, and the event was further advertised internally at Birkbeck and externally through our website and Twitter account.



The event venue – Keynes Library, 43 Gordon Square, Birkbeck, University of London – had a capacity of 40 people. 46 people were registered to attend. At a minimum 33 people attended on the night, plus the SHaME team members in attendance. This meant that we achieved full attendance and made full use of the space's capacity.



## Feedback:

We received positive and engaging feedback from participants.

1. How did you hear about the event?
  - a. People reported having heard about the event via:
    - i. SHaME website
    - ii. SHaME mailing list
    - iii. Personal invite from team member
    - iv. Email invitation
    - v. Through colleagues who had received the email invite
2. Why did you attend?
  - a. Responses included:
    - i. Interest in the subject matter / project / research community
    - ii. Fellow academics working in the field
    - iii. Support for team members
    - iv. To learn about our research / support the project
3. Were you familiar with our research prior to attending?
  - a. Only 3 people said 'no'
  - b. The remaining 8 were familiar with our research; 3 to a limited extent; and 1 who was familiar overall but not with the individual projects

4. Did the presentation help you to understand our research themes and priorities?
  - a. A resounding 'YES!' from all participants
    - i. One noted that it 'was great to hear more about the different research areas'
    - ii. Another said 'Yes! Really helpful to learn more about each of the areas of research. Great to see connections between strands'.
5. Would you attend another event in the future?
  - a. Another resounding 'Yes'
    - i. One participant said 'Yes, and I'll be sure to invite colleagues in related fields of study'.

We also received feedback from attendees who emailed Joanna directly:

'...just a note to both of you to say the event was really brilliant today - in terms of the presentations, the new materials on the website, and the way you set it up to really get people meeting/discussing....most impressed!'

'Thanks for inviting me. Its an impressive project. Keep me in touch. I knew the horrifying number of reported rape cases, but I didn't know that victims could not take effective counselling before a court case- which is quite inhuman. The comparisons across countries will be especially interesting.'

*We thought the evening was a success! The turnout was incredible, people came away with a deeper understanding of our research and were eager to engage with our work on the night and in the future.*

# SEXUAL HARMS + MEDICAL ENCOUNTERS



Report prepared by:  
Rhea Sookdeosingh  
SHaME Public Engagement and Events Coordinator

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