

– SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT –

Thank you for booking, we look forward to seeing you at this event!
Before we do, we wanted to provide you with a few details about the safety of the space.

Event details:

Sexual Violence and Criminal Justice: Approaches in Psychology, History, and Literature **In Conversation Event**

Wednesday 03 March 2021

5.00-6.30pm GMT

Online

Age guidance: 18 yrs+

Panel:

Chair: Professor Joanna Bourke, Birkbeck, University of London

Winnie M Li, Author and Activist, London School of Economics, Clear Lines Festival

Professor Amina Memon, Royal Holloway, University of London

In this unique online discussion, Professor Amina Memon, Professor Joanna Bourke, and SHaME Writer in Residence Winnie M Li will explore a range of issues relating to the lived experience of sexual violence and its treatment in the criminal justice system. Each will bring to the table their own expertise, spanning a range of fields: Amina will speak from her extensive experience in Applied Social and Cognitive Psychology focusing on social work and the law; Joanna will look at the historic handling of sexual violence in criminal justice proceedings; and Winnie will draw from her own lived experience as a rape survivor and her decision to imagine the trial of her rapist in her award-winning novel *Dark Chapter*.

As you might expect, this event will address difficult topics, which might feel overwhelming. We know that some of our discussions will be hard to bear: please remember it is normal to feel sad, angry, distressed, during or after this event.

A chat moderator will make sure that everyone can participate and feel safe; we reserve the right to eject anyone from the space who espouses any criminal, oppressive, or disrespectful comment or question.

Where possible, we will do our best to avoid graphic descriptions and distressing details. However, some images or details will still refer to events of sexual violence. We are conscious that our audience members may have experiences of their own and feel very strongly about these issues.

Some of the questions we will be discussing are:

- What are the mental health impacts of sexual violence — and of the criminal justice process on victims? Is the criminal justice process a form of further trauma on victims?
- Historically, how have these impacts been recognised or ignored by criminal justice policy?
- What role does psychology play in how authorities and the public perceive guilt and believability around sexual violence cases? Has this remained the same throughout history and into modern times?
- How can literature best capture the nuances of these experiences and convey them to a wider audience?
- How can narrative and the arts re-imagine an alternative possibility, when the current and past reality of the criminal justice system may fail victims?

If you feel distressed by the content of the event, you can:

- You can leave the event to **have a break at any time**, breathe, drink a glass of water, talk to someone you trust, or any other reassuring activity you can think of.
- If you are in the UK, you can **call the National Rape Crisis Helpline** on 0808 802 9999, for confidential emotional support. The helpline is open every day between 12-2.30pm and 7-9.30pm, calls are free of charge, and the number will not appear on your bill.
- If you are joining from elsewhere in the world, you can **consult this guide for resources available in your country**: <https://osapr.harvard.edu/international-resources-0> (Please note this list is not exhaustive and was not compiled by us).
- You can always **rejoin the event when you feel better and ready**, or not return if you prefer.

Following the event, you will be sent a feedback form.

Please feel free to give us suggestions on how we could have handled things differently.

Many thanks for support from:



Note that we won't cover every topic related to this issue, as this is a broad field of study. If some of your questions were left unanswered, feel free to write to us or to take a look at our website, where we have put bibliographies and open-access resources:

<https://shame.bbk.ac.uk>

Thank you!

SHaME Research Hub
Birkbeck, University of London

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