

- 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:

Bodies in Evidence: Race, Gender, and Science in Sexual Assault Adjudication
Official Book Launch

Thursday 28 April 2022
18.00-19.30 BST
Online
Age guidance: 18 yrs+

Panel:

Associate Professor Sameena Mulla, Emory University
Associate Professor Heather Hlavka, Marquette University
Professor Joanna Bourke, Birkbeck, University of London
Assistant Professor April Petillo, Northern Arizona University
Dr Gethin Rees, Newcastle University
Professor M Gabriela Torres, Wheaton College

The SHaME Project presents the official book launch of Associate Prof Sameena Mulla and Associate Prof Heather Hlavka's 'Bodies in Evidence: Race, Gender, and Science in Sexual Assault Adjudication' (New York University Press). Heather and Sameena will be joined in conversation by host Professor Joanna Bourke, Principal Investigator at SHaME, and guests Assistant Prof April Petillo, Dr Gethin Rees, and Prof M Gabriela Torres.

For victims in sexual assault cases, trials rarely result in justice. Instead, the courts drag defendants, victims, and their friends and family through a public spectacle. Along the way, forensic scientists, sexual assault nurse examiners, and police officers provide their insight and expertise, shaping the story that emerges for the judge and jury. These expert narratives intersect with the stories of victims, witnesses, and their communities to reproduce our cultural understandings of sexual violence, but too often this process results in reinscribing racial, gendered, and class inequalities.

The book launch will feature introductory comments from Prof Joanna Bourke, a framing discussion by the authors, reflections from Assistant Prof April Petillo (Northern Arizona University), Dr Gethin Rees (Newcastle University), and Prof M Gabriela Torres (Wheaton College), and an open panel discussion, including questions from the audience.

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 comments or questions.

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.

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 SHaME).
- 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.

Please 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!

The SHaME Project
Birkbeck, University of London
w: shame.bbk.ac.uk
t: [@shme_bbk](https://twitter.com/shme_bbk)
f: [@shamebbk](https://facebook.com/shamebbk)

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