

- 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:

COMPLICIT: Silence vs Speaking up in Hollywood and Everyday Workplaces **Official Book Launch**

Wednesday 22 June 2022

6.30-8.00pm BST

Followed by a reception and book signing

In person at Birkbeck, University of London | Livestreamed Online

Age guidance: 18 yrs+

Panel:

Chair: Professor Joanna Bourke, Director of SHaME, Birkbeck, University of London

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

Marai Larasi, Director of Time's Up UK

Professor Liz Kelly, London Metropolitan University

Rowena Chiu, Author and Activist

Dr Katherine Angel, Birkbeck, University of London

The SHaME Project, in collaboration with Clear Lines, presents the official book launch of *COMPLICIT*, the second novel by Winnie M Li. This very special evening brings together a unique panel of writers, activists and researchers including Marai Larasi, Professor Liz Kelly, Rowena Chiu, and Dr Katherine Angel, in a conversation chaired by Professor Joanna Bourke.

Tipped to be one of the summer's blockbuster reads, *COMPLICIT* is 'a sharp and timely look into the dark heart of Hollywood and its instances of sexual abuse' (ELLE magazine). It may be fiction, but it is rooted in a lived experience of survivorhood and a keen understanding of workplace pressures in a male-dominated creative industry. Written as suspense, with a mainstream audience in mind, the book nevertheless challenges readers to think: How complicit are we all in cultures of sexual harm?

This question and many others will be considered by our panel who bring a wealth of expertise, drawn from research, activism, art, and lived experience. Historian and SHaME Director Professor Joanna Bourke will chair the discussion, using the novel as a lens for exploring important issues researched at The SHaME Project: narratives of sexual assault and consent in the media; memory, psychological well-being and complicity; the 'long tail of impact' that misogyny has on women's careers and lives; intersectionality and experiences of sexual violence; and the survivor's voice in the act of writing.

Following the discussion and audience Q&A, there will also be a reception and book signing. COMPLICIT and other books by the panelists will be available for purchase and signing on the night.

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.

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.

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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