

- 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:

Global conversations about a rape-free world

Friday 7 October 2022

6.15-8.00pm BST

Followed by a reception and book signing

In person at Clore Lecture Theatre, Birkbeck, University of London | Livestreamed Online

Age guidance: 18 yrs+

Panel:

Chair: Jude Kelly CBE, Director of the WOW Foundation

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

Marai Larasi, Director of Time's Up UK

Dr Rhea Sookdeosingh, Public Engagement and Events Coordinator, SHaME, Birkbeck, University of London

Mamatha Isha Sumah, founder of SheWalksInValue

The SHaME Project presents an event to celebrate the release of Principal Investigator Joanna Bourke's new book, *Disgrace: Global Reflections on Sexual Violence*, published by Reaktion Books. Joanna is joined by Jude Kelly CBE (The WOW Foundation), Marai Larasi (Time's Up UK), Dr Rhea Sookdeosingh (Public Engagement, Shameless! London), and Mamatha Isha Sumah (SheWalksInValue) in a conversation between artists, activists and academics on boundary-crossing global approaches to countering sexual violence.

Disgrace is the first truly global history of sexual violence. The book explores how sexual violence varies widely across time and place, from nineteenth-century peasant women in Ireland who were abducted as a way of forcing marriage, to date-raped high-school students in twentieth-century America, and from girls and women violated by Russian soldiers in 1945 to Dalit women raped by men of higher castes today. It delves into the factors that facilitate violence – including institutions, ideologies and practices – but also gives voice to survivors and activists, drawing inspiration from their struggles. Ultimately, Joanna Bourke intends to forge a transnational feminism that will promote a more harmonious, equal and rape- and violence-free world.

Throughout the project, SHaME has sought to foster and build relationships and ideas across, not only national borders, but between disciplines and sectors. In particular, the ongoing collaboration between SHaME and the WOW Foundation, the Shameless! Festivals of Activism Against Sexual Violence, represent a global initiative bringing together academia, the arts, survivors, and others working and speaking on sexual violence. Speakers at this event represent a range of these groups. Founder and Director of WOW, Jude Kelly, will be chairing the discussion and reflecting on WOW's

approach to global activism through the arts. Marai Larasi has worked as a social justice advocate for over twenty-five years, focusing on ending violence against Black/ Global Majority women and girls. She will be speaking on these issues in light of the publication of *Disgrace*. Rhea Sookdeosingh is a public engagement specialist and led the SHaME team in the production and delivery of *Shameless!* London. Rhea will be reflecting on why these events are particularly special and crucial as bridges between academia and the arts. Mamatha Isha Sumah is an advocate against domestic violence and motivational who will be sharing her experience of *Shameless!* and how it has impacted her life and thinking.

The evening will feature a reading from the book, followed by a discussion reflecting on these collaborations and interplay between arts and academia; personal meaning and global change, and how the *Shameless!* Festivals are part of a broader initiative about a global issue with a lot of work still to be done.

This will be followed by a Q&A and reception. *Disgrace* will be available for purchase and signing at the event.

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, here is what you can do:

- 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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SH+ME

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