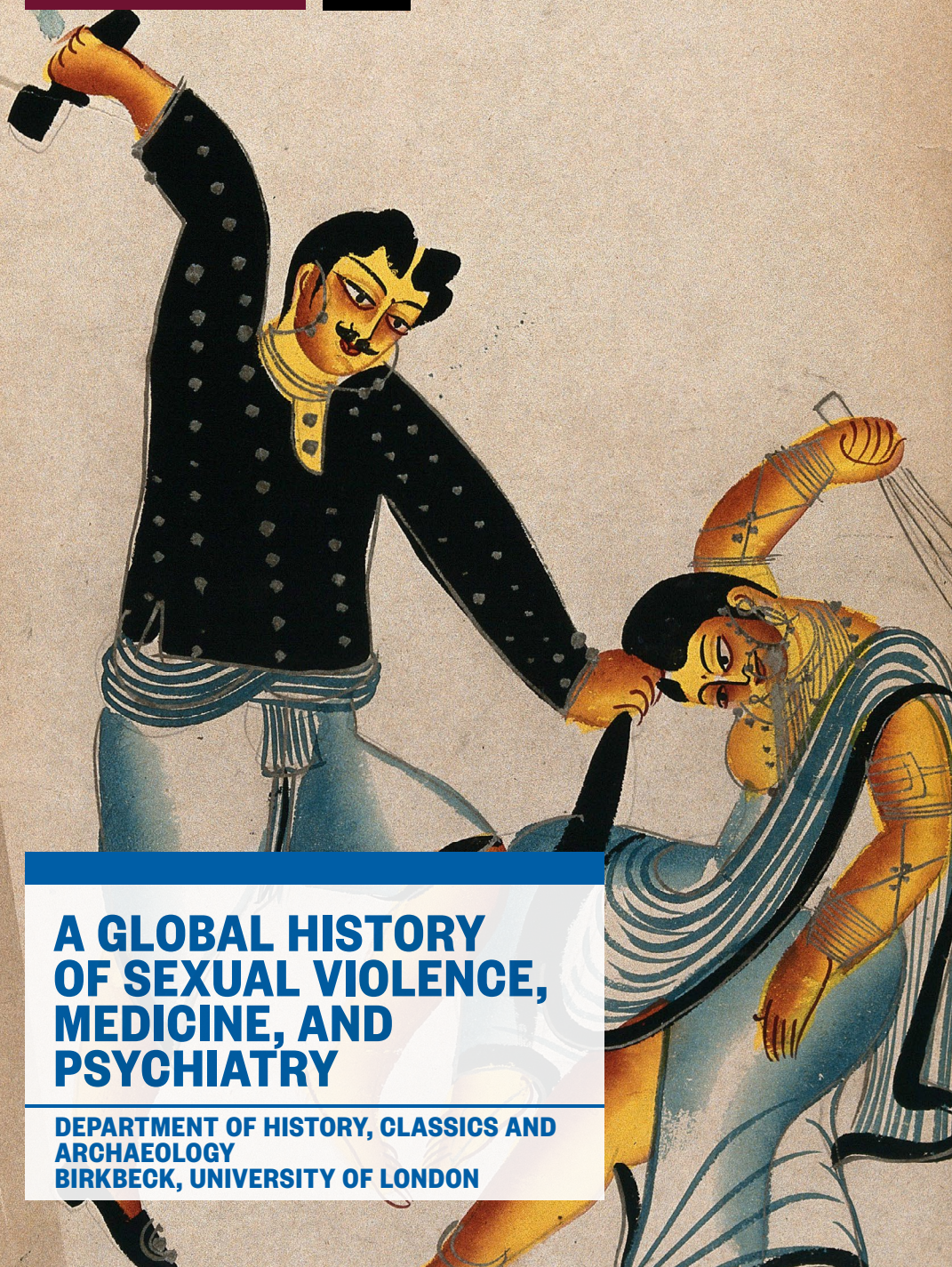




**Birkbeck**  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



# **A GLOBAL HISTORY OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, MEDICINE, AND PSYCHIATRY**

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, CLASSICS AND  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
BIRKBECK, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

# SEXUAL HARMS + MEDICAL ENCOUNTERS

## About Us

Sexual Harms and Medical Encounters (SHaME) is a research project exploring the role of medicine and psychiatry in sexual violence. We aim to move beyond shame to address this global health crisis. The project is funded by the Wellcome Trust and led by historian Joanna Bourke.

## Our Research

Sexual violence is one of the most serious problems in the contemporary world. Our interdisciplinary project seeks to understand the role played by medical professionals, including psychiatrists, in understanding and dealing with sexual harms.

Instead of shame, we advocate for empowerment and knowledge.

## A Global History of Sexual Violence, Medicine, and Psychiatry

Joanna Bourke's research has two parts.

First, a history of the medical and psychiatric aspects of sexual violence in the UK, US, Australia, and New Zealand between the first decade of the nineteenth century and the present.

This is an important time to investigate the relationship between medical professionals and sexual violence in these regions. Scandals around medical and psychiatric responses to sexual abuse emerge on a daily basis.

Second, the first truly global history of sexual violence, with attention specifically being paid to the medical and psychiatric aspects of this form of harm.

Sexual violence has been a political stratagem, a weapon wielded by one ethnic group against another, a way of collecting information during interrogation, and a way of wreaking religious vengeance.

Joanna will be analysing historical and geographical differences in the meanings given to sexual violence in different contexts, as well as the diverse responses of medical professionals.

## Contact

E-mail: [j.bourke@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:j.bourke@bbk.ac.uk)

Twitter: [@bourke\\_joanna](https://twitter.com/bourke_joanna)

Twitter: [@shme\\_bbk](https://twitter.com/shme_bbk)

Facebook: [@shamebbk](https://www.facebook.com/shamebbk)

Website: [shame.bbk.ac.uk](http://shame.bbk.ac.uk)