

– 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:

Writing, Researching, and Surviving Sexual Trauma: A Creative Response **Public Panel and Performance Event**

Wednesday 26 May 2021
5.00-6.30pm BST
Online
Age guidance: 18 yrs+

Panel:

Clare Shaw, Poet, Mental Health Trainer, Royal Literary Fund, Co-Director of Kendal Poetry Festival
Professor Joanna Bourke, Historian, Birkbeck, University of London
Dr Ruth Beecher, Historian, Birkbeck, University of London
Winnie M Li, Author and Activist, London School of Economics, Clear Lines Festival

In the closing event of this Writer in Residence Programme at The SHaME Project, a panel of award-winning authors and researchers will discuss how writing enables individuals, academics, and society at large to address the reality of sexual trauma. They will also perform new creative work generated during the residency, which examines the dialogue between academic research and lived experience through artistic exploration. A free online resource will also be launched through SHaME partners Clear Lines, providing the public with creative writing tools to enable their own personal exploration of this topic.

Clare Shaw's poem 'I Do Not Believe in Silence' has become a rallying cry against rape culture, living with the experience of trauma, while surrounded by a society that ignores, pardons, and even encourages ongoing abuse. Winnie M Li's novel *Dark Chapter* and her activism have likewise championed survivor-authored narratives of sexual violence. As Writer-in-Residence at The SHaME Project this spring, Winnie brought academics researching sexual trauma in dialogue with survivors, activists, artists, and the public — using creative writing and literature as a bridge to generate discussion. Clare and Winnie's artistic responses to this dialogue will be performed and discussed with historians Dr Ruth Beecher and Professor Joanna Bourke (author of thirteen books including *Rape: A History from 1860 to the Present*), and Principal Investigator of The SHaME Project.

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 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.

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!

SHaME Research Hub
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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