

- 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:

***Trailing Abuse: Considering Historical Representations of Sexual Violence Against Children*
Official Book Launch**

Tuesday 14 December 2021
17.30-19.00 GMT
Online
Age guidance: 18 yrs+

Panel:

Nick Basannavar, Historian, Head of Consulting at Included
Professor Joanna Bourke, Historian, Birkbeck, University of London
Professor Adrian Bingham, Historian, University of Sheffield
Professor Rachel Hope Cleves, Historian, University of Victoria

For the closing event of our 2021 Event Calendar, The SHaME Project presents the official book launch of Dr Nick Basannavar's *Sexual Violence Against Children in Britain Since 1965: Trailing Abuse* (Palgrave Macmillan). Nick will be joined in conversation by host Professor Joanna Bourke, Principal Investigator at SHaME, and guests Professor Adrian Bingham and Professor Rachel Hope Cleves.

Sexual violence against children has always existed. However, the ways in which it has been interpreted and represented have shifted according to historical setting. In his powerful, provocative and timely book, historian Nick Basannavar investigates these changes and continuities in Britain since 1965.

The book picks up the representational trail of the Moors murders and subsequent trial of 1966, the emergence of age of consent abolitionism in the 1970s, Cleveland's child sexual abuse crisis of 1987-8, and 2010s contemplations on the Jimmy Savile scandal. Harnessing research into popular media forms and a huge range of personal, political and professional records, Basannavar carefully parses and illustrates the ways in which journalists, medical workers, politicians, lobbyists and other groups assembled and animated their narratives, revealing complex rhetorical and emotional processes.

The book launch will feature introductory comments from Professor Joanna Bourke, reflections from Professors Adrian Bingham and Rachel Hope Cleves, a reading from the author, and an open panel discussion (including questions from the audience). The speakers will reflect on

continuities and changes in historical representations of sexual violence against children, as well as the ethical, linguistic, and methodological challenges for historians and other researchers in addressing this highly complex subject.

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, including sexual violence against children. 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!

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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