

**- 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.

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**Event details:**

***Teenage Dreams: Girlhood Sexualities in the US Culture Wars*  
Official Book Launch**

Wednesday 13 July 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:**

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

Dr Charlie Jeffries, British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow and SHaME Senior Associate Fellow

The SHaME Project presents the official book launch of *Teenage Dreams: Girlhood Sexualities in the US Culture Wars*, a new monograph by SHaME Senior Associate Fellow Dr Charlie Jeffries. Charlie will be in conversation with SHaME Director, Professor Joanna Bourke.

Utilizing a breadth of archival sources from activists, artists, and policymakers, *Teenage Dreams* examines the race- and class-inflected battles over adolescent women's sexual and reproductive lives in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century United States. Charlie Jeffries finds that most adults in this period hesitated to advocate for adolescent sexual and reproductive rights, revealing a new culture war altogether--one between adults of various political stripes in the cultural mainstream who prioritized the desire to delay girlhood sexual experience at all costs, and adults who remained culturally underground in their support for teenagers' access to frank sexual information, and who would dare to advocate for this in public. The book tells the story of how the latter group of adults fought alongside teenagers themselves, who constituted a large and increasingly visible part of this activism. The history of the debates over teenage sexual behavior reveals unexpected alliances in American political battles, and sheds new light on the resurgence of the right in the US in recent years.

Following a reading, discussion and audience Q&A, there will also be a reception and book signing. *Teenage Dreams* will be available for purchase and signing on the night.

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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.

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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!

The SHaME Project

Birkbeck, University of London

w: [shame.bbk.ac.uk](https://shame.bbk.ac.uk) | t: [@shme\\_bbk](https://twitter.com/shme_bbk) | f: [@shamebbk](https://facebook.com/shamebbk)