

'DO NO HARM'

RESEARCHING THE PASTS, PRESENTS, AND FUTURES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Birkbeck, University of London
May 31st - June 2nd 2023



University
of Exeter

SCHEDULE

Wednesday - 31st May 2023

18:30-20:00 - Welcome & Drinks Reception

Clare Management Centre (Basement Reception Area), Torrington Square, London, WC1E 7JL

Thursday - 1st June 2023

Birkbeck Central (Rooms 206-208), Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HY

Wifi: Birkbeck Guest - *Username:* SHaMEProjectJune23 *Password:* LEDuHS2023

9:15-9:30 - Arrival & Welcome: Emily Bridger (University of Exeter) and Ruth Beecher (Birkbeck, University of London)

9:30-9:45 - Opening Remarks: Joanna Bourke (Birkbeck, University of London)

9:45-11:15 - Session 1

Interviews and Methodological Unease - Room 206 - Chair: Ruth Beecher

- Tutku Ayhan (Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals), 'Researching Sexual Violence in Post-Atrocity Settings: Ethical and Methodological Dilemmas'
- Emily Bridger (University of Exeter), 'Life History Interviews and Sexual Violence in South Africa: Lessons from the South Africa's Hidden War Project'
- Tracey Loughran (University of Essex), "'Everyday' Stories of Sexual Violence: Accidental Elicitation and the Afterlives of Interviews'

11:15-11:30 - Break - Room 207

11:30-13:00 - Session 2

Childhood and the Family: Methodological Reflections on Researching Sexual Violence - Room 206 - Chair: Emily Bridger

- Victoria Hoyle (University of York), 'En/Countering Twentieth Century Child Sexual Abuse in the Archives'
- Ruth Beecher (Birkbeck, University of London), 'Bearing witness to distress? The historian, the health practitioner and the sexually abused child'
- Adeline Moussion-Esteve (Birkbeck, University of London), 'Unsettling trauma-informed representations of victimhood: Researching sexual violence from the perspective of women parenting while experiencing domestic violence'

Rape Laws and Legal Reform - Room 208 - Chair: Emma Yapp

- Dipali Anumol (Tufts University), 'Multipliers of Slow Violence: Feminist Activism, Legal Reform and Responses to Sexual Violence in India'
- Allison McKibban (Birkbeck, University of London), 'The "Problem of Sexual Violence": Rethinking Policy Analysis Tools using the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)'

13:00-14:00 - Lunch - Room 207

14:00-15:15 - Workshop

Histories and Futures of Collective Care: The Rosine Association and Rosine 2.0 - Room 206

- Jordan Landes (Project Co-Director, Rosine 2.0 and Curator, Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College)
- Katie L. Price (Project Director, Rosine 2.0 and Senior Associate Director, Lang Center, Swarthmore College)
- Yema Rosado (Community Liaison, Rosine 2.0, and Holistic Sex Educator)
- Naiymah Sanchez (Advisory Committee Member, Rosine 2.0 and Trans Justice Coordinator, ACLU PA)

15:15-15:30 - Break - Room 207

15:30-17:30 - Session 3

Making Violence Visible - Room 206 - Chair: George Severs

- Rachel Sandwell (McGill University), 'Over Her Dead Body: The Politics of Gendered Violence in South African Liberation Movement Fiction'
- Ximena Goecke (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), 'Sexual Political Violence in Chile: Why do we need a feminist historical account?'
- Natalia Milanese (University of Houston), 'Argentine Feminists against Sexual Violence in the Return to Democracy (1983-1990)'
- Lauren Gutterman (The University of Texas at Austin), 'Becoming Visible: Gay and Bisexual Men's Leadership in the Movement against Childhood Sexual Abuse'

18:30 - Conference Dinner

TAS Restaurant Bloomsbury, 22 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3QJ

Friday - 2nd June 2023

Birkbeck Central (Rooms 206-208), Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HY

9:00-10:30 - Session 4

Colonial Archives of Sexual Violence - Room 206 - Chair: Erin Hazan

- Ruchika Sharma (University of Delhi), 'Witnessing Gender, Testifying Race: Sexual Violence against "Native" Women in Early Colonial Bengal'
- Rhian Keyse (Birkbeck, University of London), "'A man cannot in law be convicted of rape upon his own wife": Consent, coercion, and colonial histories of sexual violence in 1930s Swaziland'
- Deana Heath (University of Liverpool), 'Sexual Violence, Colonialism, and the Archive'

10:30-10:45 - Break - Room 207

10:45-12:15 - Session 5

The Medicalisation of Sexual Violence - Room 206 - Chair: Victoria Hoyle

- Eric Rindal (SOAS, University of London), 'Humanitarian Responses in Jordan to Sexual Violence against Syrian Men: Medicalisation, Rationalisation, and Denial'
- Whitney Wood (Vancouver Island University), "'Indecent Examinations": Gynecological Violence in Late-Twentieth Century Canada'
- Akosua Paries-Osei (Royal Holloway, University of London), 'The Biology of Difference: The Legal and Medical Fetishisation of African Girlhood'

Workshop: Writing about Difficult Things: A Creative Writing Workshop – Room 208

Julie Wheelwright (Birkbeck, University of London) - Limited to 12 participants (closed workshop, full)

12:15-13:00 - Lunch - Room 207

13:00-13:45 - Workshop - Room 206

Working together with feminist community archives to preserve histories of sexual violence - Room 206

Sarai Aharoni (Ben-Gurion University)

13:45-14:00 - Break - Room 207

14:00-15:30 - Session 6

Erasures and Silences in the Sources - Room 206 - Chair: Lauren Cantillon

- Chloé Poitras-Raymond (University of Montreal), 'Preserving Reputation: The Methodological Challenges of Erasure in Military Archives (WWII)'
- Meryem Kalayci (University of Oxford) and Susan Grayzel (Utah State University), 'Writing through the silence: History and wartime sexual violence after 100 years'

Early Modern Cultures of Coercion – Room 208 Chair: Mara Keire

- Clare Burgess (University of Oxford), 'Reading Rape: Questions of Consent in Early Modern Lyon and Seville'
- Mita Choudhury (Vassar College), 'Grooming and the Power of Faith in Eighteenth Century France'
- Cathy McClive (Florida State University), 'Gender, Sexual Violence, and Murder in the Claudine Rouge Affair, 1767'

15:30-15:45 - Break - Room 207

15:45-17:15 - Session 7

Narrating Sexual Violence – Room 206 - Chair: Allison McKibban

- Karen Vallgård (University of Copenhagen), 'Historicizing Experiences of Sexual Violence'
- Mara Keire (University of Oxford), 'She said, he said, he said: Narrative destruction in a New York City rape case, 1916-1917'
- Julie Wheelwright (Birkbeck, University of London), 'Advocacy, ethics, and objectivity: How journalism frames the reportage of gender-based violence'

17:15-17:30 Conclusions

SAFEGUARDING

We hope everyone at this conference will be kind, curious, and open to discussion. As an organising team, we are passionate about creating safe, inclusive, intersectional, and respectful spaces for discussion. We've put together some brief guidelines for this workshop:

- Please be mindful that discussing sexual violence can be challenging, emotive, and subjective, and that everyone's understanding and experience is different. Try to be clear when you're speaking to your own experience, and respectful when others are speaking to theirs. Please enter the room with a sense of generosity toward our fellow participants, and an understanding of the difficulties in navigating narratives of sexual violence.
- Please be respectful of the complexity of identities. Prejudiced language towards any marginalised group will not be tolerated by the hosts.
- We ask you to be mindful that people can be triggered by lots of different factors, some of which may not be clear or obvious. In this document, we have included a few steps to take if you are feeling overwhelmed during the conference. If you need additional resources, please reach out to a member of the facilitation team.
- This session will not be recorded, and we ask all participants not to share publicly the details of any paper or discussion taking place here, unless they have asked the authors explicit permission to share.

As you might expect, this event will address difficult topics, which may feel overwhelming. We know that some of our discussions will be hard to bear: please remember it is normal to feel sad, angry, or distressed, during or after this event. 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. We will have a breakout room available with snacks in Room 207.
- If you are in the UK, you can call the National Rape Crisis Helpline on 0808 500 2222 for confidential support. The helpline is open every 24/7, calls are free of charge, and the number will not appear on your bill. The services are also available via chat online at <https://247sexualabusesupport.org.uk/>
- You can always rejoin the event when you feel better and ready, or not return if you prefer.

We would like to extend our gratitude to Becky Owen and Allison McKibban for their help organising the conference, as well as the SHaME team, the SAHW team, Birkbeck's History, Classics, and Archaeology departmental staff, and our volunteers Jazz, Kirsty, and Kara.

SAFEGUARDING

Grounding Techniques

After a trauma, it's normal to experience flashbacks, anxiety, and other uncomfortable symptoms. **Grounding techniques** help control these symptoms by turning attention away from thoughts, memories, or worries, and refocusing on the present moment.

5-4-3-2-1 Technique

Using the 5-4-3-2-1 technique, you will purposefully take in the details of your surroundings using each of your senses. Strive to notice small details that your mind would usually tune out, such as distant sounds, or the texture of an ordinary object.



What are 5 things you can see? Look for small details such as a pattern on the ceiling, the way light reflects off a surface, or an object you never noticed.



What are 4 things you can feel? Notice the sensation of clothing on your body, the sun on your skin, or the feeling of the chair you are sitting in. Pick up an object and examine its weight, texture, and other physical qualities.



What are 3 things you can hear? Pay special attention to the sounds your mind has tuned out, such as a ticking clock, distant traffic, or trees blowing in the wind.



What are 2 things you can smell? Try to notice smells in the air around you, like an air freshener or freshly mowed grass. You may also look around for something that has a scent, such as a flower or an unlit candle.



What is 1 thing you can taste? Carry gum, candy, or small snacks for this step. Pop one in your mouth and focus your attention closely on the flavors.

Categories

Choose at least three of the categories below and name as many items as you can in each one. Spend a few minutes on each category to come up with as many items as possible.

Movies	Countries	Books	Cereals
Sports Teams	Colors	Cars	Fruits & Vegetables
Animals	Cities	TV Shows	Famous People

For a variation on this activity, try naming items in a category alphabetically. For example, for the fruits & vegetables category, say "apple, banana, carrot," and so on.