

**Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: June Newsletter**

**VAMHN Opportunities**

**VAMHN Grant Competition – Awarded projects from the 2020 *understanding* grant call**

Our third VAMHN Grant Competition on the theme of *interventions* has now closed! We received 22 applications in total and look forward to notifying applicants of the outcome in the coming months.

In the meantime, we are delighted to announce the awarded projects of our previous grant call on the theme of *understanding violence, abuse and mental health.*

* Rupture and Repair: Towards a survivor-centred understanding of how rape harms led by Fiona Vera-Gray (Durham University)
* Victimization and domestic violence experienced by mental health services users during the COVID-19 lockdown period: understanding outcomes and their correlates led by Giouliana Kadra-Scalzo (King’s College London)
* Understanding the impact of micro- and macro-level violence during adolescence on mental health at the transition to adulthood led by Rachel Latham (King’s College London)
* Understanding the interconnection between violence-abuse and mental ill-health in Black and Minoritised Women’s Journeys to Healing-Recovery led by Ravi Thiara (University of Warwick)

To find out more about each project visit our website [here](http://www.vamhn.co.uk/understanding-research.html).

**Expert and network directories**

We are expanding our online Directory resource to include both an Expert Directory and a Network Directory, and we would like to invite you to join one or both of these. These two new resources will be hosted on the VAMHN website and accessible to all Network members.

Expert Directory

The first new directory is for expert individuals – e.g., academics, policy-makers, practitioners, those with lived experience, etc – and will collate details of Network member expertise. Individuals should complete the expert directory template, and we will make the directory available to Network members via the VAMHN website. The resource will help members find experts to help with bids or research or more general questions and queries.

Network Directory

The second new directory is for organisations and networks – again, academic, policy-making, practitioner, lived experience, third sector, voluntary sector, etc. These may be formal or informal; organisations, discussion forums, mailing lists; etc. Networks and organisations should complete the network directory template, and we will make the directory available to Network members via the VAMHN website. The resource will help members to find relevant networks to join, to signpost others to and potentially to help with bids or research or more general questions and queries.

If you would like to receive a template form, please contact vamhn@kcl.ac.uk and email the completed template Jude Towers: j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk

You can add or amend your details at any time – do stay in touch.

Any queries, please contact Jude Towers: j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk

**Other Training, Events and Opportunities**

**LSBU** are running an online event on “Dissecting Difference: Women, Violence and Intersectionality” on 23rd June from 9.30am-4.15pm. To register your attendance click [here](https://lsbu-dissecting-difference-vawg-intersectionality.eventbrite.co.uk).

**The Triumph Network** are hosting a webinar series on co-producing research with young people. The following webinars are scheduled:

* 21st June – Involving young people in research.
* 22nd June – Talking co-production.
* 23rd June – Multiple faces of Youth Advisory Groups
* 24th June – Co-production Clinic: talk to the experts.

To book your place click [here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/triumph-co-production-webinar-series-session-4-tickets-156685359127).

**The SHaME project** at Birkbeck, University of London are running a call for public engagement proposals for the [*Shameless!*](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fshame.bbk.ac.uk%2Fblog%2Fshameless-festival-of-activism-against-sexual-violence%2F&data=04%7C01%7Canjuli.1.kaul%40kcl.ac.uk%7C24b3da0607e145d33bd608d92fe2ec72%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637593474081771963%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=%2Fcm3vFzKcdY8FlEBpNPf1Va%2B1oDILSCw1NyfAARA0xM%3D&reserved=0)[Festival of Activism Against Sexual Violence](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fshame.bbk.ac.uk%2Fblog%2Fshameless-festival-of-activism-against-sexual-violence%2F&data=04%7C01%7Canjuli.1.kaul%40kcl.ac.uk%7C24b3da0607e145d33bd608d92fe2ec72%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637593474081781955%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=0J8Bv1oAwVsFWYomjSLwF%2FWcgqq4eeIr6Dx7Gbban7A%3D&reserved=0) which aims to bring together diverse communities of interested persons, researchers, survivors, artists, activists, and medical, psychiatric, and legal professionals in a transformative programme of talks, performances, workshops, “how to” clinics, and wellbeing spaces. The festival will be held in person at a major London arts and cultural venue (to be announced shortly) on Saturday 27th November.  There is an opportunity for successful applicants to have their work platformed at the festival. They are seeking proposals for:

* Research-led talks
* Panels
* WOW Bites - short TED Style talks telling hidden or untold stories
* Roundtables
* “Making and Doing” activities
* “Hands-on” interactions using texts or material culture
* Creative workshops
* Reflections on collective organising for anti-rape activists

Slots have been provisionally scheduled as 45-minute, but there is some flexibility. We welcome suggestions from academics and/or academics in collaboration with activists, authors, artists, and practitioners. All successful applicants will be offered a fee for their participation. They anticipate that the main themes of these contributions will focus on:

* Medical and psychiatric aspects of sexual abuse
* The sexual abuse of children
* The sexual abuse of people from minoritized communities
* Consent and gendered/racialised bodies
* Activism in the post-#MeToo landscape
* Recovery and building back positive relationships with yourself and others
* Memory and understanding physical triggers

They also welcome proposals that may differ in format or in theme. They are looking for any

ideas, themes and activity that will challenge, reimagine or build back recovery. Please send an abstract (up to 300 words) with a short biography to both organisers by 5pm on 16th July 2021. Organisers: Professor Joanna Bourke at j.bourke@bbk.ac.uk and Dr Rhea Sookdeosingh at r.sookdeosingh@bbk.ac.uk.

**London Councils** is developing a new four-year programme to combat homelessness and tackle domestic & sexual abuse. Expression of interest for those who are interested in applying for funding from April 2022 is aimed at voluntary, community & non-profit organisations specialising in those areas. For more information & to complete an expression of interest, visit the London Councils website (London Councils pan-London Grants Programme 2022-2026 – Expression of Interest | London Councils). The deadline for expressions of interest is 12pm on 25th June 2021.

**The Fourth European Conference on Domestic Violence** takes places in Slovenia from 13th-15th September 2021. Registration for the conference will be opened form the 30th April. For more information click here.

**Job, Education and Voluntary Opportunities**

**Breakthrough** is launching a flagship initiative, the Breakthrough Accelerator, which is a twelve-month programme of bespoke support for grassroots campaigns. They equip campaigns or community groups to build a winning strategy, increase public support, gain national attention, and speak to the media and decision makers. They also connect them to a network of top advisors who will back them to create impactful change. Their first accelerator starts in September 2021. The theme is Beyond Covid. They are seeking applications from grassroots campaigns drawn from communities or groups facing deepening disadvantage because of the Covid pandemic, and who are campaigning for important, long-term change for themselves and others. People whose voices need to be heard. For full details and to apply click [here](http://www.breakthroughimpact.org/accelerator). For queries please contacts katherine@breakthroughimpact.org.

**The South West Grid** **for Learning** are currently recruiting for two Helpline Practitioners to work on their Report Harmful Content Helpline and Revenge Porn Helpline services they offer at South West Grid for Learning. The application deadline for both roles is the 1st July. To find out more click [here](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fswgfl.org.uk%2Fcareers%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cvamhn%40kcl.ac.uk%7Cc7ef8597fa6549b9859008d9309f261e%7C8370cf1416f34c16b83c724071654356%7C0%7C0%7C637594282559956066%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=1iV2kMsIqg11HOMKMuR7mAUaF966rWHFLtXSkIf74K0%3D&reserved=0).

**Ongoing Research**

**The MARCH Covid Social Study** areinviting women who have experienced intimate partner violence during the pandemic to take part in a one-to-one interview about how this has impacted behaviours, mental health and wellbeing. They are also inviting service providers who support women who have experienced IPV to participate. If you are interested in volunteering in the study and feel safe to do so, you can find more information from here or contact Alison McKinlay at a.mckinlay@ucl.ac.uk.

**The International VAMHN** is surveying people’s wellbeing and how relationships have been affected by COVID-19 in different places. Please complete this short survey and share it with others. HR-19/20-19295

**UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)** are in the next stage of bringing together each of the UKRI councils into one place online, at the new UKRI website. Please do sign up to contribute to how information useful to our network, is reached and presented online. Sign up here.

**Researchers from UCL** are hoping to improve understanding of ‘what works’ for children and families who have experienced domestic violence and abuse and/or child maltreatment.  They would like to invite you to take part in an online survey to rate the importance of outcomes that they have identified by reviewing evidence and by talking to different people (e.g. survivors, practitioners/clinicians and professionals responsible for policy and commissioning services). They are looking for experts in domestic violence and abuse or child maltreatment which includes being a survivor of or working (e.g. practice, policy, research, commissioning) in domestic violence and abuse or child maltreatment. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Claire at c.powell@ucl.ac.uk.

**Resources**

**Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews** - *HALT Website*

The HALT project led by Professor Khatidja Chantler, based at Manchester Metropolitan University have launched their website which will continue to be updated. The projects aims to address important gaps in existing knowledge of domestic homicide and aims to learn from the experiences of families who have lost a relative to domestic homicide, victims/survivors of domestic abuse; professionals and domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) to document, analyse, map, and influence policy and practice to prevent future domestic homicides. To have a look at the website click [here](https://domestichomicide-halt.co.uk/).

**Trauma and its relationship to mental health** - *Real World Public Mental Health podcast*

This podcast features guests Sally Armour (Child Health Commissioner for NHS Highland), Dr Neha Shah (Public Mental Health Research and Evidence Lead at Public Health England) and Laura Fischer (artist, activist, lecturer, consultant and researcher). They discuss what psychological trauma is and how it relates to mental health. To listen to the full podcast click [here](https://www.buzzsprout.com/1427881/8518754-trauma-and-its-relationship-to-mental-health-dr-neha-shah-sally-armour-laura-fischer).

**Violence and Women’s Mental Health Series –** *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology Journal & VAMHN, 2021*

The network has linked up with the Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology Journal to coordinate a state-of the-art series of invited reviews and original papers. So far three papers have been published as part of the series with more to come. To read all papers click [here](https://link.springer.com/collections/bbgadjifji).

**Domestic Homicide and Safeguarding Adults Reviews relating to victims with Additional Vulnerabilities** *– Amanda Warburton-Wynn, Shaping our Lives (2021)*

This paper examines Domestic Homicide Reviews and Safeguarding Adults Reviews in the eastern region where the victim had an additional vulnerability (older person, disability or mental health issue). To read the report click [here](https://www.shapingourlives.org.uk/resources-our-resources-research-reports-domestic-homicide-and-safeguarding-adults-reviews-relating-to-victims-with-additional-vulnerablilties).

**Technology-facilitated abuse in relationships: Victimisation patterns and impact in young people –** *Brown et al, 2021*

This study examines the impact of technology-facilitated abuse in relationships (TAR) in youth participants. To read the full paper in *Computers in Human Behaviour* click [here](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S074756322100220X).

*For more useful resources and links, take a look at* *our website here*

**VAMHN Data Directory**

The VAMHN Data Directory has now launched! This new resource indexes UK datasets, data repositories, and aggregate/published statistics about violence, abuse, and mental health, providing you with information about these resources and how to access them. Do check it out here.

We’ll be continually adding to the data directory, so if you know of a resource that we haven’t yet indexed, please tell us about it by completing the template at the bottom of the Directory webpage here, and emailing to Dr Jude Towers at j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk. Please note that the resource should be either publicly available or available upon application.

**Basecamp**

Basecamp is a forum which you can use to connect with other members of the network. If you’re looking for collaborators, sharing a survey or looking to connect with across different disciplines, feel free to post a message on the project page.

We currently have two pages – one for all members and one for early career researchers. We define an early career researcher as “an individual who is within eight years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training, or an individual who is within six years of their first academic appointment”. This includes independent and charity researchers. ​Please let us know if you are an early career researcher and would like to be added to this page as well as the main page.

**Please note** that by requesting an invitation to join our Basecamp page, your email address will automatically be shared with all other members of the Basecamp group. Additionally, Basecamp often daily update emails which some may find excessive – however you can easily adjust this in your account settings once you sign up. If you would like to join the VAMHN Basecamp page, please email vamhn@kcl.ac.uk to request an invitation

**Useful Links**

VAMHN website: https://www.vamhn.co.uk/

VAMHN twitter: @VAMHN

We are one of eight UKRI funded mental health networks. To find out more about the other seven, click here

**If you have any collaboration or funding opportunities, events or resources for our newsletter please contact us at** **vamhn@kcl.ac.uk**