



Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: September Newsletter



VAMHN Funding Opportunities

VAMHN Grant Competition:

A massive thank you to everyone who applied to our first small grants competition on the theme of measurement. We were delighted to receive 23 fascinating applications. Our grant panel will be meeting on the 27th September to discuss the proposals, and we expect to notify all applicants of the outcome by the 1st November.

VAMHN Early Career Researcher Bursary Awards:

We are excited to announce that our second round of ECR Bursary Awards are now open! The bursary aims to support junior researchers to attend training courses, research placements at institutions other than their own, and conferences. Bursaries can be used towards training course and/or conference fees, or for travel and accommodation to support attendance. We will be running two calls of this scheme per year until 2022. The maximum bursary value is £250, and applications will close on the 15th November 2019 at 5pm. For full details including how to apply [click here](#).

We awarded 5 bursaries in our last round. Two of our bursary winners, [Michelle Degli Esposti](#) and [Ashley McCarthy](#) have written blog posts discussing how they used their award money. To see what they had to say about their experiences have a look at our [website here](#).



VAMHN Upcoming Events

Next network meeting:

Don't forget to book your ticket for our next network meeting on the 7th October. The meeting is open to all network members and will take place at the Institute of Mental Health at the University of Nottingham. [Click here to get your ticket](#).

Confirmed speakers include:

- Prof Vanessa Munro, University of Warwick
- Dr Julie McGarry, University of Nottingham
- Dr Parveen Ali, University of Sheffield
- Vickie Crompton, Standing Together Against Domestic Violence
- Concetta Perôt, Survivor's Voices

Resilience to Transformation Workshop: improving the response to violence against women and its impact on mental health

We will be holding a workshop on the 4th November in collaboration with the King's Centre for Integrated Research on Risk and Resilience as part of the ESRC Social Science Festival. The workshop will be based on the concepts of resilience and transformation in social sciences, and their utility for psychiatry's response to mental health problems associated with violence against women. The workshop will include presentations from a geographical and psychological perspective. To find out more and to register your attendance [click here](#).

Collaboration Opportunities

The Violence, Abuse and Mental Health Network has been invited to submit a state-of-the-art review on violence and women's mental health for the prestigious Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology (SPPE) journal and is now looking for an editor and additional contributors. If you are interested in acting as an editor or co-author in this state of the art review, please email vamhn@kcl.ac.uk by the **Friday the 18th of October, 5pm**. Please state your interest and the expertise/topic you hope to contribute. We aim to get back to all interested parties by the end of October. For full details have a look at our [website here](#).

Other Funding Opportunities

- The British Academy Funding Call: Knowledge Frontiers – International Interdisciplinary Research
 - 🕒 Deadline 23rd October 2019 at 5pm. [Click here for full details](#).
- The British Academy and Brazilian Academy of Sciences Knowledge Frontiers Symposium
 - 🕒 Deadline 23rd October 2019 at 5pm (Brazil time) [Click here for full details](#).
- Nuffield Foundation Strategic Fund – (*Applications accepted from 1st October 2019*)

 Deadline 9th December 2019. [Click here for full details.](#)

Other Training and Events

City, University of London is hosting Professor Sylvia Walby's Inaugural Lecture titled 'Violence and Society: Towards Zero Violence' on the 9th October at 5.30pm. To register your attendance [click here.](#)

The Havens Sexual Assault Referral Centre are hosting their third annual Sexual Violence and Health Research Day. The day will consist of presentations and discussion, promoting best practices in health services that deal (knowingly or not) with victims and survivors of sexual violence. For full details and to register your attendance [click here.](#)

The Violence and Society Centre are issuing a call for papers for two panels on 'Violence and Society' at the International Sociological Association conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil. The deadline for abstract submission is the 30th September. The first call is on The Challenge of Femicide and Other Forms of Gender-Based Violence – [details here.](#) The second call is 'Is Violence increasing or Decreasing' – [details here.](#)

The Royal College of Psychiatrists are running a one-day conference on the 6th December on 'Sexual Violence and Mental Health'. The day will include a host of presentations on the role of mental health care professionals in treating patients who have experienced sexual violence. For full details and to register [click here.](#)

The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience are hosting a panel discussion titled 'Women in mind: Modern Slavery' on the 15th October. The event is in conjunction to Sara Shamma: Modern Slavery – a new series of large-scale portraits by London-based Syrian artist Sara Shamma. For full details and to register your attendance [click here.](#)

AVA and Beyond the Streets are working together to develop a training day on the 6th November for professionals who wish to understand more about working with women involved in prostitution/the sex industry. This one-day training course is designed to explore what a trauma informed approach to working in this context looks like and holds women's real experiences of services and professionals at the centre of the learning. To find out more and sign up [click here.](#)

Yoko Ono & survivors from Next Link and Safe Link have collaborated for her first solo show in Bristol. The show aims to open conversation about historical and contemporary issues. For full details [click here](#).

ADIRA are hosting a conference 'Mental Health and Me: breaking the cycle of abuse' on the 12th October from 9am-5pm as part of Black History Month. The aim of the conference is to start a conversation around highlighting and breaking the cycle of abuse within the Black community. To find out more and register your attendance, [click here](#).

The Science Gallery London are inviting expressions of interest for projects to become part of their forthcoming GENDER season. They are looking to work with individuals and groups who are critically exploring experiences of gender in a contemporary context and those engaged with emerging scientific research. For full details [click here](#).



Ongoing research

AVA are developing a digital resource that aims to support survivors of gender-based violence with their mental health needs. They are currently in the discovery stage of the project want to find out how and if survivors currently use technology for mental health support. If you're a survivor and would like to shared your valued opinion, please complete the survey [here](#). If you'd like to learn more about the project or have any questions for them, please email eva.kestner@avaproject.org.uk. The survey is open until the **1st October 2019**.



Job Opportunities

The Violence and Society Centre at City, University of London are currently looking to hire:

- 2 lecturers in Sociology
- 1 lecturer in International Politics
- 1 lecturer in Law
- 1 senior lecturer in Health

The deadline for applications is the 24th October 2019. For full details and to apply [click here](#).

The University of Leeds are hiring a Research Assistant in Applied Mental Health and Sexual Violence Research. The deadline for applications is the 7th October 2019. For full details and to apply [click here](#).

The VAMHN will shortly be advertising a job opportunity for a survivor/lived experience involvement officer which will be 30% FTE and based in London. To see when the job advert goes live follow us on twitter @VAMHN.



Resources

No Woman Turned Away Report – Women's Aid

Women's Aid have launched their most recent report detailing findings from the third year of the No Woman Turned Away project. The report provides evidence of the huge barriers many women face when trying to access a refuge space. They found that while waiting for a refuge space, 59 women (19%) experienced further abuse from their perpetrator. To read the full report [open access] [click here](#).

Ask and Take Action: Why public services must ask about domestic abuse – Agenda

Agenda have released a report about the importance of routine enquiry in mental health services. They found that there is significant variation in the number of instances of domestic abuse flagged by mental health trusts – suggesting that trusts are not asking about domestic abuse or collecting data in a uniform way. To read the full report [open access] [click here](#).

"I Don't Like Being That Hyperaware of My Body": Women Survivors of Sexual Violence and Their Experience of Exercise – Smith-Marek et al

This article details the findings of interviews with 8 women survivors receiving service at a rape crisis centre to examine their experiences with exercise. They found that survivors' experience of exercise is related to their connection with self and their social environment. To read the full article published in *Qualitative Health Research* [click here](#).

Early Life Exposure to Violence: Developmental Consequences on Brain and Behaviour – Mueller & Tronick

This review examines how findings on infant exposure to IPV can be related to risk and resilience of development in infancy. They describe how exposure to IPV during infancy disrupts the infant's emotional and cognitive development, the development of the

structures in the brain such as the auditory and visual cortices. To read the full review [open access] published in *Frontiers in Behavioural Neuroscience* [click here](#).

"I Was Naive in Thinking, 'I Divorced This Man, He Is Out of My Life'": A Qualitative Exploration of Post-Separation Power and Control Tactics Experienced by Women – Toews et al

This study includes the findings of 22 in depth interviews with divorced mothers who reported male-initiated partner abuse during and/or after their marriages to explore women's perceptions of the power and control tactics used by their former husbands. They found that the most common tactics included themes such as using the children, using threats, harassment and intimidations, emotional abuse and more. To read the full study [open access] published in *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* [click here](#).

For more useful resources and links, take a look at [our website here](#)

Useful Links



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



VAMHN twitter: [@VAMHN](https://twitter.com/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, or you would like your organisation to be featured in our community spotlight, please contact us at vamhn@kcl.ac.uk