



Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: July Newsletter



VAMHN Opportunities

VAMHN Funded Arts Projects

Earlier this year, we ran a funding competition to provide awards of up to £15,000 to artistic public engagement projects that sought to further the public discussion around violence, abuse and mental health. We received 15 high quality applications from across the country and are excited to announce the five projects we have funded below:

- 1. Tackling public misunderstandings of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA): A qualitative study involving people who have experienced CSA:** This project is a performance-based short film series which aims to increase public knowledge around child sexual abuse. PI: Alison McKinlay, University College London. Lead Artist: Viv Gordon
- 2. Sexual Violence and Lived Experience: New Futures:** This project will explore themes of justice and sexual violence through creative workshops where objects will be sculpted out of policy documents. PI: Tina Sikka, Newcastle University. Lead Artist: Lady Kitt
- 3. Osoyegbon:** The title of this film comes from a Nigerian name which translates to "I am not a slave". This animated short film will explore issues of sexual abuse, modern slavery and mental health. PI: Meghan Peterson, King's College London. Lead Artist: Fuel Productions Ltd.
- 4. Towards Recognition of Abuse, Understanding, and Mutuality through Arts (T.R.A.U.M.A.):** This project will develop an arts-based card deck that can be used to facilitate discussion around the recognition of abuse and ultimately raise awareness. PI: Angela Sweeney, King's College London. Lead Artist: Laura Fischer
- 5. Not My Shame:** This project will involve creating a zine from creative writing and poetry workshops for women from minoritized backgrounds to provide a platform to share their experiences of violence, abuse and mental health. PI: Georgina Gnan and Zara Asif, King's College London. Lead Artist: Andreena Leeanne

All projects will take place across the next nine months. We will be keeping you updated on the development of these projects and their outputs through our newsletter and socials, including opportunities for our network members to view and engage with these artistic projects yourselves. To read more about each project click [here](#).

Funded research reports

Over the past three years, we have been able to fund a total of 12 research projects around violence, abuse and mental health. Projects are divided into three broad themes: measurement, understanding and interventions. Some of these projects have now finished and we are able to share their findings with you. So far we have four reports available to read:

1. “The Development of Measures to Assess the Long-Term Support Needs of Adult Sexual Assault Survivors” – PI: David Gadd, University of Manchester. **Read the report [here](#).**
2. “What difference does it make? An intersectional framework to measure mental health harms in women and men associated with different thresholds of violence and abuse: a systematic review and meta-analysis” – PI: Nadia Mantovani, St George’s University of London. **Read the report [here](#).**
3. “PaRental intimate partner viOlence and abuse: measuremenT of the risk of Exposing Children and the menTal health impact: PROTECT study” – PI: Ruth McGovern, Newcastle University. **Read the report [here](#).**
4. “Understanding the impact of micro- and macro-level violence during adolescence on mental health at the transition to adulthood” – PI: Rachel Latham, King’s College London. **Read the report [here](#).**

To see the details of all of the projects we have funded so far, click [here](#).

Early Career Researcher Bursary Award Scheme – awardees and next round

We were pleased to award 4 early career researchers with awards of up to £250 to support their attendance at upcoming conferences or training courses relevant to domestic/sexual violence and mental health. They are:

Morgan Healy @morganheals (Instagram)

Morgan is a PhD student at the University of Cambridge who is currently evaluating two nurturing-care interventions in the UK and Brazil. She is particularly interested in questions surrounding the implementation and scale-up of home-visiting programs internationally and hopes to be a part of the new generation of implementation science researchers who can better answer the questions of *how*, *when* and *for whom* early childhood interventions work best.

Isabel Straw @IsabelStrawMD (twitter)

Isabel Straw is an Emergency Physician and a PhD Candidate in Artificial Intelligence at University College London. In her clinical work Isabel is investigating the prevalence of tech-abuse in emergency departments around the UK, specifically looking at the impact of tech-abuse on victims of violence and crime. In her research she is engaging key safeguarding practitioners from around the UK to gain insights into national trends in tech-abuse; In her clinical work she is developing safeguarding protocols for emergency practitioners that can effectively capture and mitigate the harms of tech-abuse.

PJ Annand Dr_PJA (Twitter)

PJ is a feminist social scientist with research interests in violence and abuse, trauma and mental health, survivor-research and co-production, safe spaces and safe housing, and health inequalities. As Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at University of Surrey, she is currently lead of the Queering Shelter project exploring LGBTQ+ understandings and experiences of shelter(/lessness).

Alison McKinlay @a_r_mckinlay

Alison is a chartered psychologist and women's centre trustee, working in health psychology research. Her current role is at the Institute of Epidemiology & Health Care at University College London.

Our next round of Early Career Researcher Bursary Awards is open, and we have increased the amount we are awarding! We now have awards of up to £350 available 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. This includes registration fees for virtual webinars and conferences.

These awards are open to early career researchers from **both UK universities and third sector organisations**. The deadline is 4th November 2022. To find out more and to apply [click here](#). To read what our previous ECR bursary winners have done with their awards click [here](#).



Other Training, Events and Opportunities

SMARTen are hosting a range of events – both online and in-person - commencing Monday 31st October 2022, as part of their final project showcase. This will culminate in a conference on the 4th November 2022 at the Science Gallery in London. To register your interest now, to be kept in the loop about updates and opportunities to contribute, and for a notification when bookings open click [here](#).

The [Mental Health Research Matters \(MHRM\)](#) team are sparking a national conversation on why mental health research matters, what good mental health research looks like and how we can all play our part in making a difference. You'll find the campaign on the hashtag #MentalHealthResearchMatters, and there will be a wealth of content including webinars, blogs and infographics. Mental Health Research Matters will celebrate the achievements of all the UKRI mental health research networks, and discuss how we need more and better research so people can live happier and mentally healthy lives. The team want you to be part of the conversation, telling us why [#MentalHealthResearchMatters](#) to you. In order for the conversation to reach as many people as possible this autumn, the MHRM team are beginning to reach out to all network members asking them to get in touch. The first request is to join [The McPin Foundation](#) newsletter. That is where you'll find up-to-date information about this work in the run up to the autumn activities. Afterwards The McPin Foundation will seek to sustain the conversation!

If you'd like to know more about the Mental Health Research Matters team, and be the first to hear about the wealth of activity the team have planned, and how you can get involved - sign up to [The McPin Foundation](#) newsletter here. From 2023, you'll receive quarterly updates from [The McPin Foundation](#), where you'll be able to stay up-to-date with the latest on lived experience involvement in mental health research. You can opt out at any point. Join the #MentalHealthResearchMatters conversation this autumn about how we need more and better research. Sign up to [The McPin Foundation](#) newsletter here.

The Women's Mental Health Special Interest Group have announced their essay prize competition open to all medical students and trainees. The essay topic is "Violence against Women and Girls: what is the role of psychiatry?". To find out more and to apply click [here](#).



Ongoing Research

Sarah West, a researcher at Coventry University would like to hear from professionals in any sector who have contact with survivors of sexual violence and abuse through their paid or voluntary roles, to share their views on those providing informal support to survivors such as their friends, partners and family members. Please take a few minutes to share your experiences relating to the issues that arise for people providing this support, any provision within your organisation for informal supporters (or lack of it), and what you think could be done to help informal supporters with this role. You can participate by completing a short anonymous online survey at <https://bit.ly/3wSo1Ql>. If you would prefer a conversation to discuss these issues or have any questions, please get in touch at wests13@coventry.ac.uk. This is the first stage of a larger project, the views of survivors and informal supporters are also being sought, and the overall aim of the project is to develop an intervention that meets the needs identified.



Resources

The Lancet Psychiatry Commission on intimate partner violence and mental health: advancing mental health services, research, and policy

We have partnered with The Lancet Psychiatry to develop a Commission on intimate partner violence and mental health. The authors are a group of internationally renowned experts in IPV and mental health, including those with personal experience. The Commission provides a comprehensive state-of-the-art review of IPV and mental health and provides a roadmap to advancing mental health services, research, and policy. For more information and to read the Commission click [here](#). You can also access additional resources including a video about the Commission from the Mental Elf, and a blog summarising the key points of the Commission [here](#).

Intimate partner violence and abuse experience and perpetration in UK military personnel compared to a general population cohort: A cross-sectional study – MacManus et al, 2022

This study aimed to describe IPVA prevalence in a military sample, explore the role of military-specific risk factors, and draw comparisons with a general population cohort. To read the full paper in *The Lancet Regional Health – Europe*, click [here](#).

Ethnic inequalities in mental and physical multimorbidity in women of reproductive age: a data linkage cohort study – Catalao et al, 2022

This study explores inequalities in risk factors, mental and physical health morbidity in non-pregnant women of reproductive age in contact with mental health services and how these vary per ethnicity. To read the full paper published in *BMJ Open* click [here](#).

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

VAMHN Forum

Whether you want to share a survey, find collaborators for a bid or discuss a paper you've written, the VAMHN forum is a space for you to do that. To sign up to the forum and start connecting to other VAMHN members click [here](#). Full instructions on how to use the forum can be found on the homepage.

VAMHN Directories

The VAMHN has developed three active directories available on our website for our members to access. To access our directories masterpage click [here](#).

1. VAMHN Data Directory

This 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. To access this resource, click [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 [hereabout:blank](#), and emailing to Dr Jude Towers at Towersj@edgehill.ac.uk. Please note that the resource should be either publicly available or available upon application. You do not need a password to access the data directory.

2. VAMHN Expert Directory

Our Expert Directory collates details of Network member expertise – e.g., academics, policy-makers, practitioners, those with lived experience, etc. This resource can be used to help members find experts to help with bids or research or more general questions and queries. To access the Expert Directory webpage click [here](#). **The password to the webpage is UKRInetwork1!**

3. VAMHN Network Directory

This 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. The resource can be used to help members find relevant networks to join, to signpost others to and potentially to help with bids or research or more general questions and queries. To access the Network Directory webpage click [here](#). **The password to the webpage is UKRInetwork1!**

Both the expert and network directory webpages include instructions on how to use them effectively, and also include a video introduction from our network co-investigator Dr Jude Towers.

If you would like to add your details either the expert or network directory, you can download the template form from our website at the web-links above and send to Dr Jude Towers at Towersj@edgehill.ac.uk.

We hope you find the directories useful! If you would like to refer these directories onto colleagues who are not currently members of the VAMHN, please kindly ask them to join the network [here](#) and contact us at vamhn@kcl.ac.uk to request the password.

4. VAMHN Blog Directory

Our blog directory which contains blogs by people with lived and living experience of violence, abuse and mental health. The blogs are about diverse forms of domestic and sexual violence, diverse types of mental health and different experiences of services e.g. health, policing, research etc. To access the blog directory, click [here](#). The password to the webpage is *UKRInetwork1!* For any and all enquiries about this directory please contact Dr Jude Towers at Towersj@edgehill.ac.uk.

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 please contact us at vamhn@kcl.ac.uk