

Wellcome Trust funded online symposium

RESEARCHING REPRESENTATIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE



PROGRAMME

Tuesday May 25th &
Wednesday May 26th
2021



<https://csainculture.com>
ucd.ie/artshumanities



UCD School of English Drama Film
Scoil an Bhéarla, na Drámaíochta agus na Scannánaíochta UCD

CONTENTS



3

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

5

SAFEGUARDING
STATEMENT

7

CODE OF CONDUCT

8

PANELLIST BIOS &
ABSTRACTS: OPENING
SPEAKER

9

PANELLIST BIOS &
ABSTRACTS: SOCIOLOGY
& HISTORY

12

PANELLIST BIOS &
ABSTRACTS: AUDIENCE
RESPONSES, FILM &
MEDIA PSYCHOLOGY

14

PANELLIST BIOS &
ABSTRACTS: AUDIENCE
RESPONSES, LITERATURE

17

PANELLIST BIOS &
ABSTRACTS: LEGAL &
SOCIAL STUDIES

19

PANELLIST BIOS &
ABSTRACTS: NARRATIVE
MEDICINE &
THERAPEUTIC
APPROACHES

24

PANELLIST BIOS &
ABSTRACTS:
PSYCHOLOGY &
PRACTITIONERS'
PERSPECTIVES

27

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

TUESDAY MAY 25TH

OPENING SPEAKER

12.15PM

HAZEL LARKIN

**A Survivor's Perspective
on Cultural
Representations**

1.10-2.30PM

**SOCIOLOGY & HISTORY: Nick Basannavar,
Ruth Beecher, and Claire Cunnington**

2.45-3.45PM

**AUDIENCE RESPONSES--FILM & MEDIA
PSYCHOLOGY: Xavier Aldana Reyes and
Brendan Rooney**

3.55-4.30PM

**INFORMAL CHAT,
BREAKOUT ROOMS
(PANELLISTS ONLY)**

4.30-6.00PM

**AUDIENCE RESPONSES--LITERATURE: Ailise
Bulfin, Victoria Pöhls, and María-Ángeles
Martínez**

WEDNESDAY MAY 26TH

12.30-1.30PM

**LEGAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES: Joe Mooney
and Michael Salter**

1.45-3.30PM

**NARRATIVE MEDICINE & THERAPEUTIC
APPROACHES: Eimear Lacey, Rosaleen
McElvaney, Maria Stuart, and Emily
Troscianko**

4.00-5.45PM

**PSYCHOLOGY & PRACTITIONERS'
PERSPECTIVES: Leanne Gregory, Maeve Lewis,
Simon McCarthy-Jones, and Shaakya Anand-
Vembar**

6.00-6.30PM

**ROUNDTABLE
DISCUSSION
(PANELLISTS ONLY)**

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT & CODE OF CONDUCT

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

As you might expect, this event addresses a sensitive issue, which can be difficult to talk about and to listen to discussion on. We are committed to creating a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for this symposium and have created this safe-guarding statement and code of conduct for attendees. We will do our best to avoid graphic descriptions and distressing details. However, we need to point out that 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. If you feel distressed by the content of the event:

- 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.
- You can rejoin the event when you feel better and ready, or not return if you prefer.
- If you are in Ireland, a list of support organisations that you can contact is detailed below, including the Rape Crisis Centre 24-hour free helpline: 1800 77 8888
- If you are in the UK, you can call the Rape Crisis Helpline on 0808 802 9999, 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).

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT & CODE OF CONDUCT

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

If you have been negatively affected by this event in any way, the organisations below may be of assistance:

- Dublin Rape Crisis Centre 24 hour helpline: 1800 77 8888 or info@rcc.ie
- Rape Crisis Network Ireland (RCNI): 091 563676
<https://www.rcni.ie/>
- One in Four support for adult survivors of child sexual abuse: 01 66 24070 or info@oneinfour.ie
- A list of contacts for all the Irish sexual violence support services: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/463006-how-to-get-help-for-yourself/>
- Health Service Executive National Counselling Service contact details: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/national-counselling-service/contact-us/>
- Connect Counselling telephone counselling: Freephone 1800 477 477 or <https://connectcounselling.ie/>
- Vicarious trauma:
<https://www.goodtherapy.org/blog/psychpedia/vicarious-trauma>

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT & CODE OF CONDUCT

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Please do not share any zoom links and passwords via social media or other channels.
- When logging onto the panels, please turn off your cameras and microphones and make sure to display your full name. (To display your name correctly, after you have joined the meeting, choose More – Participants, then hover the cursor over your name and choose More – Rename.)
- Please be aware that the panels are being recorded by the organisers and the chat will be saved after the event.
- In each panel, after the panellists have finished their discussion, there will be an opportunity for audience members to ask questions via the chat, though we may not have sufficient time to address all questions. If you would like to follow up with us after the event, you can use the project's comments form.
- We will moderate the chat to make sure that everyone can participate and feel safe. We reserve the right to eject anyone from the space who espouses any criminal, oppressive, insensitive or disrespectful comments or questions.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

OPENING SPEAKER

HAZEL LARKIN

Hazel is a victim/Survivor of CSA, trafficking, and incest, and is currently a PhD candidate, author, and provider of services to survivors (www.hazelkatherinelarkin.com)

We are grateful to have Hazel at the symposium again after her seminar at our in-person series last year.

PRESENTATION TITLE

'Is it really like that? - An overview of titles in contemporary literature that address CSA'

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

"As a memoirist, I know how difficult it can be to present episodes of child sexual abuse in a way that is honest, but not gratuitous. Looking at short selection of books that deal with the issue - 'Needlework' by Deirdre Sullivan, 'Nothing Tastes as Good' by Claire Hennessy, 'Speak' by Laurie Halse Anderson, and 'Into the Water' by Paula Hawkins - I critique the representations of CSA presented by these popular works of fiction."

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

SOCIOLOGY & HISTORY

NICK BASANNAVAR

Dr. Nick Basannavar is an historian specialising in the cultural, social and sexual history of postwar Britain. He completed his doctoral research at Birkbeck, University of London, where he has also taught modern British history. Nick is an Associate Fellow of a major, interdisciplinary Wellcome-Birkbeck research project on sexual violence (Sexual Harms and Medical Encounters, SH+ME), and an adviser to the charitable Loudoun Trust which convenes experts and works on pathways towards the prevention of child sexual abuse. He is the Head of Impact at the diversity and inclusion consultancy and think tank, Included, which was founded as a legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

PRESENTATION TITLE

Trailing Child Sexual Abuse: Representational Changes and Continuities since 1965

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Sexual violence against children has always existed. However, the ways in which it has been interpreted and represented – whether in the popular media, politics, or other professional and personal milieus – have shifted according to historical setting. In this paper, historian Nick Basannavar provides an overview of his work investigating these changes and continuities in Britain since 1965, referencing the Jimmy Savile episode as a high-profile example. He will argue that academics and activists should challenge conceptual dichotomies such as silence/noise or ignorance/knowledge. Although categories such as ‘child sexual abuse’ and ‘paedophilia’ may be relatively recent linguistic value-constructs, sexual violence against children has existed and been represented across historical moments, in changeable and challenging ways.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

SOCIOLOGY & HISTORY

RUTH BEECHER

Dr. Ruth Beecher is a social and cultural historian with interests in race, gender and sexuality, children and families and popular culture in the US and UK in the twentieth century. She is a post-doctoral research fellow working with the Wellcome Trust-funded Sexual Harms, Medicine and Medical Encounters (SHaME) Research hub (see website: <https://shame.bbk.ac.uk>). Ruth also leads an oral history project which involved interviews with Irish women or those who are part of the diaspora to examine how their lives and attitudes evolved during each decade of the twentieth century. The project is staffed by volunteers and is ongoing. See website: <https://unaganaguna.org> for further information. Prior to working on SHaME, Ruth managed a range of family support services in London.

PRESENTATION TITLE

An outline of the SHaME interdisciplinary project, which seeks to understand the role played by medical professionals, including psychiatrists, in understanding and dealing with sexual harms.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Ruth will briefly describe the work of the SHaME research hub and outline her own historical research on the early identification of child sexual abuse within families. Community-based nurses and doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists have privileged access to children, young people and their parents. And yet, children and adult survivors say that they are not 'heard' when they disclose abuse or send out 'signals' or 'signs' that all is not well. Through archival research and gathering new oral histories, Ruth's project examines primary care medical responses to intrafamilial child sexual abuse. The aim is to acknowledge the challenges for medics in understanding and responding to child sexual abuse without minimising the immediate and long term harm to children when we fail to notice or act.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

SOCIOLOGY & HISTORY

CLAIRE CUNNINGTON

Dr. Claire Cunnington is interested in inequality and stigma, with a particular focus on childhood sexual abuse (CSA). Her PhD focussed on adults recovering from CSA. She is currently studying the effects of historic cases of child sexual exploitation, in terms of economic and emotional wellbeing. She has a blog at www.clairecunnington.com where she discussed her own and related research. She is also on twitter @Cunning_Claire

PRESENTATION TITLE

Victim, Survivor or me? Defining the Self after Childhood Sexual Abuse

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Abuse involves the individual being treated as an object, merely existing for the perpetrator's pleasure, without any acknowledged rights or needs. One's identity, the knowledge of and definition of the self, is shattered. Recovering, therefore, involves rebuilding the self after such momentous and destructive trauma. This paper reports on a qualitative research project that involved a survey and interviews with people who experienced childhood sexual abuse. It outlines three areas central to the internal process of recovering and how they are influenced by others. These themes are how people who have experienced CSA conceptualise recovery; how they define themselves and the influence of gender constructs. The paper highlights the mainly negative influences of culture, society and individuals on people who have experienced CSA.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

AUDIENCE RESPONSES: FILM & MEDIA PSYCHOLOGY

XAVIER ALDANA REYES

Dr. Xavier Aldana Reyes is Reader in English Literature and Film at Manchester Metropolitan University and a founder member of the Manchester Centre for Gothic Studies. He is the author of the books *Gothic Cinema* (2020), *Horror Film and Affect* (2016) and *Body Gothic* (2014), and the editor of the collections *Twenty-First-Century Gothic: An Edinburgh Companion* (with Maisha Wester, 2019) and *Horror: A Literary History* (2016).

Website: <https://www.mmu.ac.uk/english/staff/profile/index.php?id=32>

Twitter: @XAldanaReyes

PRESENTATION TITLE

Horror Film and CSA: An Affective Approach

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

This paper offers a prospective approach to the ways in which horror engages with CSA. Drawing on my separation of horror's affective workings into the representational, the emotional and the somatic, I argue that horror, as a genre primarily interested in generating negative affect and emotions, finds itself in an ambiguous relationship with CSA. I begin by considering the difficulties of representing CSA (as moral and criminal offence) and its use to generate character alignment and sympathy, and move on to discuss how the supernatural can provide a distancing effect that allows horror to handle certain scenes and narrative scenarios differently from realist cinema. I then consider the more complex allegorical work the genre can achieve, how empathic and associative connections may render CSA trauma intelligible. Finally, I consider the importance of extrafilmic CSA knowledge to viewer's perception and experience of films. Throughout, I propose that horror's perceived value in conversations around CSA ultimately hinges on how well certain films walk the line between the a/effective and the exploitative.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

AUDIENCE RESPONSES: FILM & MEDIA PSYCHOLOGY

BRENDAN ROONEY

Dr. Brendan Rooney is an Assistant Professor in the School of Psychology, University College Dublin and director of the UCD School of Psychology Media and Entertainment Psychology Lab. His research interests include social cognition, and how cognitive and emotional processes interact in the context of media, arts and entertainment. He is an elected Fellow of The Society for the Cognitive Studies of the Moving Image and founding member of the Psychological Society of Ireland's Special Interest Group in Media, the Arts, and Cyberpsychology.

PRESENTATION TITLE

Prompting empathy towards characters: Empirical studies of film shot scale and mental state attribution.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Recognising and understanding thoughts and feelings (of others and of the self) is arguably the most important process for human social functioning. Much of our engagement with entertainment media and information technology centres on our ability to connect with the minds of fictional characters, avatars or “real” mediated behaviours. Cognitive psychologists explore the ways in which this experience can feel so deeply personal, yet be driven by universal design techniques. Recently, findings have shown that various cultural practices, such as engagement with narrative fiction, effectively elicit mind reading (Theory of Mind), guide people toward social cognition and foster sensitivity to others (Kidd and Castano 2013, 2016, Bormann and Greitemeyer, 2015, Black and Barnes, 2015). In this talk I will present findings that focus on a key feature of visualization, namely shot scale, a formal feature of the moving image through which creators can regulate the apparent distance and size of objects on screen. It reviews the findings of a series of experiments conducted in collaboration with my colleague Dr Katalin Bálint (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), on the effect of close-ups on theory-of-mind responding in viewers of films.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

AUDIENCE RESPONSES: LITERATURE

AILISE BULFIN

Dr. Ailise Bulfin's research focuses on literary and cultural representations of difficult aspects of the human experience. She has publications on child sexual abuse (CSA), xenophobia, war, catastrophe and climate change, including recent articles on nineteenth-century understandings of CSA perpetrators (2021) and metaphorical representations of CSA in children's fiction (2021), and the 2018 monograph, *Gothic Invasions: Imperialism, War and Fin-de-Siècle Popular Fiction*. She is currently Principal Investigator of a Wellcome Trust-funded project researching how child sexual abuse is represented in contemporary culture, which involves an interdisciplinary symposium and a pilot study exploring audience responses to fictional representations of CSA. She lectures in Victorian and contemporary literature in the School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin, and is an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin.

PRESENTATION TITLE

Exploring how readers respond to literary representations of child sexual abuse

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Despite the prevalence of child sexual abuse (CSA) and its potentially severe consequences, it remains a relatively taboo subject because of its intensely upsetting nature, and public understandings of it are hampered by many persistent, harmful myths, stereotypes and misconceptions. One potential source of public understandings of CSA is cultural works like novels, films and TV series, which collectively help to shape how we view our world. This means that fictional representations of CSA may help shape the meanings that survivors and the public make of the experience. This is important because public understandings of CSA affect both CSA prevention efforts and survivors' health outcomes. This paper discusses a qualitative methodology for exploring how fictional representations of CSA in novels affect their readers, using two novels which depict CSA in different ways. The first novel depicts the experience of CSA within a family, and the second novel depicts abduction by a stranger; each participant reads only one novel and then reports their responses in two stages: via a self-report questionnaire and subsequent interview. Through engaging with readers and comparing responses, the study hopes to understand the ways in which they responded to these novels, and hence to gauge the novels' potential effects on their understandings of the issue. The paper presents an overview of the preliminary findings.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

AUDIENCE RESPONSES: LITERATURE

R.L. VICTORIA PÖHLS

Victoria Pöhls is a researcher in the Language & Literature Department at the Max-Planck-Institute for Empirical Aesthetics (Frankfurt am Main). Her interest in studying literature with both hermeneutical and empirical methods evolved during her graduate studies in Cognitive Science (M. A., University College Dublin) and Literature, Linguistics, and Philosophy (M. A., Universität Hamburg). To foster interdisciplinary work at the frontiers of these disciplines, she co-founded the Powerful-Literary-Fiction-Texts-Network in 2019. Her research focuses on comparative, empirical, and cognitive approaches to literature and is especially concerned with the portrayal of marginalized groups. She takes a special interest in developing implicit methods of testing for reader response studies.

PRESENTATION TITLE

Measuring audience responses to sensitive topics in literature

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

How can empirical methods enrich or complement more traditional approaches to textual analysis? I will offer a short overview on different methods to study reader response, their affordances, limits, and benefits, with an emphasis on implicit measures that allow researchers to gain an understanding of subconscious processes and to analyse biases prone to be affected by social desirability. For my current project, I developed and implemented three ways of indirectly assessing the impact of fictional literary short stories. The main focus of the study is on readers' cognitive engagement with a textual topic (in this case: integration of refugees), their stereotypical expectancies regarding the (refugee) outgroup portrayed in the text, and the way these texts alter readers' own representation and description of this group's members. These and similar methods could potentially be used to study readers' perception of further (out-) groups or characters they perceive as dissimilar from themselves, and sensitive topics, like perpetrators or narratives of CSA.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

AUDIENCE RESPONSES: LITERATURE

MARÍA-ÁNGELES MARTÍNEZ

Dr. María-Ángeles Martínez is a senior lecturer at the Modern Philology Department of the University of Alcalá (Madrid, Spain), where she lectures on English linguistics. Her research is in the field of cognitive literary linguistics and cognitive narratology, and has been published in journals such as *Language and Literature*, *Journal of Literary Semantics*, *Narrative*, and *Poetics Today*. She is the author of *Storyworld Possible Selves* (De Gruyter, 2018), a monograph which explores narrative engagement within cognitive linguistics, cognitive narratology, and social psychology paradigms.

Google scholar: Maria-Angeles Martinez - Google Académico

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6473-1249>

PRESENTATION TITLE

Storyworld possible selves: Cognitive narratology, cognitive linguistics and social psychology at the crossroads.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Storyworld possible selves theory holds that narrative engagement requires readers and narrative experiencers to blend with the intradiegetic entity - narrator or focalizing character - which provides perspective on the storyworld. This involves the selective activation of individual readers' relevant self-schemas and possible selves on the basis of narrative cues, with the subsequent projection of activated features into a hybrid mental construct, or storyworld possible self (SPS). Narrative discourse actually contains a number of linguistics tokens - doubly-deictic you, SENSERless transitivity processes, indefinite nouns and pronouns, among others - which require an SPS blend for referential disambiguation, thus pointing to the presence of this hybrid mental referent, inclusive of an intra- and an extra-diegetic conceptualizer, in readers' narrative construal operations. The interdisciplinary nature of storyworld possible selves affords the possibility of exploring narrative phenomena such as the generation of empathy, fresh emotions, and feelings of self-transformation in engaged readers, both from culturally predictable and wholly idiosyncratic perspectives. In this presentation I review the main tenets in SPS theory and outline the affordances that the model can contribute to the study of child sexual abuse narratives.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

LEGAL & SOCIAL STUDIES

JOE MOONEY

Dr. Joe Mooney LLB, MA (Social Work), PhD is Assistant Professor of Social Work at University College Dublin and has a specific focus on child welfare and protection social work. Joseph is a professionally qualified and CORU registered Social Worker. Joseph is highly active in the area of Child Protection and Welfare research. He has spent the past decade researching the area of Irish policies concerning Retrospective Disclosures of Childhood Sexual Abuse and presents his work to National, International and Community and Practice-Based audiences. Joseph's research interests include disclosure of childhood trauma; child sexual abuse; child welfare and protection systems, practice, policy and law.

Blog: <https://irishsocialwork.wordpress.com/>

Twitter: @Joe0712

PRESENTATION TITLE

Adult Disclosures of Childhood Sexual Abuse: Societal Representations, Societal Barriers

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

This presentation will begin with an overview of my research in respect of adult retrospective disclosures of childhood sexual abuse and their engagement with child protection services. Retrospective disclosures are those by adults relating to abuse experienced in childhood. We know from a large body of international research that the dynamics of abuse can lead to many barriers to disclosure, from within and in relation to others, but we also know that many of the hurdles placed in front of individuals are socially and culturally created and mediated. In this presentation I will take a singular focus on the language we use when engaging with adults within the child protection system, how that language is a result of culture, at a macro and micro level, and what this means for those impacted by abuse. The presentation will be open and exploratory, seeking the thoughts and experiences of those in attendance.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

LEGAL & SOCIAL STUDIES

MICHAEL SALTER

Dr. Michael Salter is the Scientia Associate Professor of Criminology at the University of New South Wales, Australia, where he studies complex trauma and gendered violence. He is the author of two books, *Organised Sexual Abuse* (Routledge, 2013) and *Crime, Justice and Social Media* (Routledge, 2017) and a range of papers on child abuse, violence against women and technology-facilitated harm. He sits on the board of directors of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation who appointed him an ISSTD Fellow this year for his contributions to the advancement of the dissociative disorders field. He is an expert adviser to White Ribbon Australia, the Australian Office of the eSafety Commissioner and the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.

Website: www.organisedabuse.com

PRESENTATION TITLE

QAnon and cultural spectacles of child sexual exploitation

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

QAnon refers to the multi-mediated right wing extremist ideology that unfolded on social media over the course of the presidency of Donald Trump. Driven primarily by American evangelical Christians, although with international adherents, QAnon characterised Trump as a messianic figure rescuing children from an elite paedophile ring. While recognising the multiple political forces that leant QAnon such momentum, this paper is interested in the social media and mass media dynamics that made QAnon possible. The paper recognises child sexual exploitation as a site of media spectacle, underpinned by a broad-based reluctance to address child sexual exploitation by state authorities. In this leadership vacuum, allegations of sexual exploitation have been co-opted by journalists and social media users to advance political agendas and worldviews. The paper argues that QAnon is the latest stage of the “spectacularisation” of child sexual exploitation as an object of cultural elaboration rather than political action.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

NARRATIVE MEDICINE & THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

EIMEAR LACEY

Eimear Lacey (MSc, BSS, NQSW) qualified as a social worker in 2003 from Trinity College Dublin. In 2014 she was awarded an MSc Child Forensic Studies: Psychology and Law from the University of Portsmouth, receiving the Ray Bull Prize for outstanding Research Project. She is employed as a Principal Social Worker in St. Louise's Unit, Children's Health Ireland at Crumlin. Eimear has previously worked for the HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster in Child Protection and Welfare, as part of a Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health Service in New Zealand and at St. Clare's Unit, Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street. Eimear has been a member of the Children's Research Network Advisory Committee since 2017, and led the establishment of the CRN Special Interest Group on Child Sexual Abuse/Child Exploitation in June 2019

PRESENTATION TITLE

Interviewing Children Following Disclosure of Child Sexual Abuse

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

The interviewing of children following a disclosure of CSA has received focus and attention since the late 1980s and early 1990s, resulting in the development of several approaches to interviewing children. The following talk reflects upon the challenges faced in supporting children to tell their stories in a manner that is evidence based and non-leading. This is considered in the context of the speakers' role in conducting assessments following disclosure which seek to understand the child's experience, their therapeutic needs and the needs of the family.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

NARRATIVE MEDICINE & THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

ROSALEEN MCELVANEY

Dr. Rosaleen McElvaney is a principal psychotherapist in St. Clare's Unit, Children's Health Ireland at Connolly. She has extensive experience as a clinical psychologist, psychotherapist and lecturer in psychotherapy and has published extensively in the field of child sexual abuse. She is the author of Finding the words: Talking children through the tough times (Veritas, 2015) and 'Helping children tell about sexual abuse: Guidance for helpers' (Jessica Kingsley, 2016).

website: <https://www.dcu.ie/snpch/rosaleen-mcelvaney>

PRESENTATION TITLE

Young people's perspectives on therapy following sexual abuse

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

My presentation will address some of the issues that young people have raised about their experiences following sexual abuse. This is based on two research studies that I've been involved with over the past two years. Firstly, a study on young people's experiences of disclosing sexual abuse, where we also asked them about their experiences of therapy. This study was conducted with young people from various cities in Canada and Ireland. Secondly, a study with young people who have attended rape crisis/sexual violence centres in Ireland, where the focus was on their experiences of therapy - what they found helpful or unhelpful. Listening to young people's views about the services we provide is essential if we are to be of real help to them and their families as they navigate their recovery journey from sexual abuse.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

NARRATIVE MEDICINE & THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

MARIA STUART

Dr. Maria Stuart is assistant professor in the School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin, where her teaching and research are in the areas of American literature, crime fiction and dysfluency studies. She is co-editor (with Fionnuala Dillane and Fionnghuala Sweeney) of *Ireland, Slavery, Anti-Slavery and Empire* (Routledge, 2018) and author of 'The poetics of dysfluency: Emerson and Dickinson' in *Maintaining a Place: Conditions of Metaphor in Modern American Literature* (UCD Press, 2014). Recent work in dysfluency studies includes "'Easy listening": Altered auditory feedback and dysfluent speech', *Journal of Interdisciplinary Voice Studies*, 4:1 (2019) and co-editorship (with Daniel Martin) of a special issue for the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Voice Studies* on dysfluency studies, 5:2 (2021). She is principal investigator for the Wellcome-funded project 'Metaphoric Stammers and Embodied Speakers': Connecting Clinical, Cultural and Creative Practice in the area of Dysfluent Speech.

Contact: School of English, Drama and Film, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.
E-mail: maria.stuart@ucd.ie

PRESENTATION TITLE

'Metaphoric Stammers and Embodied Speakers': Narrative Practice and Dysfluency

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

This paper aims to outline the main features and core values underlying Dysfluency Studies and to explore how these might inform and support ongoing innovations in speech and language therapy, with a particular focus on narrative practice. Drawing from diverse fields (clinical practice, literary and cultural studies, disability studies, Dysfluency Studies explores the possibilities for exchange and collaboration across disciplines with a shared investment in stammering speech. (Continued below)

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

NARRATIVE MEDICINE & THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

MARIA STUART

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT CONTINUED

Many of us in the field have a personal experience of dysfluency which informs our research and our practice, and those involved approach stammering not as a 'disorder' to be 'fixed' but as a form of communication that offers unique insight into the relationship between vocal agency and cultural reception. With reference to the research project 'Metaphoric Stammers and Embodied Speakers: connecting clinical, cultural and creative practice in the of dysfluent speech', I trace an interdisciplinary approach that challenges a medically inflected model of 'recovery' premised on concepts of 'normal' speech and the pathologizing of vocal difference, and the narratives that support this. Drawing on the insights of disability studies, Dysfluency Studies foregrounds the role of the humanities in identifying and challenging the complex, often disabling cultural narratives around stammering (literary, cinematic, visual, political). Instead, we explore the spaces opened up by dysfluency in terms of the richness, diversity and complexity of communication, foregrounding the power of creative practice to subvert concepts of 'normative' speech through the counternarratives of an expressive, generative dysfluency.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

NARRATIVE MEDICINE & THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES

EMILY TROSCIANKO

Dr. Emily Troscianko is a Research Associate at TORCH, Oxford University's interdisciplinary research centre for the humanities, as well as a blogger (via "A Hunger Artist", for Psychology Today), eating-disorder recovery coach, and coordinator of a writing programme for humanities graduate students at Oxford. Her research background is in cognitive literary studies—her first monograph, *Kafka's Cognitive Realism* (2014), explored the phenomenon of the "Kafkaesque"—and she has ongoing interests in text-cued mental imagery and emotional responses. She coauthored the third edition of the world's leading textbook on consciousness (*Consciousness: An Introduction*, with Susan Blackmore, 2018), and her current research centres on empirical investigation of the connections between literary reading and eating disorders.

Website: <https://troscianko.com/>

PRESENTATION TITLE

What eating disorder bibliotherapy research can (and can't) tell us about reading and child sexual abuse

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

I offer an overview of relevant findings and implications from my research on eating disorders and narrative reading, sketching out some important convergences and divergences that may exist between the contexts of eating disorders and child sexual abuse. Topics include:

- reasons for writing and reading (e.g. awareness-raising, preventative, therapeutic, and anti-therapeutic aims),
- textual versus reader variables,
- psychological mechanisms mediating readers' responses,
- "triggering" and cultural ambivalences,
- embodiment and agency,
- the questionable "similarity thesis" in bibliotherapy theory and alternatives to it.

I conclude with suggestions for principles and practices we should consider when designing empirical studies of reader responses to put our theories and hypotheses to the test.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

PSYCHOLOGY & PRACTITIONERS' PERSPECTIVES

LEANNE GREGORY

Dr. Leanne Gregory works in private practice, and is also a part of the team at Treehouse Practice, where the attachment and trauma-based needs of children and young people are catered to. Prior to her professional training in Clinical Psychology at the University of Edinburgh Leanne completed a Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology at University College Cork, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at University College Dublin. Leanne is currently learning more about applied neuroscience. She has worked with clinical populations across the lifespan in a range of health, mental health, and forensic settings. However, her special interest is in working with children who find themselves in the care system, and she is lucky to get to do so as part of her job. Leanne provides occasional teaching to doctoral trainees at the University of Limerick. She has spoken at local, national, and international conferences about the sometimes complex risks and needs of children impacted by adversity and abuse. Leanne is interested in the ways in which trauma and relationships shape development, and in turn how relationships and neuroplasticity can be harnessed to respond to need in that regard.

PRESENTATION TITLE

Scared stiff: Sexual abuse, society, and recovery. Thoughts from the clinic room.

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Childhood sexual abuse is now well established as a real phenomenon, having been denied and without language up until several decades ago. This can be read in empirical findings that articulate its characteristics and mental health outcomes, seen in the storylines of popular media, and felt in the collective consciousness, which carries both the knowledge of Ireland's legacy of child abuse, and the fear of sexual harm to children as perhaps the most terrifying eventuality. Nevertheless, individuals that reveal their sexual abuse experiences are often not met with compassion and support. The present paper will offer a number of hypotheses in this regard, alongside future research considerations.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

PSYCHOLOGY & PRACTITIONERS' PERSPECTIVES

MAEVE LEWIS

Maeve Lewis is CEO of One in Four, an NGO providing psychotherapy and advocacy services to adult survivors of child sexual abuse and to their families together with a sex offender intervention programme. One in Four engages actively in influencing policy and legislation that impacts on our clients. A psychotherapist specialising in sexual trauma, Maeve has also worked overseas in post conflict situations in the former Yugoslavia, Rwanda and Sierra Leone, training local trauma counsellors. She is a registered expert witness in sexual trauma at the International Criminal Court at The Hague and has given evidence before the Court. She regularly provides training in sexual trauma to legal professionals at the Court.

PRESENTATION TITLE

The Intrusion of Societal Myths into the Recovery Journey for Adult Survivors of Child sexual Abuse

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

This presentation explores the ways in which societal myths about childhood sexual abuse are created and sustained by media and literary representations. It reflects on how these myths intrude and impact on the therapeutic space and on those statutory processes with which adult survivors often have to engage.

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

PSYCHOLOGY & PRACTITIONERS' PERSPECTIVES

SIMON MCCARTHY-JONES

Dr. Simon McCarthy-Jones is an Associate Professor in Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Trinity College Dublin. His research focusses on hallucinations, child sexual abuse and freedom of thought.

His website is <https://www.simonmccarthyjones.com>

PRESENTATION TITLE

Can an evolutionary approach tell us anything useful about shame experienced in the wake of child sexual abuse?

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

From an evolutionary perspective, shame isn't a maladaptive and destructive emotion, but one which evolved to help us solve problems. But what problem does shame try to solve, why is shame so toxic in many survivors of child sexual abuse, and what can an evolutionary approach tell us about how to deal with shame?

PANELLIST BIOS & ABSTRACTS

PSYCHOLOGY & PRACTITIONERS' PERSPECTIVES

SHAAKYA ANAND-VEMBAR

Shaakya Anand-Vembar is a PhD candidate in the Department of Psychiatry at Trinity College Dublin, under the supervision of Drs. Simon McCarthy-Jones and Elizabeth Nixon. Her project focuses on shame in adult survivors of child sexual abuse, with the aim of developing a cross-culturally valid measure of shame in this vulnerable population. She has a B.A. in Psychology from Columbia University, and an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Utrecht University.

In addition to CSA research, she is interested in studying non-WEIRD populations, applying mixed methods, and activism/advocacy for various social justice issues. She works on open science and sampling diversity initiatives as a scientific affairs officer in the Junior Researcher Programme and is also involved in the Children's Research Network's Child Sexual Abuse/Child Exploitation Special Interest Group.

PRESENTATION TITLE

The current state of shame and CSA research: What we know, what we want to know, and how we're furthering research in the area

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

Shaakya will discuss the findings of her large systematic review on shame in the context of CSA, in a way continuing the discussion posed by Dr. McCarthy-Jones' presentation on the utility and implication of shame in CSA survivors. She will then talk about her ongoing study that aims to test the validity of existing shame scales, and will end by outlining future plans for this project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We sincerely thank all the panellists for their contributions to this symposium, and hope you have had fruitful discussions with researchers in diverse fields.

We also thank all the audience members for attending and contributing your thoughts and questions!

And finally, we would like to thank the Wellcome Trust for funding this collaborative initiative.

If you would like to get in touch with us about anything relating to this symposium, please feel free to email us:

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Or visit the project website and leave a comment:
<https://csainculture.com>