

## Call For Papers - Shame and Medicine 2025 Conference

**Date:** 11-12 June 2025

**Location:** University of Exeter, UK and Online.

**CFP Deadline:** 31 January 2025

Shame is a powerful force in the everyday experiences of patients, medical students and healthcare practitioners. For patients, it has been associated with treatment avoidance, increased burden of illness and negative outcomes. At the same time, it is frequently used in public health campaigns to motivate behaviour change. Shame has been identified as a negative, yet frequently present aspect of medical education and training, and it continues to be a common experience for healthcare professionals, related to medical error, burn out, stress and workplace cultures. Shame also is frequently present in medicine's cultural outputs, such as medical reality television, medical memoirs and medical genre writing.

As the Wellcome-Funded Shame and Medicine Project draws to a close, our final conference aims to showcase research that looks at the impacts, effects and significance of shame in various aspects of medicine and healthcare.

### Abstracts

We welcome papers from a wide range of disciplines, including but not limited to: medicine, medical education, medical humanities, public health, sociology, psychology, anthropology, literary studies, philosophy, healthcare ethics, media and cultural studies, visual culture, law, history and geography.

We invite abstracts for 20-minute conference presentations that consider any aspect of shame in medicine. Abstracts can be interdisciplinary and use creative or engaged methodologies. We also encourage and welcome intersectional methodologies, for instance in connection with feminist theory, disability and LGBTQ+ studies, or critical race theory. In any instance, proposals should consider shame and medicine, or both, in their broadest sense.

Topics might include:

- Shame and experiences of illness
- Shame in clinical encounters
- Shame in public health campaigns
- Shame and other related emotions in health and healthcare
- Shame in medical education and training
- Shame in professional practice
- Shame in maternity care
- Shame in medical culture
- Shame in medical writing, film, comics or other cultural texts
- Shame and Covid-19

### To submit an Abstract

- Please submit a title, abstract of approx. 250 words and a short (100-200 words) academic bio via this [Form](#) by 31 January 2025.
- For all inquiries contact [A.Waterson@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:A.Waterson@exeter.ac.uk).

### Selection Process

- The deadline for the submission of abstracts is 31 January 2025.
- Abstracts will be peer-reviewed by members of the Shame and Medicine Project's conference committee.
- If we receive more abstracts of quality than we can provide space for, the review team will select what they believe to be the best for presentation, with an eye to the aims and objectives of the conference and the project.
- Participants will be notified of selection by the end of February 2025. We will notify everyone of the outcome of their submission, but will not supply individual feedback on those which are unsuccessful.

### Practical details

- The event will be free to attend; hot drinks and a light lunch will be provided; and we will host a drinks reception on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June.
- A small number of travel bursaries will be made available to early career scholars to facilitate participation in the conference.
- The conference is in person and online.



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