

Name	Bio	Title	Abstract
Robert Walker	<p>Robert Walker is a Professor at the Jingshi Academy, Beijing Normal University. He was the Joan Shorenstein Fellow at Harvard University 2021/2 and is Professor Emeritus at the University of Oxford where he is also Emeritus Fellow of Green Templeton College. His latest books are <i>The Shame of Poverty</i> (OUP, 2014) and <i>Poverty and the World Order</i> (Agenda, 2023). <i>Is China right?</i> due for publication in 2025 with Edward Elgar. He writes regularly for <i>China Focus</i> and <i>China Today</i>.</p>	Listening to the shame of poverty	<p>Shame is an emotion too shaming to be spoken about. Therefore, the challenge of any research into shame that engages with people subject to shaming is to find ways of listening beneath words. During the presentation, we will discuss various attempts to explore feelings of shame that adults and children associate with the experience of poverty. Building on exploratory work in six contrasting countries, and more targeted work among children and rural-urban migrants in China, the presentation will conclude with a project that welcomes people with direct experience of poverty to join as co-researchers together to understand the place(s) of shaming in the experience of poverty. The listening and learning continues.</p>

Name	Bio	Title	Abstract
<p>Nicolay Gausel, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Stavanger</p>	<p>I am a full professor of psychology with a background from the University of Sussex, UK. My research primarily focuses on social and emotion psychology, with an emphasis on the self, social identity, moral failures, self-critical emotions, and psychological defence. The aim of my research is to understand how we deal with the challenges in our lives so we can better help each other.</p>	<p>Analysing shame: Shame as a relational network of emotion-experience</p>	<p>Shame is a complex emotion involved in how the individual relates to oneself, close others, and the society in which the individual finds herself. Although there is great disagreement about what shame is, key agreements exist.</p> <p>In this presentation, I will highlight how we can understand shame, how it affects the individual and their social relations, and what we can expect when people experience shame. I will explain how we may tap into the shame experience using quantitative methods that illuminate its relational structure through structural models.</p> <p>Specifically, I will explain how shame researchers and helpers working with moral failures may benefit from reflecting on how the shame experience involves the activation of the self through the violation of <i>internalised</i> moral norms. Following this fundamental aspect, I will explain how this experience involves criticism of the self by the self and the risk of criticism of the self by imagined or real others. I will explain how these two forms of criticism can promote either defensive, anti-social motivations or pro-social, approach motivations.</p> <p>Finally, I will suggest directions for future research and therapy, encouraging a view of moral emotions such as shame as an integrated process where appraisals, feelings, and responses interact within a relational network.</p>

Name	Bio	Title	Abstract
Will Bynum	<p>Will Bynum, MD, PhD is an Associate Professor of Family Medicine at Duke University School of Medicine and a Veteran of the United States Air Force. He received his M.D. at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in 2010, completed his residency in the NCC Family Medicine Residency with the US Air Force, and received his Ph.D. in Health Professions Education at Maastricht University in the Netherlands in 2023, where defended his thesis entitled “Out of the shadows: a qualitative exploration of shame in medical learners.” Along with Dr. Luna Dolezal, he is the co-creator of The Shame Space, a global consortium that advances open communication about the role of shame in healthcare, a co-producer on the award-winning “Shame in Medicine: The Lost Forest” podcast series produced by The Nocturnists, and a co-founder of The Shame Lab, which catalyzes research and training to advance shame competence in healthcare and beyond.</p>	<p>Why hermeneutic phenomenology may be our most powerful—and practical—tool for researching shame</p>	<p>In this presentation, the speaker will first frame the ethical and practical challenges of researching shame and provide an overview of hermeneutic phenomenology, including its ontological/epistemological foundations and some of its defining features.</p> <p>He will then reference his experience researching medical learners to explore how hermeneutic phenomenology can generate deep, nuanced, and contextually relevant understanding about complex phenomena like shame. Through this exploration, he will explain how anti-bracketing, the hermeneutic circle, and cycles of writing and rewriting are powerful analytical tools to research shame.</p> <p>Participants will leave with greater awareness and interest in using hermeneutics as a research methodology and where to find additional information.</p>

Name	Bio	Title	Abstract
Nicole Kouri	<p>Nicole Kouri, MA, is a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She studies the relationship between interpersonal violence, posttraumatic stress, and dissociation across the lifespan. She is also interested in how systems, whether institutional or familial, reinforce potentially maladaptive coping strategies. For her dissertation, Nicole is examining how symptoms of posttraumatic stress and dissociation influence interpersonal functioning in adolescence. Nicole is also developing clinical and research expertise in co-occurring posttraumatic stress and addiction.</p> <p>Starting in July 2024, Nicole will complete her clinical psychology doctoral internship at Columbia University Irving Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian. Prior to attending Wayne State, Nicole obtained her master's degree in psychology at the New School for Social Research in New York City with a concentration in substance abuse counseling. Nicole previously worked in foster care and was a research coordinator in the psychiatry department at New York University Medical Center, conducting behavioral and neuroimaging studies with veterans experiencing posttraumatic stress disorder.</p>	An Overview of Shame-Induced Dissociation and its Clinical Implications	<p>This presentation will provide an overview of shame-induced dissociation. Dissociation is characterized by alterations and disruptions to consciousness, memory, self-identity, and perception of the environment. Although it has been most closely studied as an avoidant regulatory response in trauma-related disorders, research with clinical and non-clinical samples has revealed that people dissociate in response to minor or non-traumatic stressors, including feelings of shame. I will review results from two experimental studies in which shame contributed to state dissociation in adolescents and adults.</p> <p>In the first study, 50 female-identifying or bodied adults completed a shame-related script-driven imagery paradigm and mirror-viewing task in which they recalled two shame-related and two neutral autobiographical memories. After which, participants listened to recordings of themselves retelling the narratives looking in a mirror or at a black curtain (i.e., mirror-viewing task). Shame-related memories compared to neutral memories resulted in higher rates of self-reported dissociation. In the second study, adolescents ($N = 239$) interacted with an avatar in 12 virtual reality simulations of age-typical social stressors. After each simulation, participants rated negative emotions—including shame—and state dissociation. Shame predicted state dissociation over and above the contribution of other negative emotions. Strengths and limitations of the studies and the clinical implications of the strong relationship between shame and dissociation will be discussed.</p>

Name	Bio	Title	Abstract
Gabi Kent	<p>Gabi Kent is a Senior Lecturer in Knowledge Exchange and practice-based researcher in the School of Social Sciences and Global Studies at The Open University. She began her career as a documentary film maker in British TV before shifting direction through an MSc in Human Rights at the London School of Economics. Prior to joining The Open University in 2016, she worked as a researcher and community engagement and storytelling practitioner for the UN and other organisations. Gabi’s research interests lie in social justice, social change and conflict transformation processes. She works primarily with conflict affected communities and local changemakers in Northern Ireland, using participatory action research, storytelling and co-production methods.</p>	<p>‘We are not alone’ Countering shame through community conversations and storytelling in Northern Ireland</p>	<p>This presentation discusses how Action Research methods developed for community groups to document and share the impacts of austerity, provided unexpected insights into ways of addressing poverty induced shame. This research took place in 7 locations across Northern Ireland between 2012 and 2014 as part of an ESCR funded study on poverty and social exclusion. Data gathered through locally run community conversations (focus groups) revealed the corrosive psychosocial effects of poverty induced shame on individuals and their communities. These conversations, alongside bespoke storytelling methods, in turn enabled community groups to create short films from their shared experiences that challenged mainstream narratives of blame and shame around social welfare and poverty, and to advocate collectively for their needs. Using some of these short films, as examples, I will discuss how shame as a co-constructed social emotion (Chase and Walker, 2013; Scheff, 2003) can be challenged through processes that nurture community solidarity, voice and collective action, before opening a conversation on what this methodology can offer in terms of ways to address shame and shaming in other contexts.</p>

Name	Bio	Title	Abstract
Verlin Joseph	<p>Dr. Verlin Joseph is an assistant professor in the College of Population at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center. He received his Ph.D. in epidemiology from the University of Florida and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center on Alcohol, Substance use, And Addictions (CASAA) at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Joseph’s research targets the impact of shame on substance use and criminal legal outcomes. His work has received funding from the National Institutes of Health and local foundations. Additionally, Dr. Joseph has published manuscripts in substance use-oriented journals, including Stigma and Health, Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology, and Cannabis. His ultimate goal is to eradicate shame among individuals seeking treatment for a substance use disorder.</p>	<p>Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches to Develop Measures of Shame for Substance Use Related Outcomes</p>	<p>Reducing the increase in substance use disorder (SUD) prevalence and mortality rates has become a leading international priority. Agencies, including the World Health Organization and the National Institutes of Health, have identified shame as a key contributor to the morbidity and mortality associated with substance use outcomes. Shame compromises each step of the recovery care continuum for those living with an SUD. Consequently, developing interventions to reduce SUD-related shame presents several challenges. Namely, the operationalization of shame is contingent upon several individualized factors, which pose challenges for researchers developing measures of shame for general use. Moreover, several existing measures were developed in unrepresentative samples for their intended use, further limiting the generalizability of the measures. Therefore, this presentation will characterize the quantitative and qualitative methodologies utilized to assess the impact of shame in substance use settings. First, we will discuss the importance of measurement invariance testing when employing a novel measure of shame among vulnerable populations. Secondly, we will describe the importance of integrating qualitative methods to develop measures of shame in SUD settings. As shame continues to serve as a significant contributor to substance use disorder prevalence rates, survey instruments are needed for the development of evidence-based interventions. To adequately assess the impacts of shame, we recommend leveraging the strengths of both quantitative and qualitative approaches.</p>