

CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS

Spiritual Abuse: Coercive Control in Religions

4th – 5th September 2020

Department of Psychology and Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Chester, UK

The term 'Spiritual Abuse' has increasingly been used to name the phenomenon of abuse, coercion and control within religious and spiritual traditions and contexts. This conference provides a space for practitioners, academics, statutory agencies, other relevant stakeholders and survivor groups to explore the growing awareness of this phenomenon from multiple religious, spiritual and non-religious perspectives.

Potential themes include (but are not limited to):

Terminology and concepts

Experience-based narratives and accounts

Methodological issues in the study of spiritual abuse

Prevention strategies

Responses and interventions

Safeguarding, health and well-being

Counselling and psychiatric approaches

Legislation and legal perspectives

Religion/tradition specific contexts

Role and styles of power

Role of religious sources in legitimisation

Intersectionality, inclusion and diversity (gender, sexualities, race, class, age, disability and other forms of identity)

Hosted, jointly, by the School of Psychology, and the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Chester, the conference invites proposals for individual and group presentations, posters, and themed panels. Alternative formats are also welcome.

Please send 300 word (approx.) abstracts and include presentation title, and author's/authors' names and affiliations in a Word Document to SpiritualAbuseConference@chester.ac.uk

The conference team is committed to making this event accessible and productive for everyone, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and pregnancy and maternity.

We adhere to the TRS UK Code of Conduct: <https://trs.ac.uk/news/trs-uk-code-of-conduct-for-conferences-template/>

Steering Group

Dr Lisa Oakley, Associate Professor of Applied Psychology, University of Chester

Dr Dawn Llewellyn, Senior Lecturer in Christian Studies, University of Chester

Dr Wendy Dossett, Associate Professor of Religious Studies, University of Chester

Prof. David Clough, Professor of Theological Ethics, University of Chester

Dr Kathryn Kinmond, Psychologist & Psychotherapist, Hon Senior Lecturer in Counselling, University of Chester

Mr Richard Scorer, Head of Abuse Law, Slater and Gordon

Dr David Hilborn, Principal Moorland College

Prof. Gordon Lynch, Professor of Modern Theology, University of Kent