

# BSC Hate Crime Network Newsletter – June 2023

Welcome to the BSC Hate Crime Networks Members' Newsletter for June 2023.

The newsletter provides an update on the latest news and events regarding the Network. The BSC Hate Crime Network is intended to provide a forum for those who are researching/working in the field of hate crime. More information about the Network can be found [here](#). If you have any queries about the newsletter or the Network, please contact Dr Irene Zempi ([irene.zempi@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:irene.zempi@ntu.ac.uk)) or the Network's email: [britishhatecrimenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:britishhatecrimenetwork@gmail.com).

**Things to look out for in this issue include:** Podcasts “A conversation with Dr Neville Lawrence OBE”, “A Conversation with the National Holocaust Centre and Museum” and “A Conversation with Sophie Lancaster Foundation”; “Online writing groups”; “Researching within hate studies” online events; "TRANSforming the Narrative: Challenging Transphobic Hate Crime" Conference.

## BSC Hate Crime Network podcasts

Latest BSC Hate Crime Network podcasts include “A conversation with Dr Neville Lawrence OBE”; “A Conversation with the National Holocaust Centre and Museum” and “A Conversation with Sophie Lancaster Foundation”.

### “A conversation with the Dr Neville Lawrence OBE”

For this podcast, guest was Dr Neville Lawrence OBE. Podcast link available [here](#)

Dr Neville Lawrence OBE is an advocate for the marginalised and voiceless communities who struggle to access and be heard by law enforcement agencies. Since the murder of his son Stephen he has been keen to go into schools and places where he can meet and speak with young people to let them know that there has to be a better way of treating people with different identities and backgrounds and that there is no need to be Racist and violent towards people because they are different. Dr Lawrence has received many awards for his work to combat Hate Crime and support young people. He has given more than 250 talks to schools, universities and prisons. He has been awarded Honorary Doctorates in law, education and civil law in recognition of his work to receive justice for his son Stephen Lawrence.

### “A Conversation with the National Holocaust Centre and Museum”

For this podcast, guest was Karen Becher – Head of Onsite Education, National Holocaust Centre and Museum. Podcast link available [here](#)

Karen joined the National Holocaust Centre and Museum (NHCM) in 2014, where she is the Head of Onsite Education and works in Holocaust education, teaching to primary and secondary students, university students and adult groups. She has played a substantial role in developing NHCM's 'Breaking the Cycle' programme. She completed her BA in Western European Studies and German at Wells College (New York, USA), and did teacher training and practical experience in New York State. She also completed studies in German, international relations and economics at the University of Bonn, Germany, and currently completing modules toward an MA in Holocaust Education. She began a career in journalism at the Wall St Journal Europe, where she worked for 6 years in the Bonn bureau. Fluent in German and currently studying Italian at intermediate level, Karen engaged in a career of professional translation and editing for 15+ years, translating articles, books/book chapters and journal papers. Clients have included think-tanks such as the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Austrian Trade Commission, online political journals, and book authors. In addition to living in the United States and United Kingdom, Karen has lived many years in Germany and Austria, where she worked at an international school, and taught German and worked in the high school administration. Passionate about Holocaust education and its relevance to society today, she is dedicated to this field.

### **“A Conversation with Sophie Lancaster Foundation”**

For this podcast, guests were Alison Vincent and Mike Ainsworth from the Sophie Lancaster Foundation. Podcast link available [here](#)

Alison Vincent is the Chief Executive of the Sophie Lancaster Foundation. Alison was brought into the Foundation by Sylvia, Founder of the Charity and Sophie's Mum. Alison's background is in education and the arts, and her specialism is marketing and communications. She was a committed supporter of the Foundation from first hearing Black Roses, Poet Laureate Simon Armitage's poetic sequence and elegy to Sophie, which jammed Radio 4 switchboards when it was first broadcast in 2010.

Mike Ainsworth currently chairs the National Police Chiefs Council and Association of Police and Crime Commissioners Independent Advisory Groups on Hate Crime. Mike is a Trustee and Director of the Sophie Lancaster Foundation. After a varied career in the Prison Service from officer in HMP Lincoln to running the lifer unit in Wormwood Scrubs and Deputy Governor in HMP Holloway, Mike worked in Kosovo during and immediately after the conflict organising the evacuation of refugees and coordinating the work of forensic teams investigating war crimes. On returning to the UK, Mike worked in a variety of voluntary sector organisations including Director of Offender

Services in The Princes Trust and Director of London Services for Stop Hate UK. Mike is chair of the management board of Arc Theatre.

Previous podcasts can be found [here](#)

### **“BSC Hate Crime Network Online writing groups”**

The Hate Crime Network launched online writing groups for academics, PhD students, early career researchers and anyone with writing goals!

The writing groups are held on Microsoft Teams and it is an opportunity for informal, relaxed feedback on your work, or just a space to stay motivated as you write. It is sometimes difficult to dedicate time to writing whether that is an article, thesis, or research bid. This writing group will enable like-minded peers to hold each other accountable. Writing is often a solitary practice, but not every step of the journey has to be made alone! The events include dedicated time for writing, followed by a discussion, allowing attendees to talk about what they are writing, and receive support.

The first (online) writing group was held on Wednesday 31st May 10am-1pm (UK time). Forthcoming writing groups will be announced on the Network’s social media.

If you have any questions about the Network’s online writing groups, please contact Dr Rachel Keighley (rek17@leicester.ac.uk) or Mikahil Azad (mikahil.azad@bcu.ac.uk).

### **‘Researching within hate studies’ online events**

#### ***Forthcoming Events:***

**13 September 2023, 14:00 – 15:00 (UK time)** *Eventbrite link to be confirmed soon*

**“State responses to anti-LGBTI hate crime on Europe’s peripheries” – Piotr Godzisz, Birmingham City University**

#### **Abstract**

The presentation will present early findings from a MSCA-IF study on the policies aimed at addressing anti-LGBTI violence in South-East and Eastern Europe. Some countries in the region have recently enacted hate crime laws, but there are few reports of cases being prosecuted under these laws, leading to questions about their implementation. The spread of hate crime legislation is influenced by the growth of

LGBTI advocacy, increased global attention to hate crimes, and the process of EU integration. However, it is uncertain how these factors affect the adoption and enforcement of hate crime policies. Based on data from expert and elite interviews enhanced by graphic elicitation the presentation will discuss hate crime policy adoption in Georgia and North Macedonia, which have both passed anti-LGBTI hate crime laws but have different levels of implementation.

#### Presenter's biography

Dr Piotr Godzisz (he/him) is an interdisciplinary researcher with a background in political science and criminology. He holds a PhD from the University College London and an MA from the University of Warsaw. He is engaged in research, training and advocacy on human rights issues across Europe and has worked with organisations such as the OSCE, the Council of Europe and Human Dignity Trust. He is currently a senior lecturer at Birmingham City University and a Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellow at Université Libre de Bruxelles. His published work focuses on victims, hate crime and human rights.

#### Previous events:

**31 May 2023, 14:00 – 15:00 (UK time)**

**“The Normalisation of Online Hate: Trolling, Diet Culture and Filtered Lifestyles”  
- Lauren Doyle, University of Sunderland**

Abstract: The academic study of the vulnerability posed by the digital world remains an evolving interdisciplinary discussion. Social media plays a significant role in the growing incorporation of the digital world in day-to-day living; even more so following the Covid-19 pandemic. Although social media provided a forum for enhanced connectivity in the isolating period of a global lockdown, it has been recognised as a potentially harmful and vulnerable space for its users (see Lavis & Winter, 2020; Bailey et al., 2022; Price et al., 2022). This lecture aims to explore the potential 'harms' posed on social media platforms through a zemiological lens by drawing upon the early findings of the presenter's doctoral research. The findings of this study will be framed through the lens of participant's lived experience of the 'normalisation of online hate' in the form of trolling, weight stigma and the [lack of] regulation of expressions of hate online. This will be thematically positioned into the context of diet culture and filtered lifestyles.

**9 April 2023, 14:00 – 15:00 (UK time)**

**“Microaggression towards Asian students” – Ammeline Wang, University of Manchester**

Abstract: The role of microaggressions in advancing the concerns of hate crimes is that they constitute 'low-level' behaviors that contribute to the escalation of bias-motivated behaviors along the hate crime continuum. Grounded in a framework of structural oppression, the premise of microaggressions is that they are behaviors that are motivated primarily – if not solely – by an individual's (conscious or unconscious) prejudices. However, microaggressions is a concept that attends to the structural and systemic oppression (both historical and contemporary) that minority groups have had to contend with for generations; a history that international students, as temporary migrants, do not share with their British born and/or bred counterparts. Using 'knowable community' (Williams, 1987) as a conceptual frame, this presentation focuses on how Southeast Asian and Mainland Chinese interpret the concept of microaggressions and how they navigate their experiences of microaggressions in the UK. The findings gathered from six focus groups and an online questionnaire administered to Southeast Asian and Mainland Chinese international students reveals that in the absence of a "knowable community", the visceral impacts of microaggressions and the cumulative effects of dealing with discriminatory or exclusionary behaviors can be lost on international students, particularly for those who may not have had to contend with such behaviors until arriving in the UK. I conclude that the concept of microaggressions cannot simply be bolt on to the hate crime debate on the basis that it captures the 'low-level' exclusionary or discriminatory behaviors that are, on the one hand, not serious enough to be considered a 'crime' in law but, on the other, are thought to be dangerous enough to establish, reinforce, and validate harmful stereotypes against certain groups. Rather, I suggest that university policies aimed at tackling microaggressions could perhaps focus on mobilizing curiosity in a non-defensive way, particularly when it comes to interacting and dealing with international students who originate from different cultures.

Previous events can be found [here](#)

## **"TRANSforming the Narrative: Challenging Transphobic Hate Crime" Conference**

The Network is hosting a free, in-person conference entitled "TRANSforming the Narrative: Challenging Transphobic Hate Crime" on Thursday 22 June 2023 at Bournemouth University.

This will be an opportunity to consider the extent of transphobic hate crimes, the experiences of victims, and the responses by criminal justice and voluntary agencies. The conference is free to attend though registration is mandatory (see below).

Our Mission Statement:

The BSC HCN are united in our support for our trans communities and friends. This event will acknowledge the extent of transphobia in our societies, and provide a safe and supportive environment for our trans allies to share experiences and have freedom of expression. It will address the issues and impact caused by transprejudices and provide a vehicle for community organisations and criminal justice agencies to collaborate in respecting and promoting diversity, and challenging discrimination, Othering and prejudice.

The conference aims to:

- Empower our Trans communities to feel safe and supported
- Address the prejudice towards our Trans communities
- Demonstrate Allyship with our Trans communities

You can register [here](#)

If you can't attend this in-person, please note that the conference will be recorded and shared on the Network's social media and webpage following the event.

## Transphobic Hate Crime Poster Competition

The Hate Crime Network is running a poster competition on the theme of Transphobic Hate Crime.

The deadline for this was Monday 12 June 2023. All nominations have been submitted to Irene Zempi ([irene.zempi@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:irene.zempi@ntu.ac.uk)), co-ordinator of the BSC Hate Crime Network poster competition.

All submissions were judged by a panel of reviewers and the prize - £50 will be awarded at the BSC Hate Crime Conference, Bournemouth University, on 22 June 2023.

## BSC Hate Crime Network "Sophie and Sylvia Lancaster Prize" 2023

### Guidelines

#### Aim

To acknowledge the valuable contribution to the field of hate crime and celebrate excellence and innovation in this field by members of the British Society of Criminology. Submissions can be related to academic work, policy, practice or activism in the field of hate crime.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

### *Applicants:*

- must be members of the BSC;
- for article submission nominations: must have published/shared this work between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023
- for policy, practice or activism nominations: must have been active in the role they have been nominated for between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023
- may nominate themselves, though they may also be nominated by others with the applicant's permission. All nominators must be a member of the BSC;
- can only submit work which have direct relevance to the field of hate crime.

## **Further Information**

The deadline for this was Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023. All nominations have been submitted to Professor Jon Garland ([j.garland@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:j.garland@surrey.ac.uk)), co-ordinator of the BSC Hate Crime Network "Sophie and Sylvia Lancaster Prize" 2023.

All submissions were judged by a panel of reviewers and the prize - £100 worth of Palgrave books - will be awarded at the BSC Conference, University of Central Lancashire, 27-30 June 2023.