

Introduction

'A master of the ceremonies introducing a partner',
Thomas Rowlandson, 1795 (Grego 1880)

Material Histories of Violence in the Home



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PSP collaborates with DSV survivors and specialist therapists to examine the sensory significance of material culture and conditions, and popular culture.

Combining archaeological and psychological approaches, the project examines the inter-relationship of emotion and material culture in and after DSV situations, comparing past and present experiences.

'The Disposition', John Leech, 1848,
Punch (Graves 1921; Leech 1886)

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AFFECTIONATE HUSBAND: "Come, Polly—if I *am* a little irritable, it's over in a minute."

Archaeologies of Domestic and Sexual Violence



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Project research adopts archaeological approaches both to examine the material conditions, and investigate material traces, of violence in the past.

The project also adopts the broad definition of archaeology as study of the human past through material remains, to consider the significance of material culture with regard to violent and abusive acts.



Early-mid 20th century postcards, from auto-archaeological assemblage (Jarrett 2015)

Geographical and Chronological Contexts

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PSP studies postmedieval contexts, comparing material from Derby, and the surrounding District and County, c. 1800-1950, to that from the East Midlands and beyond, dating from the 17th – 20th centuries.



Research Contexts

As well as investigating households, PSP considers sites of industry and leisure; law and order; education and religion; welfare; and burial, exploring landscapes of violence and respite.

This approach aims to better understand the impact of dominant discourse surrounding DSV in the mediation of social relationships, in particular interactions between gender, family, and community identities.

An aerial black and white photograph of Derby town centre in 1921. The image shows a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings, streets, and a river winding through the area. A prominent feature is a large, light-colored building with a curved roof, possibly a market or a large industrial building. The overall scene depicts a well-established industrial town.

**Aerial photograph of Derby town centre, 1921
(Derek Palmer Collection)**

PSP uses data recorded through participant co-/auto-archaeologies, and by the partner Community Archaeology Project, Living in the Past.

'LIPCAP' (aka 'LIP') studies archaeologies of domestic life, primarily within industrial communities, through standing building surveys, and surface artefact surveys within gardens and waste disposal sites; and material in museum collections, and private archives.

19th – mid 20th century waste disposal site,
Allestree, Derby, studied by LIPCAP

Project Development

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Project preparations began in January 2015, and will continue until 2016; pending resources, the PSP will potentially continue for several years.

Preliminary work involves evaluating previous research; exploring, evolving, and testing appropriate theoretical frameworks and methodologies; examining potential source material; and developing experimental therapeutic workshops, which will inform subsequent research strategies.

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Digital overlay of 1883 1:500 Town Plan on satellite image of location of demolished housing associated with a case study that will be integrated within project workshops.
(Map: Derby Local Studies Library)

‘Together’

PSP collaborates with psychotherapists and counsellors specialising in DSV trauma, and with survivors receiving therapeutic support.

This will involve the provision of therapeutic workshops incorporating archaeological and other historical material. The collaborative production of a community memorial is also under consideration.

'Past Sense' is the initiative of archaeologist Kirsten Jarrett (ACIfA), and Debra Jarrett (UKCP).

The project is currently independent, voluntary, and without financial support.

Mentor support is provided by therapeutic professionals; comparable archaeological support would be welcome.

It is anticipated that research and community funding, and academic association, will be explored.

Approach



'A Harlot's Progress,' William Hogarth, 1732
(Wellcome Library, London)

Context, Structure and Practice

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Multi-scalar analyses, studying different contexts and material categories, may enable evaluation of the extent to which dominant ideologies have permeated throughout and within society

By conducting micro histories while attending to local, regional, and wider contexts, it may be possible to examine the construction, embodiment, and transformation of structural frameworks that have determined modern and post-modern emotional systems

THE ARMES of all such
Honorable Families, as have borne
the Shields and Tolls of Earles of
Derby, from the time of the Nor-
man's Conquest unto this present



PART OF YORK SHIRE




Derbyshire, John Speed, 1610
(University of Cambridge Digital Library)

Cultures of Violence

Project research draws upon previous historical work that attends to the cultural production and construction of asymmetrical social relationships that facilitate and oppose gendered violence and abuse in and around the home.

The possible influence of military and police service will be considered. Detailed research into the intersection of violence and race, though beyond the scope of this study, would further enhance understanding.



'Recruiting Sergeants at Westminster',
John Thomson, 1877, Street Life in London

Place, Class, and Violence

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Project research takes into consideration stereotypes that situate DSV, and unwillingness to intervene, within working-class neighbourhoods – asserting violence to be endemic within poor, ‘underclass’, households and communities; the abuse of factory workers and domestic servants; and the hypothesis that violence was disproportionate within artisan households.



'The Arrest', George Cruickshank, 1848,
The Bottle and the Drunkard's Children

Material and Meaning

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Exploring the multi-vocality of material culture, PSP (re)examines everyday domestic artefacts and contexts to investigate significance with regard to the conditions, experiences, and emotions, of Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Acknowledging that encounters, and reactions, are situational and individualistic, project research scrutinizes similarities and differences within and between various chronological and geographical circumstances.

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Mid 20th century
Rockingham glaze
earthenware teapot
(author's collection).



Same Old Story?

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A sense of empathy may be important to DSV survivors – particularly in reconstructing personal and collective identities after traumatic experiences. Recognition of shared experience may facilitate dialogue, and enable contestation of 'victim-blaming' narratives.

PSP will take into consideration tendencies to project the present onto the past, while exploring how identification of commonalities might enhance the healing process.



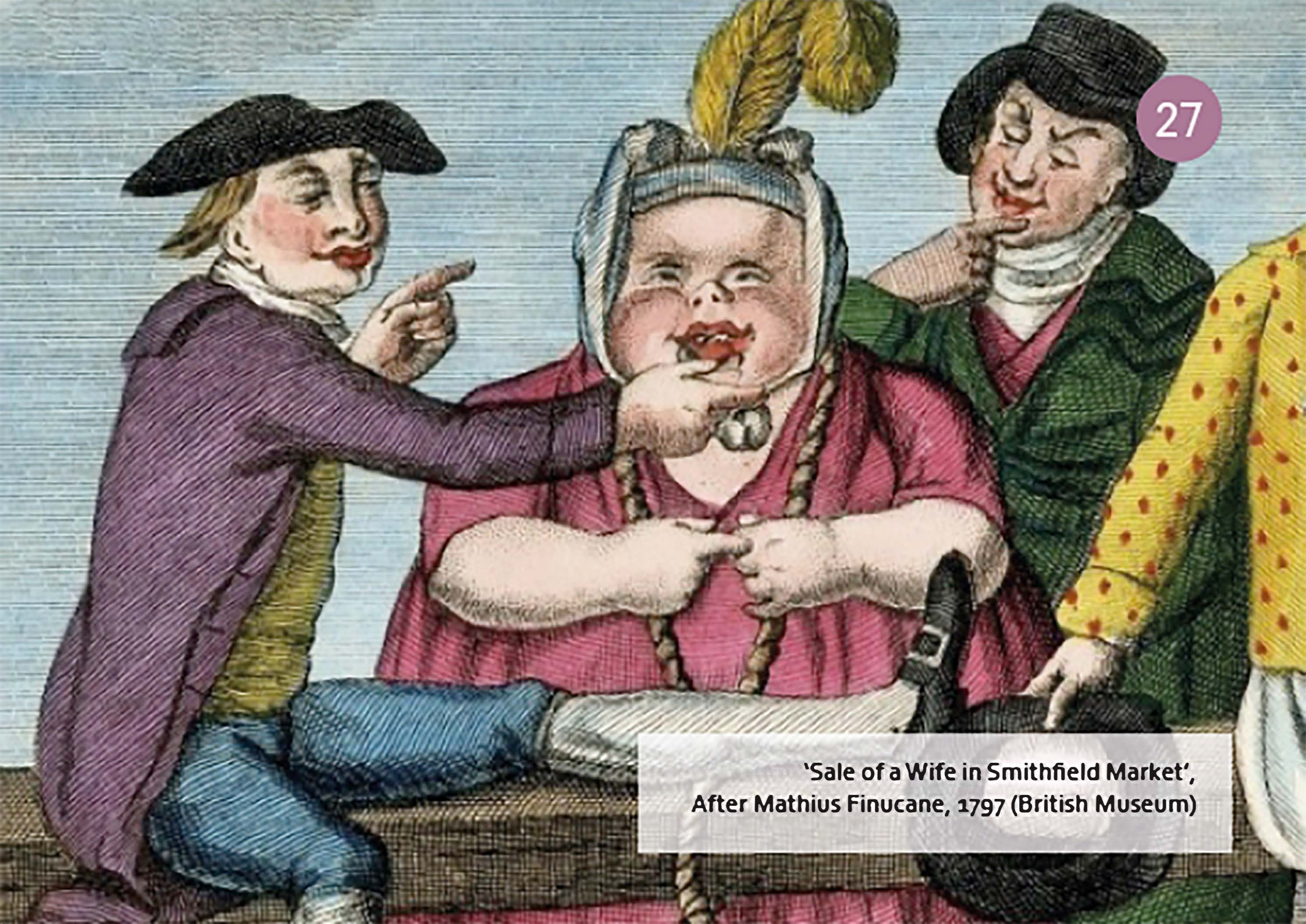
'Before', William Hogarth, 1736
(Wellcome Library, London)

Culture and Sensory Environment

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Archaeological studies of emotion demonstrate advantages in examining material culture in conjunction with other sources, in order to evaluate the sensory environments within and through which metaphors are (re)produced, and operate.

Project research examines written sources, images, and aural sources, alongside studies of landscape and material culture, to consider the cultural contexts through which social relationships and identities are mediated.



**'Sale of a Wife in Smithfield Market',
After Mathius Finucane, 1797 (British Museum)**

Unmentionable Acts

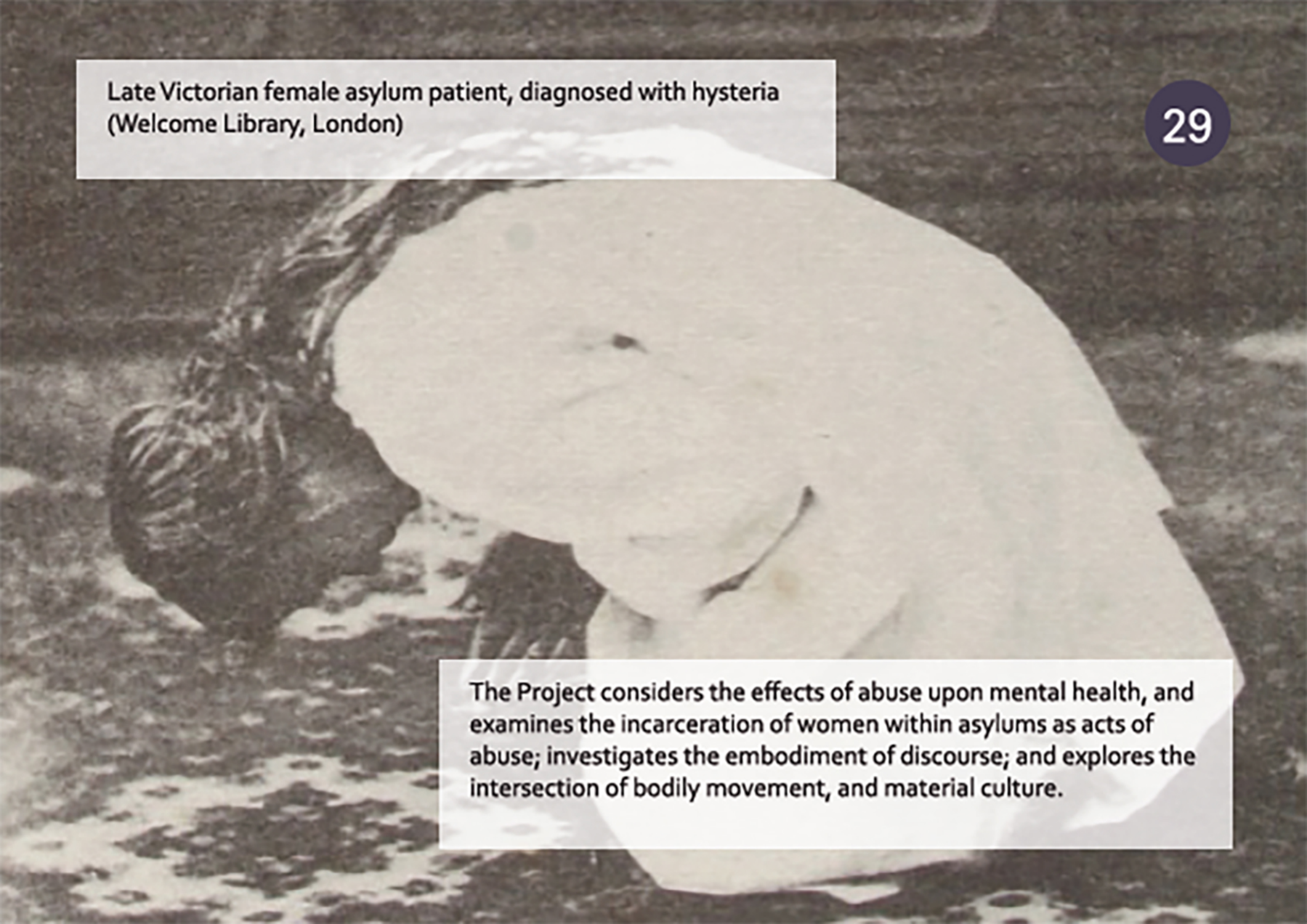
Unspeakable Emotions

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Talking often aids trauma recovery, although DSV survivors may find it difficult to speak of, or put into words, their experiences and emotions.

Cognitive dissonance might obstruct expression, and a sense of shame frequently hinders communication.

Metaphors may therefore be employed to describe incidents, and to attempt to articulate the feelings they provoke.



Late Victorian female asylum patient, diagnosed with hysteria
(Wellcome Library, London)

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The Project considers the effects of abuse upon mental health, and examines the incarceration of women within asylums as acts of abuse; investigates the embodiment of discourse; and explores the intersection of bodily movement, and material culture.

Metaphor and Motif.

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Archaeological studies of emotion also demonstrate the value of examining metaphors in seeking to understand lived experience.

Taking into consideration common responses to domestic and sexual violence, study of metaphor thus provides a suitable starting point for project research.

Preliminary studies reveal important and enduring tropes, the symbolisation of which might be examined through the study of motifs.



Early – mid 19th century earthenware painted and sponge-decorated platter (author's collection)

Discourse and Narrative

Preliminary research suggests persistent themes within discourse and narrative, and correlate material metaphors, which may be studied alongside other issues concerning DSV.

Several areas of research provide analytical frameworks for preliminary investigations. A number of interconnected topics and themes are analysed in order to further understand the embodiment and material expression of ideologies and emotions.



'Fabricious Description of the Poets',
Thomas Rowlandson, 1807, Miseries of Life.

Materiality and Meaning: Collaborative Research

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PSP collaborates with DSV survivors and specialist therapists to examine the sensory significance of material culture and conditions, and popular culture.



PSP collaborates
Project aims include
development of
archaeological
ethnographies, which
would potentially
enhance knowledge
regarding the value
of archives and the
historic environment
in trauma therapy.

Housing associated with a late
19th century project case study.

Historical Transitional Space

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Informed by psychological studies, and by the experiences of project participants and contributors, workshops will employ historical material to provide a 'space' through which participants might explore personal and collective experiences.

This process may engender reflection upon the intersection of circumstance, and ideological frameworks

Iron interior door key, from 1930s house studied by LIPCAP (author's collection)



Healing Histories: Material Culture, Comfort, and Control



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Studies indicate the appropriation of material culture in exacting control within abusive relationships; victims may also actively employ objects in maintaining a sense of self.

Psychological, sociological, and anthropological research also demonstrate how 'Transitional Objects' might provide comfort for survivors of traumatic situations. Workshops and research will explore these issues.

Mid 20th century 'Teddy Bear' (author's collection)

‘Women’s Talk’

Practice, Production, and Place

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Early 20th century sewing box, with early – mid 20th century contents; to be integrated within ‘Making and Mending’ sessions (author’s collection)



Talk among women gathered to complete chores such as sewing has inspired the development of workshop ‘Making and Mending’ sessions. These sessions will provide opportunities for participants to discuss past and present experiences of abuse and resistance, while producing mementoes.

'Making and Mending'

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'Making and Mending' sessions will work with discarded household artefacts and popular culture, appropriating and subverting material and motifs that embody discourse and practice relating to gendered violence and abuse.

Sessions will experiment with the inscription of collective support and identity through the group production of objects that survivors might use therapeutically.

First attempts at ceramic sponge-decoration (replicating stylized flower motif), testing techniques to be employed during workshop sessions

