



Dealing with Sensitive Material

Trauma-Informed Practice for Archivists



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**Where were you on
Saturday 22 April 1989
(around 3pm)?**

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Renshaw Street, Liverpool



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15 April 1989 Hillsborough, Sheffield



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Hillsborough Independent Panel Report



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	<h1>Incoming Public Iquiries</h1> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hillsborough• Covid• Infected Blood• Grenfell• LGBT Veterans• Post Office / Horizon• Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse• Hutton Report														
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Addressing Trauma Through Therapeutic Practice – Iqbal Singh & Kevin Lu



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Archives & Therapeutic Practice

<https://bit.ly/ArchivesTherapy>



Exploring archives and emotions through applied psychology and arts practice

Tuesday 13 December 2022 | [Iqbal Singh](#), [Dr Aaron Balick](#) and [Professor Kevin Lu](#) | [Archives and archivists](#) | [Comment](#)

This blog is the culmination of a number of years of work which started with a pilot workshop at [Stillpoint Spaces London](#) in June 2019, when a diverse group of people from different personal and professional backgrounds came together to look at the themes of race and racism. As part of the day, participants broke up into smaller groups. One of the sub-groups looked at how archives, education and engagement could address the themes of the day.

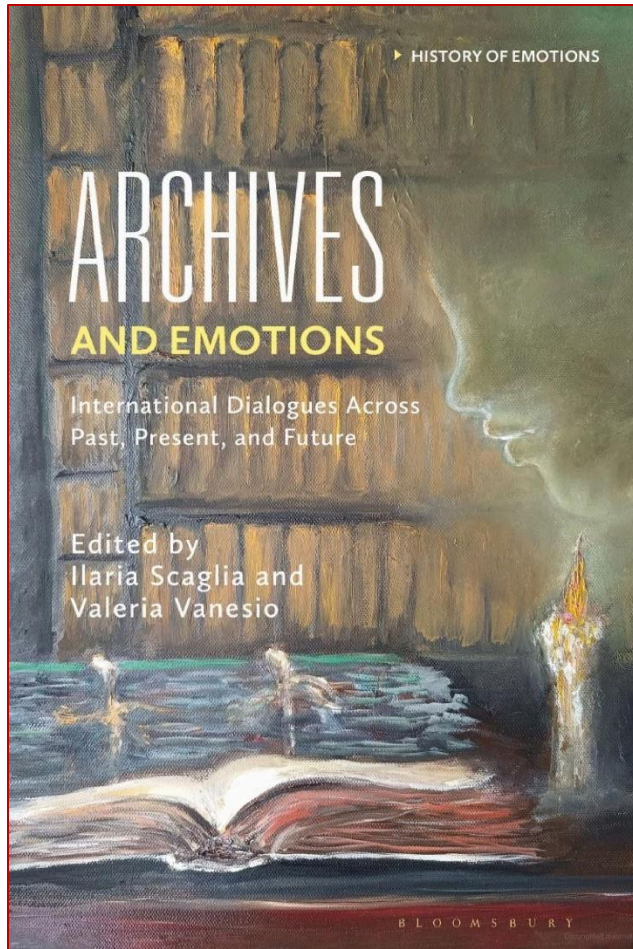
In response to this day, The National Archives developed a programme of workshops under the heading of '[Racism Past and Present](#)', in collaboration with Stillpoint and the counsellor and poetry therapist Charmaine Pollard. One of the aims of the workshop series was to offer to tell the long story of the Black community in Britain from the end of the First World War though to the early 1970s.

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Archives & Emotions



<https://bit.ly/ArchivesEmotions>



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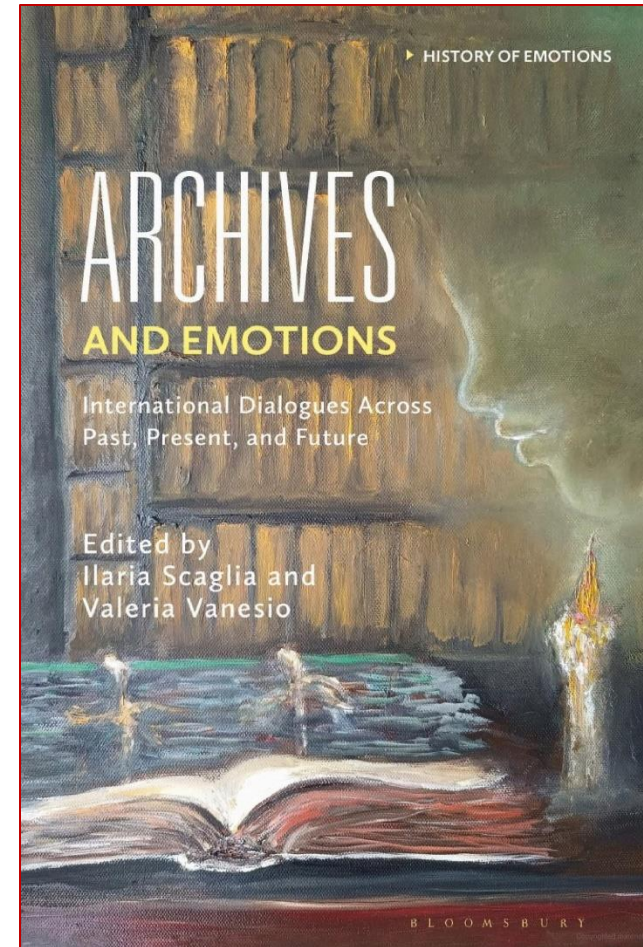
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Archives & Emotions

“Unless we look for emotions, ... we would not have the tools to envision the archives of the future as the means for repairing deep-seated injustices, for healing scarred communities, or for moving beyond the dire straits imposed on them by their emotionally laden histories.”

Ilaria Scaglia and Valeria Venesio
Introduction: Why Archives and Emotions?
(Bloomsbury 2025) p.1-2



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Bearing Witness to the Historical Record – Singh & Lu (Chapter 12)

1. Integrate presentation of archival material with psychological interventions to enable a personal relationship with the material.
2. Create a safe space and allow participants to share impact and learn from each other.
3. Involve participants in the cocreation of knowledge and reflect values of equity, diversity and inclusion.

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Amongst Yourselves...

1. What experience of distressing or traumatic archival material do you have?
2. What was your response at the time?
 1. Emotionally?
 2. Professionally?
3. How would you respond to others engaging with distressing or traumatic material?

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