

A Joint Symposium - What psychology can contribute to pandemic response

Speaker Biographies

In order of appearance

Prof. John Drury, Professor of Social Psychology, University of Sussex



John Drury is Professor of Social Psychology at the University of Sussex. He has been studying the psychology and behaviour of crowd events for nearly 30 years - including in emergencies, protests and social movements, religious festivals, music and sports events. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles on these and other topics. He is currently researching collective responses to hostile threats and how Covid-19 mutual aid groups can be sustained. He teaches crowd psychology to the UK Fire and Rescue Service and to crowd safety managers around the world. As part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, he participates in the UK government SAGE behavioural science subgroup SPI-B and is a member of Independent SAGE. He is a former editor of the British Journal of Social Psychology.

Michelle Constable, Chair of Behavioural Science and Public Health Network and Head of the Behaviour Change Unit at Hertfordshire County Council



Michelle Constable is a Health Psychologist and the Head of the Behaviour Change Unit at Hertfordshire County Council. She provides strategic leadership, both locally and nationally, on the application of behavioural and social science across local authorities and partner organisations. Michelle is co-founder and Chair of the Behavioural Science and Public Health Network (BSPHN) leading on the development of regional communities of practice. She is also a lead author of the Public Health England strategy "Improving People's Health: Applying behavioural and social sciences to improve population health and wellbeing in England" (2018) and a member of the Strategy Oversight Group.

Prof. Brooke Rogers OBE, Professor of Behavioural Science and Security, King's College London



Professor Brooke Rogers OBE is a Professor of Behavioural Science and Security in the Department of War Studies at King's College London. Professor Rogers is a social psychologist interested in risk communication, public and practitioner attitudes to, perceptions of, and responses to health and security risks and threats. Many of her multi-disciplinary, collaborative research projects explore psychological and behavioural responses to low likelihood, high-impact events such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear incidents. Other projects focus on community and organisational resilience, protecting crowded places, pathways into violent radicalisation, insider threat, risk communication with vulnerable groups, and more. Professor Rogers chairs the Cabinet Office National Security Risk Assessment Behavioural Science Expert Group, as well as the Home Office Science

Advisory Council. She is an independent participant on the Science Advisory Group for Emergencies and is co-chairing the behavioural science sub-group during the COVID-19 pandemic. Professor Rogers also contributes to a range of local, national, and international committees, including the Prime Minister's Council for Science and Technology.

Prof. Richard Amlôt, Interim Deputy Director, Behavioural Science and Insights Unit, Epidemiological and Behavioural Sciences Directorate UKHSA



Prof Richard Amlôt is Interim Deputy Director of Behavioural Science at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and leads UKHSA's Behavioural Science and Insights Unit (BSIU). The BSIU conducts applied research and evaluation for UKHSA and with its partners, and applies evidence and insights from the behavioural and social sciences to a range of health protection and security topics, with a particular focus on public health emergency preparedness and response. He is also the UKHSA Co-Director of the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Behavioural Science and Evaluation at University of Bristol, and visiting Professor of Practice in the Psychology of Health Protection at King's College London.

Prof. Angel Chater, Health Psychologist and Professor in Health Psychology and Behaviour Change, University of Bedfordshire



Angel is a Health Psychologist and Professor in Health Psychology and Behaviour Change at the University of Bedfordshire. She is the Director of the Institute for Sport and Physical Activity Research and leads the Centre for Health, Wellbeing and Behaviour Change. She is also an Associate of the University College London Centre for Behaviour Change. Angel is passionate about the interplay between health psychology and the public health system and co-founded the Health Psychology in Public Health Network (HPPHN), which was later renamed the Behavioural Science and Public Health Network (BSPHN) under her term as Chair. She is the Past Chair of the British Psychological Society's (BPS) Division of Health Psychology (serving as Chair 2019-2021) and leads the BPS COVID-19 Behavioural Science and Disease Prevention Taskforce. Her career has spanned over 20 years in health psychology, with a focus on optimising health and wellbeing through behaviour change.

Prof Jim McManus, ADPH President and Director of Public Health, Hertfordshire County Council



Jim McManus is Director of Public Health for Hertfordshire. He has worked in local government, the third sector, the NHS and commercial sector. Jim is a Past Chair and co-founder of the Behavioural Science in Public Health Network a Trustee of St Joseph's Hospice, London. He is an Hon Professor at the University of Hertfordshire and an Honorary Vice-President of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

He recently completed a Health Foundation Generation Q Fellowship with postgraduate studies in Leadership and Quality Improvement at Ashridge Business School. Jim is a Chartered Psychologist, Chartered Scientist, Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, Registered Public Health Specialist, Fellow of the British Psychological Society, and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. He has been policy lead for ADPH on drugs and alcohol, public mental health and sexual health. On behalf of ADPH he is a Member of the Steering Group for the NIHR Policy Research Unit at the University of Newcastle, a Member of the Advisory Group for the Public Mental Health Implementation Centre, Royal College of Psychiatrists and a Member of the Oversight Group for the National HIV Action Plan. Jim is Population Health lead for the Hertfordshire and West Essex Integrated Care System. Jim is one of a pool of leadership mentors for new DsPH and provides leadership training for people aspiring to practitioner registration with the UK Public Health Register. In 2011 he was awarded the Good Samaritan Medal for Excellence in Healthcare by Pope Benedict XVI, the highest honour for healthcare the Vatican can award.

Professor Stephen Reicher, Bishop Wardlaw Professor of Psychology, University of St Andrews, and Chair of the behavioural group Independent SAGE



Stephen Reicher is a Professor in the School of Psychology & Neuroscience at the University of St Andrews. His research interests focus on the issues of group behaviour and the individual-social relationship. More specifically, his recent research can be grouped into three areas. The first is an attempt to develop a model of crowd action that accounts for both social determination and social change. The second concerns the construction of social categories through language and action. The third concerns political rhetoric and mass mobilisation - especially around the issue of national identity. Currently, Professor Reicher is starting work on a Leverhulme funded project (jointly with Nick Hopkins of Lancaster University) looking at the impact of devolution on Scottish identity

and social action in Scotland.