


## *The Social Psychology of Trauma*

Many of us have been affected by trauma and struggle to manage our health and well-being. The social psychological approach to health highlights how social and cultural forces, as much as individual ones, are central to how we experience and cope with adversity. This book integrates psychology, politics and medicine to offer a new understanding that speaks to the causes and consequences of traumatic experiences. Connecting the personal with the political, Orla T. Muldoon details the evidence that traumatic experiences can, under certain conditions, impact people's political positions and appetite for social change. This perspective reveals trauma as a socially situated phenomenon linked to power and privilege or disempowerment and disadvantage. The discussion will interest those affected by trauma and those supporting them, as well as students, researchers, practitioners and policy makers in social psychology, health and clinical psychology and political science. This title is available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

ORLA T. MULDOON is Professor of Psychology at the University of Limerick, Ireland, where she has lived on both sides of the border. She is currently editor-in-chief of *Political Psychology* and holds a prestigious European Research Council Advanced Grant. She has written numerous peer-reviewed publications on trauma, health, and political attitudes, and she makes regular media and policy contributions, including as a columnist with *The Irish Times*.





# The Social Psychology of Trauma

Connecting the Personal and the Political

ORLA T. MULDOON

*University of Limerick*



**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India  
103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781009306980](http://www.cambridge.org/9781009306980)

DOI: [10.1017/9781009306997](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009306997)

© Orla T. Muldoon 2024

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at [doi.org/10.1017/9781009306997](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009306997) under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given and any changes made are indicated. To view a copy of this license visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0>

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties. Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI [10.1017/9781009306997](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009306997)

First published 2024

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Names: Muldoon, Orla, author.

Title: The social psychology of trauma : connecting the personal and the political / Orla T. Muldoon, University of Limerick.

Description: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, [2024] | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2023048716 (print) | LCCN 2023048717 (ebook) | ISBN 9781009306980 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009307017 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009306997 (epub)

Subjects: LCSH: Psychic trauma—Social aspects. | Social psychology.

Classification: LCC HM1033 .M856 2024 (print) | LCC HM1033 (ebook) | DDC 302—dc23/eng/20231103

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023048716>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2023048717>

ISBN 978-1-009-30698-0 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-009-30701-7 Paperback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.