

Christopher James Shelton, MSc

1640 Pecos Way

Denver, CO 80221

Cell: (916) 616-9781

Email: ChrisSheltonMSc@gmail.com

Web: mncriticalthinking.com



INTRODUCTION

Chris Shelton is an educator, consultant, and expert in coercive control, with emphasis on destructive cults, controversial groups and movements. He has worked with many individuals and families having issues with undue influence and coercive control in both domestic and group situations in online as well as real world situations. Chris has done one-on-one consulting for victims of coercive control, intervention and recovery services, media appearances, researching and writing, videography, activism, and teaching. His expertise includes coercive or undue influence in one-on-one relationships, families, cyberbullying and cyberstalking, high-control or authoritarian groups of all kinds, human trafficking, extremism and other coercive situations.

CREDENTIALS

Masters of Science

University of Salford, School of Health & Society, Masters of Science in Psychology of Coercive Control with Distinction (2022). Dissertation: *Scientology Security Checking: The Confessional as Coercive Control*.

- Causes and anatomy of coercive control
- Coercion/undue influence in comparative contexts such as online stalking or cyberbullying, human trafficking, cultic/gang activity or domestic abuse
- Therapeutic approaches for survivors of coercive abuse and undue influence

Additional Professional Training

ASIST suicide intervention first-aid training

PUBLICATIONS

Shelton, Chris (2015). *Scientology: A to Xenu – An Insider’s Guide to What Scientology is All About*, Denver, CO.

Stewart J, Shelton C. YouTube and Critical Thinking: How Technology Facilitates Cult Recovery. *Technoculture* 2018; Volume 9. URL: <https://tcjournal.org/vol8/shelton-stewart/>

SELECTED PUBLIC SPEAKING/PRESENTATIONS

Coerced Labor and Deprived Sleep in the RPF. International Cultic Studies Association Annual Conference. 2022. Online panel presentation with Dr. Stephen A. Kent and Dr. Phil Lord.

Coming to Grips with Being in a Cult. International Cultic Studies Association Annual Conference, 2018, Philadelphia, PA.

Second Generation Cult Survivors Panel with Christine Gordon and Aaron Smith-Levin. International Cultic Studies Association Annual Conference, 2018, Philadelphia, PA.

How Not to Be Culty. Paganicon Annual Conference. 2018. Minneapolis, MN.

Why Smart People Fall for Stupid Things. Skeptics of Oz Conference. 2017. Wichita State University, Wichita, KS.

The Lessons of Cults plus Q&A about Scientology. 2017. Minneapolis, MN.

My History in Scientology. Tri-State Freethinkers Association. 2015. Union, Kentucky.

Cult Recovery 101. Spiritual Abuse Forum for Education Recovery Conference. 2024. Portland, OR.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Court TV (2023)

Governing (2022)

The Independent (2021)

Two appearances in *Scientology and the Aftermath* A&E series (2016-2019)

The Irish Times (2017)

BBC 4 (2016)

In addition to the above, Chris has also given interviews in over 100 podcasts and videos on YouTube and other social media, as well as conducting video interviews with psychologists, sociologists, neuroscientists and other professionals in cult recovery and exit counselling.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Research Assistant, University of Salford, Manchester, UK. (2023-)

Independent Practice in consulting (Denver, CO) (2019-)

Consulting producer, Scientology and the Aftermath documentary series (seasons 1 and 2) (2016-2019)

Consulting producer, unaired Scientology cult documentary series (2017)

Board of Directors, Secular Hub. (2017-2019)