

Assessing for Men's Perpetration of Intimate Partner Sexual Violence

Presented at 2021 BISCMI
Conference

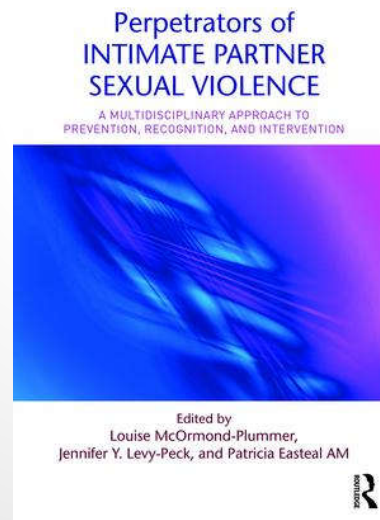
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Appreciations

Tremendous thanks to Lundy Bancroft for his help in thinking this through, and to the editors for their leadership!

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“Addressing and Combatting Intimate
Partner Sexual Violence.” in McOrmond-
Plummer et al *Perpetrators of Intimate
Partner Sexual Violence: A
Multidisciplinary Approach to Prevention,
Recognition and Intervention*. Routledge
Press.



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Towards an Understanding of IPSV

“Understandings of sexual violence are particularly complicated in the context of intimate relationship where perceptions of women’s consent and men’s entitlement are often confused or unclear, on the part of both men and women (and in many national laws).”

(Ricardo and Barker, 2008)

...and social norms and community/religious values

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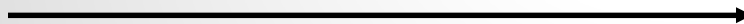
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Continuum of Sexual Abuse

Sexual
Consent

Sexual
Coercion

Sexual
Force



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Exploring Male Entitlement

Male Perpetration of IPSV is based on male entitlement

- To have sex...
 - With a particular person
 - When the men want to/demand it
 - In the ways that he wants
 - Assuming that the person with whom he's having sex enjoys what it is that the men are doing with/to them

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MSV's New Definition

“Male Sexual Entitlement
Combined with Tactics to impose his will”

...implications for this content.

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Questions to Explore

- How can one say yes if they can't say no?
- How do we answer this question in ways that acknowledge and attend to her agency within the relationship?

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What it takes to Perpetrate

- Develop inordinate lack of empathy
- Construct a system of justifications
- He has to have a vision of sexual assault
- Feel social approval
- Trusts that he won't face sanctions

...Supported by social/political systems

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Lack of Empathy

- In the context of white supremacist patriarchy, what happens to men who express empathy for women and girls...
- For women or girls who are victimized?
- ...by men?

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Construct System of justification

- Victim-blaming
- Male entitlement
- Objectification of sex and sexuality
- Sexual objectification of women
- She “consented”

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Broadening Consent

There are two sides of consent –*consenting* and transparently and relentlessly communicating that you:

- Active seek to understand your boundaries
- Recognize that boundaries are bubbles, not walls
- Value and adhere to shifting boundaries (sometimes we change our minds)
 - ...even if/especially when I don't understand
- Any disappointment/frustration is *my* responsibility

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Envisioning Sexual Assault

- Confuse seduction and coercion
- Force is not force (“No means try again”)
- The right to have sex
- Assault as violence (“if I don't hit her, it's not really violent”)

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The Role of Pornography

- Confuse seduction and coercion
- Normalize men's right to sex
- Normalize women's "pleasure" at whatever men want to do with her
- Normalize violence as a part of sexual play and seduction

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Pornography....

As a tool in some men's lives and as a social factor in all of our environment:

- Reinforces men's sense of entitlement
- Disinhibits men's empathy for women
- Reinforces visions of sexual assault
- Creates a sense of social approval

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Implications of Pornography

- Men's use of pornography doubles the risk of battered women being sexually assaulted (Shope, 2004)
- Sexual violence appears to be linked to the abusers pornography use and his partner's initial efforts to flee
- Lack of intervention that address men's pornography use as a part of abusive patterns = no accountability

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Feel/Experience Social Support

- Organizational support
- Community support
- Social legal/media support

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Trust in No Sanctions

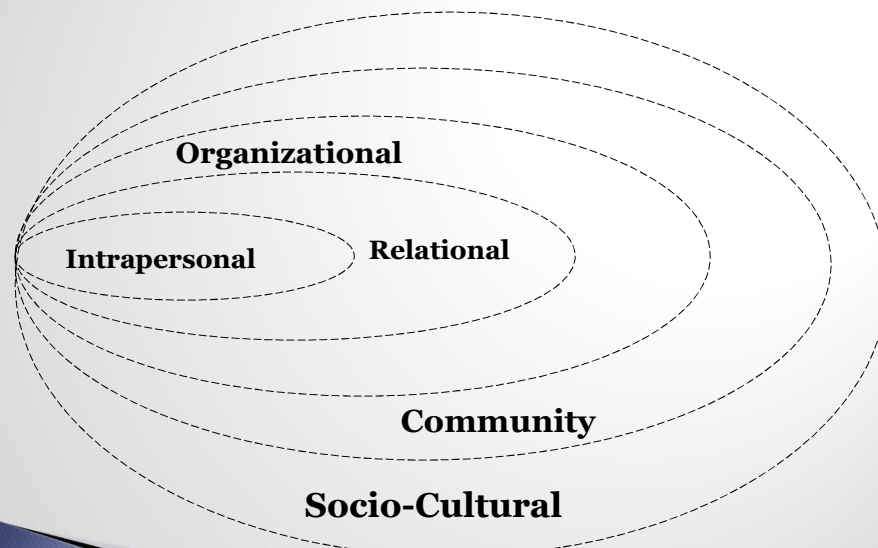
- Few/Inconsistent sanctions
- “Sanctions” tend to be focused on the person victimized
- Men’s abusiveness is normalized (including IPSV)
- Consider normative accountability:
 - To whom do we hold ourselves accountable?
 - How do we tend hold ourselves (and each other) accountable?
 - The role of amends making in being accountable
 - Consequences for not being accountable

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Across the Social Ecology



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The Problem of IPSV Perpetration

The problem of IPSV perpetration is less the individual men who choose to perpetrate...

...And more the political-social environment that allows/encourages/requires that men choose to assert our control within our relationships in sexual ways

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Factors Associated with male perpetration of IPSV

- Pornography use
- Rigid gender norms
- Traditional masculinity
- Substance use/abuse

- Male Peer Support
- Father has traditional/rigid gender norms

- Lack of community sanctions
- Lack of norming of healthy masculinity
- Prevalence of victim-blaming


- Lack of Consistent Legal Sanctions and Enforcement
- Media images that promote rigid masculinity, victim-blaming or male violence

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Assessing for Perpetration of IPSV

- Distinguish
 - Seduction
 - Coercion
 - Manipulation
 - Force
- Views on sex & sexuality (including gender norms)
- Patterns of abuse
 - Degree of acceptance of responsibility
 - Pornography use
 - Willingness to allow partner to say no or negotiate
 - Use of sex in relation to abusiveness
 - How he References his partners appearance

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Intervention Across the Social Ecology


- Group Intervention
- Criminal legal supports
- Culturally competent approaches

- Addressing Male Peer Support
- Engaging pro-social peer network

- Community involvement in their change process
- Clearly defined community standards

- Addressing policy
- Challenging media
- Former men who batter as policy advocates and change agents



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Prevention of IPSV

- Work with individuals to enhance skills and confidence
- ...supporting male peer relationships
- ...within their organizational and community settings
- ...working to address the social factors that encourage/support male violence
- In a way that's accountable

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Thank-You!!!

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