

# EXPLORING MASCULINITY THROUGH RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

Kassi Grunder & Sarah Molitoris  
The University of San Diego

# Outline



- Defining Masculinity
- Masculinity in Restorative Justice
  - ▣ Person Responsible
  - ▣ Impacted Parties
- What should we do?
- Masculinities and RJ at USD
- Discussion

# Defining Masculinity



- How do we **define** masculinity?
- Dictionary?
  - ▣ of, relating to, or suited to men or boys
  - ▣ having qualities appropriate to or usually associated with a man
  - ▣ possession of the qualities traditionally associated with men
- But masculinity seems like so much more than that...

# Defining Masculinity



- Hegemonic Masculinities vs. Subordinated Masculinities
- Our working definition:
  - ▣ Masculinity is something that exists on a broad continuum, and expressions vary by culture, context, and individual

# Restorative Practices



- How are we exploring masculinity through restorative practices?
  - ▣ We're going to look at a restorative justice process that includes a harm, person responsible, impacted parties, etc

# Person Responsible

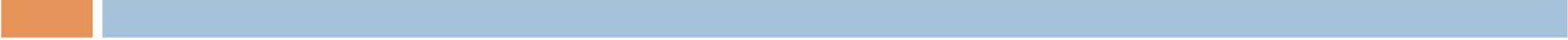


- Masculine roles have changed over time, and with this, the modes of masculine expression have changed.
- This has created an identity crisis for many men who have found themselves without roles that enforce their masculine identity

“The link between violence and... masculinity is perhaps better understood in the context of transition... and not as an expression of hegemony, but of fragility’

Carrington and Scott in "Masculinity, Rurality And Violence."

# Person Responsible



“Crimes can be considered as 'resources' for accomplishing masculinity when other forms of expression are limited. For example, men experiencing powerlessness in the labour market may choose violence as a means to express what they perceive to be an 'authentic' and legitimized form of masculinity”

*Carrington and Scott in "Masculinity, Rurality And Violence."*

# Person Responsible



- Overcompensation

- Many perpetrators have been victims
- Men low on the hierarchy may act out dramatically to try to gain a more favorable position

“(as) an opposite, they define themselves as a mirror of the opposing force rather than finding new ways of being”

Klein "Cultural Capital And High School Bullies."

# Impacted Parties



- Men who have been impacted by crime may experience this as an affront to their masculine identity. Their narrative may reflect this.
- Have the opportunities to challenge norms

# So what should we do?



# Masculinities and RJ @ USD



# Masculinities and RJ at USD



- Heavily male offender dominated
  - ▣ Especially based on USD's population which is 60% female and 40% male
  - ▣ 80% of cases referred to RJ at USD have male offenders
- Working with male athletes
  - ▣ Influence of coaches

# Discussion



- What role do you think that expression of masculine identity plays in restorative practices?
- Where do you see the opportunities for leveraging masculinity to curb criminality and encourage community restoration?
- What are typical masculine harms and why are they're caused? How are these the same or different that those caused by women?



Thank you for your time and your participation.