

## Addressing intersections of social disadvantage and privilege in engaging men in violence prevention

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## The context...

- Efforts to prevent men's violence against women
  - Primary prevention, oriented towards shifting the drivers of this violence
  - Engaging men is an increasingly important part of this work
- My research: on how effectively to engage men in prevention.
  - Part of wider scholarship on men, masculinities, and gender

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## An intersectional analysis of men & masculinities

1. Men's lives (like women's) are structured by gender *and* by other forms of social division and difference (race and ethnicity, class, sexuality, etc.)
2. Dominant images of masculinity involve a white masculinity
3. Men in different social locations:
  - have differential access to social resources and social status.
  - Are privileged on some axes of inequality (including gender) and disadvantaged on others

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## An intersectional approach to men's violence against women

- Men's violence-supportive attitudes are shaped by gender, ethnicity, and other factors.
- Some men's use of violence is shaped by immigration and resettlement.
- How male perpetrators are treated and viewed is shaped by race/ethnicity
  - Privileged men's violence is treated and understood differently from disadvantaged men's violence
- Thus, we see the workings of both multiple forms of privilege (male, white, heterosexual, etc.) and disadvantage

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## With any group of men (or women)

- Everyone has culture. Everyone is located in hierarchies of privilege and disadvantage.
- There are specific cultures of gender and sexuality in every group and community.
- There is not only cultural diversity, but material and structural inequality.
  - Structural patterns of privilege and disadvantage

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## Existing intersectional work?

- Much prevention work in the Global North has assumed a homogenous male constituency
- Little data on how to tailor efforts to men in particular populations or communities
- Great work coming out of the Global South...
- Leaders and advocates in men's anti-violence work recognise the challenge of intersectionality
- Some Australian efforts address diversity...
- An expanding scholarship on formations of men and gender in particular contexts

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### Engaging men in immigrant, refugee, ethnic minority, & indigenous contexts

- Improve the social and economic conditions of men and communities
- Include culturally relevant content
- Acknowledge racism and intersectional disadvantage

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### Engaging men *cont'd*

- Address culturally specific supports for violence and gender inequality.
- Draw on local resources and texts in promoting non-violence and gender equality.
- Engage men through the leadership of women.
- Address men's experiences of changing gender dynamics in families.

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### Conclusion

- In any context, recognise the intersections of race, class, sexuality, etc. which shape people's lives.
- Address both disadvantage *and* privilege.
- Make the link – between violence against women and other forms of social injustice.

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### Online resources: on violence prevention, engaging men, etc.

- XY: A comprehensive resource on men, masculinities, and gender: [www.xyonline.net](http://www.xyonline.net)
- Articles, manuals, & other resources: <http://www.xyonline.net/category/article-content/violence>
- Web links to organisations, projects, and campaigns: <http://www.xyonline.net/links#a2>
- References on men's anti-violence work: <http://www.xyonline.net/content/t-men's-anti-violence-education-and-activism>
- References on violence prevention: <http://www.xyonline.net/content/s-violence-prevention>