HOW DOES MASCULINITY EVOLVE?

November 1, 2018

- Introduction
- Safe Space {?}
- How were/are we taught gender?
- What does evolving masculinity look like?
- small group discussions/sharing
- wrap-up / questions
- an invitation…

Raymond Neal
Learning Communities Facilitator
raymond.neal@wisc.edu

Stephen Montagna
Learning Communities Facilitator
stephen.montagna@wisc.edu
**Safe Space**

- come and go as needed
- no stupid questions
- survivors present
- safety ≠ no conflict, it = conflict w/out violence
- share the space —>
- what’s said here stays here; what’s learned here leaves here...

“How Were We Taught Gender?"

**Socio-Ecological Model**

**Question:**
What is your earliest memory of something that was said to you, or that you observed, which demonstrated what your gender was and what that meant (in terms of social consequences)?
MAN

gay
gay

strong
independent
bread winner
provider

stoic
straight
player

intimidating

effeminate
colorful

nurturing

proud

in control

silly

courtesy of Paul Kivel & the Oakland Man's Project
“As I watched guys trying to prove their fantasy of manhood — by doing dirt to women, making fun of queers, putting down people of other religions and races — I realized they were doing something really negative to me, too, because their fear and hatred of everything 'non-manly' was killing off something in me that I valued.”

– John Stoltenberg
Should Masculinity Evolve?  
(or, just ‘disappear’?)

masculinity

vs.

Patriarchy

interwined w/  
- misogyny
- homophobia
- racism
- ableism
- ‘zero sum’ game

What is Patriarchy?

- a social construction
- initiated to privilege one group of people over another:
  - economically
  - politically
- in the service of social control and economic/political stability
- that depends upon increased individualism and the devaluation of community

Cultural Norms of Masculinity that Contribute to VAW

- Limited roles for, and objectification and oppression of, women;
- Value placed on claiming and maintaining power over others;
- Tolerance of aggression and violence and attribution of blame to victims;
- Traditional constructs of manhood, including domination, control, and risk taking; and
- Notions of individual and family privacy that foster secrecy and silence.

"Everyone thinks about changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself."

– Leo Tolstoy

“If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is tied up with mine, then let us work together.”

– Lilla Watson
What Does Change Look Like?

Distinguishing Behavior is a function of the desire to eliminate systemic oppression and exclusion, plus contact with “the other”; engaging differences at the edge of one’s own identity, combined with awareness of the impact of oppressive actions on the lives of “the other.”

© Dr. Cathy Royal – from Quadrant Behavior Theory

Small Group Discussions

What Does Change Look Like?

This awareness comes from confronting power and the misuse of power credentials, as well as hearing the stories and struggles of people who are excluded – “the other.”

© Dr. Cathy Royal – from Quadrant Behavior Theory

See it and Stop it – Teen Dating Violence Prevention PSA
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pemlg5cdSg
Some Questions:

Where is your (positional/cultural) power?
How do you use it?
How might you use it in new/different ways?

Some More Questions:

What’s great about being a guy/gal/trans/gender non-conforming?

What’s something you would like to never hear [someone of opposite/different gender identity] say about [your gender identity] ever again?

We’re getting there…

an Invitation…

Join Us!

Male-Identifying Learning Community Launch Meeting

Friday, November 16, 2018
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location: TBA