

Structural Oppression – Male Privilege

March 8, 2018



with Harley Eagle

Acknowledgments

- Land and Indigenous People & Hosts
- Influences- Past, Present and Future especially Women on this Day
- Challenge of this format and other western influences
- Nature of this talk can be difficult
- The problem with talking about privilege

Objectives for this session

- my understandings and experiences with my internalized male privilege both individual and its systemic nature
- Understandings on how the pervasive colonial process has changed Indigenous understandings of gender resulting the male privilege dependence
- connecting the Indigenous colonial experience in the Canadian context that can reveal patterns of oppression as experienced in mainstream society
- Experiences on moving forward in light of the pressures to participate in male privilege
- **ALSO**
- Harley will invite questions and comments to further the dialogue and deepen understanding on this issue

Introduction

- Roots
- Indigenous Rights Advocacy
- Dismantling Racism/Oppression
- Conflict Resolution Practitioner/RJ/Circles
- Trauma Informed Practice
- Cultural Safety Facilitator

Issues with only focusing on privilege:

- more opportunity for denial of systemic injustice
- disregard for the lived experience of those that don't fit the hierarchy of patriarchy
- doesn't address deeply ingrained superiority regarding issues of patriarchy
- If it stays on the individual then it can lead to a fixation on intentions over outcomes because we don't address the societal influences
- Nor will we explore the history of systemic sexism

My journey to Understanding Male Privilege: Peeling back layers to expose Patriarchy

- In this western world the focus is on self and individualism
 - How I've been socialized and impacted by colonial worldview and western values
 - Focusing on and allowing for feeling and emotion then following the path to answer the question why am I feeling this way. Vulnerability as strength
 - Understanding Trauma and its impacts- personal experiences, intergenerational, and historical
 - Understanding isn't enough-healing is required

Intersectionality: The importance of the Collective

- From an Indigenous perspective and even a decolonizing perspective the focus includes the collective
 - An analysis of racism and its importance to understanding other isms
 - Indigenous specific racism
 - Indigenous specific racism and colonization
 - Colonization and the Doctrine of Discovery
 - The Doctrine of Discovery as a foundation to systemic sexism and violence

Moving Forward

As best as I can trying to build authentic relationship:

It starts with me- Centered self rather than Self
Centered

Qualities of Authentic Relationship

Karen Pace and Dionardo Pizaña Michigan State University Extension

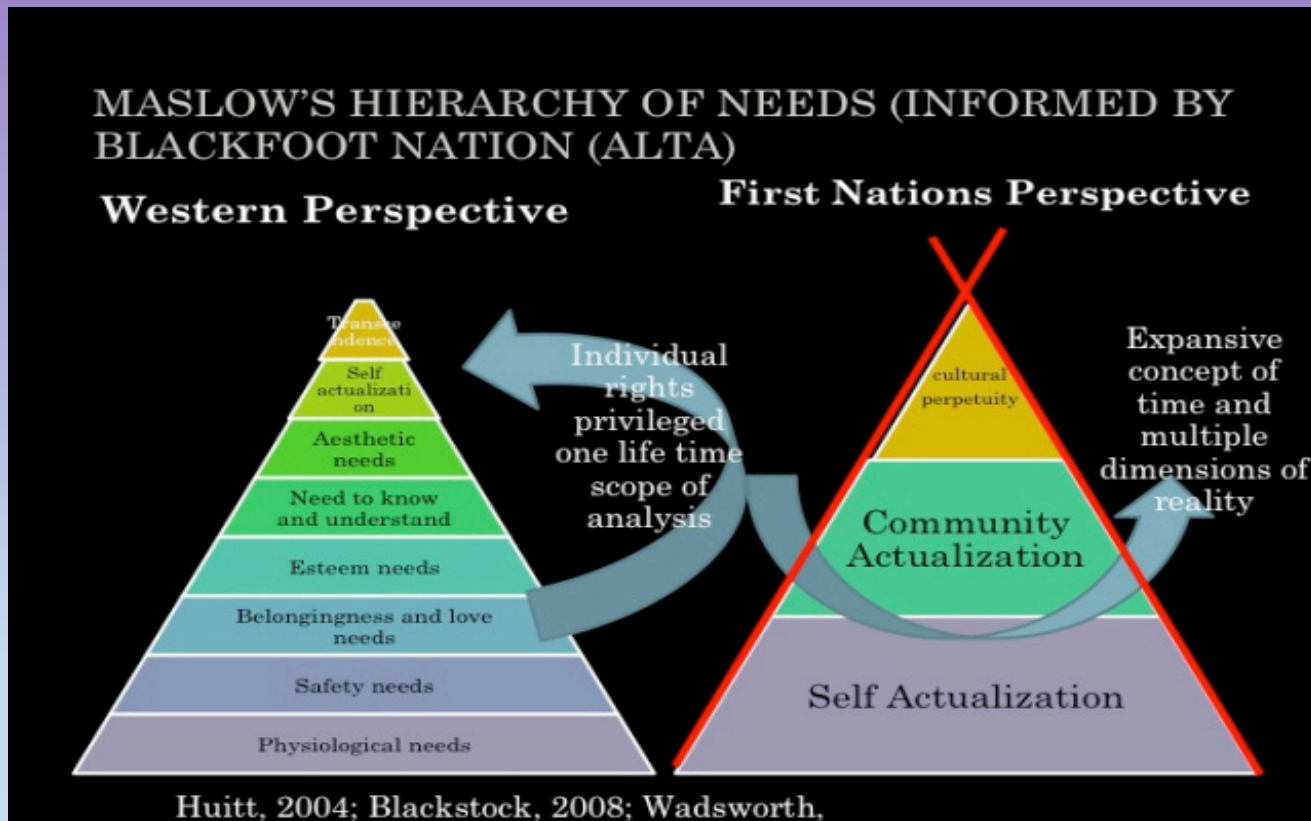
- **Willingness and eagerness to be challenged.** Out of challenge comes a deeper understanding of my privileges and the continued work that I must do to remain in an authentic relationship.
- **Willingness to not be in a place of denial and resistance.** Denial and resistance keep us from noticing power and pain and serve only to block the growth and understanding of myself and others.
- **Willingness to look first at myself when feelings of mad, sad or scared surface.** When this happens ask first what is going on with me rather than becoming defensive, judgmental or critical of others. These feelings are telling me about what I need to work on within

...Qualities continued

- **Willingness to remain humble.** I don't know what I don't know – and I will never know everything & humility as an approach
- **Willingness to recognize and own my places of privilege.** I am clear that authenticity in relationships cannot happen if I do not confront my privileges, own them and work at using them differently – from a place of empowerment & vulnerability rather than guilt or shame.
- **Willingness to hear anger and rage & without taking it personally.** Understanding the appropriateness of anger and rage in the context of oppression. This can lead to powerful & profound moments.

Karen Lincoln Michel 2014

<https://lincolnmichel.wordpress.com/2014/04/19/maslows-hierarchy-connected-to-blackfoot-beliefs/>



Learning from an Analysis of Systemic Racism to Address Sexism

- Another way to frame transcendence is “working from a systemic analysis” seeing the big picture
- A way forward that includes more than “Tip of the Iceberg” approaches
- The benefits of working from a systemic analysis for the individual - Life-giving-authentic relationships
- The benefits of working from a systemic analysis for the collective/s transformation of systems and/or systems change
- Thoughts on the concept of “privilege”

Questions & Comments

Thank you!

The Male Privilege Checklist

- THE MALE PRIVILEGE CHECKLIST AN UNABASHED IMITATION OF AN ARTICLE BY PEGGY MCINTOSH
- Biggest privilege-being oblivious to male privilege