# Men in Trauma – the Landscape of Sexual Abuse Survivor

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#### Content

- 1) Men in trauma
- 2) Male childhood sexual abuse survivor study
- 3) Working with male survivor: practice
- 4) Working with male survivor: service
- 5) Victim-offender cycle in male sexual abuse

Financial issues

EMA

Gambling

Divorce 20,000/ yr

Depression

Rising need of social service from men

Fathering issue

Marital conflict

Unemployment

Financial issueswife addiction

EMA

Female gambler

Sexual abuse victim

Suicide survivor

1) Men in Trauma- male victim

Intimate partner abuse

Marital conflictwife mental issue

Dating violence





### 走向服务的影響



静静起義 男士工作新思潮

陳德茂編

陳德茂

分 圓桌 文化

男士往往「被要求」成為強者,男士在心理及情感上的需要大都被忽略。



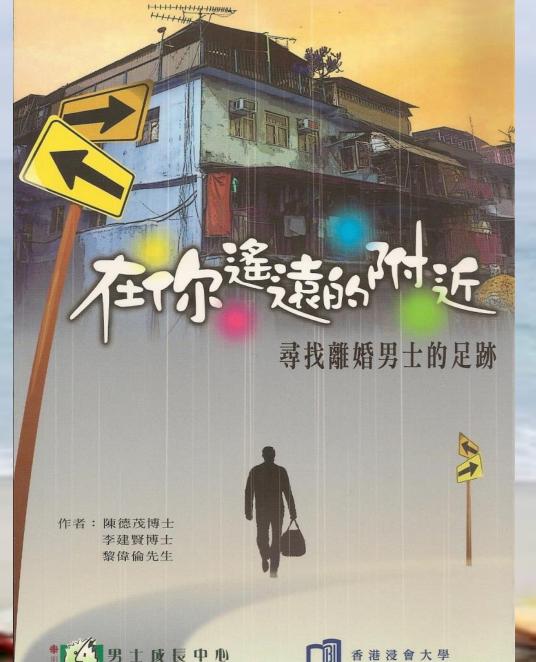




### 開啟男士服務之門-「連繋男士」研究

二零一三年十月

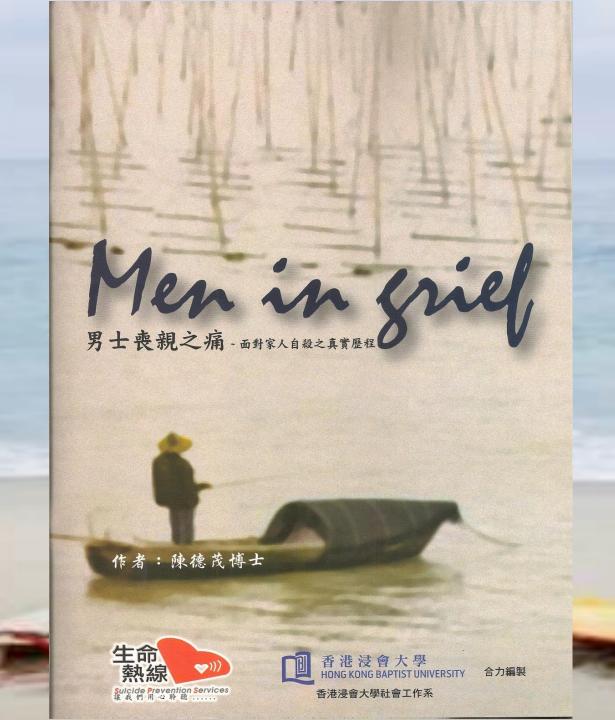








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### 2) Research objectives

• To understanding the trauma and struggle of male sexual abuse survivors through their narration

 To investigate the needs of the male sexual abuse survivors

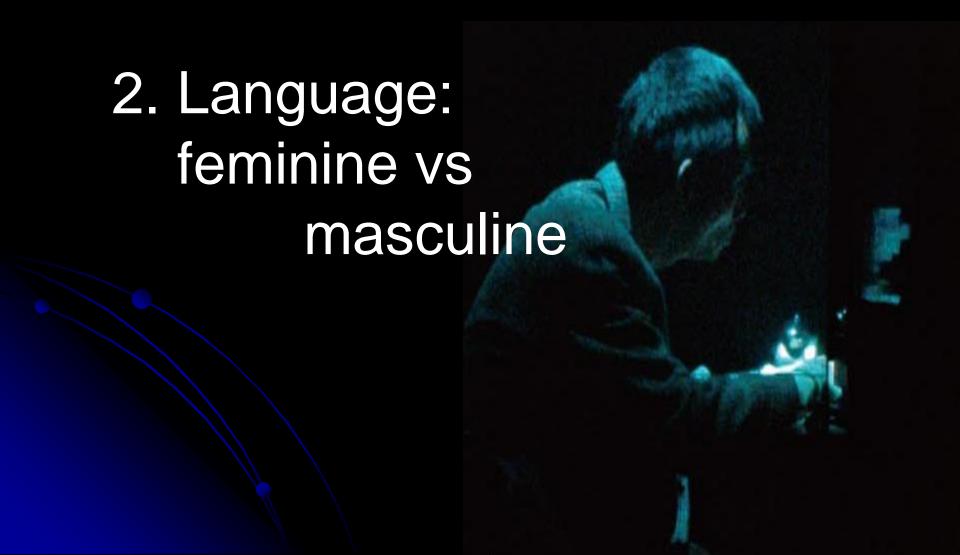
#### Methodology

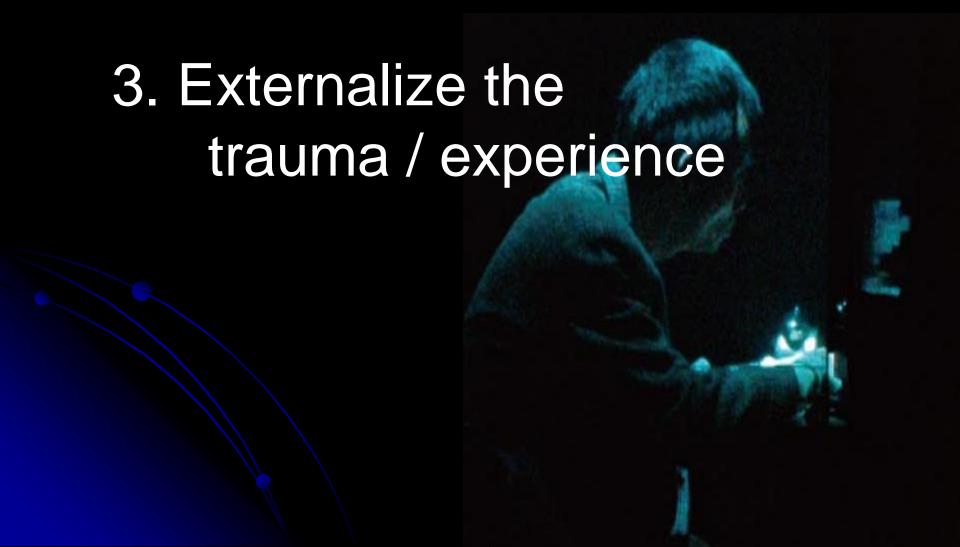


- 1. Chan, T. M. S., Teram, E., & Shaw, I. F. (In press). Balancing Methodological Rigor and the Needs of Research Participants: A Debate on Alternative Approaches to Sensitive Research. *Qualitative Health Research. doi:10.1177/1049732315605272*
- 2. Chan, T. M. S. & Shaw, I. (2016) Gender-sensitive Research in a Chinese Community. *Asian Social Work and Policy Review*, 10(1), 90-102.
- 3. Chan, T. M. S. (2014). The Lens of Masculinity: Men in Trauma and the Landscape of Sexual Abuse Survivors. *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Social Work, 23* (3-4), *239-255.*
- 4. Chen, L., & Chan, T. M. S. (2013). The trauma of male sexual abuse survivors. In T. M. Chan (Ed.), *Innovative theory and practice in working with male service users* (pp. 119–135). Hong Kong, China: Roundtable. (In Chinese)
- 5. Chan, T. M. S. (2010). [Research Brief: Trauma from Sexual Abuse: The Untold Story of Male Victims in Hong Kong] *The Hong Kong Journal of Social Work, 44*(1), 69-76.
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- 1. Position: gender of the worker
- 2. Language: feminine vs masculine
- 3. Externalize the trauma / experience
- 4. Gender sensitivity: sensitive issue sensitive practice
- 5. Cultural issue: Masculinity
- 6. Intervention: Case vs Group vs Community

1. Position of the worker gender of the worker





4. Gender sensitivity: sensitive issue – sensitive practice



#### What is masculinity?

Masculinity ideology refers to men's acceptance or internalization of a culture's definition of masculinity, and beliefs about adherence to culturally defined standards of male behavior

(Pleck,, Sonenestein, & Ku, 1993).

#### Masculinity:

can be de-constructed as the standard measuring the behavior but also a mechanism that men responding based on the concept of masculinity.

(Vandello, Bosson, Cohen, Burnaford and Weaver, 2008)

Standards of masculinity: not only create stress in themselves for some men; they can also limit these men's abilities to relieve stress

#### As gender role expectation:

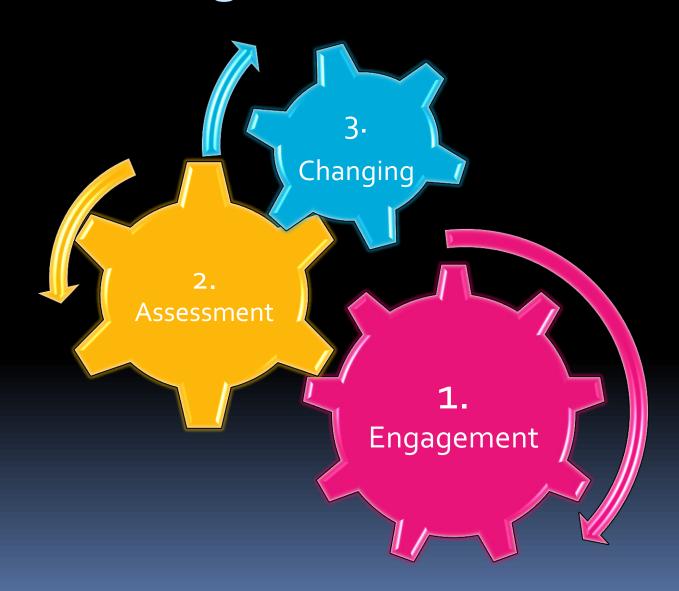
- # shape the ways in which trauma is experienced,
- # shape the ways in which trauma is interpreted;
- \* shape the ways in which recovery proceeds,
- **x** we also hope to explore whether masculinity would be another level of <u>traumatization</u> once men found no choice

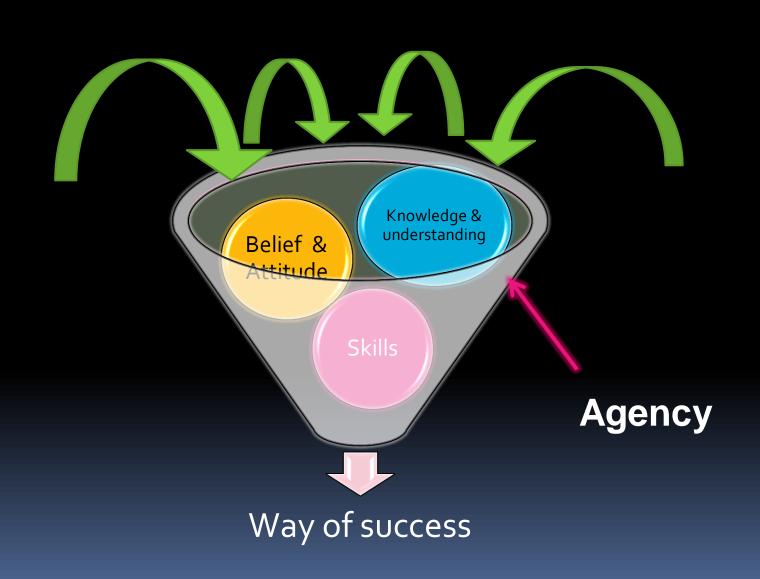


## 4) Working with male survivor: service

- 1. Not willing to seek help;
- 2. Come to seek help but not being engaged;
- 3. Being engaged but not disclose
- 4. Disclose the issue but not being helped

#### Three stages on services





5) Victim-offender cycle in male sexual abuse

Prevalence of childhood sexual abuse:

 child molesters is considerably higher than that in the general population;

#### Victim-offender cycle in male sexual abuse

Child molesters had reported some form of sexual trauma:

- 1. Groth and Burgess (1979) reported 32%;
- 2. Faller (1988) 27%,
- 3. Pithers, Kashima, Cumming, and Beal (1988) 56%
- 4. Briggs (1995) reported 93%,
- 5. Graham (1996) 70%,

#### Prevention and Intervention

Abuse focused treatment:

#### Aims:

- 1. To assist the child to 'externalize' their experiences,
- 2. To construct an account of their experiences which reverses their feelings of responsibility, self-blame, and fears for their future.

#### Prevention and Intervention

#### Abuse focused treatment:

- 1. Open communication about sexuality and sexual abuse
- 2. Expressing emotions and thoughts,
- 3. Teaching methods to deal with abuse related to memories and stimuli.
- 4. Child's ability to process the sexual abuse experience,
- 5. Self-protection and assertiveness skills
- A context of emotional support and understanding.

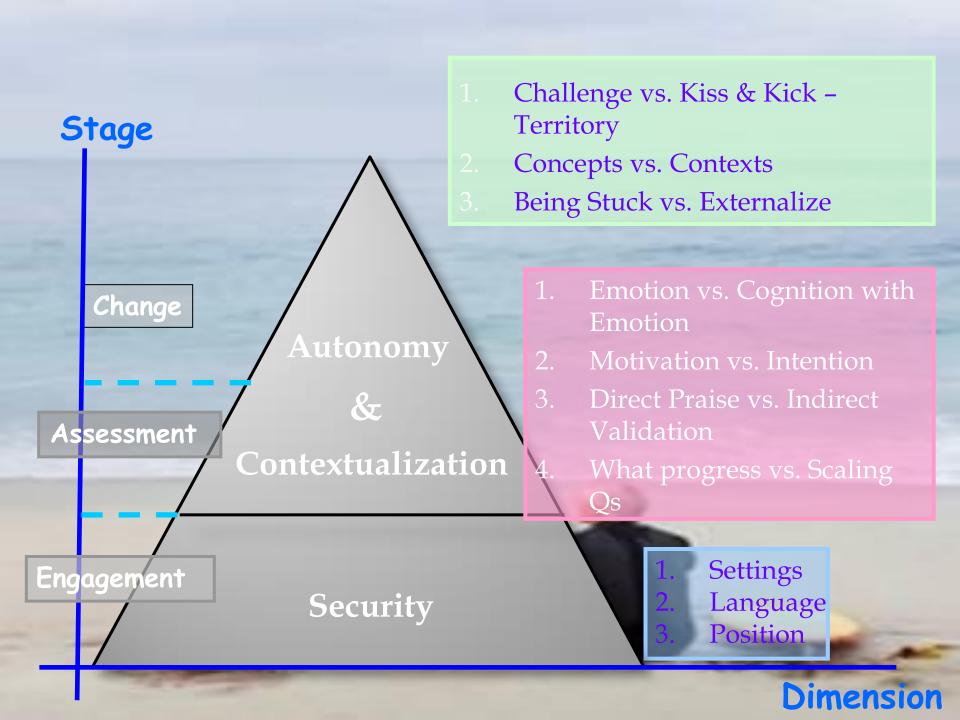
#### Acknowledgement

 Caritas Project for Adult Survivors of Childhood Trauma

Twelve heroes

### Thank You

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- 1. Chan, T. M. S., Teram, E., & Shaw, I. F. (2015). Balancing Methodological Rigor and the Needs of Research Participants: A Debate on Alternative Approaches to Sensitive Research. *Qualitative Health Research. doi:10.1177/1049732315605272*
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# Findings (1)

 Interviewees used the following words to describe their feeling:

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混亂 (Chaos) 受創傷 (Traumatized) 
噁心 (Disgusting) 羞恥 (Shame) 
荒謬 (Ridiculous) 無助 (Helpless) 
內疚 (Guilty) 刺激 (Excited) 
沒有感覺 (No feeling) 擔心 (Worried)
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# Finding (2)

#### **Ambivalent feeling:**

The confusion between excitement and being hurt - guilt

responding to the duration issue

# Findings (3)

 Using the power and control strategy to identify themselves

e.g. addiction / indulge in sex (homosexual?) or work

# Findings (4)

Unwilling to share with the family, friends and colleagues; which they think it is a coward behavior, and violate the concept of Masculinity

# Findings (5)

 Need the support from others who have similar experience, e.g. therapeutic group

## Discussion (1)

**SEX to the survivors - complex** 

Hurtful: lose trust in people, feel unsafe

Intimacy: seek connection with people by having sex

#### Discussion (2)

Gender role stereotype:

Not only women, but men as well, are being oppressed under the dominant discourse of gender role stereotype (Brooks, 2001);

Masculinity can be de-constructed as the standard measuring the behavior (create stress) but also a mechanism that organize how men respond (limit the capability to relieve stress) to the abuse (Vandello, Bosson, Cohen, Burnaford and Weaver, 2008)

## Discussion (3)

Implication to social service

Worker: Increase gender sensitivity with clients

Debate: male worker vs. female worker

All it depends the gender of the perpetrator, rather than the gender of the worker

#### Discussion (4)

 Male sexual abuse survivors are marginalized in the help-seeking process;
 e.g being rejected by the police, family members in disclosing the abusive incident

## Discussion (5)

Implication to social service

Most survivors feel insecure and get lost!

- **→Personal Agency / Autonomy** 
  - Self acceptance
  - → Self protection (Wortman, 2004)

#### Feminist philosophical stance:

- **\*\*** Male perceptions have shaped the dominant view in society.
- \*This dominant view controls the definitions of women, social structures, and institutions, as well as thought and value patterns (Brown, 1990).
- **x** Ironically, this dominant view has also greatly limited harmed men!

## **Question:**

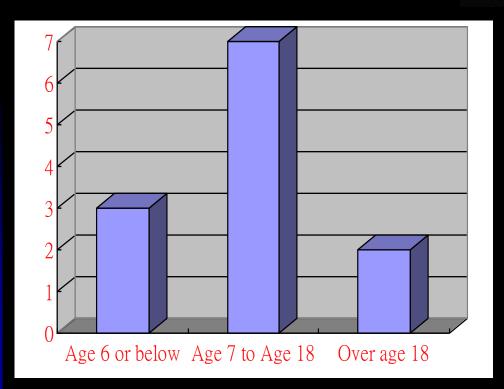
**\*How the men's trauma shaping one's ideology & perception of masculinity?** 

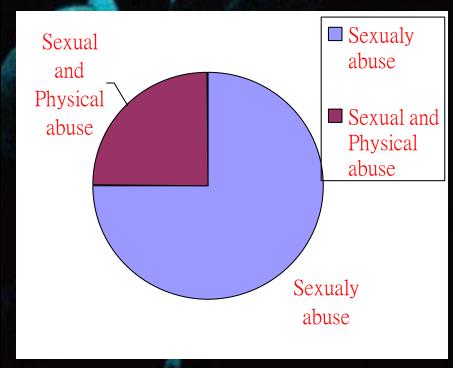
#### Question:

Is there any quality in men — part of masculinity- or coping that men have in dealing with their stress and trauma?

## Backgrounds of interviewees

- Twelve
- All the participants are under the service of Caritas-HK
- Age of being abused: 3-31
- Including sexual and physical abuse





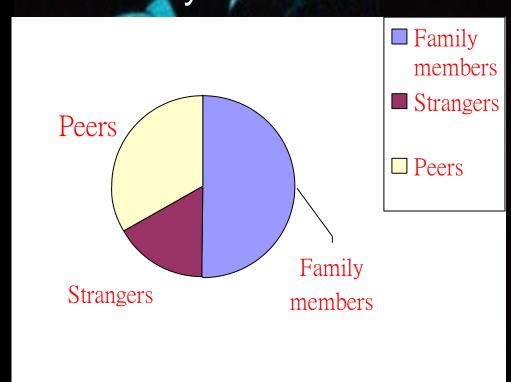
### Backgrounds of interviewees

- Number of abusive incidents: 1 to 60
- Duration of each abusive incident :

5 minutes to 2-3 hours

Duration of abused history:5 minutes to 10 years

- 6 Abused by family members
- 6 Abused by peers or strangers



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