

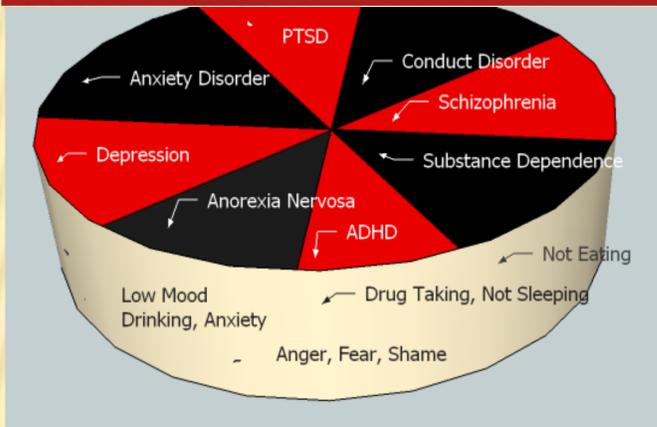
Madness, Maleness & Method

An Inclusive Research Project supporting a 'levels of analysis' perspective (Robertson, I, 2009)



Murphy, D., Swords, L.

Level 2



Level 1, (Pie in the Sky?)



Ground Zero



Background

The 'Medical Model' conceptualises 'problematic' experience as indicative of specific and discreet disease or illness. Evidence supporting this view rests on an underpinning assumption of endogenous, biological causation (Sroufe, 1997).

However, voluminous research in the area has failed to identify conclusive biological causation and to date no objective test exists which can detect either the presence or absence of any psychiatric illness.

Genetic research has instead identified the same genetic markers within a number of illnesses thus leading to speculation of future substantial realignment of current delineations (Burmeister et al., 2008).

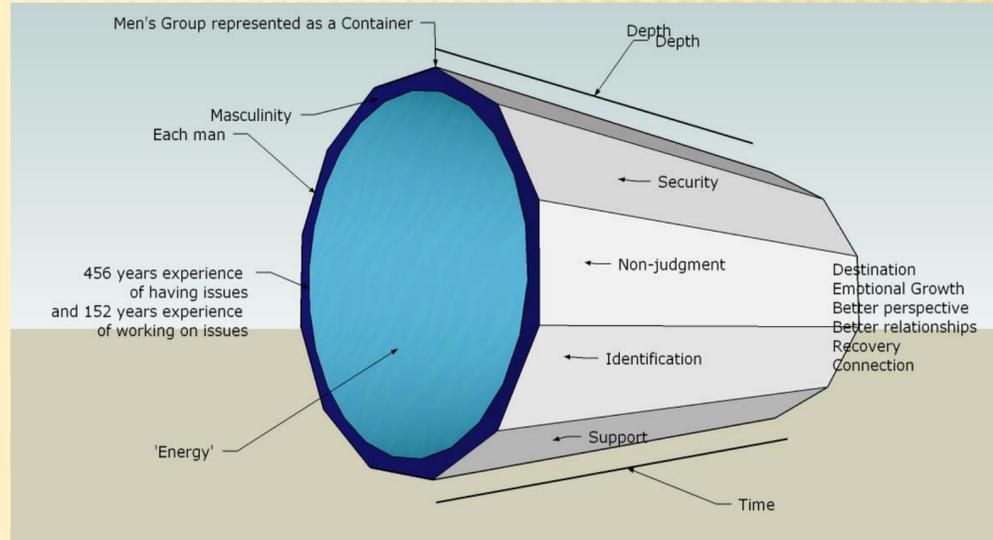
Recent Irish Governmental reports (such as 'A Vision for Change & the National Men's Health Policy') seem to indicate a recognition of current failings by recommending the inclusion of those effected by mental or emotional distress in the endeavour to understand and treat more successfully.

This project supports the view that those experiencing and recovering from psychological distress offer a resource and level of analysis that can compliment research at the biological level, leading to more comprehensive, and thus more robust understandings.

Thus an Inclusive, Grounded Theory Approach was utilised to capture the experiences and understandings of all 13 members of a Men's Group.

Conclusion

The completion of this project represents 18 months of 'working with' the members and facilitators of the Men's Group. Thus success is not only indicated by the 'results' but also by relationships and trust built up over this period. It is anticipated that this project will fulfill the role of a 'pilot' leading to a more comprehensive and thorough venture in the months and years ahead.



The Data: Using a semi-structured interview schedule designed to illuminate their experiences, the men interviewed each other in a random manner. Interview recordings were transcribed and salient themes extracted by Men's Group members. The Men's Group was described as acting like a 'container' thus enabling themes and some quantitative data to be integrated and re-presented in geometric form, reflecting temporal and spatial relationships.

Men's Group: Group Purpose

Supported by a sense of brotherhood and guidance we trust in, we come here with a burning desire to finally deal with the consequences of past traumatic events and experiences. Challenging ourselves and our often dysfunctional coping behaviours, we believe, will allow us to emerge from the shadows and ultimately allow feelings of safety and trust to overcome feelings of fear and distrust.



Grounded Theory: All observations and analysis must be Grounded in the Data.
Inclusive Research: Doing Research *with* rather than *to* people.

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