

*Storytelling and Social Justice:
Meeting Grand Challenges*
Leonora E. Foels, PhD and Joyous C. Bethel, PhD
School of Social Work, Millersville University
Presented at The American Council of School Social Work (ACSSW)
New Orleans
January 28-30, 2019



Agenda

- We hope to carve new paths by meeting these Grand Challenges for social work.
- We plan to do this through conversations, reflections, and storytelling.

Objectives

By the end of the workshop, participants will:

- Identify two current events considered “hot topic” stories facing school social workers.
- Examine the complexity of personal and social identity
- Identify the ways oppression is manifested across social systems, and within the larger stories.
- Distinguish differing models used to interrupt storylines of social injustice and creating change.
- Develop strategies, using storytelling techniques, for integrating leadership standards and transferring gained knowledge into practice in school settings, personal lives, and social advocacy.

Stories as Transformation

- Storylines
- My Personal Story
- Stories of Oppression
- Interrupting the Story
- A New Story Chapter?



Powerful personal ways to learn about the world

- Generational
- Family cultural groups
- Explain common sense
- Relationship and community building
- Learning about self and others
- Maintain values and community
- Vehicle of change
- Questioning presumptions
- Group dynamics

Storytelling?

Theoretical Framework

- Narrative Therapy uses stories to...
 - Retell/recreate stories
 - Externalize problems
 - Create new way of being
- Transformational Learning uses stories to...
 - Make meaning
 - Communicate
 - Stimulate Conversations

School Social Workers' Storylines

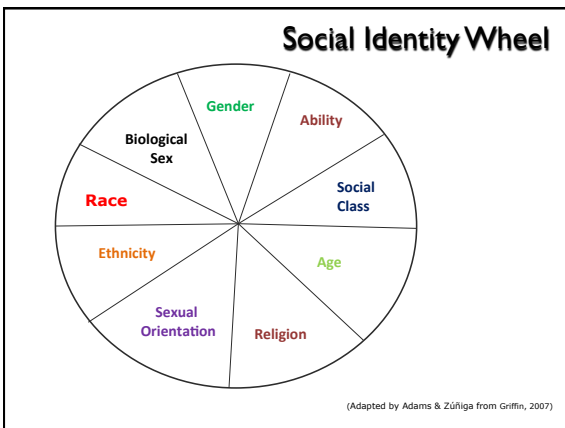
- Challenges?
- Hot Topics?
- Perspectives



My Personal Story


Complexity of Identity

- Personal Identity: Who am I?
- Social Identity: Who others think I am?




Activity: My Identity Wheel

- Race
- Sex
- Gender
- Religion
- Class
- Ability
- Sexual Orientation
- Age



(Activity adapted from Adams et al., 2007)



My Personal Story: Who is the Champion

Is there congruence between personal and social identity?

Leaders as Champions

- What do we bring to the table as leaders?



You are the Champion



Stories of Oppression: Plots, Themes, and Layers

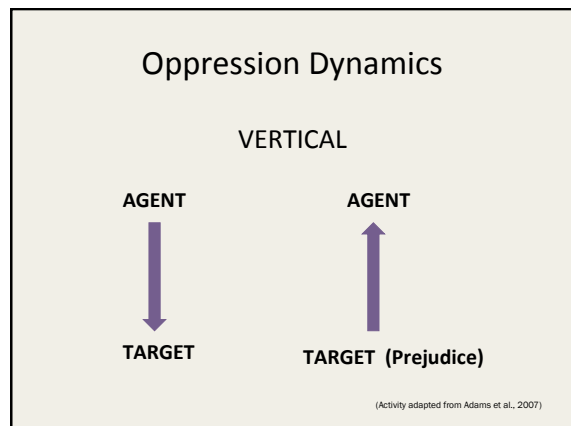
What is Oppression?

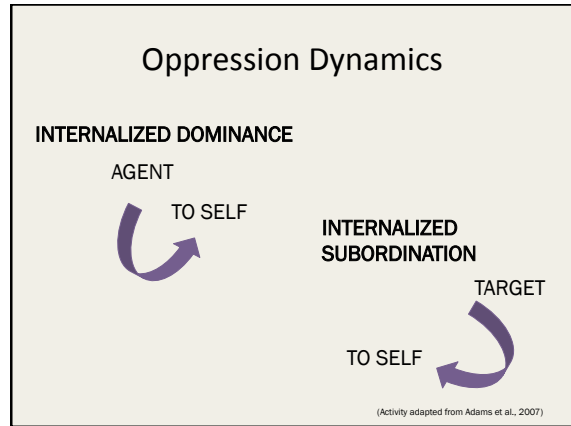
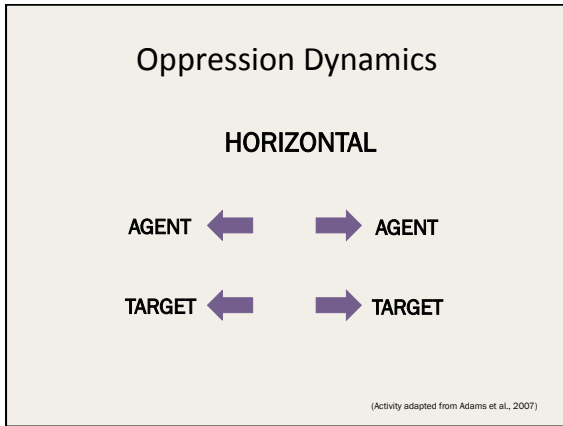
- Messages
- Media
- Advertisement
- Digital

What are the Dynamics of Oppression?

- Horizontal
- Vertical
- Internal

Are we tolerating or accepting diversity and difference?





Manifestations of Oppression

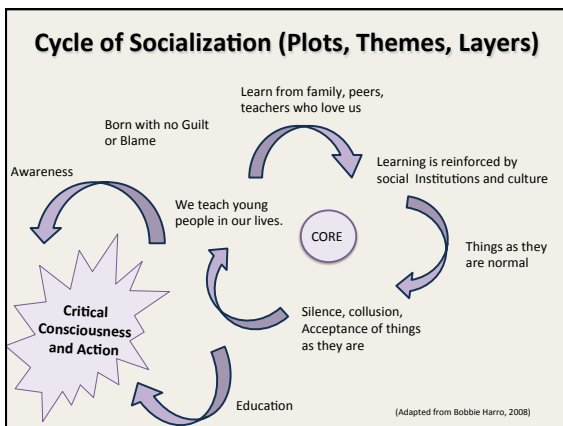
Across Levels

- Individual
- Institutional
- Societal

Levels of Manifestations

Levels	Behaviors
Individual	Acts of prejudice Ignorance Hatred
Institutional	Policy Practice Laws
Cultural/Societal	Assumptions Norms Practices

(Adapted by Adams & Zúñiga from Griffin, 2007)

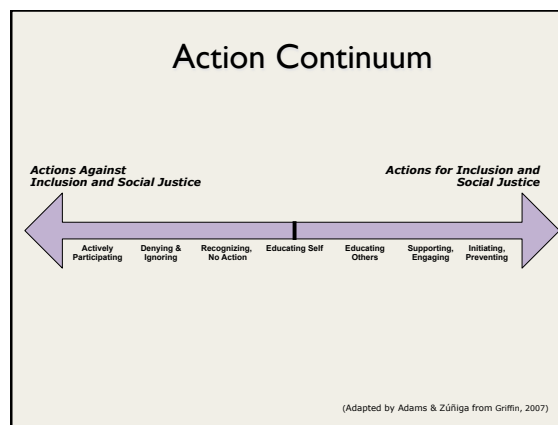
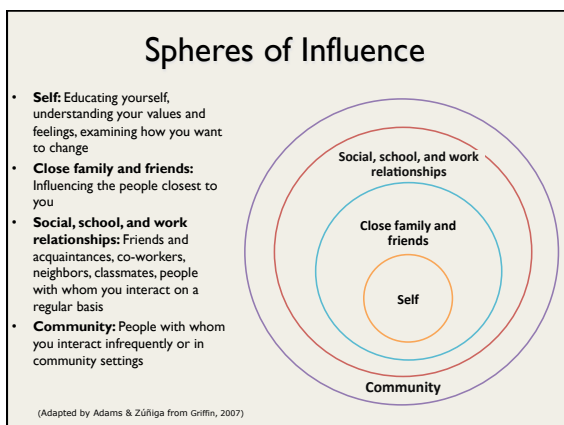


Enter the Champions ...

Responding to the Call to Action: Leadership as Advocacy

- Building Alliances
- Spheres of Influence
- Action Continuum

Interrupting the Story



Construct a symbol of your personal story that represents you as a ...

- Champion?
- Resistance leader?
- Explorer (concealed stories)?
- Other

Any Questions

References

Adams, M., Bell, L. A., & Griffin, P. (2007). *Teaching for diversity and social justice* (2nd ed.). New York: Routledge.

Adams, M., Blumenfeld, W. J., Casteneda, C. R., Hackman, H. W., Peters, M. L., & Zuniga, X. (eds.) (2013). *Readings for diversity and social justice* (3rd ed.). New York, NY: Routledge.

Bell, L. A (2010). *Storytelling for justice: Connecting narrative and the arts in antiracist teaching*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Davis-Manigaulte, J., Yorks, L., & Kasl, E. (2006). Expressive ways of knowing and transformative learning. *New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education*, (109), 27-35.

Pritchard, C. & Sanders, P. (2002). Weaving our stories as they weave us. *New Directions for Adult and Continuing Education*, (94), 63-71.