

Peace psychology and male interpersonal violence interventions

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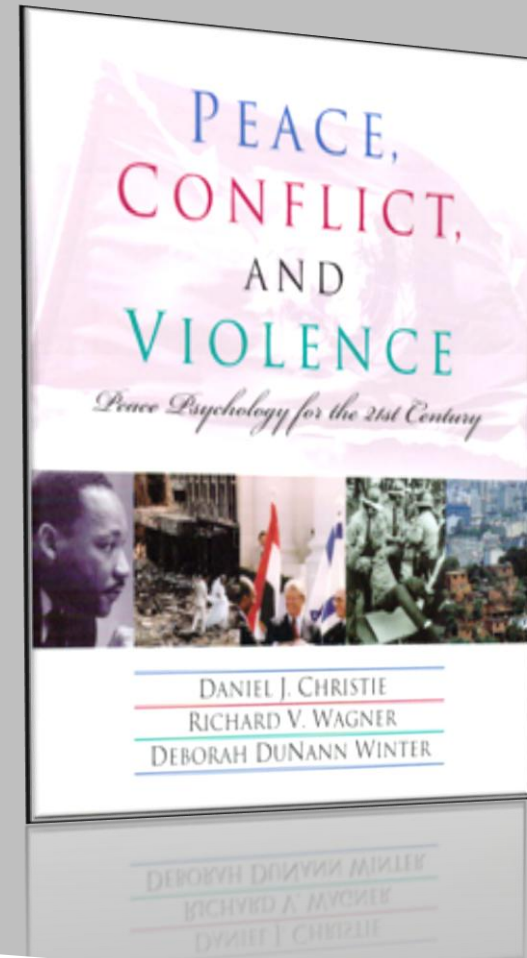


Introduction

- Interpersonal violence on a global level has reached colossal proportions as 520 000 people die each year because of it
- Males in Africa have the highest reported injury-related mortality rates in the world
- Homicide continues to be a leading cause of premature mortality for males and females in 2001 and 2006 in South Africa
- According to the National Injury Mortality Surveillance System (NIMSS) in 2007, there are 6.5 male violence related deaths for every female violence related death
- The murder of women by a male intimate partner accounted between 40%-70% of all female homicides in 2002
- These figures would suggest that there is overpowering evidence that more males than females die from violence related intentional injuries

Background

- For this review the focus was on male interpersonal violence prevention interventions
- Our new work at SAPPRU/ISHS seeks to centralise peace as a way to address violence
- This new work is influenced by peace studies, including research and theory in peace education and peace psychology
- Maladaptive forms of masculinity as possible causes for high violence-associated mortality
- Male violence prevention interventions in South Africa must focus on the construction of masculinity



Research aims

- **The following review aims to:**
 - Examine existing male interpersonal violence prevention interventions that are informed by peace studies, specifically peace psychology studies, and studies of masculinity
 - Make recommendations based on these evaluations, with the aim of designing and implementing a male interpersonal violence intervention

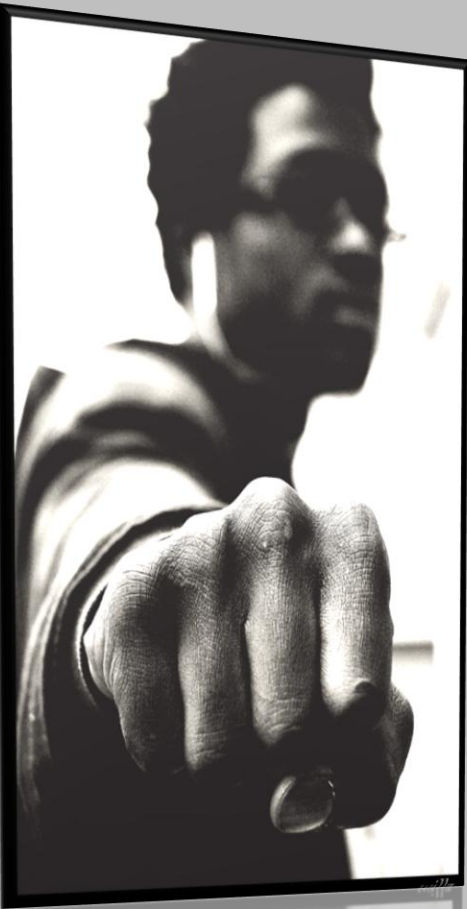


Method

- **Initial literature search**
- Search was narrowed to include elements of peace psychology and peace education as components within these particular interventions
- Following search engines were used:
 - Science Direct, Ebscohost, Springer link, Emerald, GenderWatch (Proquest) and Google Scholar
- The initial search was limited to 2005 to date, lack of appropriate literature available for that given period, literature from previous years had to be included

Literature on masculinity and violence

- Masculinity is not biologically constructed
- Socially constructed – takes various forms
- Changes over different periods of time
- Not one form of masculinity
- Masculinity in the present century includes various types of behaviours
- Men in African countries illustrate some of the highest rates of homicide in the world and therefore perceived to hold a masculinity that engenders violence and intolerance



Literature on peace education and peace psychology

- **Peace education**

- Development of peace education
- Conflict literacy
 - Conflict resolution, active listening and process for reflection
- Cultural literacy
 - Cultural communication skills verbal and non-verbal, cultural awareness



- **Peace Psychology**

- Development of peace psychology
- Aimed at developing theories and practices aimed at the prevention of direct and structural violence
- Focuses on promotion of non-violent methods
- Peace processes involve peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding



Male interpersonal violence prevention interventions



Program 'H' - Brazil



Stepping Stones – South Africa



Men As Partners – South Africa

Intervention (name, reference and location)	Target population	Type and level of intervention	Elements of peace education and masculinity	Evaluation	Results
Program 'H' , Instituto Promundo, (2004), Brazil	• Young men aged 15 to 24 years	• Group education • Community outreach and mobilization	• From violence to peaceful coexistence activities • 20 minute cartoon video	• Quasi-experimental design and semi structured interviews • GEM scale	• Greater support for gender equitable norms • HIV/AIDS, condom use and STI symptoms related improvements • Positive views of manhood yielded positive influence
Stepping Stones , Jewkes et al, (2007), South Africa	• Young men and women aged 15 to 26 years	• Group education • Peer group meeting	• Meetings and education included: having group discussions around issues such as gender based violence amongst others	• Quasi-experimental design and semi structured interviews • Participants were randomly selected into 35 Stepping Stone villages and 35 control villages	• Men reported fewer sexual partners • Men in qualitative evaluation indicated the intervention taught them to diffuse their anger and in order to prevent disputes
Men As Partners , Ditlopo et al, (2007), South Africa	• Young men and women aged 15 to 34 years	• Workshops • Group education • Video material	• Themes for workshops included: gender socialization, parenting, health-seeking behaviors, domestic and sexual violence, role of masculinity and HIV/AIDS	• Quantitative evaluation involved conducting a community baseline survey and semi structured interviews	• Changes in beliefs and attitudes • Decrease in having reported sexual relationships in the last year • Decrease in multiple partners in last year • Decrease in intimate partner violence

Discussion, limitations and recommendations / 1

- **Existing interventions:**

- Lack of scientifically rigorous evaluations
- No prime focus on men and often do not combat issues such as distorted views of masculinities and do not implement peace in their curriculum
- Few focus on reaching men at different points in their lives
- Focus mainly on violence against women and fail to address issues surrounding male-on-male violence
- Involve women far more than men

Discussion, limitations and recommendations / 2

- More rigorous monitoring and evaluation systems is needed
- **Interventions need to:**
 - Maintain an integrated approach
 - Broaden their focus
 - Use tools of peacemaking such as conflict resolution and cross cultural communication
- The curriculum used within Program H, Stepping Stones and Men as Partners show effective results when used with young men and can be adapted within different South African contexts as the material used appear culturally appropriate for most contexts

Discussion, limitations and recommendations / 3

- The highlighted interventions showed promising results as they tend to focus on all aspects of interpersonal violence
- The component of peace is a prominent one used throughout the 'Program H' intervention
- The area for the development of an intervention based in South Africa that includes methods of peace, gender transformation, addressing reproductive health and issues of masculinity is sorely needed
- An integrated approach that compiles the strengths from each of the interventions reviewed could yield promising results

“Peace will not come out of a clash of arms but out of justice lived and done by unarmed nations in the face of odds.”

- Mahatma Gandhi

