

What's Wrong with this Picture?

An Overview of a Model Program

Rus Funk

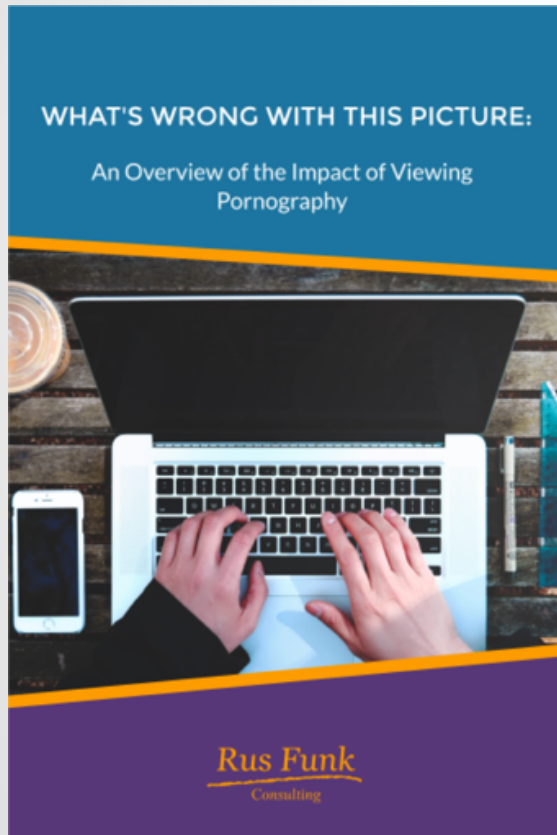
Consulting

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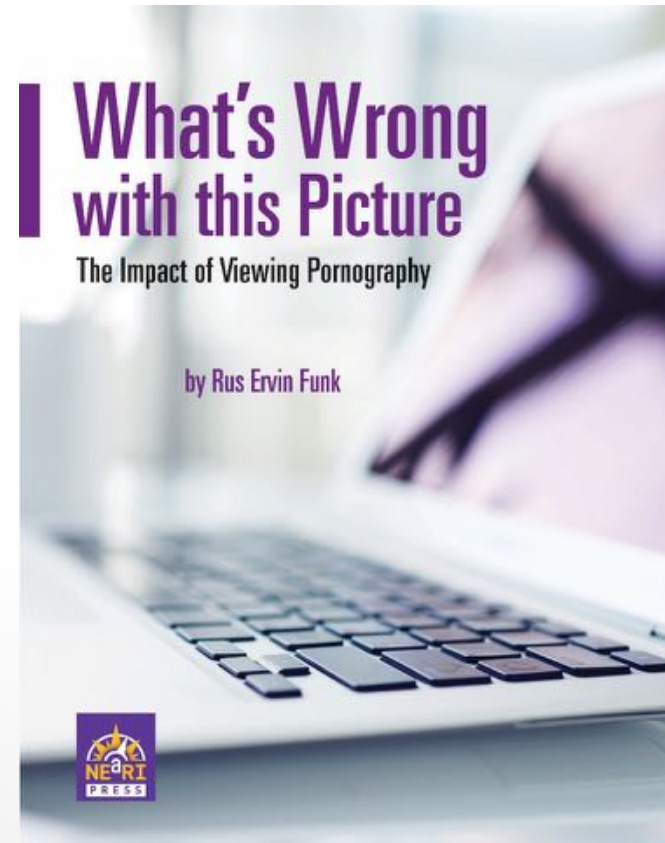
Notes of Caution

- Difficult topic
- Use of pics
 - Traumatizing
 - Eroticizing
 - nonrepresentational

Resources for Men



35-page educational booklet, outlining the impact of viewing pornography



Curriculum of a facilitated 8-session course for adult men to examine the impact of viewing pornography.

Pornography as Media

- Like all media, pornography transmits a host of values that are often hidden beneath the “story-line.”
- As media consumers, we always run the risk of consuming the values of the media we consume.
- Men rarely pay attention to the values that are imbedded in pornography,
- and don’t attend to the degree to which the values of pornography correspond or conflict with their own values and beliefs.

What's the Problem:

*An overview of the impact of
Men's viewing pornography*

*“Pornography...rarely includes affection,
relationships, expressions of love or
foreplay and afterplay.”*

(Wosnitzer & Bridges, 2007)

Questions to consider...

- How do men who look at pornography view women in pornography?
- How do they view other women after looking at pornography?
- How do men experience “sex” during pornography?
- How do they experience sex with a real woman or man after pornography?
- How to men separate the eroticism of sexual explicitness and physical intimacy from the selfish and dehumanizing arousal of seeing men control women?

Pornography's Masculinity

- Masculinity defined as opposed to femininity
- Hyper masculinized
- Hyper sexualized
- In charge/dominant
- Ability to “please” women (any and all)
- Entitled to access to women's bodies
- White men entitled to the bodies of African American, Latina, Asian and Native women or men

Men's Experience of Viewing Pornography

After viewing pornography, men report...

- Decreased empathy for rape victims
- Believing that women who dress provocatively deserves to be raped
- Anger at women who flirt but then refuse to have sex
- Increased interest in coercing partners into unwanted sex acts
- Increased aggression toward females
- Decreased willingness & intentionality to become active in efforts to respond to or prevent gender-based violence

Magnifying the Impact

- Masturbating to the image (and thus to the values) locates the lessons learned in the pleasure centers of the brain
- The collective experience of men's viewing patterns reinforces the experience (and as such, the values)

Community of Porn users

- Men in male peer-groups (such as fraternities) view more pornography than other men (Franklin Bouffard & Pratt, 2012)
- The influence of “male peer support” in reinforcing the norms presented in pornography.
- The “flatlining” of any variance of men’s perceptions of pornography.

*What's Wrong with this
Picture:*

*An Overview of the
Curriculum*

Overview of the Curriculum

- 8 session (designed as 90 minute each)
- Facilitated conversations
- Activity heavy
- Media literacy approach
- Goals:
 - ✓ Develop men's critical awareness of the impact of viewing pornography
 - ✓ Increase men's compassion for women's experiences of pornography

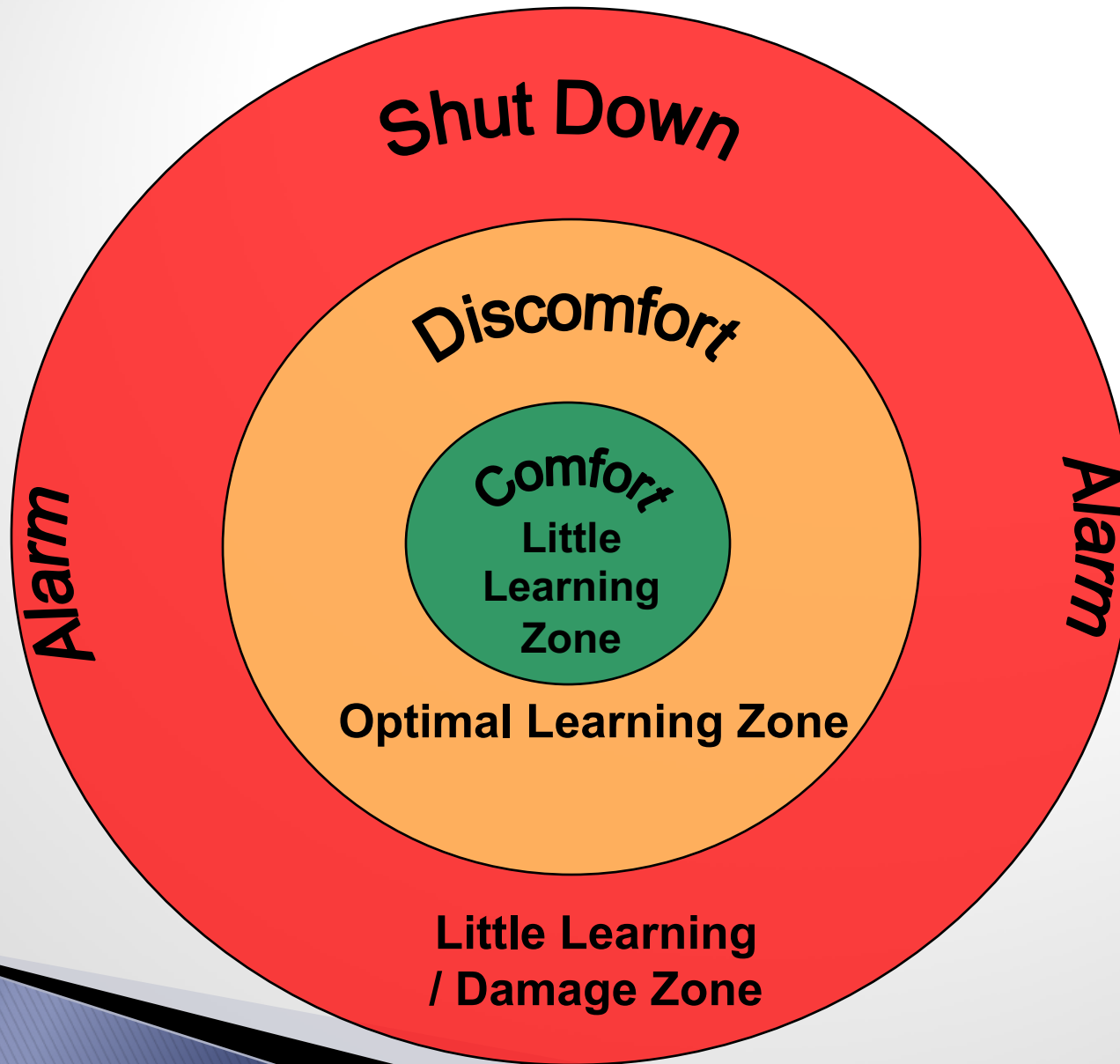
How WWWTTP Evolved

- Began around 2015 as a project of what was then MensWork: eliminating violence against women, inc.
- Emergent curriculum design/process
- Engaging critical feedback from other sources as the curriculum developed

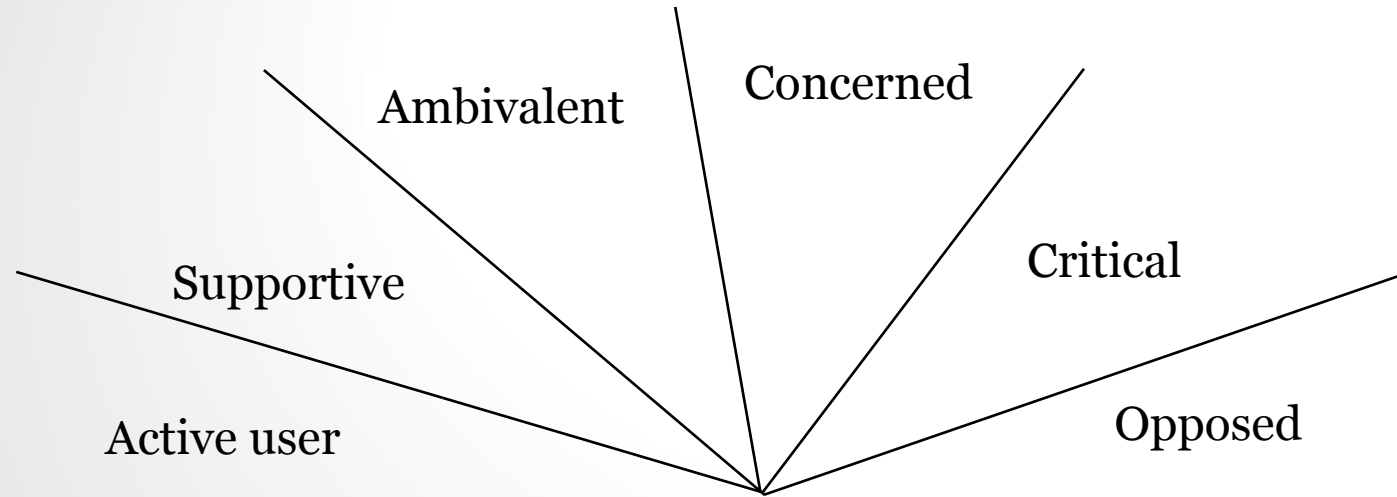
Defining Pornography

- Traditional (and legal) definition
 - Based on obscenity
- Alternative definition
 - *“material that combines sex and/or the exposure of genitals with abuse or degradation in a manner that appears to endorse, condone, or encourage such behavior.”* (Diana E.H. Russell)

Learning/Engagement Opportunities



Continuum of Men's Attitudes About Pornography Use



- Men's attitudes on pornography and viewing pornography is nuanced not static
- Men have varied perspectives about pornography
- Men have rarely talked with each other about these varied perspectives and attitudes

Outline

1. Welcome/Overview
2. What's the Impact
3. Who are the Women in Pornography
4. Pornography, Gender roles and Flirting
5. Exploring the Impact
6. Racism and Pornography
7. Bystander to Ally
8. Be Part of the Solution

Welcome/Overview

➤ Goals:

- ❖ Develop a sense of connection/community amongst participants
- ❖ Explore their initial experiences of pornography

➤ Activities:

- ❖ “Recall your intro to pornography”
- ❖ “Strike a Pose”

What's the Impact

*Evidence suggests that exposure to pornography is shaping
young
people's sexual expectations and practices*

(Haggstrom-Nordin, Hanson
& Tyden 2005; Flood 2010).

➤ Goals:

- ❖ Expose men's ambivalence to viewing pornography
- ❖ Explore men's differing attitudes about different behaviors related to pornography

➤ Activities:

- ❖ “take a position”

Who are the Women in Pornography

➤ Goals:

- ❖ Increase men's compassion for women in pornography
- ❖ Examine key lessons in pornography
- ❖ Examine and identify behaviors associated with men viewing pornography

➤ Activity:

- ❖ “continuum of harm”

Questions to consider...

- How do men who look at pornography view women in pornography?
- How do they view other women after looking at pornography?
- How do men experience “sex” during pornography?
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Pornography Gender Roles & Flirting

➤ Goals:

- ❖ Identify the ‘pornographer’s gaze’
- ❖ Examine how the norms in pornography may contradict men’s values
- ❖ Increase men’s compassion for women’s experience of the ‘pornographer’s gaze’

➤ Activities:

- ❖ “Porn World Vs Real World”
- ❖ “Experience a Mile in her Shoes (sort of)”

Pornography Use...

“...leads men to rate their female partners as less attractive, to indicate less satisfaction with their intimate partner’s attractiveness and level of affection,...and to express greater desire for sex without emotional involvement.”

(APA, 2007, p 29)

Exploring the Impact

➤ Goals:

- ❖ Increase men's empathy and compassion for women's experiences of being sexually objectified
- ❖ Assess the impact of viewing pornography on the men

➤ Activity:

- ❖ “what's the impact”

Racism & Pornography

➤ Goals:

- ❖ Identify the ways pornography reinforces racism
- ❖ Recognize the harm of pornography's racism
key lessons in pornography
- ❖ Increase men's empathy and compassion for women of color

➤ Activity:

- ❖ “assessing the impact of racism”

Bystander to Ally

➤ Goals:

- ❖ Understand notion of “bystanding”
- ❖ Explore allying

➤ Activities:

- ❖ “from bystander to ally”
- ❖ Exploring activism

Be Part of the Solution

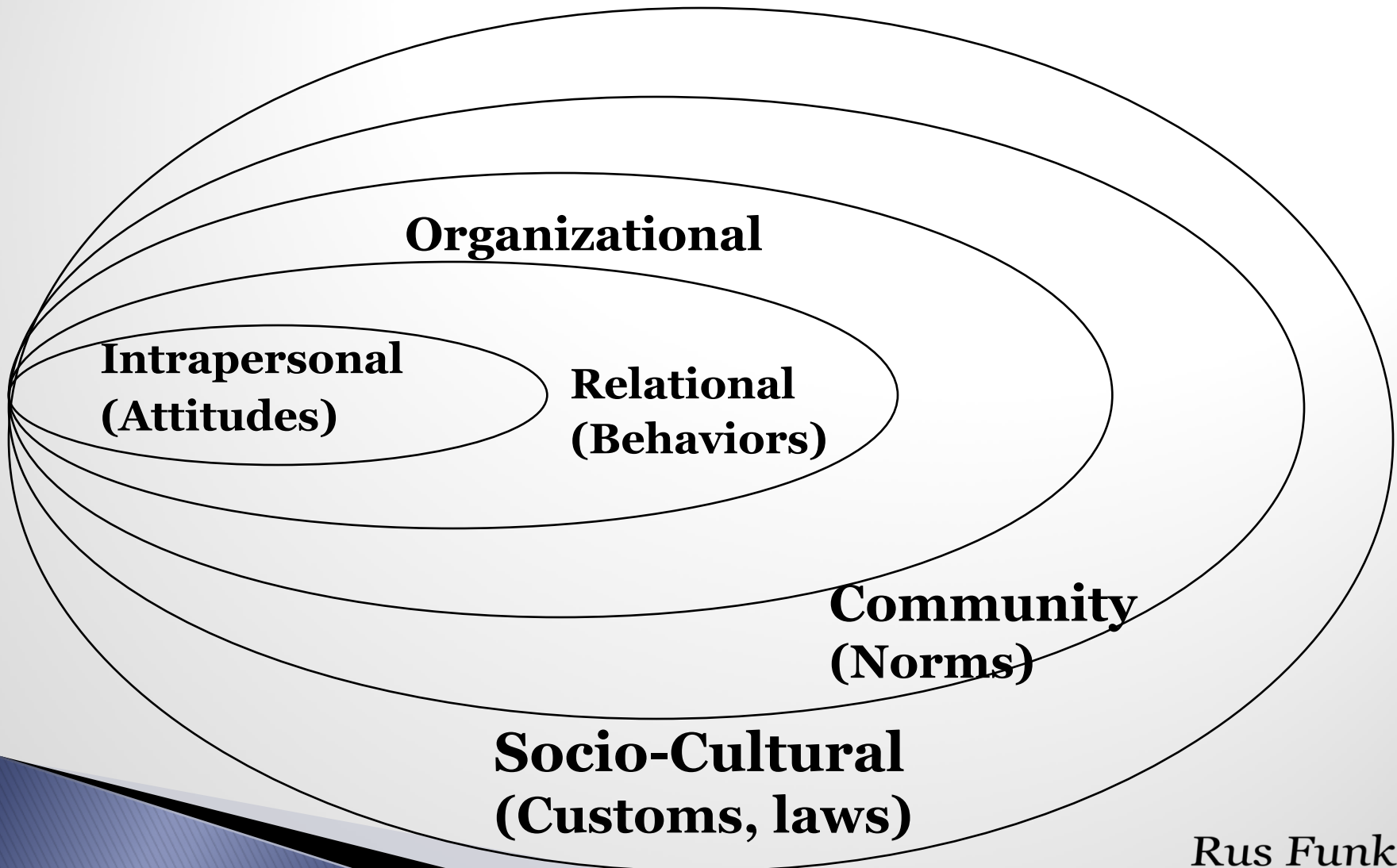
➤ Goals:

- ❖ Explore ways men can take effective action to end gender based violence
- ❖ Empower men to take action
- ❖ Create connections that facilitate men's collective activism

➤ Activity:

- ❖ “working for a change”

The Ecological Framework



Evidence of Impact

- Male participants tend to
 - ❖ Report higher levels of discomfort in their own pornography use
 - ❖ Decreased willingness to engage in other forms of commercial sexual exploitation
 - ❖ Increased willingness to engage in prevention activism

Next Step

- Develop additional resources and materials
 - ❖ Campus resources
 - ❖ Treatment materials
- Integration resources
- Adolescent

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Thank-you!

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