

Social Inequality

The Sociometry of Oppression
Moving toward Social Justice

+ What is
oppression
& can
anything be
done about
it?



Who has
more power
& privilege
in Canada?

Who has
less power
& privilege
in Canada?



What do you think?



who are
you?

+ Social Justice & Canada

Disclaimer... this is a small sampling... there are a lot more

The Good

The Bad

The Ugly

- Slavery is abolished in 1834
- 1916 -19 Women get the vote
- 1960 Aboriginals get the vote
- [Ontario Human Rights Commission](#) established 1961
- [Canadian Human Rights Commission](#) established 1977
- 2005 same sex marriage became legal for all Canadians
- [Bill 13](#) – Accepting Schools Act in Ontario passed in 2012
- [Imagine Action](#) – Student Driven Social Action Movement – Call BS

Inequality exists between

- men & women re: employment, representation in government & physical safety
- between racialized people & Aboriginals vs non racialized people re: employment, wealth distribution, life experiences & policing
- between able and differently abled re: employment & access

- [Hate Crimes](#) jumped 42% in 2009
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth (4%)
 - Aboriginal 3 Xs higher (11%)
 - Inuit 30 Xs higher (Stats Canada)
 - l.g.b.t. 4 to 7 Xs higher (28%) – 42% think of doing it
- 22% of prisoners are Aboriginal (they make up less than 4% of the entire Canadian population)

+ Flower of Privilege Exercise

Based on Canadian society today...

On your flower, give yourself a point for each petal that you are in the majority or most desired category

Your score could range from 1 to 16.

What score reflects a person with the most privilege in our society?



What does a low score mean in terms of privilege?

+ Social inequalities

- **Social inequalities** are based on varying degrees to which people have access to wealth, status, and power.
 - A person's ability to access wealth, status and power is affected by more than just money, it is also affected by a combination of factors related to their social identity such as; ethnicity, race, social background, education, religion, ability, age, sexual orientation and gender.
 - These factors can often work together as well to make things more difficult or to present more barriers for a person who has to deal with multiple levels of oppression.



+ Social Inequality or the Sociometry of Oppression

- **Oppression** is a type of injustice, it is the inequitable use of authority, law, social or physical force to prevent others from being free or equal.
- **Double, Triple or Multiple Oppressions** occur when a person has more than one oppression based on the different degrees of access to power each group we identify with has
- (eg. what are this person's possible oppressions?)



+ Sociometry of Oppression Extension

- Remember back to the workshop & the identity that you were given...
 - What types of oppression did you potentially face?
 - What types of privilege did you possibly enjoy?
- Get into pairs or trios and think of some historical examples of oppression where a group was treated unfairly based on one of these social identity categories?
 - Identify the group and the example of oppression
 - Even if this happened a long time ago, how or why could it still be a source of oppression or be problematic in today's society?



+ **Canada and Oppression...**

- **Next, we are going to look at some of the oppressions some Canadians may face, but this is only a sample, there are many that are not included here**



+ Ethnicity and Race

- Our ethnicity and race has a fundamental effect on our lives, affecting our identity, sense of self & self esteem, often influencing or in some cases restricting our ability to achieve desired educational, occupational and financial goals (Angelini 2003 cited by DeCoeur, Rawes & Warecki, 2012)
- Ethnic diversity is a unique characteristic or feature of our society yet there are some alarming realities for some racialized Canadians
 - Poverty rates for visible minorities are three times higher than for the Caucasian population, with a 19.8 % of visible minority families living in poverty
 - Visible minorities make up 16.2% of our population, however our work places do not reflect this
 - Visible minority males are 24% more likely to be unemployed and females 48%



A Girl
Like
Me –
Kiri
Davis

[continue](#)

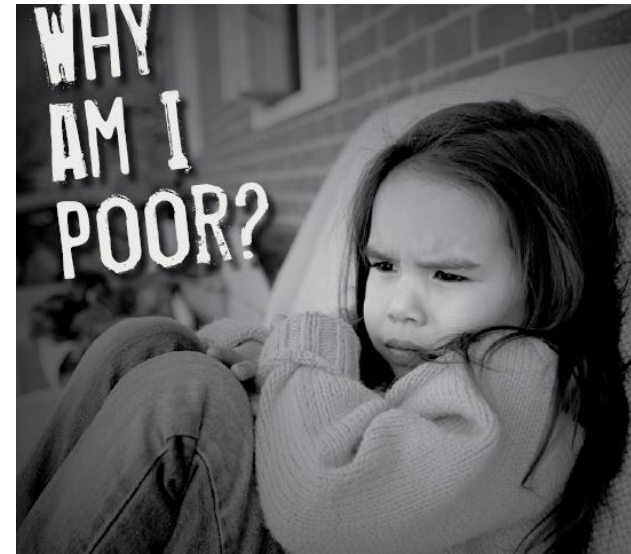
+ Racialized definition...



- In sociology, **racialization** or ethnicization is the processes of ascribing ethnic or racial identities to a relationship, social practice, or group that did not identify itself as such.
- [Go back](#)

+ Being Aboriginal in Canada...

- Aboriginal statistics are even more alarming
 - More likely to go to prison than to graduate from high school
 - 1 in 2 men have been to prison at least once
 - Lowest average median income across Canada
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ live below the LICO and some in extreme poverty
 - Their longevity rates are 10 to 15 years below non aboriginal Canadians~



+ Social Background

- Working class men and women have lower levels of post secondary schooling because
 1. the costs of post secondary education
 2. education and studying are not always a major goal (Angelini, 2003 cited by DeCoeur, Rawes & Warecki, 2012)
- If your parents didn't finish high school your chance of going to university are less than 1 in 5; conversely if even just 1 parent attends university your likelihood of attending jumps to 1 in 2
- According to researchers, middle-class parents are more likely to encourage creativity in their children while working-class parents encourage conformity. This is connected to where they imagine their children will work. For example wanting your child to keep their job and being worried about them rocking the boat.



+ Social Background & Relationships

- Spousal relationships also differ between classes, with more rigid role segregation in the working class as compared to more egalitarian relationships in the middle class, which also contains more emotional intimacy (Macionis & Gerber, 2007)
- Social homogamy can also play a role in social class maintenance



+ Social homogamy



- A phenomenon where working class and lower class Canadians are more likely to marry within their classes as are those in the middle and upper classes – this results in a greater and continued gap in classes
- Life expectancy is significantly impacted - according to a recent study (2010) there is a **21-year difference** in life expectancy between the poorest neighbourhood and the wealthiest neighbourhood in Hamilton, Ontario.

+ Gender & Employment



- Despite similar education levels, men have higher average incomes than women, even in cases where they perform the same jobs
- A 'glass ceiling' exists where women get promoted only so far before they hit this ceiling that you can't see but that you can't get past either
 - Men are 2 to 3 times more likely to be senior management
 - Men are 1.5 times more likely to be middle management
- Some factors that attempt to explain this include...
 - Women are more likely to choose gendered careers (typically female in the past and often underpaid ex. secretary, EA)
 - Stereotypes re: women and leadership
 - Lack of mentoring and discomfort with self promotion
 - Inhospitable work cultures and or [sexual harassment](#)
 - Motherhood responsibilities influence professional choices~



+ Gender & Physical Safety

- Safety issues include domestic abuse, intimate femicide (being killed by your partner) and sexual assault – all of which occur much more frequently to women than men
 - On average, every 6 days a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner. In 2009, 67 women were murdered by a current or former spouse or boyfriend
 - On any given day in Canada, more than 3,000 women (along with their 2,500 children) are living in an emergency shelter to escape domestic violence
 - As of 2010, there were 582 known cases of missing or murdered Aboriginal women in Canada
 - In 2004, 427,000 women over the age of 15 reported they had been sexually assaulted
- Men are victims of violence as well, but more often by a stranger, whereas women are much more likely to be assaulted by a family member or acquaintance~



+ Age

- By 2021, seniors will number 18% of our population – a vulnerable group at risk for abuse, and poverty
- According to stats Canada 33.8% of single women and 26.1% of single men over the age of 65 live below the poverty line
- In 2005, there were 160 violent incidents for every 100,000 seniors (those these rates are low compared to lower age demographics- they are still bothersome)
- Trend data show that between 1998 and 2005, the overall rate of police-reported violence against seniors increased 20%
- According to police-reported data, senior males are 1.5 times more likely than senior females to be victims of violent crime~



+ Physical & Mental Disability

- Historically, excluded from mainstream society & from the workplace
 - Rates of employment are improving slightly; from 1999 to 2006, the ratio of employed men with a disability increased from 48 to 56%; for women the rates increased from 39 to 46%
 - However this still means that they are severely underemployed at almost a 50% rate of unemployment
- The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005), mandated the province develop, implement & enforce sets of accessibility standards. This applies to public & private sector organizations with one or more employees that provide goods, service, facilities or accommodation to the public.
 - **The standards include**
 1. Accessible customer service
 2. Integrated Standards including:
 - transportation; information & communications & employment
 3. Building and physical environment access



+ How does social identity and oppression work? What can we do?



Who has more power and privilege in Canada?

Who has less power and privilege in Canada?



What do you think?

