



Intergenerational Trauma in Native American Communities

A Framework for Healing



Definitions

- Cosmology- Human attempts to understand and explain the universe.
- Culture- the medium within which all human development takes place.
- Epistemology- Study of the nature and theory of knowledge.
- Etiology- Causal explanations of disorders.
- Hegemony- Dominance of one state over others



Internalized Oppression

- Internalization of what appears to be genuine power in an effort to cope with despair caused by complete loss of power. The result is an intense self-hatred.



Diagnostic Paradigms

- Individual Deficiency
 - Intervention Strategies
 - Providing services
 - Supporting Belief/ value systems
 - Democratic pluralism
 - Science
 - Organizational reform
 - Principle of inducements
- Dysfunctional Environment
 - Problems conceptualized a function of system output.

Warren,R.L.(1983). The sociology of knowledge and problems of inner cities. In R.L. Warren and L.Lyon (Eds.) New perspectives on the American Community. Homewood, Ill: Dorsey Press



American Indian Experience

- Contact
- Systematic genocide
- Systematic ethnocide
- Post-colonialism



Intergenerational Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

- Intergenerational transmission of psychological consequences of unresolved grief.
 - Depression
 - Danger
 - Fear
 - Hatred
 - Chaos



Clash of Worldviews

- Past attempts at treating problems were firmly grounded in western ideology
- Iatrogenic Injury was the result



Clash of Worldviews

- Dualism
- Individualism
- Modernity
- Holistic
- Collective
- Spiritual



Healing

- Validation of Externally imposed craziness
- Interpretation/understanding of etiology come from within the cultural experience of the client
- Interventions must incorporate indigenous epistemological principles.
- Interventions must incorporate an indigenous cosmological worldview



PTSD: Evolution from trauma to possible recovery

- Impact or Shock
- Withdrawal and Repression
- Acceptance/Repression (magical thinking)
- Compliance and Anger (Decompensation)
- Trauma Mastery (Healing)

Duran, E. & Duran, B., (1995). Native American Postcolonial Psychology. Albany, NY:SUNY Press