

EUROPRIIS
RISK AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP
12-13.10.17

the clinical risk assessment and management of women

does gender really matter ...?

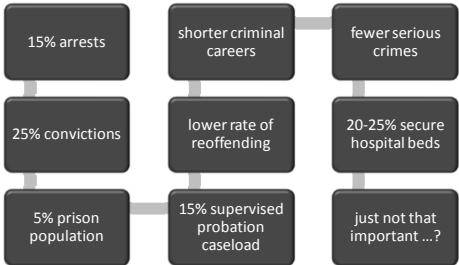
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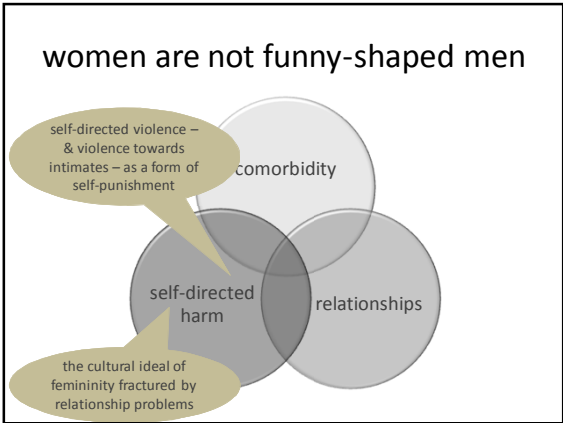
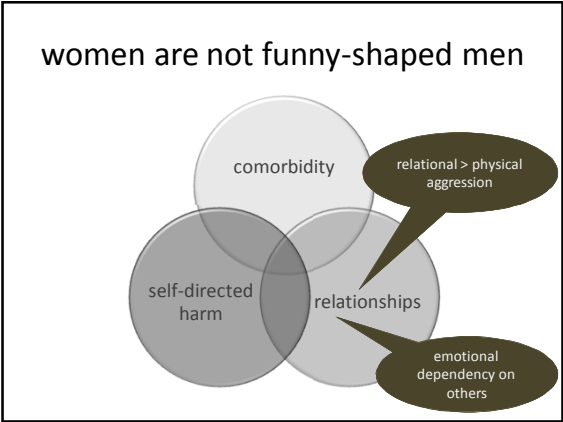
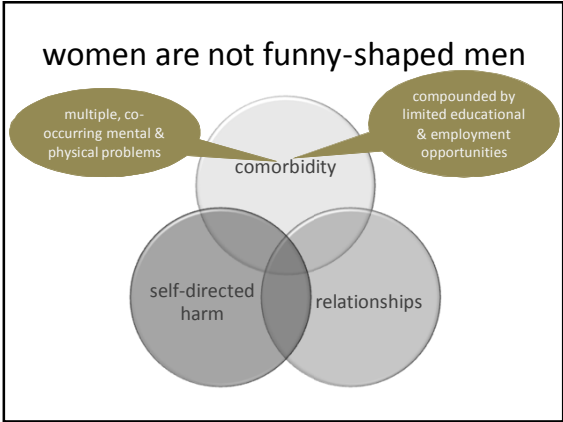
preview

- why bother with women ...?
- but what if we *are* concerned?
 - why we should be concerned
 - assessing and managing our concerns about risk
- gender *does* matter

why bother with women ...?

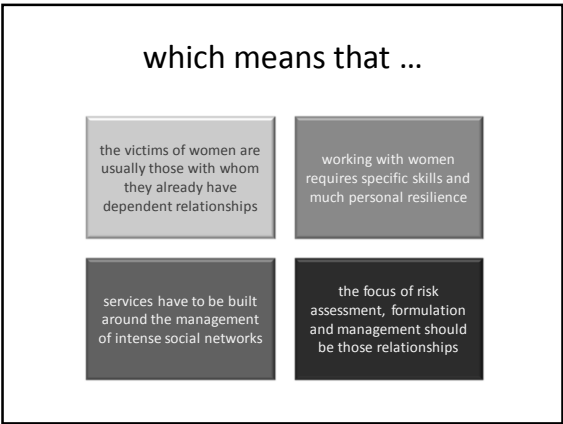
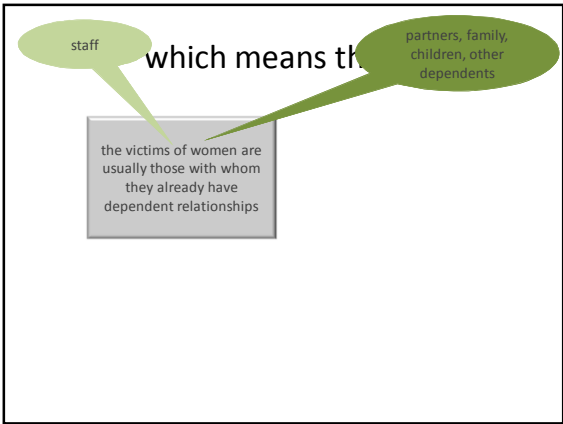


why we should be concerned
BUT WHAT IF WE ARE CONCERNED?



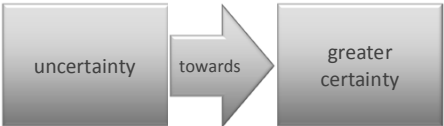
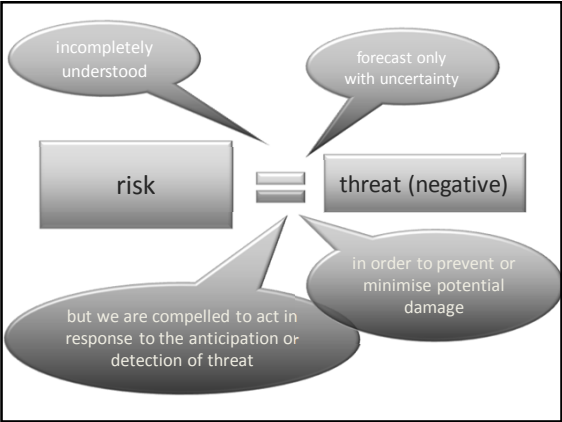
“it appears self-evident that the power one holds in the domain in which one holds it will influence the method used to abuse that power to the detriment of others”

Logan, C. & Weizmann-Henelius, G. (2012). Psychopathy in women: Presentation, assessment and management. In H. Häkkinen-Nyholm & J.O. Nyholm (Eds), *Psychopathy and Law*. Chichester: Wiley Blackwell.

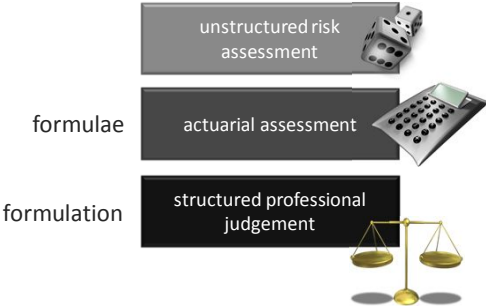


assessing and managing our concerns about risk

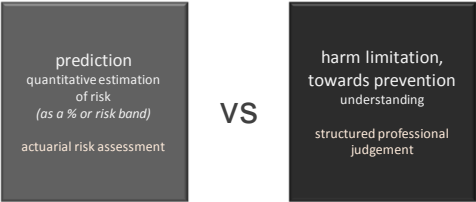
BUT WHAT IF WE ARE CONCERNED?



risk assessment
the last 30 years



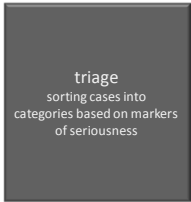
where we have been ...



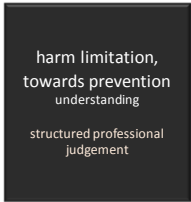
where we are ...



where we need to be going ...



&



where cases are selected on the basis of *grounds for concern* and the *seriousness of the risk posed*

real time risk management

NOTE

‘the volume and complexity of what we know has exceeded our individual ability to deliver its benefits correctly, safely or reliably’

Gawande, 2009, p14

NOTE TOO ...

‘Checklists seem to provide protection against [failure]. They remind us of the minimum necessary steps and make them explicit. They not only offer the possibility of verification but also instill a kind of higher discipline.’

Gawande, 2009, p36

AND REMEMBER ...

‘people – not instruments – make recommendations in the course of conducting risk assessments’

Guy, Douglas & Hart, 2015, p51

mapping the terrain



guidance or ‘tools’



different levels of granularity

History of problems with violence, other antisocial behaviour, relationships, employment, substance misuse, mental disorder, trauma, personality disorder, violent attitudes & treatment response

HCR-20^{v3}

Assessing Risk for Violence

User Guide

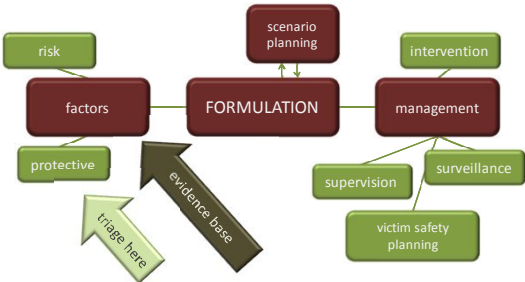
Current clinical issues with insight, violent ideation, symptoms, instability and treatment response

Future risk management issues with professional services, living situation, personal support, treatment response and stress

4

structured professional judgement approach

risk of what and why?



formulation
attempts to explain
the underlying mechanism of the risk
(why this person is at risk of what at this time)
and proposes hypotheses regarding action
to facilitate change

harmful behaviour is enacted by people
for whom that behaviour has meaning –
key to risk assessment is accessing that
meaning in order to understand the
circumstances in which harmful behaviour
could be chosen again as a means of self-
expression or problem-solving

gender differences here

risk management planning

treatment

treatment (or rehabilitation) strategies designed
to moderate risk factors or enhance protective
factors

interventions intended to repair or restore
deficits in adjustment and functioning

supervision

restrictions on activity, movement, association,
or communication that are intended to control
risk factors – limits on opportunity to be harmful

enhancements to lifestyle in the form of
structure, boundaries, role expectations
intended to enhance protective factors

monitoring

the identification of those early warning signs
that are an indication of a relapse to harmful
behaviour

any indicators of a change in risk

victim safety plan

guidance to past or future possible victims to help them avoid or to reduce the impact of (re-)victimisation

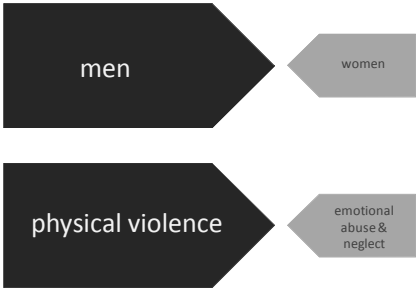
concluding comments
GENDER DOES MATTER

the risks presented by women ...

- don't look like the risks presented by men
 - their victims are different, on the whole
 - their methods are different
 - their treatment and management should be different

the risks presented by women ...

- can be harder to understand – to formulate
 - women are complicated
 - because there is much less research on harmful women – models of the behaviour of men are usually applied to women without any expectation of adjustment (!)
 - and generally less interest in them or their concerns



the risks presented by women ...

- can be neutralised by our desire not to see women as harmful, especially towards those most dependent upon them
 - this tendency can make us blind to the harm potential of women
 - or more likely to minimise it, overlook it, care less about it
 - which leaves vulnerable people at risk

post script

- the strength of any system of harm prevention lies in its capacity to understand and manage the risks posed by minority groups
 - women
 - people with learning difficulties
 - people with autism spectrum conditions
 - minority ethnic groups
 - and so on ...

preview

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 - risk management
- gender *does* matter

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