Privileged Identity Exploration (PIE) Model

Sherry K. Watt, Ph.D., NCC, LPC, Associate Professor, Graduate Programs in Student Affairs, University of Iowa

Privileged Identity Exploration (PIE) Model

- The PIE Model identifies eight defensive reactions often displayed in difficult dialogues when one is being encouraged to reflect on their social, political, and economic position in society.

Privileged Identity Exploration (PIE) Model ©

- Recognizing Privileged Identity
  - Denial
  - Deflection
  - Rationalization
- Contemplating Privileged Identity
  - Intellectualization
  - Principium
  - False Envy
- Addressing Privileged Identity
  - Minimization
  - Benevolence

The Privileged Identity Exploration (PIE) Model

New Awareness about Self or Other

Social Justice Action based on New Awareness

- Recognizing Privileged Identity
- Contemplating Privileged Identity
- Addressing Privileged Identity
**Denial**

- Definition: arguing against an anxiety provoking stimuli by stating it doesn't exist (http://allpsych.com/psychology101/defenses.html).

**Deflection**

- Definition: taking out impulses on a less threatening target (http://allpsych.com/psychology101/defenses.html).

**Rationalization**

- Definition: supplying a logical or rational reason as opposed to the real reason (http://allpsych.com/psychology101/defenses.html).

**Intellectualization**

- Definition: avoiding unacceptable emotions by focusing on the intellectual aspects (http://allpsych.com/psychology101/defenses.html).
Principium
• Definition: avoiding exploration based on a religious or personal principle

False Envy
• Definition: displaying an affection for a person or a feature of a person in an effort to deny the complexity of the social and political context

Minimization
• Definition: reducing the magnitude of a social and political issue down to simple facts

Benevolence
• Definition: displaying an overly sensitive attitude toward a social and political issue based on an attitude of charity
Thought Question

• Thought Question: How might this model assist in explaining or describing Don Imus’s reaction?
• Thought Question: How might this problem be addressed? On an individual level? On a organizational level? On a community level?

Morning Breakout session

• Using Don Imus as a Stimulus for Discussion
  • Questions to Ponder:
    – When have I displayed these defenses?
    – What are some examples of seeing these defenses in self and others?
    – What are some potential ways I might respond to self and others when I recognize these defenses being displayed?

References