



Competing conceptions of (re)integrative success

for survivors of sex trafficking and abuse

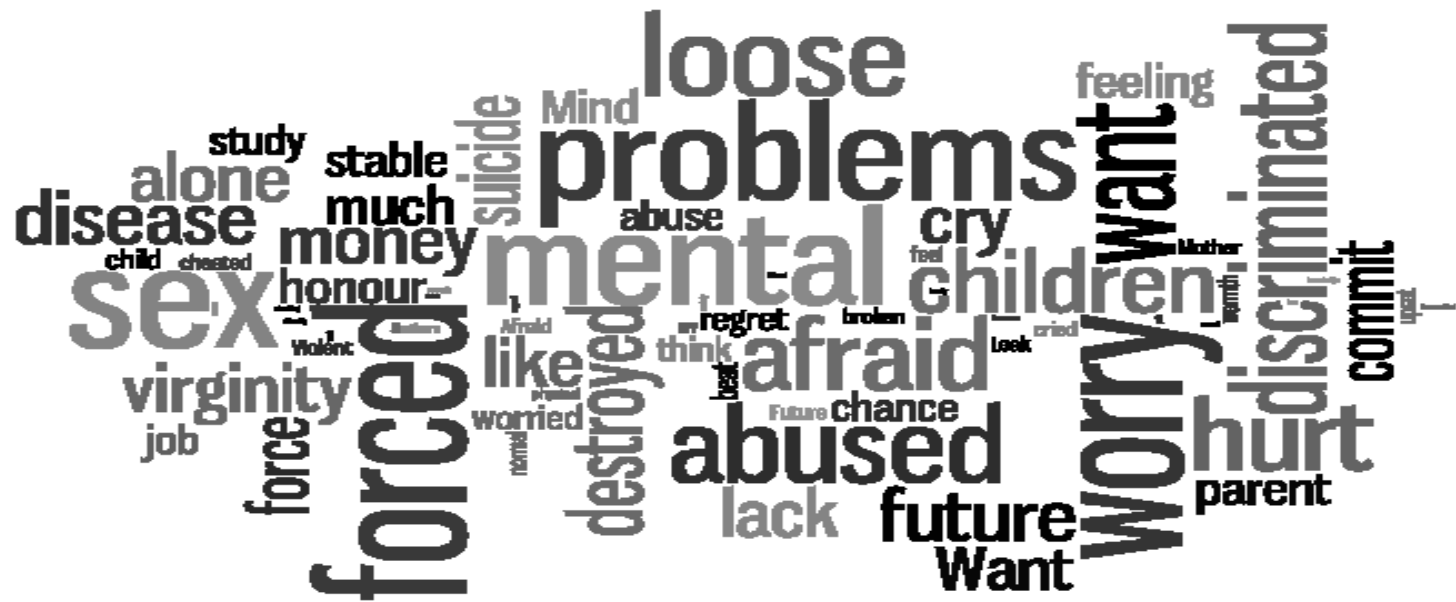
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Overview

- Context
- Research question
- Methodology
- Theory
- Ethics, sampling, & safety
- Findings
- Theory
- Implications

Context & literature review



Research Question

How do Khmer young women in Cambodia who have experienced forms of sexual exploitation and abuse, and who have lived in residential care:

(a) construct ideas related to successful reintegration; and,

(b) who/what are the people, processes, and mechanisms important to achieving this success (and conversely what are the primary constraints); and,

(c) amongst these people, and related groups and institutions identified as important, how are conceptions of 'successful re/integration' constructed and practiced?

Argument

- Different groups within the ‘field of remedial assistance’ hold competing perspectives on success
- Discerning these constitutes an important step towards defining and evaluating effective remedial interventions which are able to effectively assist beneficiaries to determine and pursue their own paths to success.

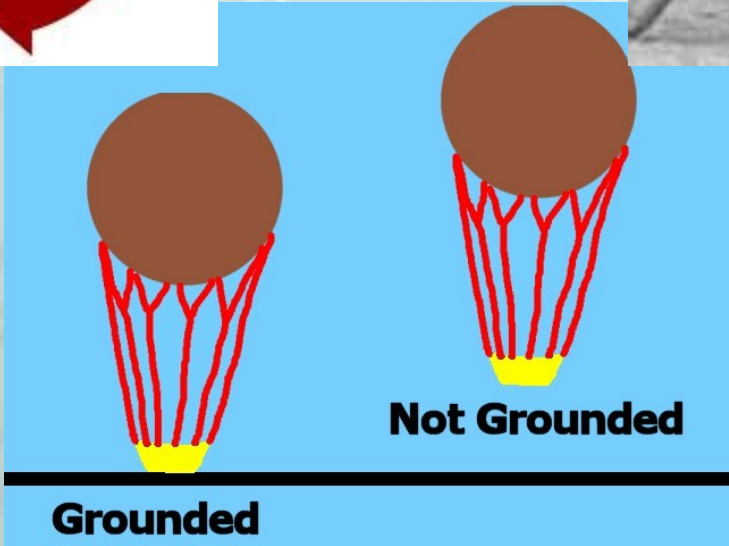
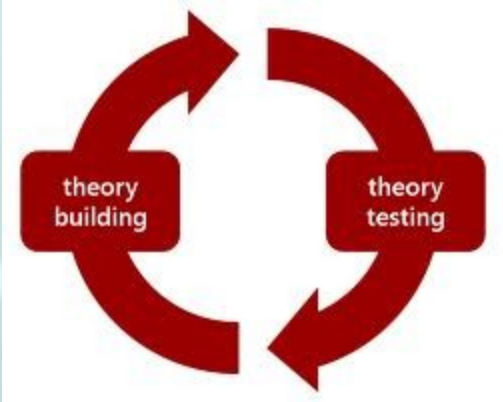
Ethics

- Deakin University Higher Research Ethics Committee
- Cambodian National Ethics Committee for Health Research
- Secretary of State and Chair of the National Committee Secretariat for Suppression of Human Trafficking, Smuggling, Labor and Sexual exploitation (National Committee);
- Ministry of Women's Affairs;
- National Program of Mental Health.
- Child Affairs and Protection Working Group (National Committee sub group) identified eight 'best providers' of reintegration assistance.

Sampling, safety & sensitivity

- Four undisclosed NGOs participated in generating a sampling list of 200 young women ‘successfully reintegrated’ and facilitating access to family members and others involved in facilitating reintegration.
- NGO invitation to participate, followed up by translator and researcher.
- Introduction & invitation to consent. Generic plain language statement provided containing real phone number for counselling support if required. A fuller description provided to non-client participants.
- A focus upon perceptions of success with opportunity to reflect and volunteer one’s experiences that lead to the shelter and constraints to reintegration.
- **Role of the female translator**

Grounded theory methodology



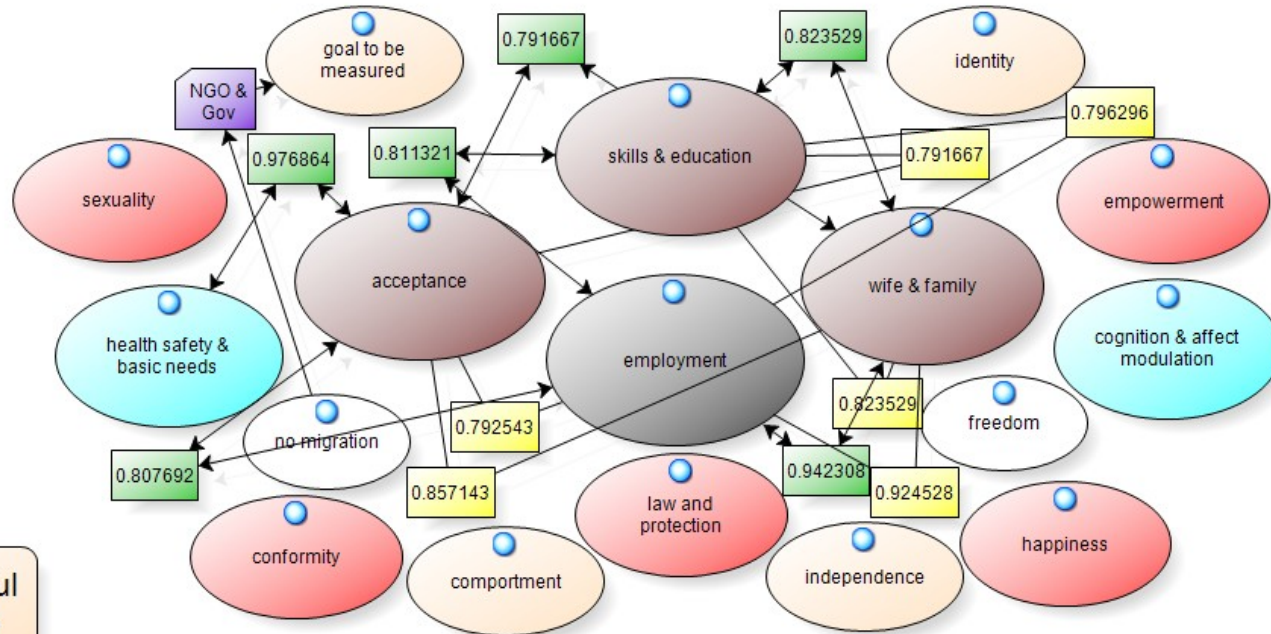
Qualitative Interviews

- Twenty-five interviews with young women
 - of Khmer ethnicity and aged 18 – 25 years of age;
 - sexually abused or exploited as children or youth through rape or sex-trafficking;
 - having spent time in residential care services;
 - And identified as ‘successfully reintegrated’
- Twenty-eight interviews with others from the field including family members (n=7) NGO staff (n=16), social enterprise managers (n = 2) and government authorities (n=3).

Sample Characteristics: Young Khmer Women Successfully Reintegrated

<i>Average length of interviews</i>	85mins	(n = 25)
<i>Identified as victim of rape / sexual abuse (r)</i>	13	
<i>Identified as victim of sex trafficking (t)</i>	12	
<i>Age</i>	21yrs	(n = 25)
<i>Age at rape / sexual abuse</i>	14.8yrs	(n = 11)
<i>Age at trafficking / sexual exploitation</i>	15.3yrs	(n = 11)
<i>Married</i>	7	(r=4, t=3)
<i>Separated</i>	3	(r=2, t=1)
<i>Children</i>	10	(r=8, t=2)
<i>Estimated months in shelter care (n=22)</i>	21.78	(r=20.7, t=23)
<i>Average no. months reintegrated (n=22)</i>	31	(r=45, t=25)
<i>Reintegrated to former home or community</i>	11	(r=7, t=4)
<i>Integrated to a new home or community</i>	14	(r=6, t=8)
<i>Urban reintegration</i>	16	(r=7, t=9)
<i>Rural reintegration</i>	9	(r=6, t=3)
<i>Stable employment (x3@school, x1 housewife by choice, x2 unemployed)</i>	18	(r=9, t=9)
<i>Presently have stable accommodation</i>	23	(r=13, t=10)

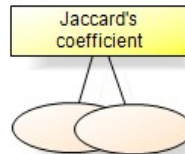
Conceptions of 'success'



Key: Successful Reintegration

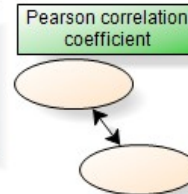


Depth of colour & size of sphere indicative of number of respondents
 Darkest / Grande < 50 sources
 Dark / Large < 40 sources
 Aqua / Large < 30 sources
 Red / Medium < 20 sources
 Bisque / Small < 10 sources
 White / Smallest < 5 sources



Jaccard's coefficient

Top six nodal associations generated by coding similarity



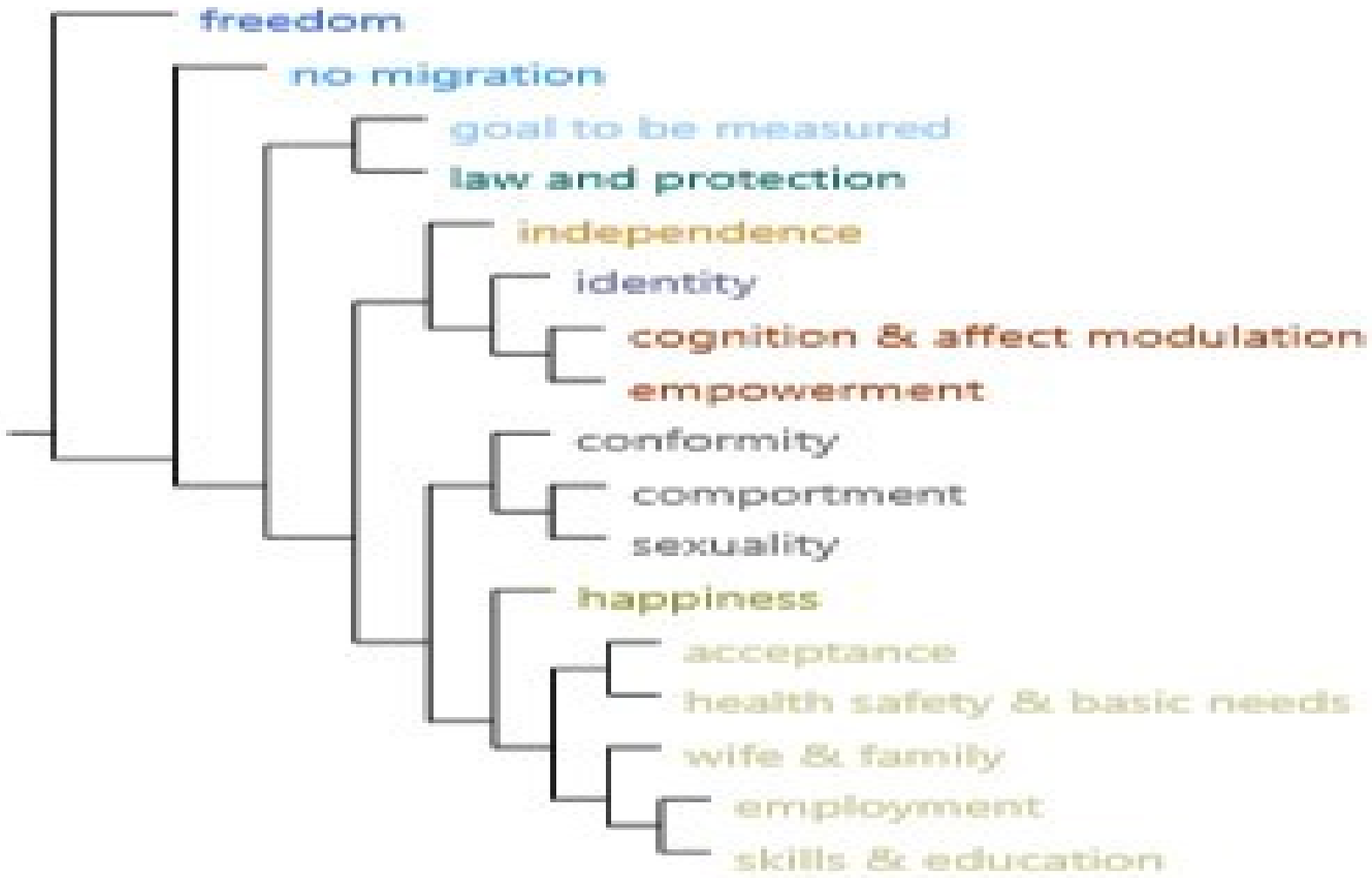
Pearson correlation coefficient

Top six nodal associations generated by word similarity

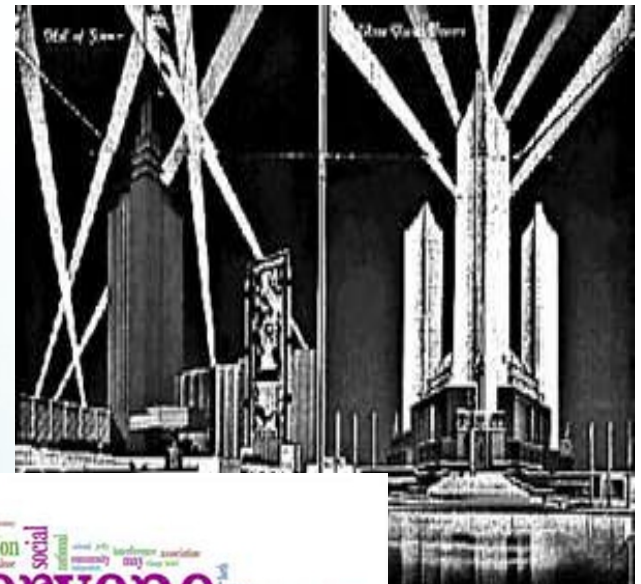


Nodes developed from responses exclusive to NGO & Gov participants

Nodes Clustered by Word similarity



Findings



Implications

- Empirical
- Theoretical
- Policy
- Limitations

Position in a contested social field is relationally determined by one's habitus & accrued capitals, e.g., social, cultural, symbolic, educational economic.



Thank you

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■ Bearup, L.S., *Competing conceptions of 'successful reintegration' for the sex-trafficked and abused*, Abstract presented at the Sexual Violence Research Initiative, 16 October 2013