Hegemonic Masculinity: The concept of hegemony - a powerful, all-encompassing force that overshadows its societal counterparts - allows me to identify gendered inequalities in sex trafficking.


- Discourse involves men empowering themselves by putting down other gendered identifications (i.e., "fag" and "like a girl").
- Men use competition to prove their masculinity.
- Masculinity is defined by success in the workplace.
- Masculinity is defined by success with women and sex.
- Maintaining masculinity involves a strong sense of self-control, and maintaining control of women.
- Hegemonic masculinity may be related to the construction of "emphasized femininity," or the feminine reaction to hegemonic masculinity through the construction of a hypersexualized, ideal woman that fits within the hegemonic, masculine ideologies.

Gender as a Multi-Level Structured: I suggest that women and men involved in sex trafficking reinforce gender structures through their individual behavior, relationships and as people in the industry. In other words, we can explore how gender exists on three interrelated levels, as Risman (1998) claims:

- Level 1: Individual Identities and Behaviors.
- Level 2: Interpersonal Interaction and Relationships.
- Level 3: Cultural and Structural Contexts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level 1</th>
<th>Level 2</th>
<th>Level 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual Identities, through behavior, roles, control hegemonic and inferiority that exist within society, which is a function of socialization.</td>
<td>Gendered interpersonal interactions also reinforce overall hegemonic and inferiority, which is seen as a way to maintain individual roles.</td>
<td>Gendered and structural context (e.g., prostitution, labor, family, community) are also part of the analysis.</td>
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RESULTS & DISCUSSION

All three levels of gender that Lobor (1994) and Risman (1998) highlight were evident in these narratives, and within the levels, hegemonic masculinity was manifest as well. Participants' narratives elucidated important aspects of how gendered identities (Level One), interactions (Level Two), and the overall macrostructures in sex trafficking (Level Three) are connected, constructed and reinforced. They also shed light on how the industry is affected by hegemonic masculinity.

Level One: Gendered Identities

- Identities within sex trafficking were affected by: socialization, internalization of powerlessness, and hegemonic masculinity within traffickers' and consumers' identities.
- The importance of socialization, and where did that begin? (All informants reported to have had difficult childhoods for the following reasons: Sexual assaults, and or dysfunctional home lives (physical/verbal abuse, neglect, institutional abuse of trauma)

- Traffickers' identities: (Some, not all identity transgressions): Needing a male figure's approval, and females internalizing a hyper-sexualized, powerless identity.
- Hegemonic ideologies (created by traffickers) affect this.
- Traffickers' identities: Status based on financial success, control over women and self-control. All three these aspects are indicative of hegemonic masculinity at work in sex trafficking.

- Consumers' identities: Because consumers are males, they are able to disassociate themselves from participating in sex trafficking, thus creating an excuse for their behavior.

Level Two: Gendered Interactions

- Traffickers' and consumers view the role of men/females as their role in sex trafficking, as they interact with women, thus perpetuating sex trafficking at the interactional level.

- Traffickers' behaviors (gender ideology) reinforce their use of manipulative techniques to attract women.
- Women are not allowed to look at each other with African-American women.

- Level One: Forms of Prostitute Identities and Gendered Power Relations

- Level Two: Interactional Mechanisms of Social Power within Sex Trafficking

- Level Three: Social Contractions of Gender

- Cross-cultural differences
- Women going from (Low, "whoa", and no power)
- Women are not allowed to look at each other with African-American women

- Level One: Individual Identities, through behavior, roles, control hegemonic and inferiority that exist within society, which is a function of socialization. 

- Level Two: Gendered Interaction and Relationships.

- Level Three: Hegemonic Masculinity and the "Game"

- Participants called sex trafficking "The Game."

- The Game: Sex Trafficking: Exploring Gender in Modern Slavery

- Race, class, and gender are social constructions that factors in the perpetuation of TIP. According to Clasen, Dutch and Solomon (2009), race and class play a prominent role in the construction of TIP because:
  - Many trafficked individuals are from different countries of origin and are illegally transported for labor work in the U.S.
  - Traffickers tend to control and manipulate women, and physically and emotionally exploit their workers.

- Gender has also been studied with regard to TIP; however, in certain forms of trafficking and sex work roles affect identity and relationships in sex trafficking is yet to be studied.

- Race:
  - Social status placed on minorities create a higher likelihood of minorities becoming susceptible to becoming trafficked (Iacob-Idemuluma, 2003; Gee, 2013).

- Class:
  - Children, class and age have been found to be factors that determine the likelihood of an individual becoming trafficked. The younger the individual, and the lower on her socioeconomic status, the more likely a person is to be susceptible to becoming trafficked (Javidan, 2011).
  - Adult: Low socioeconomic status can prompt people to become involved in trafficking in order to make a better life for themselves (this often happens in developing countries; Danilova-Trainer & Lucaco [2010]).
  - In the US, although poverty may be a factor in some people's experiences with trafficking, this is not necessarily an indicator of overall susceptibility. Many men and women from middle to upper-class families have also become involved in trafficking (International, 2008).

- Gender:
  - Micro-Level Approaches: Several studies have found that micro-level approaches focusing on specific individuals' experiences have yielded more results as to how gender inequalities in society affect and perpetuate sex trafficking (Snadjr, 2013; Vladihov & Swint, 2011; Weiner, 2013).
  - Males in Sex Trafficking: Males as consumers of sex have been mainly studied through economic theory (Teilfeurba, 2002; Yin, 2008). Some research addresses economic reasons behind individuals in sex trafficking, but, again, most of it uses supply and demand economic theory and does not address how masculinity, race or class affect participation in sex trafficking (Trosbyanski & Blak, 2008).

- Therefore, exploratory studies are needed to discover how gender affects not only the victim's role in sex trafficking, but the trafficker as well.

REFERENCES