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Wronged by Rescuers: Perspectives of Asian Migrant Defendants of the Human Trafficking Intervention Courts in New York

by Rosa J. Cho

This article presents a subset of findings of a qualitative study, conducted with 33 Chinese female migrant massage parlor workers who were defendants of the Human Trafficking Intervention Courts (HTIC) in New York City. Data were collected through individual and focus group sessions and were analyzed for themes and subthemes using the interpretative phenomenological analysis. Themes of negative experiences from their interactions with law enforcement and the HTIC system emerged in the study and contextualized their lives as im/migrants who work in the underground economy, especially in unregulated, lucrative jobs that potentially involve morally sanctioned types of labor. This article concludes with an outline of implications for human service professionals whose work might impact the lives of others whose lives are similarly impacted by the Human Trafficking Intervention Courts – or other carceral mechanisms designed to end prostitution/sex work.

ABSTRACT

In-Group Bias and Inter-Group Dialogue in Canadian Multiculturalism by Kuir ë Garang & Uzo Anucha

African-Canadians continue to bear the brunt of marginality and stereotyping in Canada even when various mitigating studies and programs have been initiated by the government at federal, state, and municipal levels. These stereotypes continue to affect them in informal settings and state institutions when seeking employment, housing or when in the streets, malls, schools, etc. While social justice advocates, social workers, and policy-makers focus on “Black-

White” dynamics because other “racialized minorities” are also marginalized (though not equally) in Canada, it is important to note that “non-White” Canadians also contribute to the spread of historical stereotypes of African-Canadians within Canadian multiculturalism as noted in the emphasis of the city of Toronto’s mitigating strategies for “anti-Black racism.” Using social group position theory (SGPT) and asset-based model (ABCD), this paper argues that interrogating social group biases beyond “Black-White” binarism to encourage inter-group dialogs is important in making sure that different multicultural communities understand one another through favorable, activities-mediated, inter-group relations as opposed to having multicultural relations mediated by third parties, or not mediated at all. We also argue that African-Canadians should focus on internal strengths and only use external help to augment community initiatives to change the extant negative image.

Providers’ Perspectives on Women’s Healthcare Disparities and Barriers

By Jenesse Kaitz & Sukanya Ray

Women face persistent disparities in healthcare quality, access to care, and treatment rates and outcomes, with women from marginalized identities facing greater difficulties. Little is known about providers’ understanding of these disparities, despite the vital role they play. This qualitative study explored interdisciplinary providers’ (psychologists and primary care physicians) perceptions of healthcare disparities and challenges across marginalized groups of women (women of color, women with disabilities, and women from low SES, elderly, and LGBTQ backgrounds). Providers frequently focused on individual patient barriers over systemic and relational barriers. Narratives varied by provider type and when discussing different groups of women. Continued provider training and health equity approaches are needed to combat healthcare disparities for diverse women.

Mapping Communities of Mothering: Where Race, Class, Gender, and Space Intersect

By Cynthia Edmonds-Cady

This manuscript explores the unique construction of community that young, low-income, women create, based on the embodied internal and external spaces they occupy as lone mothers. Issues related to diverse women’s representation, voice, and power, within these socially constructed communities are examined. Attention is paid to how young low-income mothers experience and actively create their own supportive community within both geographic and social boundaries, in active resistance to dominant and oppressive assumptions. To explore these concepts in-depth, results are presented from an ethnographic study that examined the community of 11 young, low-income, racially diverse singled mothers living in a small U.S. Midwestern city. Findings focus on the multiple ways that women’s lives embodied the idea of community through the prism of motherhood, race, class, and geographic/physical space. The use of qualitative participatory mapping techniques is also emphasized to examine these physically and socially constructed boundaries. Implications are discussed for ways that social workers can best advocate for social justice by using an intersectional lens to locate and partner with the organic communities of mothering that these women created.