

Contextual Analysis

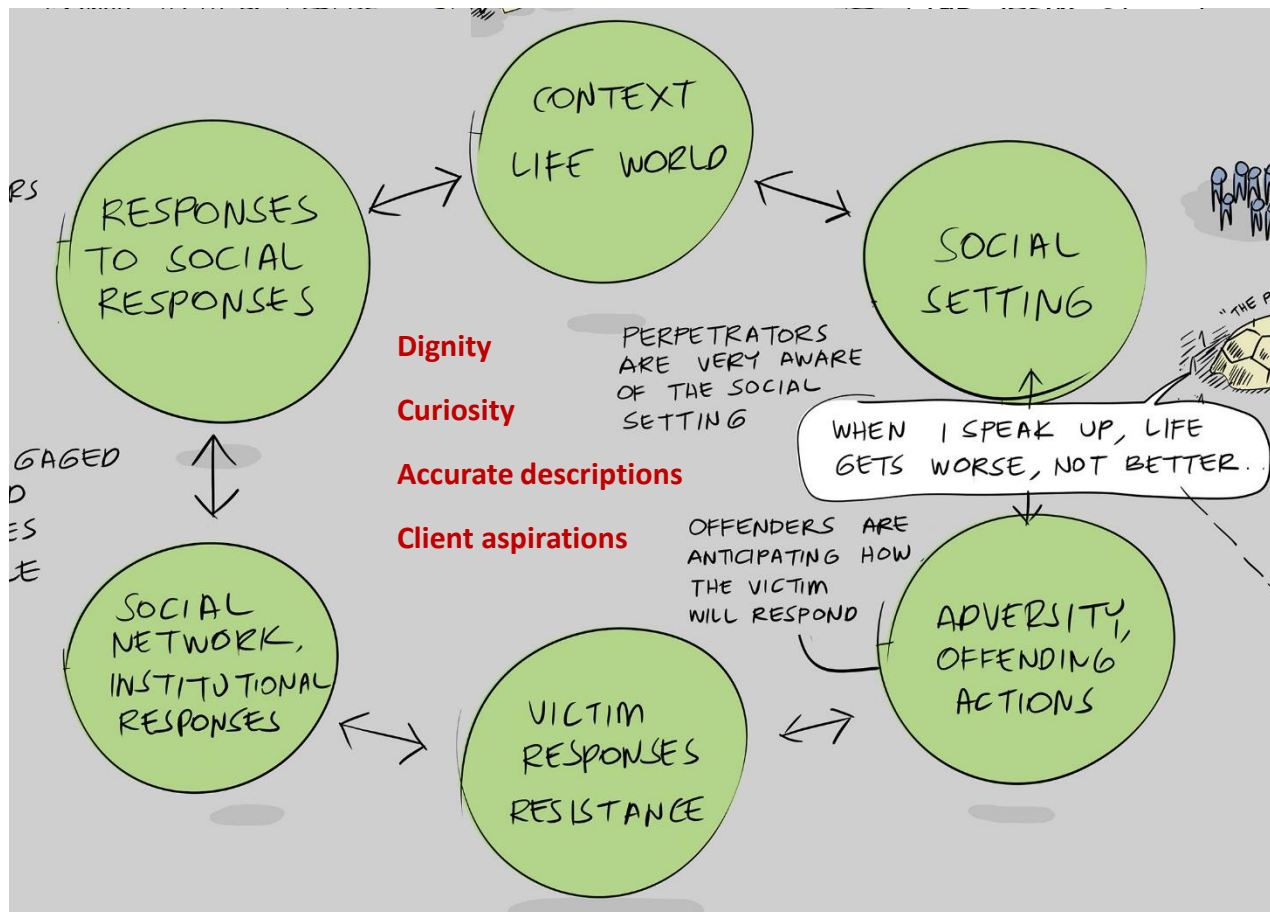
12 min Video available on www.insightexchange.net

Context Life World / Social Material Conditions

What are the conditions in which the person lives? What is the developmental history and current status of family relationships? Consider: Income, occupation, culture, immigration/refugee status, social isolation/connection, spirituality, age, abilities, sexual preference, gender identity.

Responses to Social Responses

How did/does the person respond to specific social responses? To whom did they disclose or not disclose? Which social responses are helpful? Which social responses are negative or unhelpful? How have they responded to negative or unhelpful social responses?



Social Setting / Situation Interaction

What is the immediate social situation in which the incident occurred? Was the person alone or in isolation? What was the location? Who was present? What did those present know of the person or their circumstances?

Adversity Offending Actions

What actions or events did the person experience? Develop clear descriptions of the actions or events of concern to the person. In cases of violence, describe the actions of the offender(s) and the unilateral nature of the violence.

Social Responses / Social Network Institutional Responses

How do, or did, members of the person's social network and institutional actors respond to the person during/after adverse event? Your work is a social response: How is the person responding to the manner in which you relate to them, to the conversation at hand, to others with whom they have met in similar positions?

Victim Responses Resistance

Explore the social, mental, physical responses of the person from the beginning of the adverse event(s). Try to grasp the 'situational logic' of the person's responses, how the person 'made sense' of events as they occurred, taking into account the context, social situation, and social responses.

Contextual Analysis – Using the voice of lived experience from *Follow My Lead*

Context Life-World / Social Material Conditions

"I am a unique person with unique experiences. I have my own sense of what is important right now and in the long term. I identify with and belong to many communities and networks. These are the contexts in which I understand and respond to Domestic and Family Violence. My race, gender, sexuality, class, immigration status, ability, age etc. influences the circumstances of my life and the discrimination and oppression I may experience. When I face multiple forms of discrimination, the person abusing me is empowered to use greater levels of violence and I am isolated from formal and informal support systems."

Responses to Social Responses

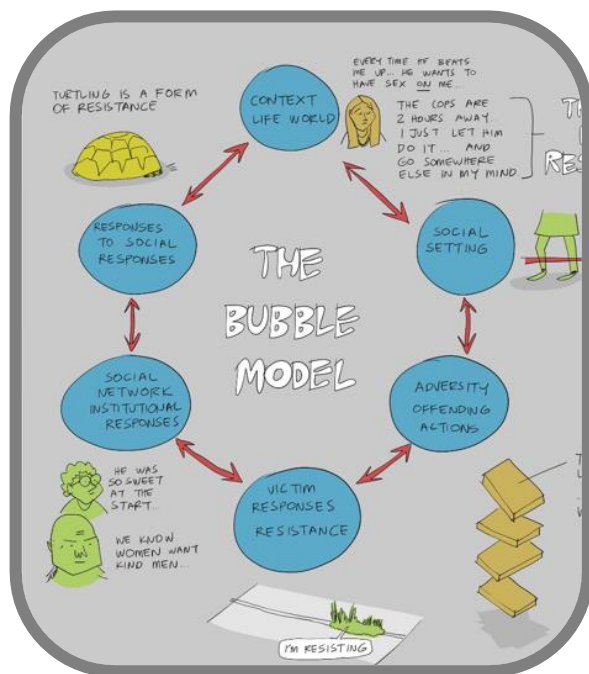
"The quality of the social responses I have received influences 'if' and 'how' I engage with social networks and services. If you try to make decisions for me and tell me what to do, I might feel more unsafe than before I shared with you. I am always aware of the actual and possible responses of others, from professionals to my friends and family members. These responses inform how, or if, I reach out to others."

Social Responses / Social Network Institutional Responses

"I may receive both positive and negative social responses from others. I am always aware of the actual and possible responses of others, from professionals to my friends and family members. How you respond to me when I share with you, and in the time that follows, matters significantly to me. I might tell you parts of my experience to test out how safe I am with you and to explore how you react or retreat."

Victim Responses Resistance

"I resist and respond to the violence, discrimination and oppression I experience. I do this in visible and invisible ways that might not seem obvious or directly related to what is going on, but this resistance and response to violence is important to me and is part of upholding my dignity. The person abusing me knows that I do not like the violence and anticipates that I will resist. Consequently, I must hide my resistance, sometimes completely, and find a safe place in the privacy of my mind. I am experienced in anticipating the patterns and tactics that the person abusing me uses against me and the people I care about. I can see how they adjust their tactics to suppress my resistance and responses to their abuse."



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Social Setting / Situation Interaction

"Where I am (at home, in school, online, on my mobile, at work, in the community) changes the risks I face and the responses I can expect to receive. I anticipate and respond to threats and risks wherever I go, with whoever I meet and whatever I do. The importance I place on the past, the present, the future, and possibly the afterlife, can influence how I see things and make decisions."

Adversity Offending Actions

"The violence I experience is unique. I may be threatened, intimidated or coerced into doing things against my will. The person committing the abuse may isolate me from those I love and manipulate others against me, and undermine my relationships including my parenting. They may commit physical, verbal, emotional or sexualised abuse, and they may threaten or abuse my children, friends or family, pets, property, and things that are important to me as a means to control me.

They may steal, control or undermine my finances, or my ability to work or be financially independent. They may try to use my beliefs and spirituality to control and isolate me. The person abusing me may change the nature of their behaviour rapidly, without warning, significantly changing the realities I face."