



**PREVENTION
CONNECTION**
THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

A Project of

CALCASA

TEXT CHAT CONTENTS

WEB CONFERENCE

Culture and Violence Against Women:
Exploring Rap and Other Popular Music Genres

Thursday, September 18, 2008

2:00-3:30 PM Eastern (11:00 AM – 12:30 PM Pacific)

Presenters

Larry Cohen and Elizabeth Waiters, Prevention Institute
Sonia Lee and Oliver Rollins, Prevention Institute

Host

David Lee, Prevention Connection Program,
California Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Participant names have been removed from this chat record, unless provided by the participant in text.

Hello from Columbus, OH

Hi, Fort Walton Beach, FL here

Good afternoon from New Jersey

Good morning from Pullman, Washington

Margot Brown: Thanks everyone for joining. We will be starting in ten minutes.

Good Afternoon from Rocky Mount, Virginia

Hello from Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN

Larry Cohen and Liz Waiters: Hi Oliver!!!!

Oliver Rollins: Hello and good morning to everyone

Sonia Lee: Oliver, are you on the phone?

Larry Cohen and Liz Waiters: Oliver are you on the phone???

Oliver Rollins: i just called, supposed to be getting connected now

Sonia Lee: ok, thanks

Larry Cohen and Liz Waiters: Hi Nicole!!!!

Hello to all from Pittsburgh!

Hello to everyone from Boise, ID!

hello

Greetings everyone!

Good morning from Pendleton Oregon

Hello to all from Omak, WA.

Hello from Chicago!

greetings from Chicago

Hello from the San Fernando Valley!

Hello from St. Paul, Minnesota!

what is the phone number and code so that I can listen in

Good Afternoon from San Antonio, Texas

Hi Gwen and Michelle! Long time no see!

Primary Dial-In: (800) 341-3130

Passcode: 1887664

thanks.

welcome!

Hello all From LAs Vegas Nevada

Hello from Austin, TX

Hello from Newton, NJ!

Hello Everyone from La Crosse, WI

Heidi Rankin: Hello from Connecticut

Hello from Alabama

Hello from Rindge, NH

Rindge, NH...so prettey

Yes, it's beautiful here

University

sexual assault

University Counseling Center

Department of Health

State Coalition

dual SA/DV

Dual SV/FV agency

Domestic Violence Agency

sexual assault coalition
University
Domestic Violence
University
Domestic Violence Agency
Public health dept.
Sexual assault agency
University
4 year private women's college
Domestic & Sexual violence services
Domestic Violence Center
University
DV & SA
Tobacco Prevention
Rape Crisis and Victim Services
Sexual Assault
Sexual assault center for children
Federal Government
DVSA
CDC
State Public Health Department
DV/SA Coalition and local DV/SA program
Sexual Assault
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Public Health
Stand Alone Sexual Assault Agency
WV Bureau of Public Health
sexual assault and domestic violence
I am with the Riverside Area Rape Crisis Center
community corrections
SV & DV
Dual agency SA/DV
Public Health Department
university sexual assault office
sa agency
civil legal aid
local government (county), administration

state government
rape crisis
non-profit
Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
Legal Aid
Domestic Violence Agency
HRSA
Dual DV SA
Idaho Department of Health & Welfare
Crisis & Sexual Assault Center
State Department of Public Health
Private College
Rape crisis agency
sexual assault/domestic violence
university
rape crisis center
department of health
state agency
Rape Crisis, DV Child Advocacy Center Prevention Partnership
university policy institute
Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelter and Outreach
teens and domestic violence
Sexual assault non profit
Child Assault Prevention
nonprofit
Federal Government
domestic violence/sexual assault agency
Comprehensive Victim Agency
Impact Safety
rape crisis
State grant funder
NC coalition against sexual assault
Dual Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
Hi Everyone. I am with a 24-hour crisis intervention/ Suicide prevention agency in Ohio
Women's Center - both DV & SA; I am coordinator for SA program
also Rape Prevention Education Program and Key Players Coalition

SA Prevention Program, I am here with Jarell Greer and Romell Adams, our two male AmeriCorps Prevention Educators

Glad to hear that Elisa! I was just thinking how disappointing it is to have *mostly* women on these types of calls. Yea male allies!

Are there any other Tribal dual DV SA agencies present?

Hello from the Orange County Rape Crisis Center in Chapel Hill, NC! (SA agency)

Cathy O'Brien: YWCA dual program serving DV and SA clients

David Lee: When you hear the term "rap music", what comes to mind for you?

breakfast in America

lol

Hip hop

Cultural Expression

Hip Hop

black

mainstream rap

violence

love it

gangsta

Black culture

hip hoop,

Strong beat

gangsta

poetry

focus on words

subculture

message

poetry

poetry set to music

creative expression

female degradation and violence

unhealthy views of women

gangster

Crisis Center Beats repeated

spoken word poetry set to music

dark

Spoken word put to music -

message

giving a voice to a population often ignored
Tough
Commercialism and Sexism
feeling
diverse
popular expression of social issues
urban
urban poetry
powerful lyrics
Anger, obscene language
anger
booty shakin
Difficult to understand
urban youth culture
misogyny
Machismo
expression of oppression and oppressing
anger, violence, poetry expression
one of four cultural expressions of hip hop culture that deals with mc-ing and music
focus on self
sexism
a voice for some
Young people
masculinity
commercials; marketing
hard lyrics
lust
urban music - sub section of hip-hop
art
adults don't get it
misogyny
false impression of wealth
expression of suppression in African-American communities
sexism
important for our youth to have a place to express themselves
clubs dancing
Discrimination

misogyny

false impression of power

lifestyle expression

secret code words

political... Bling Bling... Respect...

Its a culture

cultural expression from members of som black community members that reflect their lives and experiences

appropriation

reggaeton is the new rap, for Hispanics

read "Can't Stop, Won't Stop"

we are seeing adoption of hip hop identity within Native American rural youth

which Nation Jess?

DJ

Collville

I've seen videos on youtube from the Portland area of OR (not necessarily rural)

As a child of the 60s - is it so different than some of the youth sub-culture "acid rock" of that era (Jim Morrison & Hendrix, come to mind)

it was mostly Jazzy Jeff

whose still puttin' it down

i think you can make that argument for white rural youth

Patricia - I completely agree...searching youth culture in any era, there is an "edge" and self-expression to the music.

rural vs urban issues may be addressed- Commercial rap is often marketed and consumed to suburban/rural white boys.

MTV has really changed hiphop

Jazzy Jeff is awesome! Maybe I'm biased. I'm from Philly

haha

he's dope

years of great work

MTV brought the whole hiphop video phenomenon, sometimes it's all about the video, not the song

Hi Omar...

right

I have "Can'T Stop..Won't Stop"..."..I haven't read it yet. I need to I guess

I LOVE fresh Prince and I'm an old white woman

Wow....OPP...that's a blast to the past...I remember it being a big deal when I was in high school

MTV wouldn't even play hip hop in the beginning

Hi Colleen, where do I know you from?

"nice" package for the world to consume

Do you mean me (Coleen Harrington Barry) or do you mean Colleen Haydon?

what are griots

what

or Colleen Jameson?

Griots - African storytellers, town criers, etc.

Are you seeing the adoption of identity at Colville we see at the Umatilla Rez/

its cultural appropriation when we exploit the art and culture of other groups for our entertainment without understanding the origins and purpose of the form--oppression!

what are griots and toasting and dozens?

Yes

A griot is a West African poet, praise singer and wandering musician, considered a repository of oral tradition.

Omar: I'm in the 2007 Cohort at SJSU

oh, great to see you here Colleen

GREE -OH.

Tanya--have you any resources of Native American rap that reflects true Native traditions of honor and respect rather than as defined by commercial rap or Christian rap?

rap used to be fun

well, it was fun and uplifting and philosophical, etc.

It was so much fun...the 1980's = The Golden Years of Hip Hop

now, there is more emphasis on the fun, and not on the knowledge

Rap originated as subversive songs, much like the spirituals. Wow, I am a little disappointed. You cannot talk about rap without talking about the history of black music. I am not sure you all can have that discussion without the inclusion of those who know. You all certainly do not know.

The youth produced video's I've seen aren't mimicking commercial or Christian but were about alcoholism and other issues they faced as Native Youth

Finally someone is speaking that knows the origination of how music was birth. I might stay a while

do you have a title to the youth produced video, Ananda?

Was there also an element of safe self-expression in conditions of oppression?

sorry, I just came across it

Wilma, do you have info on this for the rest of us that don't know, but want to know? Maybe references we can read?

Colleen, yes. That is what the slaves did in the making of the spirituals

I've run across Public Offenders that performed at A Call to Men, but there is biblical lyrics that don't set well with historical oppression of Christian missionaries within the Native communities

Wilma, I think that's really important.... someone once told me that was also the basis for many jokes: protection: if one could handle a joke about one's Momma, they could handle other taunts

yes

Margot Brown: The majority of rap music is violent and/or misogynistic.

YES

what happened to the days of Afrika Bambaataa and the Soul Sonic Force?

yes

yes

no

no

no

yes

yes

Yes

No

no

NO

In present day, yes

no

no

NO_ Primarily commercialized

NO

yes - at least what I hear on the radio.

No

yes

I think that there needs to be a distinction between the music and the videos

No

no, but the commercial rap is

The rap I've heard is VERY misogynist! Yes.

No.

one yes and one no

without a doubt

yes

No, I think that's just the type of rap we hear about most in the media

no

Mainstream yes, others no

yes, its what sells

yes

yes

yes--commercial rap

no - but enough is to make me uncomfortable

today's hip hop is

no comfortable with either or

one yes one no

I do not believe that the majority of music today IS compared to the past

The majority of what is shown is commercial is

no

Commercial rap is

yes very much so

underground not so much

Erike, yes. Black Noise by Tricia Rose; The Hip Hop Generation - Bakari Kitwana and Michael Dyson

anything non mtv or radio

so so

No, it is not...the violent stuff makes it to the radio...the non-viol stuff if underground

yes

yes

which is commercially played - yes

most popular

Rap gets a bad rap

Mainstream, yes

Most of the groups that are non-violent, non-misogynistic are not seen or heard in mass media

YES-commercial; No for other

Commercial rap- yes; hip hop as a whole, not as much

Wilma, yes it is difficult to have this discussion without understanding the origination and process of popularization of music in America.

Sometimes I hear the violent lyrics - but I still like the music and the song - and I want to know the back story...why are the singers compelled to sing the violent words?

No. I think it has required we pay attention.

Oliver Rollins: well Colleen I think Wilma is also referring to the fact that, the spirituals were also used as a means of communication between enslaved African Americans...its was a way to preserve African culture

Will look it up, thanks Wilma!

I agree that it is the violent types that reach the mainstream

yes but if you really listen to a lot of the lyrics they are very harsh especially towards women

You forgot the ATL in the Dirrrty South

yeah

Hey Christine Fenno! Good to see you here. We miss you. Susanne and Amanda

Christina, I am hearing you

NWA

Oliver Rollins: it was a way to cope with the harsh lifestyle

Nice to know of the different styles...

Fulfills stereotypes

It has to do with power they don't have in society so they have it here

violence sells

i think it plays into racist and sexist stereotypes so it gets play

It is all about money and it started with NWA

And the media is controlled by white males

I think it's also shock-value on the radio

Sometimes if you really listen and break down the lyrics, the meaning comes clear.

Oliver and Wilma I believe this form of communication is important for the Native American youth too as we still see the subversive oppression within the rural white region of the Pacific NW

It also perpetuates racism or reinforces misconceptions and beliefs of young black men in particular

Oliver Rollins: that is true Jess

Jess, I agree, especially when you look at their history, you can understand it from their lived experience

If the audience is primarily young white males, why is it asso. with the black community?

Love me some reggaeton!

Everlast

because it started in black communities

don't see any slides

as opposed to the other rap genres?

but when record companies took rap mainstream, they infused it with more violent themes to attract broader audiences

I don't see any slides either

I do not see any slides

P Diddy

ohh, thanks

I don't see any slides as well

Where does DJ Screw and Z-Ro fit in these categories? Acid Rap? I think it is very different than that.

Frost

David Lee: If you do not see slides, click on the tab called hiphop on the top

remember DJ Snow?

Lots Pilipino hip hoppers here in the Bay Area

Are there any Native American musicians adapting Native music with hip hop/rap to create embracing the modernity and tradition like the Hispanic reggaeton?

Wasn't he from Germany?? - DJ Snow

here comes the high steppa - DJ Snow. NICE!!!

UNITY

Queen Latifah used to be angrier
what happened to all the female rappers and emcees?
she was in the OPP video with Naughty by Nature
she surely was
until cover girl got her
can't leave EVE out from the ruff ryders
but she also had Ladies First

I miss our STRONG/POSITIVE female rappers. Young girls now are missing that now..

Missy Elliot was pretty "hard core" and has been sort of "punished" in the music industry for this at times

One thing about rap is it's one of the only music forms that can incorporate anything into it, and blend multiple styles and backgrounds, it's like a blank slate for art. This is what is has grown into from it's initial motive in the 80s.

So is Jazz

what we see has to do with the person behind it

Philly, Philly and Love is Blind are Eve's best songs

not rap itself

Look at Remy Ma

you right Omar

Sorry, forgot about Eve..how could I..that's my Philly girl!

Lil' Kim started getting more "hard core" with her sexuality and was also "punished" for this in the music industry

Yes, most definitely

Yes.

yes

David Lee: We are working on fixing the slides

yeah Erike, people do what they want with rap - I've seen all kinds of creative expressions thru it

yes

Love is Blind is about intimate partner violence that ends

Yes, absolutely.

I believe that rap is hip-hop's Frankenstein. It started off as something creative and witty and has just devolved over the years.

her friend's life

mostly the younger ones, a lot in the schools

Collen Barry - what do you mean that lil'kim started getting hard core - she always used her sexuality & had a potty mouth..

There are messages - in lyrics and in IMAGES

interesting that the money was in a more violent image. and who controls the money? white men mostly. this is a problem

I disagree, Renee

i am sure many of US have been influenced by hip hop or rap!

a lot of rap is positive

Messages are sometimes subtle-and we (and youth) sometimes don't recognize teh influence.

Nas, for instance

I mean that it intensified over time (continued to push the envelope more and more)

Don't underestimate the influence on young white suburban males

tattoos

it's truly the "mainstream" component

Nas is a hip hop savior

Margot Brown: To what extent do you think the people you deal with may be influenced or impacted by the messages of rap music?

Very influenced

STRONGLY

David Lee: We are working on fixing the slides

depends

Strongly

moderately

strongly

Moderately influenced.

youth = strongly influenced

strongly

strongly

somewhat

David Lee: To what extent do you think the people you deal with may be influenced or impacted by the messages of rap music?

Moderately.

strongly

more than we may think

more than they realize

moderately

moderately

strongly

strongly influenced

strongly

dependent on peer group

moderately

Moderately

Moderately influenced, sometimes without being aware of it

moderately

I deal with high school age so they are strongly influenced

Strongly

strongly

moderately

moderately

strongly

depends.

strongly

strongly

As a teen advocate I see strongly influenced

very - i work with youth

moderately

moderately

strongly

moderately...but sometimes they deny it

i think there's vey subtle messages through our media and society

strongly

how do you measure this

strongly

moderate to strong

my pre-teen step kips are highly influenced even though they think they aren't

not just with the music but the culture the look, the vibe, the clothes

moderately

Moderately

it informs youth culture

I think we ALL are influenced to whatever degree

I think a lot of youth don't recognize the extent to which they are influenced (adults as well)

moderately to strongly--I have a pretty broad range of folks in my college population

if we expose ourselves to any kind of music

I agree Rhonda!

Most fail to recognize the influence...they say it doesn't mean anything

It is important to teach about what influences us and how we are influenced.

yes

Most young people are missing the entire point behind the music they "listen" to

Kool and the Gang said that there is a "Message in the Music"

I believe that the individuals I work most closely with are influenced --it is in their blood...it is their Bible, their "roots", their expression

sometimes they listen to just the music and don't focus totally on the words

Nas has a lot of positive lyrics...but he is also homophobic and sexist

I think any subjugated group can relate to rap

very influenced without critiquing the content and looking at the real meaning of what they are listening to, much like how they (students) do not critique other media like ads

I know I was influenced by Too \$hort when I was a youngster

When I was a teenager - I LOVED dark depressing songs about suicide...but that didn't glorify suicide for me.

Oliver Rollins: Jennifer thats because hip hop is not just a music but a culture....

Oh no..not Too Short! LOL!! Not good! LOL!!

influence, of any kind, is strong for weak minded people and not much for educated people

Yes... I agree

there is always a message in the music, no matter what genre of rap

That's what happens when you're from the Bay~ yes, Too \$hort!

Rap does something that isn't new. It develops an idol image of a man's man, or woman's woman, and that's who a young person wants to be - their ideal image of masculinity or femininity

What does Oliver have to say. You cannot make a presentation on something like this - you have NOT lived

culture of death is emphasized

I've seen strong, well educated people get swept up in a song or a message..

I was not into rap/hip hop, but I was very influenced by heavy metal which is misogynistic

Oliver Rollins: what do I have to say about what Wilma?

As was I as a young woman, Corina. A lot of heavy metal (past and present) is very macho and misogynist.

You don't necessarily have to live in the culture to understand it

well as a woman I would not aspire to being a "video ho" as my image of "femininity"

but ones culture can also be learned traditions from family, elders - not just an outside influence from rap or any other cultural "norm"

that's not the rap artist Dawn

they're video dancers

Yeah, I'm not sure what you mean by a woman's woman (I don't think a man's man translates for women)

Renee, you cannot begin to speak from what you do not know. The presenters do not know and we are talking about persons lived experience. That what rap is!!!

an artist can say that I do not want to denigrate women in my videos - the misogyny is not requisite

Doesn't music REFLECT culture? On can argue that music is merely "telling it like it is" as opposed to INFLUENCING something new.

good point, Jessica

sorry Coleen, I wanted woman's woman to mean the same thing man's man would

Oliver Rollins: Ok I got you Wilma

not when the industry buys slots on radio stations

Oliver, I'm out. This is just too painful.

Bye Wilma, thanks for the info, pity you're living

What about rappers like Ludicris, who make songs that are negative towards women, yet he has a foundation that helps runaway girls and he did that song about it with Mary J. Blige.

I'm not sure there is such a thing as a woman's woman...that's why I was curious what you meant by it you don't have to live it to relate because the point of rap is to tell you a story of what's going on or where they came from

Wilma, they're trying to give some structure to testimony from people who have lived it

great example, Lisa

Rachel Davis: We know that several people are not able to view the slides right now, and we are working on the problem.

Ludacris is an example of a person who has mastered "the industry"

make music that sales, but use your influence to do something positive

Bye Wilma

It shapes the behavior and sanctions the violent behavior even in women to be the definition of what a woman is in "no snitch" & "gangsta' chick"

it's just unfortunate that misogyny is what sales

i think that is part mastering the industry and part ignorance

what do you mean, Ted?

mainstream rap does not speak to all experiences....it speaks to what the executives in the labels want

half of the rappers are not even living what their talking about, so no you do not have to live it to experience or relate to it, at least not anymore

yep, you're right Janett

Coleen, I thought maybe there was an ideal in any gender, and maybe a subconscious understanding of it

they're the ones who sign the contracts

country music also includes personal violence, lots of suicide, depression

and more often than not, they NOT minorities

Omar - gotcha, thanks for letting me know your thought on this.

thank you as well

I would argue that misogyny is SOLD, not simply "what sells." there is a deliberateness to what the industry is doing- a purposeful continuation of patriarchy and racism.

I cant believe these wrestling pictures

I've never seen this

meaning that I don't feel that many rappers understand the impact their actions have. They also don't make a connection between things like runaway girls and sexism and oppression

Colleen J - I agree with you..

watch "wrestling with manhood"

that is why they often contradict themselves

Wrestling is horrible...I can not stand it when people try to justify this as "entertainment." AAhhhhh!

Vice City is not only rap music -- players can choose their "radio station"...

i will colleen

I think a lot of rappers understand what they are doing, they just love money too much to care enough to stop or change.

they like who they are

Nelly is another one..he contradicts himself.."Tip Drill" video..

Elisa - you don't have to live the "gangsta" life to understand gangsta rap; it's the commonly understood feelings of pain and frustration that is expressed in rap that its listeners can relate to

He really reveals a lot about how nasty the wrestling culture is. we could have a whole seminar on THAT!

When Nelly slides a credit card between a women's buttocks it says allot of what he think of women

I'm curious as to why the entertainment industry feels the need to promote misogyny and machismo in music. I know it sells -- is it because such music appeals to some men's insecurities?

agreed Elisa - money makes it much easier to justify their actions

I would like to sit in on the wrestling seminar.

Hi Rachel, still unable to view slides

This picture from Essence would be a good way to start a discussion with youth groups.

yes

David Lee: We are still working on the slides for those who do not see them -- you can see the slides at www.preventconnect.org

Sara, that's a great idea

all fashion photo poses are completely submissive

OK - but I think you can learn to ignore those images - such as the bebe ad.

You want to talk about misogyny and the objectification of women? How about Luke??

Those ads don't represent anything I want, want to buy.

I have seen this image many times and have just now seen that the cage door is open, but she is not trying to get out - speaks a lot to me about internalized sexism

lol yeah I remember Luke

Luther Campbell now has his own family parenting show on VH1 - it is sickening

rappers in interviews always say they'll do whatever type of rap that makes them the most money,they gotta do what they gotta do to feed themselves or their kids..

I feel like I'm in an abusive relationship with hip-hop..I love it but I feel like it doesn't love me but I find it hard to leave it alone..**sigh**

LOL Good one Saran.

you have to own it Saran

Interesting point Saran.

Ditto Saran

by the way this is not Elisa. this is Jarell and Romell posting comments on her computer.

"Its not your fault."

you own hip hop as much as the artists

lol saran

I always feel guilty for liking songs with degrading lyrics.

a great image to spark discussion is the dolce and gabbana add just google rape and dolce and gabbana

Many women are also taught that their looks/sexuality are their "power." The trouble is it's a double-edged sword. They are told this is what males want, yet they are devalued when they use their sexuality.

I do even buy hip hop anymore..that's my stance

have you guys heard Chris Rock's standup on ladies liking rap with misogynistic lyrics? It's hilarious. Good way to laugh about it

I love chris rock

Years ago I went to a club in Columbus where Two Live Crew played...two women took turns removing their own clothing without audience encouragement - I believe because they felt that is what they needed to do in response to their music... the atmosphere was charged...as a woman in the facility I felt that any sense of "order" was gone

one episode showed Luther and his friends pressuring his 12-15 year old son to pick up a much older woman. the boy was very uncomfortable, but you could see he felt obliged to participate

Omar - I still defend it to a point but it becomes harder & harder to do that

Well Saran, slowly but surely you will be able to break that vicious cycle of violence.

Jennifer, that's when you have to step out

definitely

I agree Colleen. We need to help engage both girls and boys in thinking critically about all kinds of music (and videos and ads, and, etc)

I saw Chris Rock in a live performance and he was very offensive...the whole audience seemed stunned. It went way, way too far.

and if you talk to new aspiring rappers, they really don't want to talk about violence, women, money and drugs, its just the fact they most likely wont get a record deal if they don't, and they need it to survive because that's their source of income

You can find the problematic norms of our society everywhere - it's not just in rap.

Oh but I do support positive artists like Common

its easy to ID in underground, as well

Chad Sniffen: Is anyone still having problems with seeing the slides?

And it's unfortunate that Common is often seen as "weak"

yes here

well Saran, if i take ownership of Hip Hop, then people can't talk bad about it, cuz they'd be talking bad about me. Anything has bad ppl and good ppl using it. Religion, dance, food. There is good and bad in hip hop.

speak up! speak with your wallet! vote with your music choices. by not taking a stand, you are supporting the status quo

I can't see the slides..looking at print out..

I sit and watch the videos with my older teenagers and speak to what I feel is appropriate and not appropriate

I like this new guy lupe fiasco...

Women who dance or are featured on this videos are often sexually assault on set. There is an assumption that they perform sexual favors to actors.

even common has gone commercial and has degraded women and talked about violence. just listen to the song "go" by him and kanye

well they are practically performing those acts in the videos

that's the point of chris rock -- too go too far

I like Lupe Fiasco, too. I heard a great radio interview with him where he addressed just these issues.

I agree Omar. I think it's important not to vilify the entire genre of music of rap, based on some "bad apples."

I just lost the slides.

Probably many of you have seen Beyond Beats and Rhymes by Byron Hurt - if not, please do, it is really good. He was in Ohio last year and spoke to his ambivalence about the music while at the same time being critical of it

lost slides

Margot Brown: we are putting the slides back up soon

I just lost the slides too.

that's why his kind of comedy is enjoyed; he tells the truth, no matter how painful

Chad Sniffen: I apologize. David is still on the phone with our iLinc tech support. The slides can be accessed at <http://www.preventconnect.org/attachments/2008/hiphop091809bw.pdf>

lost slides

common in the song "go" talks about having the best sex with a preachers daughter

Omar - true..I only defend it because I know of positive artists & give them as an example but the neg stuff is what the public sees

I agree rap isn't the cause of violence but it definitely adds fuel to the fire

yeah you're right "Elisa"

Chad Sniffen: One of the presenters has opened the Powerboard accidentally.

David Lee: We are reloading the slides now

I LOVE Beyond Beats & Rhymes...EXCELLENT!!

I love it too

the evolution of rap is the product of the socialization of men and boys

A think a lot of times the negatives in rap get a ton of attention and the negatives in other music forms do not get the same heat in terms of negative media coverage

is there any whiff of racism here in scapegoating "hip hop" when they truly are saying the same things other genres say, or is there empirical evidence that "African American" culture as revealed by hip hop is more violent or misogynist?

David Lee: We are still working to reload the slides

thank you David

Ted - yes, just like Jackson Katz talks about

yes Coleen and colleen

well Coleen- jinx!

well spoken Coleen

Omar - don't worry..I will NEVER give up on hip-hop...I love Brown Sugar..my hubby & I play good ol' school hip hop for our 5-year old..building the foundation

Colleen Jameson- Yeah...I guess we're on the same wavelength

I think beyond beats and rhymes is really important for men but is missing the voices of African American/black women

yeah byron!

I also see many of the female rappers taking on traditional male roles in hip hop - this is reflected in youth culture as well

I think artists such as Nas and lupe fiasco who actually have positive messages should have more exposure and more press rather than artists like Lil wayne who mainly talks about doing drugs and objectifying women

The bottom line is that the influence of rap, particularly in the urban culture is monumental, and can't be exposed enough.

true, renee

I think it is all about awareness of the influences - such as using the visual media images as conversation starters

that right Patricia

lupe fiasco gets good word of mouth

I agree Ted!

Women trying to be "tough"

not particularly in urban areas...rural is hugely influenced

word of mouth isn't enough though

Don't get me wrong, it does help

for sure

Ted- "like a Boy" by Ciara for example

Colleen-I was thinking about that too. A lot of music styles out there promote negative views of women, sex, relationships, ect....are we so vocal about rap because of fear of the "angry black man"

great example colleen J

Woah Sara, never thought it that way, you make a point there

Not exclusive to AA culture...there was a recent article in the NYT about how reggateon in chile was influencing sexual behavior/promiscuity in Chile..there was a song encouraging teens to hook up wiht as many partners as possible "Poncea"

But it's not like you hear a group of kids sining Lupe Fiasco songs rather than Lil wayne songs

I have to leave. Thank you everyone for such a stimulating discussion

Remember Black Eyed Peas (pre-Fergee)?? Awesome underground group but successfully switched up their style so they could eat, I guess..LOL!! Do folks think they sold out?

Take care

yes but how is the working the men are taking on remaining accountable to women within same communities doing anti-violence work

what's interesting about that video is that when Ciara is in drag "like a boy" she is stepping on a girl's neck
yes they do

Margot Brown: we are on slide 50 for those of you that can see the slides

Yea, Roger's Park YWAT!!

True, Sarah. Look at heavy metal -- Motley Crue's "Saints of Los Angeles" talks flippantly about alcohol-facilitated sexual assault, for instance.

yeah reggaeton is something else too-

"noche de sexo"

And listen to old Guns & Roses -- the misogyny is very thick!

but that's always the case when an underground group goes mainstream

So true about Guns & Roses

true about the lupe and lil wayne comparison

many underground groups speak on social inequality for people of color communities but do it w/
homophobia and sexism in the lyrics they speak

Ooh did you see Ciara buck naked on the cover of VIBE this month? and she used to not even wear high heels cause she said she'd be growing up too fast!

Still no slides.

David Lee: We are trying to get the slides back -- they are available at www.preventconnect.org

sometimes, janett -- but we know that homophobia and sexism is encouraged by the wider society outside of rap

Margot Brown: we are on slide 51

clean in music means replacing bitch with trick

not truly clean

you can't blame rap alone for those societal ills

exactly

misogyny still ever present

Go way back...Rolling Stones...Mick Jagger can't get satisfaction...that seems to be his issue

The kids know when it's been "cleaned up" and seem to then seek out the "real" lyrics

we have to really look at educating parents and educators about the harm that comes from teaching boys to be silent, strong, tough, etc. My 4 year old came home from preschool the other day saying "pink is a girl color...I don't like pink anymore". To me, this is where it starts

I don't think music ratings are very effective. Kids and teens can still buy them, it isn't like someone being underage and trying to buy cigarettes or alcohol.

Ratings and censorship don't address the underlying issues

I agree Sara

I think the change has to come from within the hip hop commercial industry

i agree rebecca!

"this 'shhh' is bananas" for example LOL

I think it would be awesome to have a core class in middle and high school to help youth look at media in a critical way - not be passive consumers. I think that would be more helpful than ratings, because I have

seen shows where parents - moms and dads, are buying their kids video games that are meant for adults.
Education over ratings for me

ratings and censorship are a joke

Great idea Corina!

Thanks

Yes, Corina! Media and cultural literacy is key. That's how we change norms!

kids, teenagers like to hear x-rated, uncensored lyrics just because it is censored, its a curious thing..they want to hear what we don't want them to hear..its a trip

check out www.justthink.org for media education stuff for kids - good stuff there. we must teach critical thinking about the media

Corina...we do that in after school groups

i don't think rating will address the underlying issues, but will provide the appearance of doing so. I also feel that hip-hop culture will be disproportionately targeted almost like how laws on crack disproportionately affect people (crack vs coke) dichotomy

not an excuse

think beyond the music, the music promotes commercial products that we choose to buy thereby supporting the message

Good point Lydia

Ratings, please! Why should the government be parents? Where are the parents anymore?

Bad ratings should be more censored.

coach bags, tommy H clothing, etc

thank you for connecting the violence to our nation

Jess, I would be interested in the curriculum you are using. We do after school programs, too and I would like to go that route. Thanks for any info

This is all about money. these people are getting rich, and this is their goal

Slides are back. Thanks!

yeah, misogyny and violence don't operate in the vacuum of rap music only- it comes from the society at large- from capitalism

good point, christina

Margot Brown: sorry for the loss of the slides. They are back now. Thank you all for your patience!

I think people in music are often very passionate about their craft too...not just about money...although that is definitely a factor

How about the magazines that promote violent lyrics and sex at the checkout counter. Boycott those stores to affect change?

We've talked about misogyny and violence in music being fueled by money and capitalism, but we also need to address why it sells -- what makes traditional gender roles and sexism appealing to the mass market.

clean versions of cd's don't really sell at all...most rappers don't even make clean versions anymore like they used to, and the really don't make those versions for personal listening, the make it for shopping malls and when they have a listening party in front of the execs at wal-mart and target

Great point Angeline

with youth - it is important to promote critical thinking rather than telling them they should not listen to rap or watch wrestling. chances are they will be tuning in either way

Rap music didn't "create" misogyny and violence; these societal ills are in all of our communities, in majority and minority cultures. I think a lot of people don't understand that.

That's right Christina-if we are going to start harping on hip hop, we have to be aware that our kids get messages from EVERYTHING! Just because the Disney princesses don't cuss, does not mean that they do not have dangerous messages as well!!

I agree Ted - getting through to youth about why they should care, is so important

but when a rapper has created something and then the industry heads are like "this won't sell if you don't change all these lyrics," well that's something

Again, the artists are not only being selected from a much larger group of artists, they are also groomed. This is what Spike Lee was talking about in "Bamboozled" you can only convince an artist to prostitute themselves if they are desperate enough. You only turn to selling out if you have no other way of achieving power. Let's hold the CEOs more accountable than the artists.

Yes, Colleen!

I agree colleen!

Yes colleen!!!

Yes Oliver, Its my culture and I have to embrace it

I agree Colleen...we have to also look at those who hold a lot of the power

kudos colleen

Thanks

Wall Street is violent. The difference is bitchen and hoin they do is sophisticated

Thank you for your perspective Oliver.

Colleen - I agree..I ((heart)) Bamboozled..such a smart movie

yeah natalie and look at the disney princesses- little brown girls think being a skinny young white lady is what beautiful must be

Oliver Rollins: Thank you Erike and Jeniffer

Clean lyrics for some audiences scare me, to me it's like lying. I remember liking a song by third eye blind, but then saw the lyrics to it, and it was about drugs and sex - not at all what I thought it was about just hearing the clean version. At least the original version lets you know what the artists really mean

The fact that some many of us-adults- are fans of rap/hip hop and struggle with some of the messages, shows how difficult reaching youth about these issues will be.

We need to examine who is profiting from hip-hop. the heads of record companies are the ones really making the cash and driving the direction of commercial hip hop.

I write our own given we are a Native American population...I call it Media Savvy...I use experiential psychology games & critical review of media materials after training...use Oregon Attorney Generals Sexual Assault Task Force information (Brie Atkins)...photos like displayed today are utilized, too

Hey Oliver, contact info, please

Can we talk about some of the hip hop groups that are promoting a more positive message?

Oliver Rollins: oliver.rollins@ucsf.edu

yeah, you have to turn yourself off to some lyrics. it's always a struggle

rap is becoming less and less of an artistic form of expression and more of a business. Most rappers aren't expressing anything, rather just saying what they think will make them money. They are very few "artist" anymore.

You could say that Reggaeton is my culture...but I do not embrace it and I cannot as a woman, mother, daughter, aunt, sister

agreed Elisa

Mia, good point

Great, thank you

I love to dance and love dancing to hip/hop and am also a feminine, yet tough kind of woman; When I listen to hip/hop I find myself not singing the lyrics that are offensive...it's a difficult balance

Are we all going to get a copy of the text chats?

David Lee: Please raise your hand if you want to speak or ask a question on the phone

Finally- thank you Oliver!

Thank you Oliver- That's what I wanted to talk about.

David Lee: We will have a copy of the text chat placed on www.PreventConnect.org

Mia - I don't know the origin of Reggaeton but I think I embrace hip-hop as my culture because I know what it used to be..what it started out as..and my work to bring it back to its beginning so to speak..

thank u

Yes- the money fueled it- the people controlling the music

Good question Evelyn, I'd like a copy of the text chat also.

Exactly, Oliver -- it's the CEOs of music labels that determine the mainstream image of rap

David Lee: Please raise your hand if you want to join the conversation

What are some of the current groups that are promoting a positive and socially responsible message in hip-hop, popular with youth today and how do they access it?

I was at a workshop at the US social forum where they had young women read out loud rap lyrics to their best friends/parents/ and siblings who were also in the room and they couldn't do it, but 5 min before the workshop started these same youth would sing along to it

Somebody talked about promoting positive rap. For the record, me and my best friend romell are have been doing Christian rap for almost 10 years. We are also very connected with many others like us.

Mia - that's very interesting!

It's not only the producers and CEOs, but the consumers. If consumers refused to buy misogynist music, it wouldn't be marketed.

Hence the need to change the culture.

what was the name of the forum, Mia?

it was the US Social Forum held last year in Atlanta, GA

I don't agree- I think people buy what is put in front of them.

The group who did the workshop was from Oakland

to some degree angelina, but if it's not out there, people can't buy it

I cannot remember the name right now

People also buy what they think is "cool"

Especially young people

Chad Sniffen: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Social_Forum

Is that chicken and the egg? If it's marketed as cool, people will buy it-won't they?

consumers have power to some degree, but they are not the ones "in" power

Absolutely...I agree Tammy

Nicely put Jamila

Good point, Tammy. I guess the marketers and consumers are in a balance, constantly influencing each other.

David Lee: Please raise your hand if you want to join the conversation

so how do we reconcile the misogyny in the context of the other "positive" things rappers have to say?

Comment: as a parent, grandparent and professional in the field, I think it is possible to respect and acknowledge the importance of the genre as a medium for communication and self expression and also look critically at some of the cultural messages-using it as a springboard for conversation.

check out the Merchants of Cool on the PBS.org to get a good look at how various industries identify and manufacture market trends - very interesting

Oliver Rollins: I have to go but my contact information is Oliver.rollins@ucsf.edu....I will be happy to discuss this topic more with anyone or answer any questions

good point about clothing, there is a whole line of lingerie for tweens and teens at victorias secret

No way Mia, for reals????

yes!

And look at Apple Bottoms

its called "PINK"

!!!

there are stuffed animals

to go along with the thongs

disgusting

It was nice having your input

The pornification of culture...

dang, I'm shocked

what!?!?

definitely

And know they have high heels for babies- Black!

i think more of the tolerable rap stems from groups and artist like leaders of the new school/krs-one/the pharcyde/run-dmc/q-tip/mos def/talib/black thought and the roots,even some tupac,biggie

Conditioning girls to be sex objects later in life. Ugh.

is there a end-user rating system that helps consumers identify rappers and hip hop artists who are not misogynist?

On the news yesterday I saw that they are marketing booties that look like high heels for baby girls!??

mia, that is horrible! where are the old-school mamas who wouldn't put up with that stuff??

WhA tammy? for babies????

I think the fact that Rap is called out for violence and misogyny but Country and Rock are not is truly racist at its core.

Tammy - looks like we were on the same wavelength!

Martha - true..

Yes- they are soft heels supposedly for "pre walkers" Morningshows highlighted them last week.

great discussion. we need to continue the dialogue. thanks

Yes - I saw it on the Today Show and they were hideous and ridiculous looking!

Good point, Martha

Cant believe this, I should look at the news more than just the presidential campaign

Essence Magazine took on this issue of confronting the neg. music..not sure what's going on now with it

Thank you very much!

in my first women's studies class, we were asked to journal around the issues we were talking about in class. This is when I became radicalized. I had never seen the woman-hating lyrics in the music I was listening to. My professor gave very good feedback. At that point, I dumped all of the music I owned - mostly metal. It was a very liberating moment for me. I use this as an example in class when we talk about cultural expectations of girls and boys and how it gets expressed in any music genre. Then I say that I do not expect them to make such a radical move - because if an adult had told me I should get rid of my music, I would have totally discredited them. I had to come to it myself - with gentle guidance from my prof

Thanks, will look it up

I would like to add Blue Scholars, local hip hop from WA

Thanks for the discussion. A good starting point.

Great discussion

lyrics born

thanks everyone

Thank you!!

Thank you everyone, CALCASA, thanks, great conference

Thanks for the great discussion!

Thanks everyone!

It's positive hip hop.

Yes, thanks for the lively discussion everyone!

Thank you!

Great discussion

Thank you

thank you!

Very productive conference and discussion!

thank you very much!

thank you

will you send an e-mail as proof that we participated in this webinar?

from Jarell and Romell(americorps members) thank you very much and if you can send the text chat web link to my email address rapture2628@yahoo.com