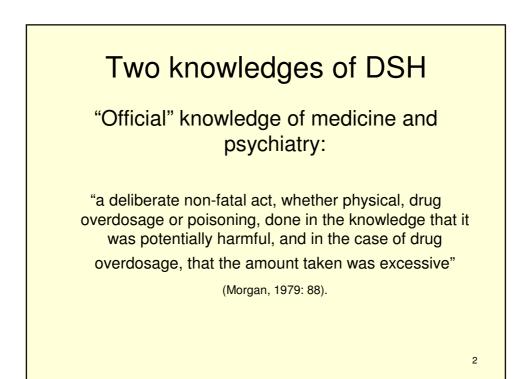
Testimony, Sexual Violence and Self-Harm

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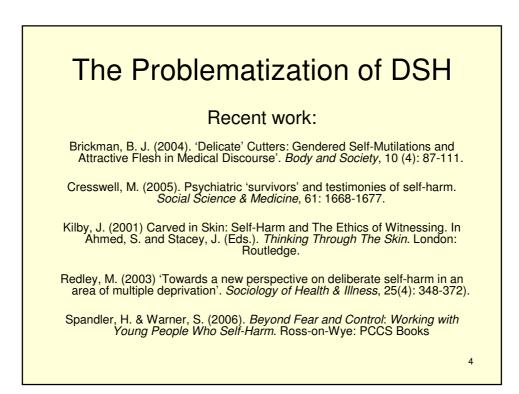


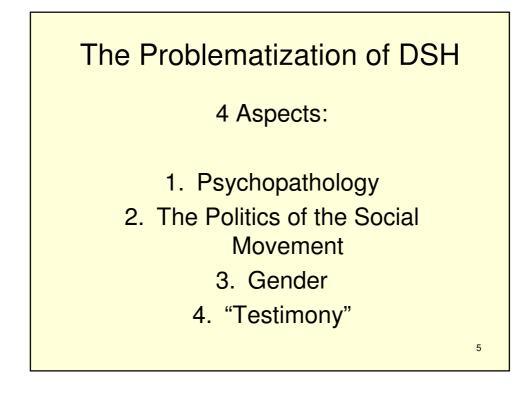
Two knowledges of DSH

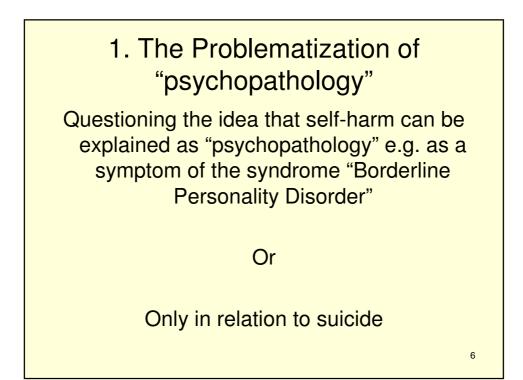
"Subjugated" knowledge of the "psychiatric survivor" movement:

"I'll tell you what self-injury isn't – and professionals take note...It's rarely a symptom of so-called psychiatric illness. It's not a suicide attempt...So what is it? *It's a silent scream...*It's a visual manifestation of extreme distress. Those of us who self-injure carry our emotional scars on our bodies" (Maggy Ross in Pembroke, 1994, p. 14, emphasis

added).







Marcus Redley

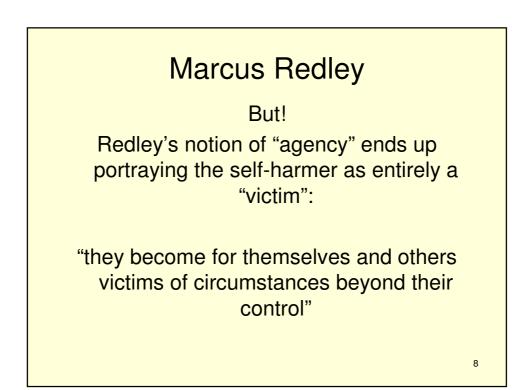
Redley interviewed 50 self-harmers in an area of multiple deprivation and tried to retain a sense of the *agency* of the overdose without collapsing it into either:

A form of psychopathology

or

7

A deterministic consequence of structural deprivation itself



The Problematization of "psychopathology"

Cresswell/Kilby/Spandler all provide accounts which focus upon self-harm as an adaptive "survival" mechanism related to a traumatic lifecourse and thereby avoid portraying the self-harmer as "victim"

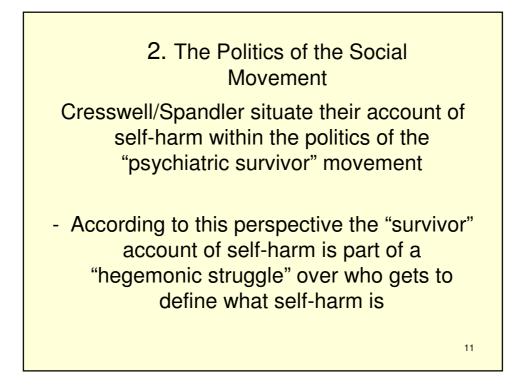
- But the material reality of what lies outside the act of self-harm remains elided

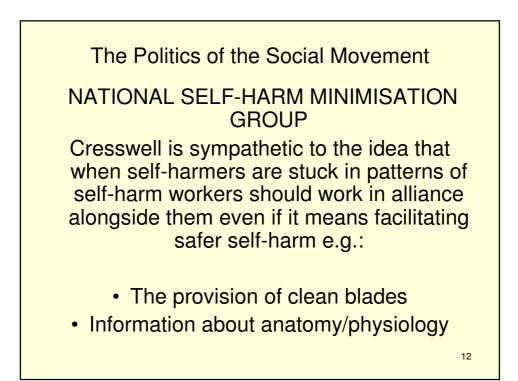
The Problematization of "psychopathology"

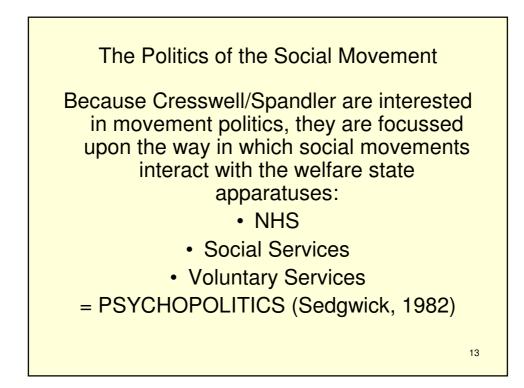
So,

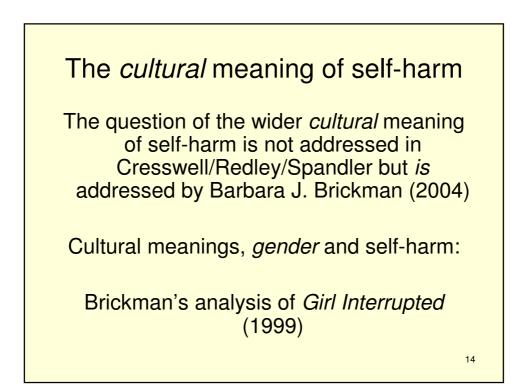
Can we problematize psychopathology whilst providing an account of "agency" alive both to the trauma of the lifecourse and the circumstances of the immediate materiality of a life?

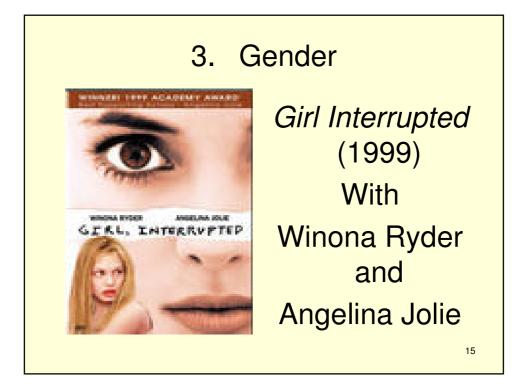
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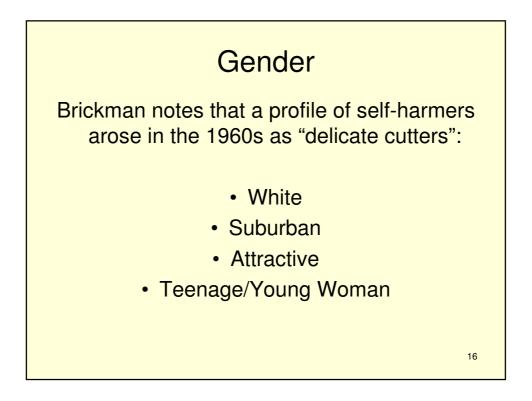








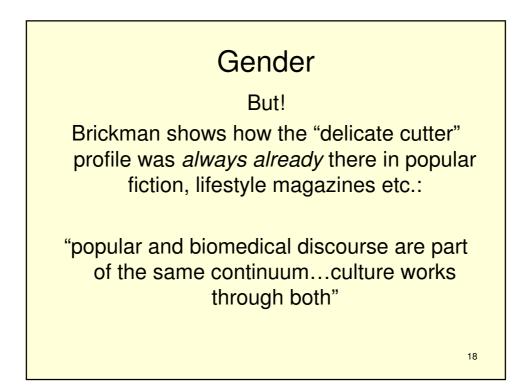


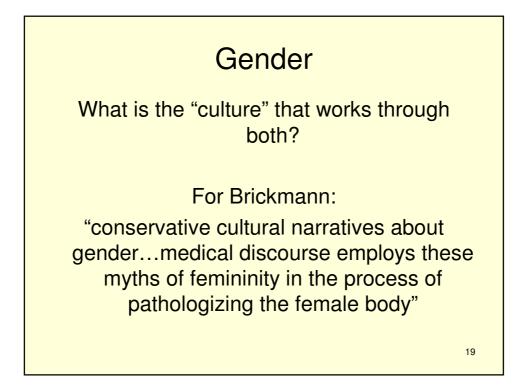


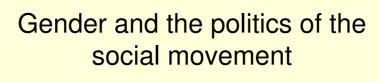
Gender

The profile seems to arise in scientific psychiatric discourse and then spread to popular discourse – the Hollywood film.

If this were true then the culturally popular discourse (cinema) would be parasitic upon the scientific discourse







So,

What Brickman's analysis suggests is that the social movement must not just look towards the "services" for reform but also out into the wider culture to question the stereotypes of gender being promoted there

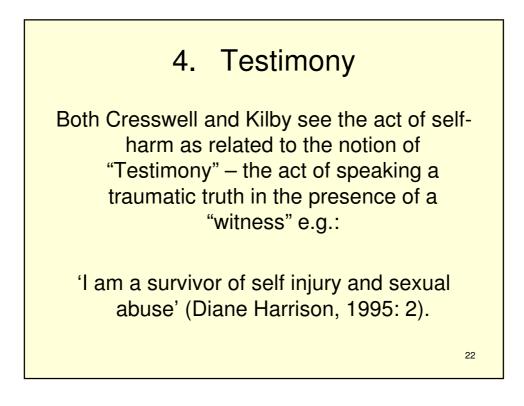
e.g. like Mental Health Media

What about men?

One problem about men and masculinity is that in work on self-harm, men function as the "absent presence"

We have little qualitative research upon men, masculinity and self-harm.

Redley's sample of 50 self-harmers contained 24 males but there was no gender analysis at all!

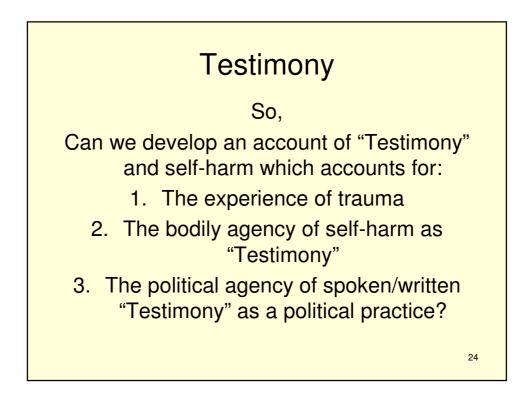


Testimony

But!

Whereas Cresswell sees "Testimony" as the political act of *speaking* out in the context of social movement politics

Kilby sees the act of self-cutting as itself "Testimony" as a testimony to the trauma that *can't be spoken* which she sees as being childhood sexual abuse



Final question

How is this temporal rhythm – trauma>bodily agency>political agency – related to the formation of "identity"?