**Stigmatized Israeli Girls Negotiate their Disparities – Three Ways to Resist**

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An at-risk adolescent girl growing up in a stigmatized community lacks support and other resources, and very little access to social and economic capital. Exposed to conflicting expectations and social shaming, that go hand in hand with a low sense of belonging, she may invest great efforts contending with mixed messages about her employment opportunities.

These experiences of alienation, shaming and low self-esteem are exacerbated in a neoliberal climate, encouraging her to be (or to look like white) successful neo-liberal subject, and even further hindering her ability to narrow the 'opportunity gap' in order to realize her 'capabilities'.

In this session, using conceptualization that combines theories of resistance and coping with social and symbolic boundaries, I will present three dominant ways of dealing with the external gaze, trying to escape shaming and to maintain a sense of self-worth. Material is based on evidence from a field diary written as a part of action research that accompanied four workshops. The purpose of the workshops was to strengthen the occupational aspirations of urban at-risk adolescent girls living in stigmatized communities.

It appears that most of the girls perceived these workshops- which attempted to provide essential support- as another stigmatizing shaming structure in their life. They manifested three ways of hidden and active resisting what they experienced as messages that sought to empower them, at almost any cost. The typology of the different ways in which they manifested their resistance was based on how much faith they had in their strengths and abilities, and therefore the kind/type of resources they used while doing and undoing 'boundary work', trying to overcome a sense of alienation and exclusion.