

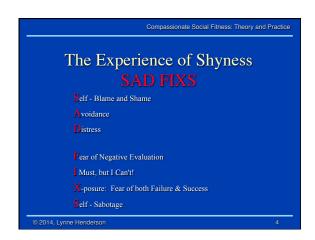
Overview (cont.)

Social Fitness Training

CBT (Heimberg & Becker, 2002; Hope & Heimberg, 2010)
Changing negative attributions and self beliefs, reducing shame (Henderson & Zimbardo, 2001), beliefs about others and resentment (Henderson, 1998, 2014).

Shyness Clinic Research

Integrating Compassion Focused Therapy
(Gilbert, 2007, 2010, Henderson, 2011)
The Threat system, Drive system and Soothing System



Perspectives: Integrated

Clinical Practice

Research

design reflect

treatment test analyze question

measure theory

Social Fitness Model

Addresses needs for emotional connection and agency

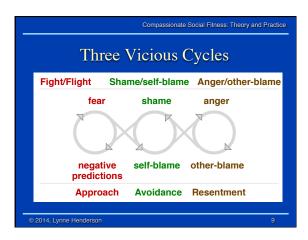
Implies:
-satisfying interpersonal relationships,
-adequate emotion regulation,
-an adaptive cognitive style

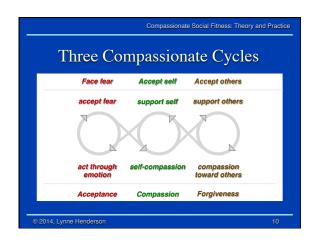
Implies the proactive pursuit of personal and professional goals.

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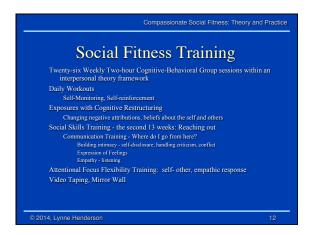


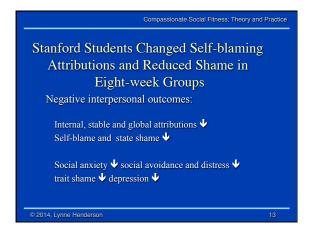
Blaming Others and Empathy:
High School Sample

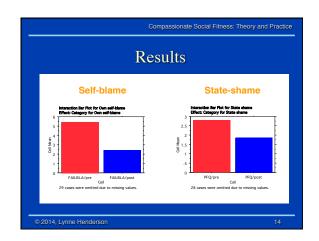
Perspective-taking is associated with adaptive interpersonal functioning.

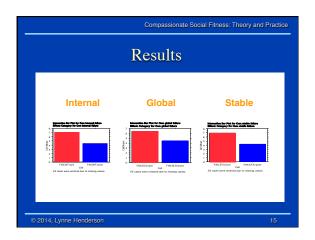
Empathic concern for others is associated with shyness.

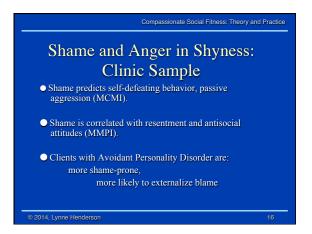
Blaming others is the ONLY significant negative predictor of perspective taking and empathic concern.











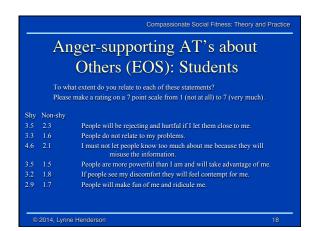
Shame And Anger In College
Student Sample

Shame and anger in Stanford students

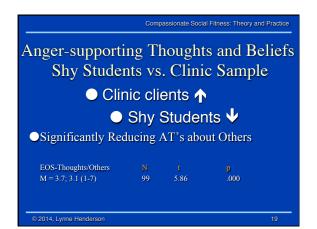
SHY students

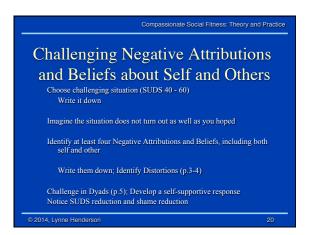
NON-SHY students

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The "Henderson/Zimbardo"
Shyness Questionnaire

I blame myself when things do not go the way I want them to.
I sometimes feel ashamed after social situations.
I am usually aware of my feelings, even if I do not know what prompted them.
If someone rejects me I assume that I have done something wrong.
I tend to be more critical of other people than I appear to be.

ShyQ.
(at www.shyness.com)

(Rating scale from 1, not at all characteristic of me to 5, extremely characteristic of me)

Web site respondents: M=3.6 (SD=.6)
Stanford students: M=2.5 (SD=.6)
Clinic Sample: M=3.6 (SD .6).
Chronbach's Alpha for six samples=.92

Correlation with the Revised Cheek and Buss Shyness Scale (college samples) = .6 and .7 (Melchior and Cheek, 1990).

Henderson's Research:
Individualism Gone Awry?

Shyness may become a clinical problem because our society currently disavows and rejects sensitivity and cooperative and collaborative vs. dominant or aggressive behavior.

Shyness, particularly in males, is negatively stereotyped in the U.S. Shy females are stereotyped as traditional homemakers, not as achievers.

When someone is less competitive and more concerned about others' evaluations, look at their motives and values as well as their behavior.

Are the Shy Exceptional Leaders?

Shy individuals may be our reluctant, socially responsible leaders of the future.

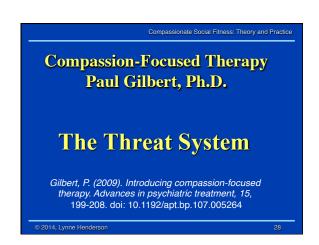
Jim Collins (From Good to Great) studied outstanding CEO's, called "level five leaders". They successfully guided companies through times of intense change and challenge. Guess what? They were diffident, shy

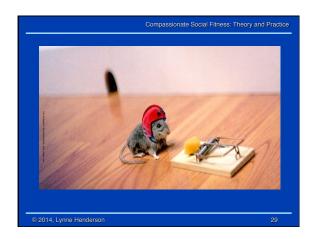
I do not see many behavioral deficits in the Clinic. When people are accepted for themselves they demonstrate skilled social behavior.













Compassionate Social Fitness: Theory and Practice

# What is helpful

Cognitive-Behavioural focused therapies help people distinguish unhelpful thoughts and behaviours - that increase or accentuate negative feelings - and alternative helpful thoughts and behaviours that do the opposite. This approach works well when people experience these alternatives as helpful. However, suppose they say, "I can see the logic and it should feel helpful but I cannot feel reassured by them" or "I know that I am not to blame but still feel to blame".

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Nature of the problem

Able to look at things in different ways – but don't feel any better

Able to generate alternative thoughts – but don't feel any better

Question:

What are the mechanisms that help people feel better?

Basic Philosophy is That:

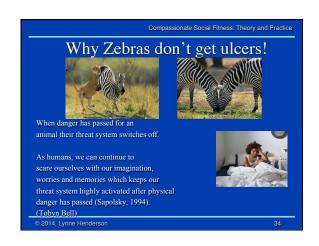
We all just find ourselves here with a brain, emotions and sense of (socially made through evolution) self we did not choose but have to figure out

Life involves dealing with tragedies (threats, losses, diseases, decay, death) and people do the best they can

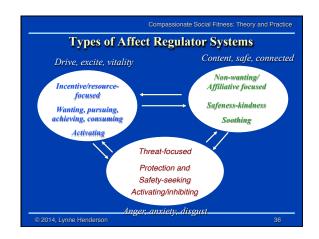
Much of what goes on in our minds is not of 'our design' and not our fault

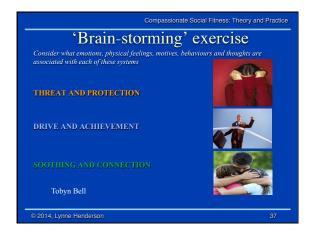
We are all in the same boat

De-pathologising and de-labelling – understanding unique coping processes







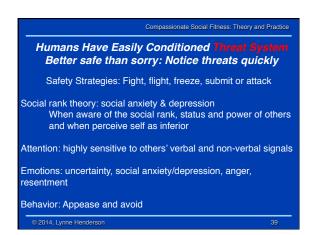


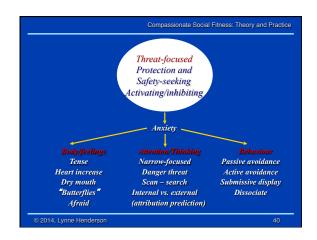
"When faced with the pain of life, the threat system says, 'This is bad - I need to fight or run away!'

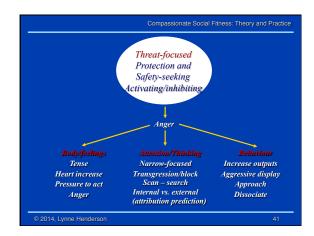
The drive system says, 'Things will be better when I have that!'

Compassion, intimately related to our safeness system, says, 'Ah, pain. I recognize you. This is how life sometimes is. I will figure out what needs to be done to work with this, and I will bear it in the meantime':

\*Russel\*Koltserson\*







Menu of Protective/Defensive Emotions

Anger – increase effort and signal threat

Anxiety – alert to danger and select

Disgust – expel/keep away from noxious or undesirable

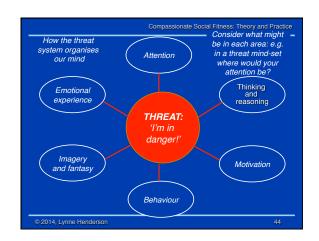
Sadness – acknowledge loss, signal distress

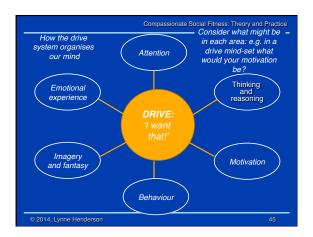
Jealousy – threaten and defend

Envy – undermine/spoil benefits of the other

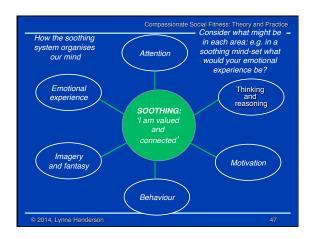
(Tobyn Bell)





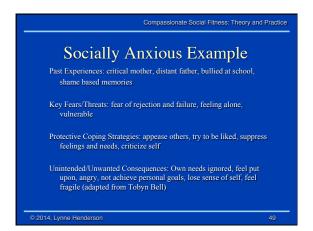


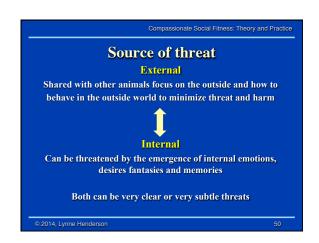






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External and internal threats

For example, a person attending a social event might fear:

• being rejected by the people there (external threat)

• also worry about being overwhelmed with anxiety (internal threat).

Such threats often interact: e.g. the same person might fear their anxiety will become so overwhelming that other people will notice and criticise them (external threat).

The protection strategies for internal and external threats can be different. Coping might include:

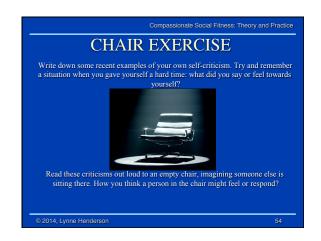
• being non-assertive and people pleasing (external)

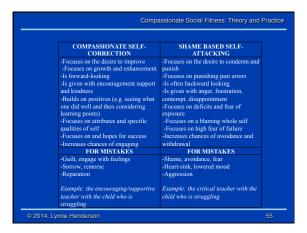
• using alcohol to reduce anxiety (internal).

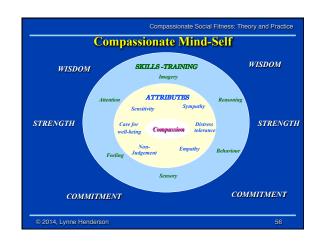
(adapted from Tobyn Bell)









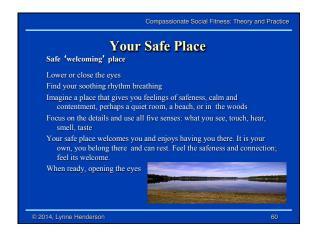






Exercise: Desire to be at peace
May I be happy, may I be well, may I be at peace
Exercise: Using memory
Remember a time someone was kind, caring, and warm toward you Remember a time you were kind, caring, and warm toward someone in distress

Exercise: Desire that others be at peace
May you be happy, may you be well, may you be at peace
Soothing breathing rhythm:



Developing Compassion Images

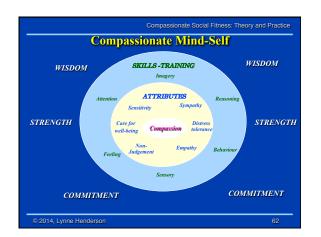
Ideal caring and compassionate self and/or other --- define ideal as everything you would want, need

• Wisdom a sentient mind who understands the struggles of humanity and self. Empathic stance, self-transcendent

• Strength as 'calm authority' fortitude, endurance, complete benevolence

• Caring as a genuine desire for one's well-being - Commitment and motivation

• Include compassionate attributes



Compassionate Social Fitness: Theory and Practice

#### Imagery

Non-verbal Communication

- · Compassionate facial expression smile
- Compassionate voice tone, form and pace
- Compassionate posture (e.g. can change depending on the actions)
- Sense of appearance, and colour (e.g. clothes)
  - Method Acting for compassionate self

Sensory qualities help form image

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Compassionate Social Fitness: Theory and Practice

Imagining the Compassionate Other/Self

Explain point of Compassionate-other/self imagery work

Inner helper, inner guide, access to self-soothing system through relating to self or other (no different in principle to activating any other system e.g. sexual – these systems were designed for social interactions – social mentality theory (Gilbert, 2000; Fonagy & Target, 2006))

Now for a moment, focus on your breathing and try to feel soothing rhythm. Look down or close your eyes and imagine your image of your compassionate ideal 'other' caring for you.

Useful specific questions: would they be old or young, male or female, colour of their eyes, tall or short – more than one

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Compassionate letter writing

Try and write a letter to yourself from a compassionate standpoint (using your compassionate-self). Alternatively, try and imagine hearing the words of your compassionate coach or your friend

Remember your compassionate motivation: to alleviate suffering and bring support.

Acknowledge and validate your emotions and experiences
(e.g. 'I am currently feeling...')
Offer yourself understanding (e.g. 'It's understandable I feel....')
Bring warmth and kindness (e.g. 'Experiencing this is hard')
Understand our common humanity (e.g. 'It's normal for a person to feel this ....I'm not alone')
Provide encouragement and strength ('You can manage this')
Try and provide some gentle advice ('Maybe try...') (Tobyn Bell)

Compassionate Social Fitness: Theory and Practice

When writing a letter, consider the skills and attributes of compassion

Skills

Attention: Where would it be helpful to place your attention?

Imagery: Can you use your compassionate imagery to support you?

Thinking and reasoning: Try and consider your experience from a compassionate perspective. Can you consider a balanced view?

Behaviour: What do you need to do to support yourself?

Feelings/emotions: Can you convey feelings of warmth and connectedness

Motives: Try and write the letter with a motivation to support yourself

Attributes

Sensitivity: What are you feeling at this moment?

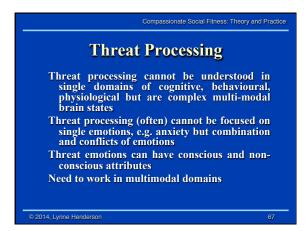
Sympathy: Allow yourself to be moved by your experience

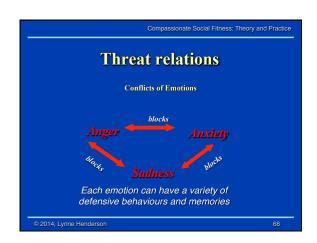
Distress tolerance: Remind yourself of your strength and courage

Empathy: Offer yourself understanding

Non-judgement: Try and avoid criticism. Try and validate your experience

Care for well-being: Offer yourself encouragement and care (Tobyn Bell)





Emotions Fusion

Emotions Fusion

Emotions that we experience together can wire' together—basic conditioning model

A child is hit (fear) then sent to their room (loneliness—no rescue). Fear and loneliness become fused. Therapists sometimes miss the importance of loneliness as a core emotion to work with while engaging with fear.

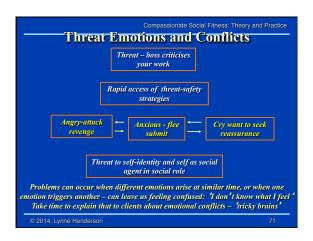
Anger and fear also a common fusion

-Emotional Schemas (Robert Leahy)

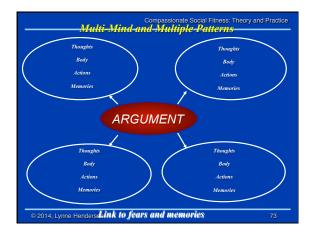
Emotional Schemas (Robert Leahy)

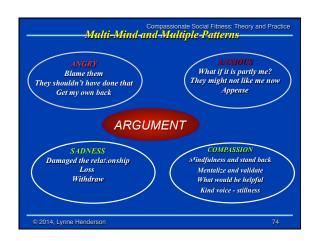
Can develop threat-based beliefs and coping strategies for emotions and desires that emerge from how we experience our own emotions and others' responses to them.

Emotions can become threats themselves related to beliefs that one's desires, fantasies and emotions are incomprehensible, unique to the self, shameful, can never be validated or expressed and /or that one's emotions will go out of control if experienced. Beliefs that one should be rational and logical all the time, never have conflicting feelings, and should ruminate in order to figure things out. Ruminations can be a way to try to work things out without needing help (soothing) from others.







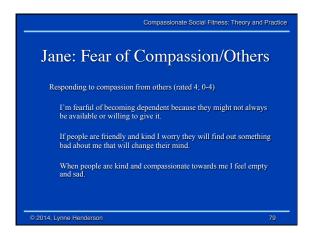


















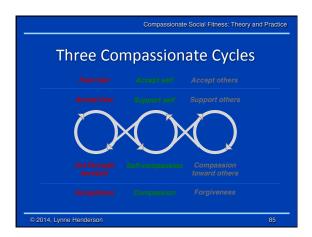
Compassion Focus

Empathy and sympathy for one's own distress
Awareness with out-judgement or blame

Refocus/activate safe-conferring processing systems
Compassionate attention, thinking, behaviour
Generate compassionate feeling (warmth)
Use images and sensory experiences

Key focus is "finding what is experienced as helpful, kind and supportive in this moment"







Further reading

John Cacioppo & William Patrick – Loneliness: Human nature and the need for social connection
Chris Germer- The mindful path to self-compassion
Paul Gilbert- The compassionate mind
Paul Gilbert & Choden – Mindful Compassion
Lynne Henderson-The compassionate mind guide to building social confidence
Lynne Henderson – Helping your shy and socially anxious client: A Social Fitness Training protocol using CBT
Russell Kolts- Managing your anger using compassion focused therapy
Deborah Lee- Recovering from trauma using compassion focused therapy
Kristen Neff- Self compassion
Mary Welford- Building your self-confidence using compassion focused therapy

Remember.....

The future depends on what we do in the present,
Mahatma Gandhi

Try not to become a man of success but a man of value,
Albert Einstein

Thank you

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