



CENTER FOR  
Partnership  
STUDIES

# STRONGER TOGETHER

**Partnership Systems  
for a Caring  
& Connected Future**







“Raising the status of girls and women is the missing foundation for more equitable and peaceful cultures worldwide. A partnership society offers us a viable alternative.”

~ Riane Eisler





“We cannot  
succeed  
when half  
of us are  
held back.”

~ Malala Yousafzai



"You should never  
let your fears  
prevent you  
from doing what  
you know is right."

~ Aung San Suu Kyi





“We can work together for a better world with men and women of goodwill, those who radiate the intrinsic goodness of humankind.”

~ Wangari Maathai





**“We are tapping into what the world wants: to be a part of change. Now we have to channel that energy into purposeful action.”**

**~ Emma Watson, Global Goodwill Ambassador, United Nations Women and HeForShe**



# What is Partnership?

**Power with and power to rather than power over**

- Self-empowerment
- Working together for the good of all
- Movement towards gender, LGBT and racial equity
- All voices count
- Living our values





# Partnership is...



- Trust, respect and cooperation
- Nurturing mutually enhancing relationships



# Becoming a Partnership Leader

1. Deepen your understanding of the Center for Partnership Studies' partnership framework
2. Build confidence in speaking up for a caring society, self-empowerment and gender equality
3. Connect with others around the world who share a passion for transformative cultural change





Humans have such capacity for consciousness, caring, and creativity...

So **why** has our world seen so much cruelty, insensitivity, and destructiveness?

~ Dr. Riane Eisler



# Ancient Partnership Cultures

Peaceful egalitarian societies:  
10,000 years ago women and men  
were on equal ground

The planetary issues we are facing  
right now are reflections of a 5,000  
year-old domination system we are  
still living in



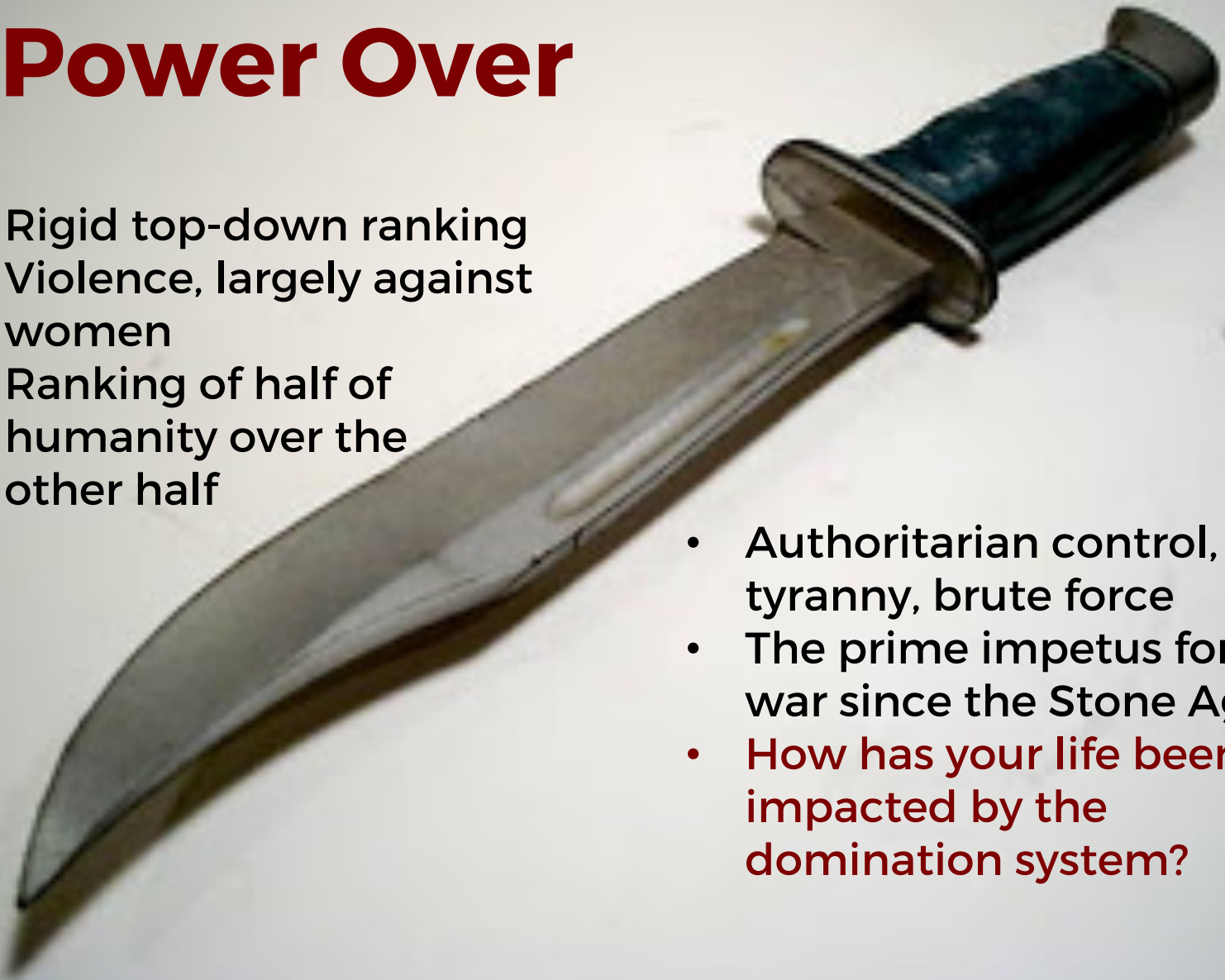


# Dominator Model:

## Power Over

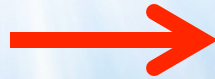
- Rigid top-down ranking
- Violence, largely against women
- Ranking of half of humanity over the other half

- Authoritarian control, tyranny, brute force
- The prime impetus for war since the Stone Age
- How has your life been impacted by the domination system?





# Emerging Partnership Model: **Power With and Power To**



Facebook redesigned their Friends icon,  
making both genders equal



# The Domination/Partnership Evolution



## DOMINATION

Rigid hierarchies of control  
“Power over”  
Superior/Inferior relations  
Dominate or be dominated

## PARTNERSHIP

Flexible hierarchies of self-empowerment  
“Power with” and “Power To”  
Relations of mutual respect  
Nurture and sustain life





# Recognizing where we are in the gradual evolution from domination to partnership



**Domination**



**Partnership**

|   |                           |  |  |
|---|---------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Family & Social Structure | Authoritarian structure and <i>hierarchies of domination</i> in family and society. Top-down control of economic resources. Children observe and experience inequality and inequity as the norm. | Democratic structure and <i>hierarchies of actualization</i> . Caring is economically valued. Egalitarian and equitable adult relations are the norm. Parenting is <i>not</i> authoritarian but authoritative. |
| 2 |                           |  |  |
| 3 |                           |  |  |
| 4 |                           |  |  |





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**Domination**

**Partnership**

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| 2 | Gender Roles & Relations  | Ranking of male half of humanity over female half. Rigid gender stereotypes, with “masculine” traits and activities such as toughness and conquest ranked over “feminine” ones such as care giving and nonviolence. | Equal valuing of the male and female halves of humanity, fluid gender roles with a high valuing of empathy, caring, caregiving, and nonviolence in women and men, as well as in social and economic policy.    |
| 3 |                           |   |  |
| 4 |                           |   |  |





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**Domination**

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| 3 | Fear, Abuse & Violence    | High degree of fear and violence, from child- and wife-beating to abuse by “superiors” in families, workplaces, and society.  | Low degree of fear, abuse, and violence, as they are not needed to maintain top-down rankings. Respect for diversity and human rights.   |
| 4 |                           |   |  |





# Recognizing where we are in the evolution from domination to partnership



**Domination**



**Partnership**

|   |                                      |   |  |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | <b>Family &amp; Social Structure</b> | Authoritarian structure and <i>hierarchies of domination</i> in family and society. Top-down control of economic resources. Children observe and experience inequality and inequity as the norm.                    | Democratic structure and <i>hierarchies of actualization</i> . Caring is economically valued. Egalitarian and equitable adult relations are the norm. Parenting is <i>not</i> authoritarian but authoritative. |
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| 3 | <b>Fear, Abuse &amp; Violence</b>    | High degree of fear and violence, from child- and wife-beating to abuse by “superiors” in families, workplaces, and society..   | Low degree of fear, abuse, and violence, as they are not needed to maintain top-down rankings. Respect for diversity and human rights.   |
| 4 | <b>Narratives</b>                    | Beliefs and stories justify and idealize domination and violence, which are deemed inevitable, moral, and desirable.  | Beliefs and stories present empathic, mutually beneficial, nonviolent relations as normal, moral, and desirable.   |





**“What's good for women  
is good for the world”.  
– Riane Eisler**

# **Partnership in Families**



Caring and connected parent/child relationships are major factors in shaping how we relate to the world, including our capacity to empathize, learn, imagine, and create.






**What is Gender Equity?**





“Equality is not a concept. It’s not something we should be ‘striving for’. It is a necessity. Equality is like gravity. We need it to stand on this earth as men and women. The misogyny that is in every culture is not a true part of the human condition. It is life out of balance and that imbalance is sucking something out of the soul of every man and woman who is confronted with it.”

—Joss Whedon, American screenwriter, film and television director



“It’s time for a new chapter where we are sincere about dismantling white supremacy and building toward true racial justice and equality.”  
-Bree Newsome

photo via danteberry Instagram

# **Respect for Diversity and Human Rights**



# What would it be like to live in a social system that values care?

As long as women are devalued....so also will anything stereotypically associated with women and the “soft” or feminine, such as caring, empathy and nonviolence be devalued.





# New Narratives





A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a black t-shirt, holding a newborn baby. The man has several tattoos on his arms, including a large one on his right forearm depicting a figure in a landscape, and another on his left forearm with a circular logo. The baby is wearing a white onesie and is being held in the man's arms. A blue semi-transparent banner with white text is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Today, we know that  
caring is a HUMAN value





“One role of the change maker is to be the eyes and ears of the world. We have the power to change people’s perceptions.”

~ Charles Eisenstein, *The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know is Possible*





# **Partnership in Action**

What are some good examples?

# Resources

**The Center for Partnership Studies**

<https://centerforpartnership.org/>

**CPS Next Gen Program**

[https://centerforpartnership.org/programs/partnership\\_next\\_gen/](https://centerforpartnership.org/programs/partnership_next_gen/)

**Safe Conversations: Shifting from Domination to Partnership**

<https://centerforpartnership.org/news-events/safeconversationswebinar/>

**Brie Mathers: Love the Skin You're In**

<http://www.briemathers.com/>

**Promundo Global: Caring Men**

<https://promundoglobal.org/>





Thank  
you!