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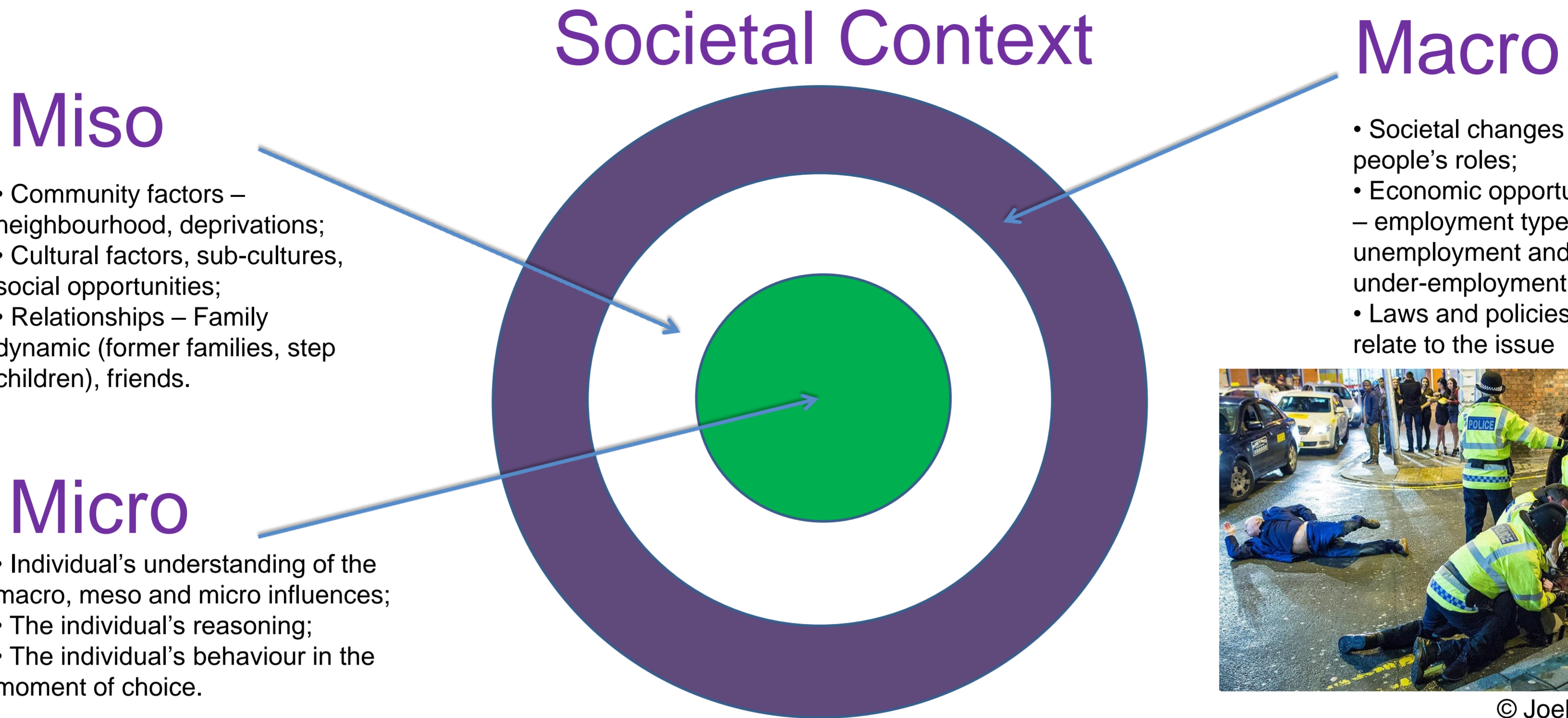
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# Evaluation of an intervention for men experiencing angry emotions and violent behaviour

Men who experience feelings of anger and/or that behave in violent ways are limited in where they can go for support. In one locality, men who experience angry emotions or exhibit violent behaviour can self-refer, or can be mandated by court order, to attend a programme of facilitator and group-based peer support designed to reduce angry emotions and incidence of violent behaviour. This poster describes an (in progress) process and impact evaluation which utilises qualitative methods of data collection.

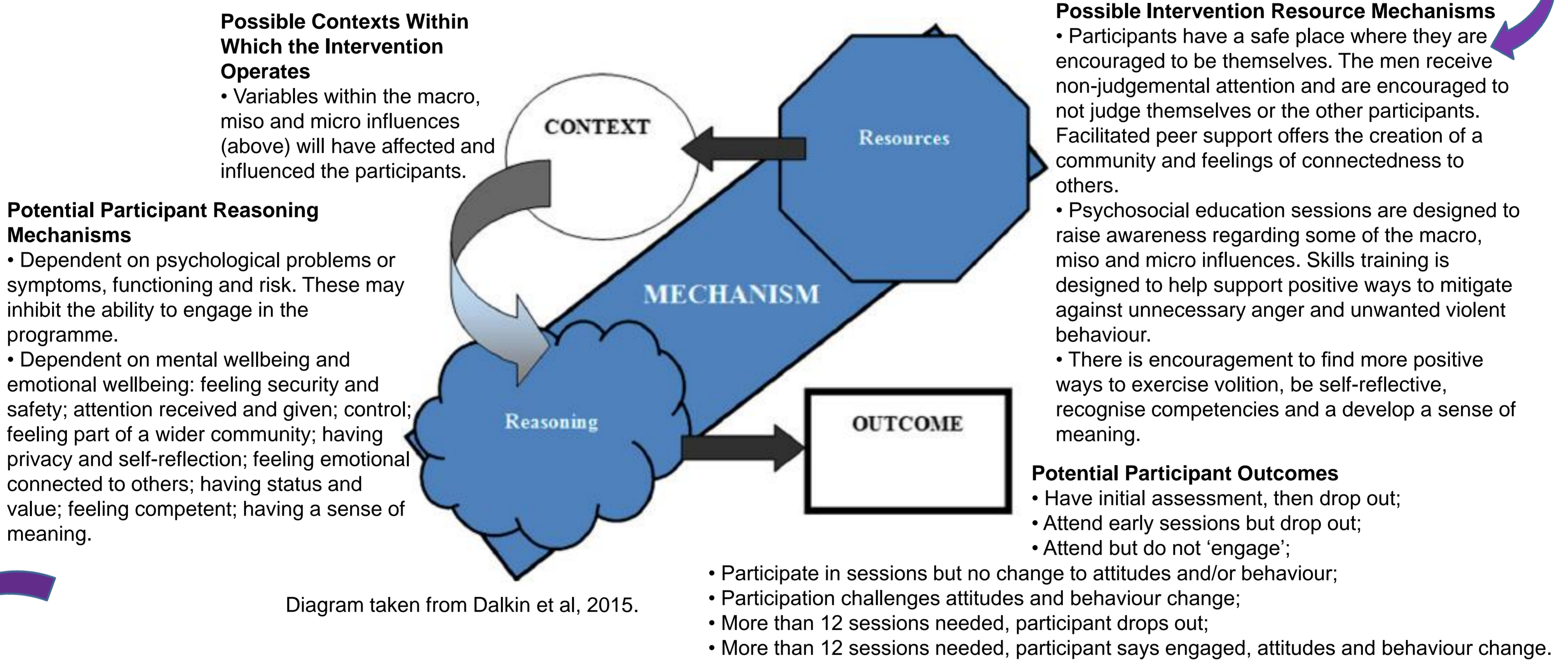
Background



Method and Methodology

A 'Realist' methodology is being used in this evaluation. Realism recognises that the social world is highly complex and that any programme intervention is embedded in existing social processes (Pawson and Tilley, 1997). As such, there needs to be an acknowledgement of how the intervention fits with other strata of the social world. This leads to an iterative process of using methods to develop theories about the intervention, then testing these theories with methods which refine these theories, and so on.

Interviews with intervention staff and stakeholders have led to the development of 'programme theories' about how the intervention works, for whom, in what contexts and why. These programme theories are expressed as Contexts, Mechanisms and Outcomes (CMO) configurations. These CMOc inform the subsequent fieldwork with the intervention participants to test and refine these CMOc.



To test these programme theories semi-structured interviews will be conducted with a number of the intervention participants. "Realist evaluation proposes - among other methods of data collection - the use of theory-driven interviews to 'inspire/validate/falsify/ modify' (Pawson, 1996: 295) hypotheses about how programmes and interventions work" (Manzano-Santaella, 2016:n.p.). During interviews the participants will first be introduced to the programme theories. The participating men will then be asked questions around these concepts.

Summary

Realism can be used to make sense of complex social interventions and to understand what works, for who, in what circumstances and why. It is suggested that the use of Realism as a methodology for this evaluation is useful to explore the effectiveness of this intervention within the complex context of social factors. Violent behaviour is problematic and damaging for all involved. Interventions to address such behaviours can be valuable in terms of helping victims, individual perpetrators and wider society. The research may have implications to practice in the disciplines of health, social care and crime in the reduction and primary prevention of violence.

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