

Understanding the Cycle of Socialization

Adapted from Bobbie Harro, 1982

Cycle of Liberation

- Raise consciousness
 & unlearn
- Dismantle oppressive and discriminatory systems

option

The Beginning

- Born into a world with mechanics in place
- Bias, stereotypes, norms, histories, & traditions

Actions

O_{btion 2}

•Option 1: Continue back to *The Beginning* and perpetuate biases, stereotypes, norms, histories, & traditions

•Option 2: Break the Cycle and move toward the *Cycle of Liberation* Why do we go along with what we are socially taught?

We know what it feels like to be isolated

We are scared of what we don't know

Results

- Internal feelings and social standing
- Abnormal: shame, silence, isolation, anger stress, barriers to accessing resources & opportunities
- Normal: confidence, security, autonomy, access to resources & opportunities

Additional Enforcements

- Rewards & punishments
- You receive positive messages when you act according to what you are taught, even if it isn't truth
- You receive negative messages when you question the status quo

First Socialization

- Taught on a personal level by family, peers, & mentors we love and trust
- Reinforced by group affiliations (*pluralistic ignorance*)

Institutional & Cultural Enforcement

- Messages you're surrounded with are reinforced by every institution (media, schools, churches, businesses, the legal system, etc.)
- These perceptions become normalized; you do not question the way things are ("status quo")