

The role of intimate partner relationships on suicide risk among men in the construction industry in New Zealand

My research is investigating **suicide prevention among men within the NZ construction industry**, with a focus on relationship breakdown which is a predominant theme preceding suicide by men in the industry. The proposed research will investigate the interface between family life and working in the construction industry and how these factors may potentially impact on mental health and suicide risk.

- ❑ **Men within the NZ construction industry are three times more likely to die by suicide compared to women.**
- ❑ Construction industry workers are vulnerable to mental health issues as the environment contains many **occupational stressors** including high production pressures, dangerous work environs, complex decision-making, and certain cultures of masculinity that can contribute to poor mental health.
- ❑ Specific risk factors linked to high rates of suicide in the construction industry include **long working hours, relationship breakdowns, transient working conditions, lack of help-seeking behavior, unhelpful masculine stoic beliefs, social isolation**, and mental health problems.
- ❑ **Substance abuse** has also been identified as a risk factor for suicide, and international research has shown that construction workers have higher rates of drug and alcohol abuse than the general population. **A culture of rewarding staff with alcohol for a job well done also exists in the industry.**
- ❑ **Due to this compounded risk, it is crucial that mental health services are designed and delivered in a way that are responsive to men's complex needs.**

Methodology

Study 1: Interviews with Key stakeholders in the construction industry

Study 2: Interviews with construction workers and their intimate partners

Research Paradigms

The underlying theoretical paradigms for this study will be interpretivism and critical theory (Lincoln & Guba, 2013).

Interview Objectives

To capture key stakeholders' perspectives on the state of the industry while considering relevant cultural, organizational influences on employees within the industry. Also, to understand the factors relevant to workers in the industry and their intimate partners.

The expected outcomes

- ❑ **Information from this research will equip key industry stakeholders with additional insights into how to manage mental health issues within the workplace.**
- ❑ **Highlighting the importance of men's mental health.**
- ❑ **Findings presented at mental health conferences and events.**



SUPERVISORS

Dr. Wendy Wrapson – wendy.wrapson@aut.ac.nz

A/Prof. Felicity Lamm – felicity.lamm@aut.ac.nz

PhD Student – School of Public Health & Interdisciplinary Studies (SPHIS)

Mohsin Rajabali Habib Ali – mohsin.ali@autuni.ac.nz

Lincoln, Y., & Guba, E. (2013). *The constructivist credo*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.

