

Masculinities, Caregiving & Equality

'20 Years of Family Carer Research'

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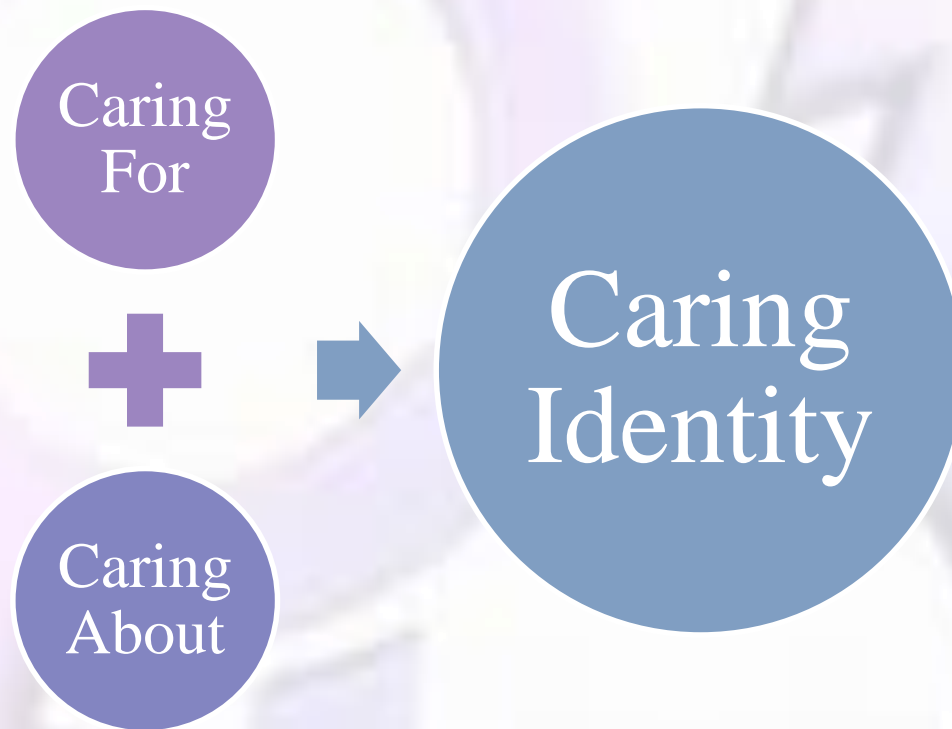
Outline

Key Question:

How do men negotiate a position as caregivers within the feminised context of caring?

1. Caring Relations & Identity
2. Caring Relations & Inequality
3. Masculine Caregiving Relations
4. Gendered Caregiving Labours
5. Gendered Caring Ideologies
6. Gendered Welfare Regimes
7. Negotiating Contradictory Masculinities

Caring Relations & Identities

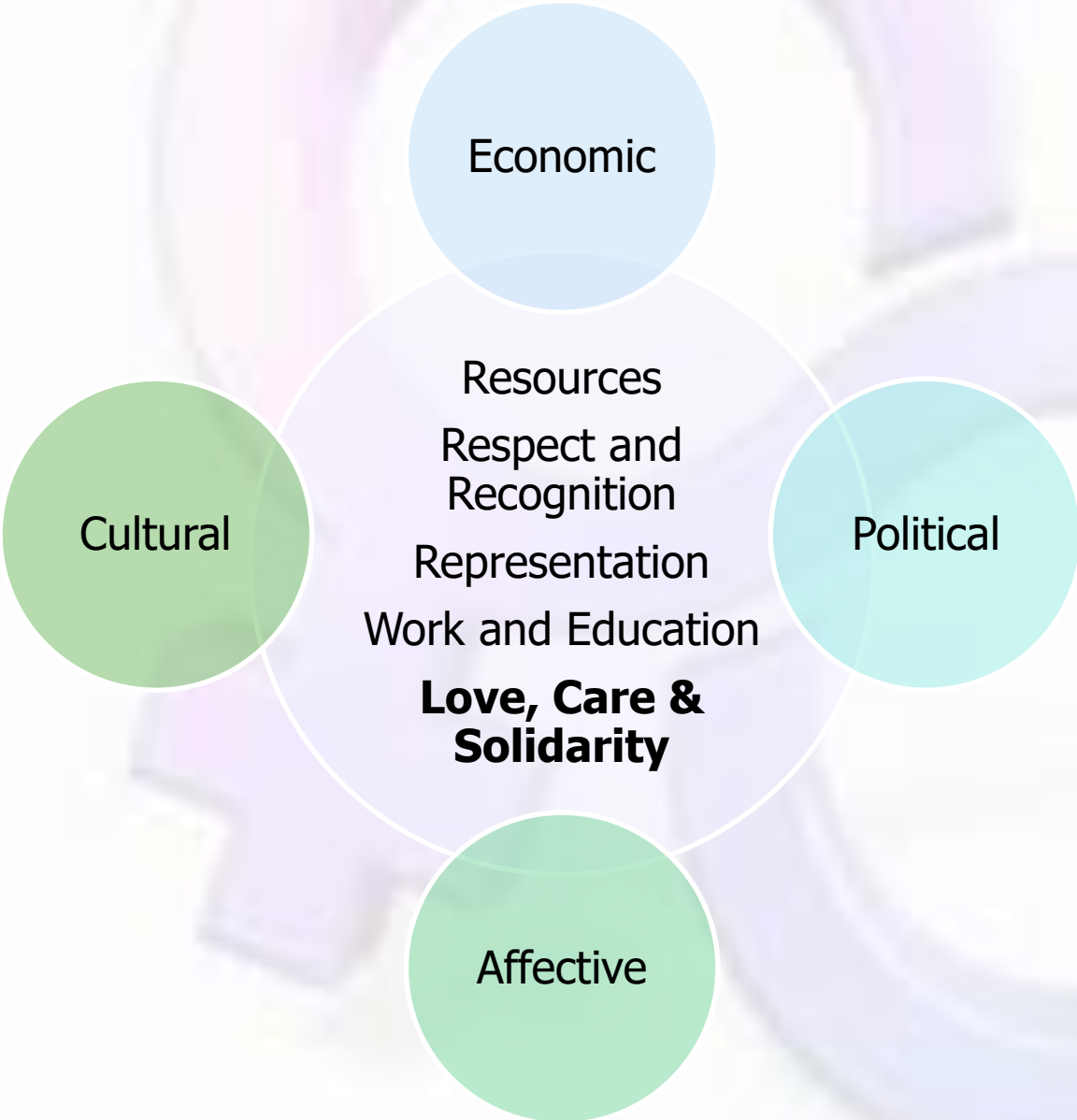


Caring refers to both **sets of feelings** and **a set of activities** and **resources**, concerned with **supportive relationships**, ranging from close family members to strangers.

‘Caring for’ – practical caring activities

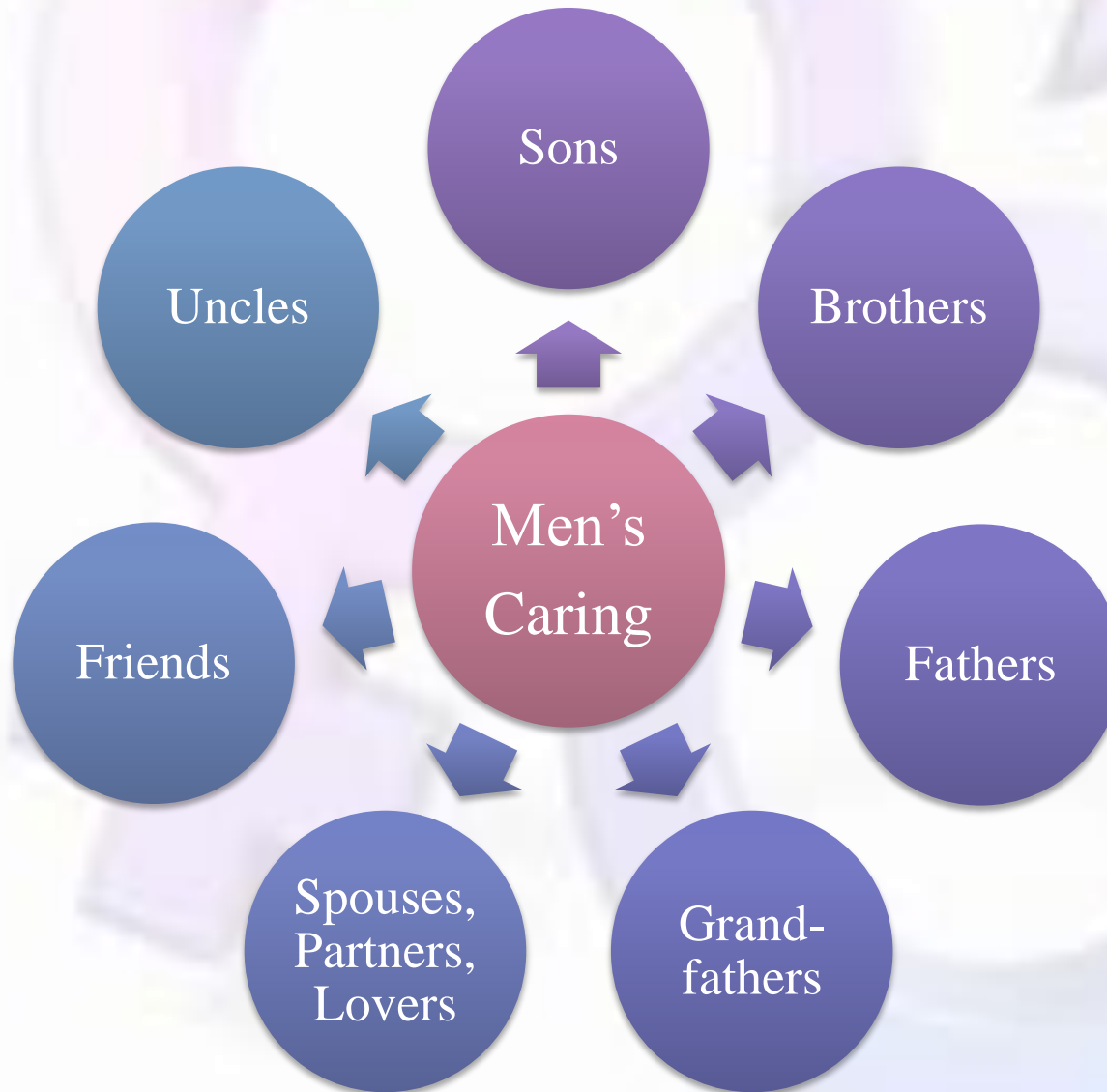
‘Caring about’ - other-centred caring disposition/feelings

Intersection of multiple inequalities



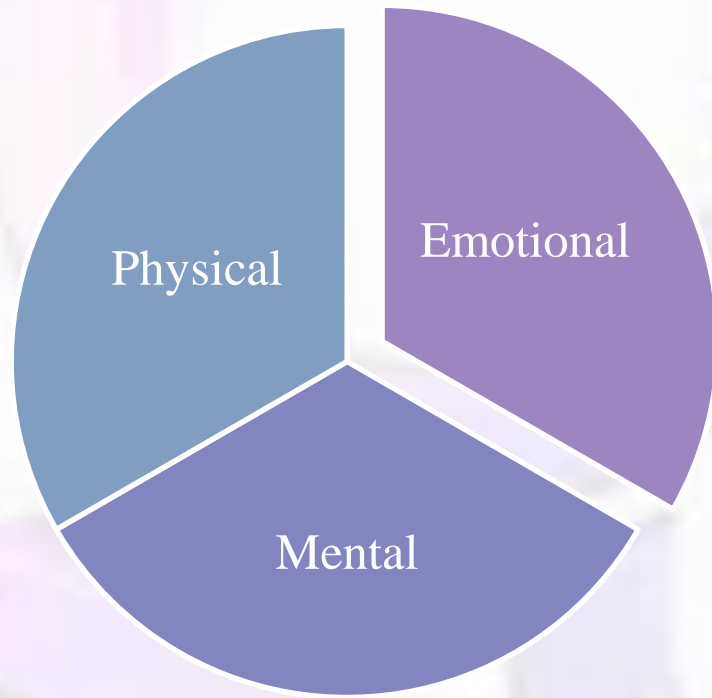
- **Equality of condition** for people to form meaningful & fulfilling relations of love, care & solidarity
- Equality in the **benefits** and the **burdens** of caring

Masculine Care Relations



- Contingent on individual, familial & life course circumstances
- Intimacy, duty, engagement shaped by cultural norms
- Meanings socially & historically constructed
- Complexity within categories (e.g. fathering, family diversities)

Gendered Caring Labours



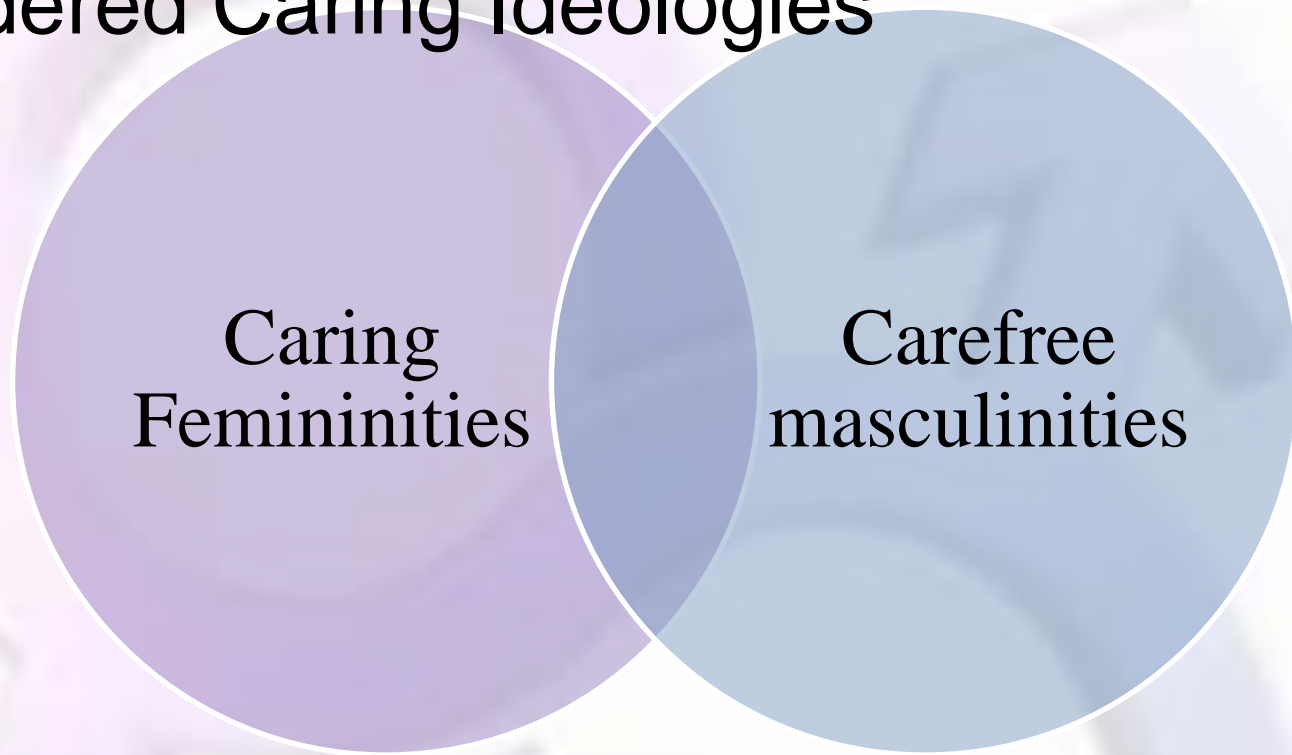
- Diet & food
- Protection
- Intimate personal care
- Education
- Domestic work
- Engaging social life
- Companionship

Complexity of Total Division Household Labour including breadwinning

Work of caring + attributes of caregiver are feminised with low status + little recognition

Relations gendered more than job per se - masculinised areas

Gendered Caring Ideologies

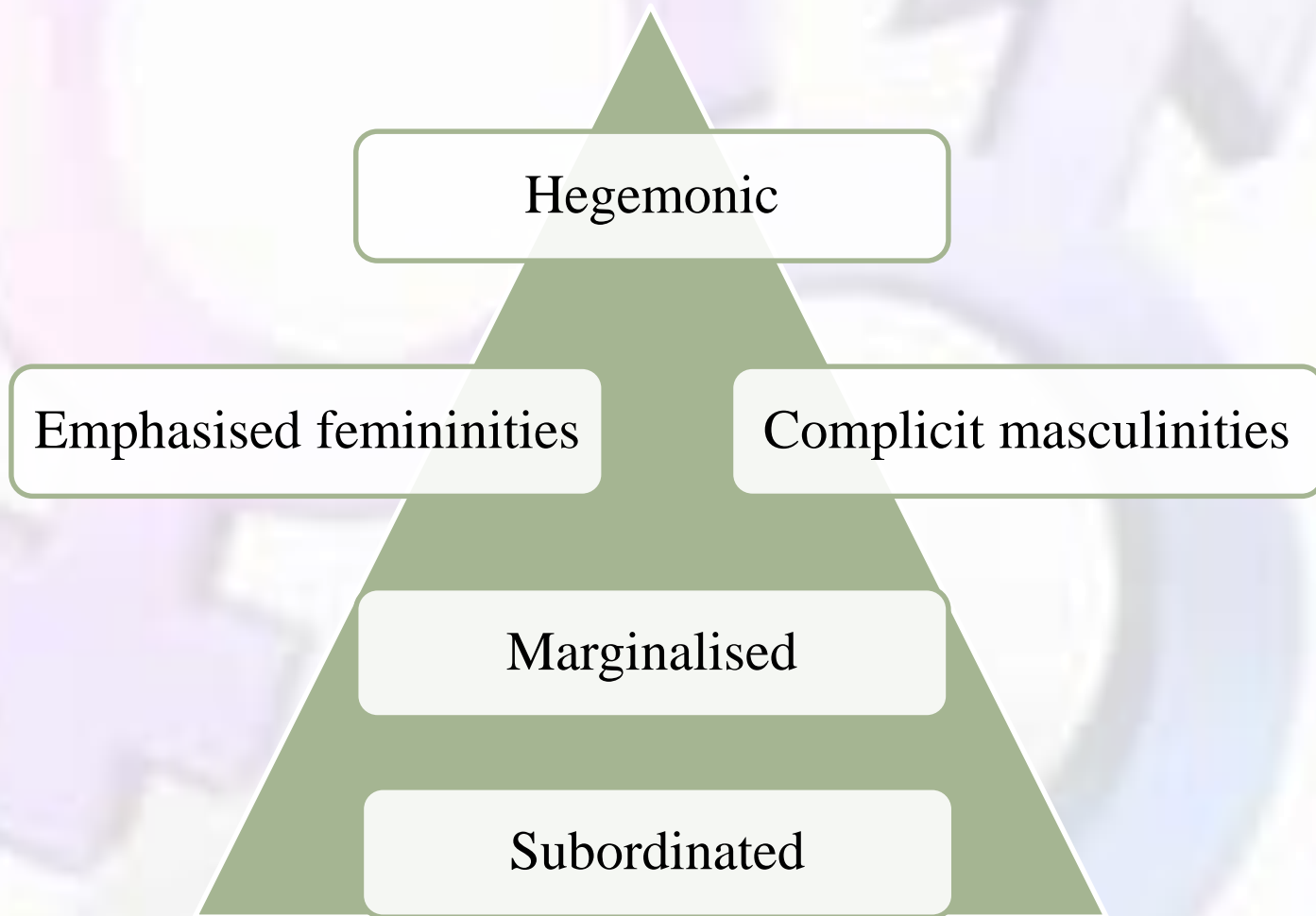


- **Caring femininities** - moral imperative, historical cultural & social narrative within modernity, essentialism, oppositional, complementarity of gender difference— emphasised femininity
- **Carefree masculinities** - shifting ideals of hegemonic masculinity (conservative, liberal, neo-liberal, libertarian) but nonetheless carefree

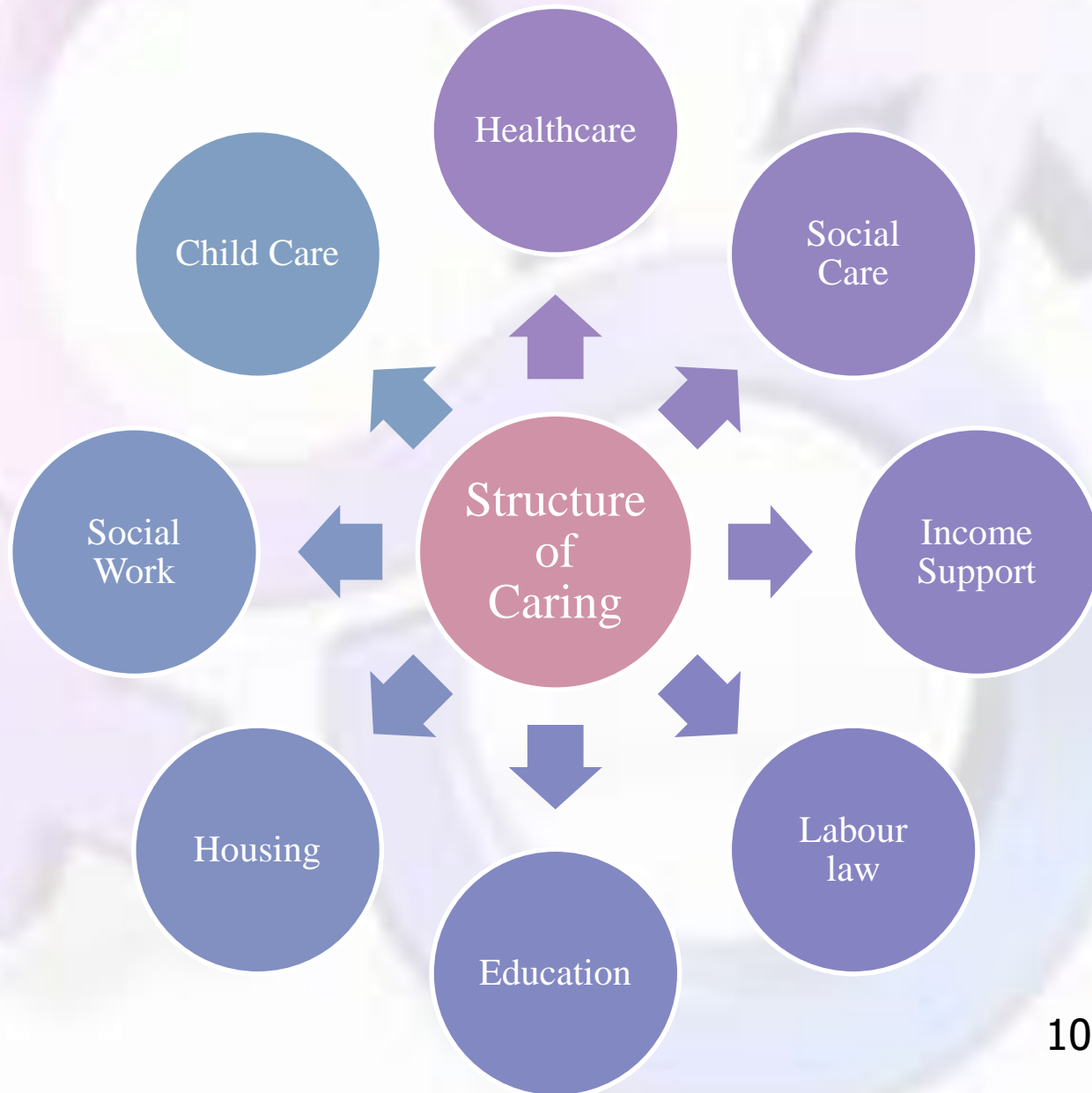
Hegemonic Masculinities

- ‘Man in power, with power. and of power’
- Models/ideas for male domination that are *highly valued* among men and *institutionalised* within a given culture
- Relationship of ideological power – normalises masculine authority & domination
- Highly valued (idealised) masculinity that *ensures subordination* of women & non-hegemonic masculinities
- How particular groups of men monopolise positions of power and wealth, *normalise* positions & reproduce relationships of dominance
- *Legitimises* relationships of superiority /inferiority through ideological / discursive persuasion therefore creating *consent, complicity* and *embodiment*

Hierarchy of Masculinities



Gendered Welfare Regimes



Negotiating Contradictory Identities

- **Dissonance** - caring and hegemonic masculinity
- **Equality** - avoid burdens & denied benefits of caring relations
- **Feminization** - care and emotion work
- **Subordinated** and stigmatised status
- **Invisible** - loss of gender identity
- **Dependent** - dependency of care recipient disempowering, emasculating
- **Vulnerable** - contrary to hegemonic masculinity, – help seeking, self-reliance, self care, isolation, social networks
- **Masculine Care Capital** – flight from feminization, higher status, technical, managerialist, specialist
- **Critical Reflexivity** – confront, transform, reassess