

Speaking of Justice:

the significance of silence, recognition, communication and memory upon the impact of unwanted sexual experiences

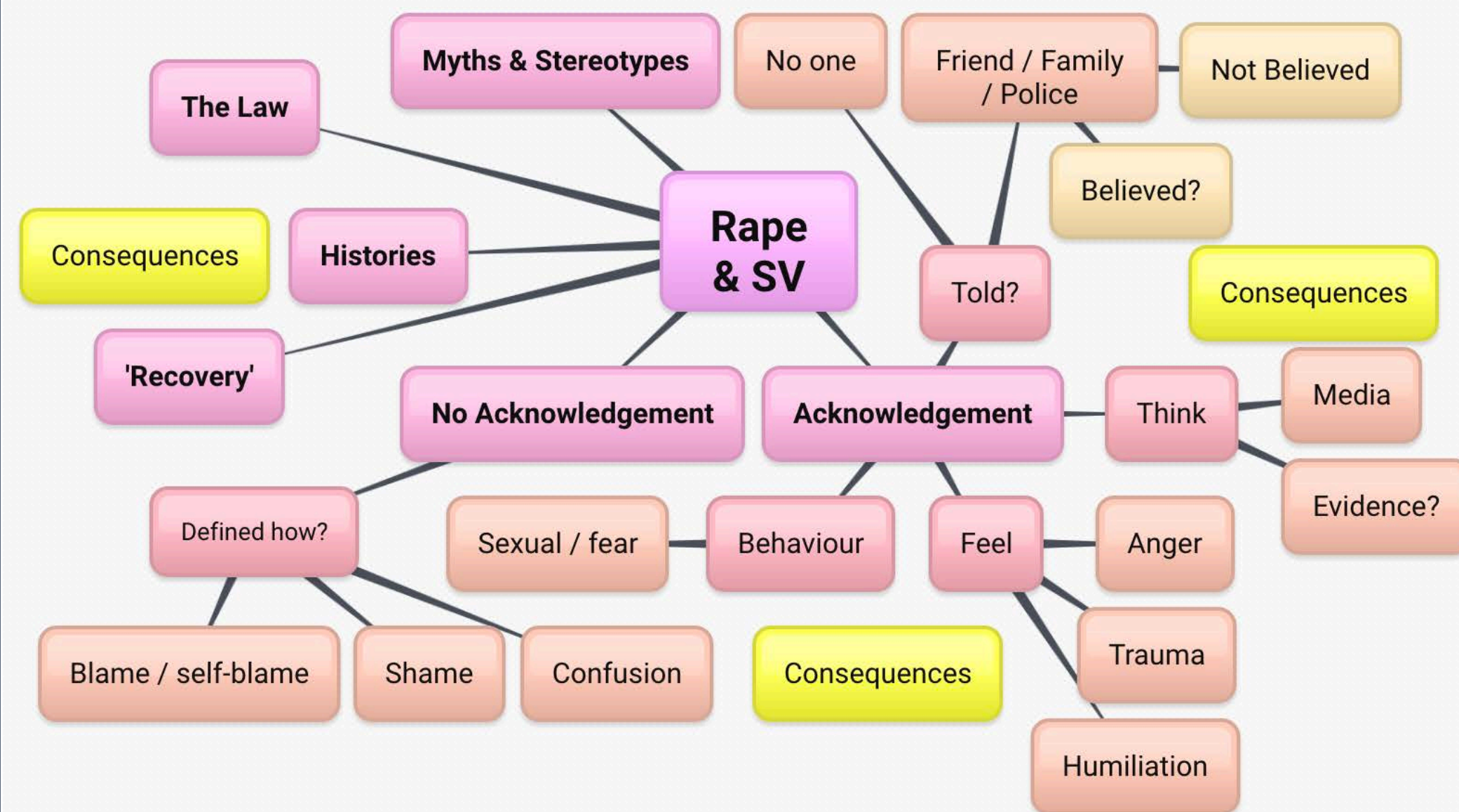
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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

WHY CAN'T WE TALK ABOUT RAPE?



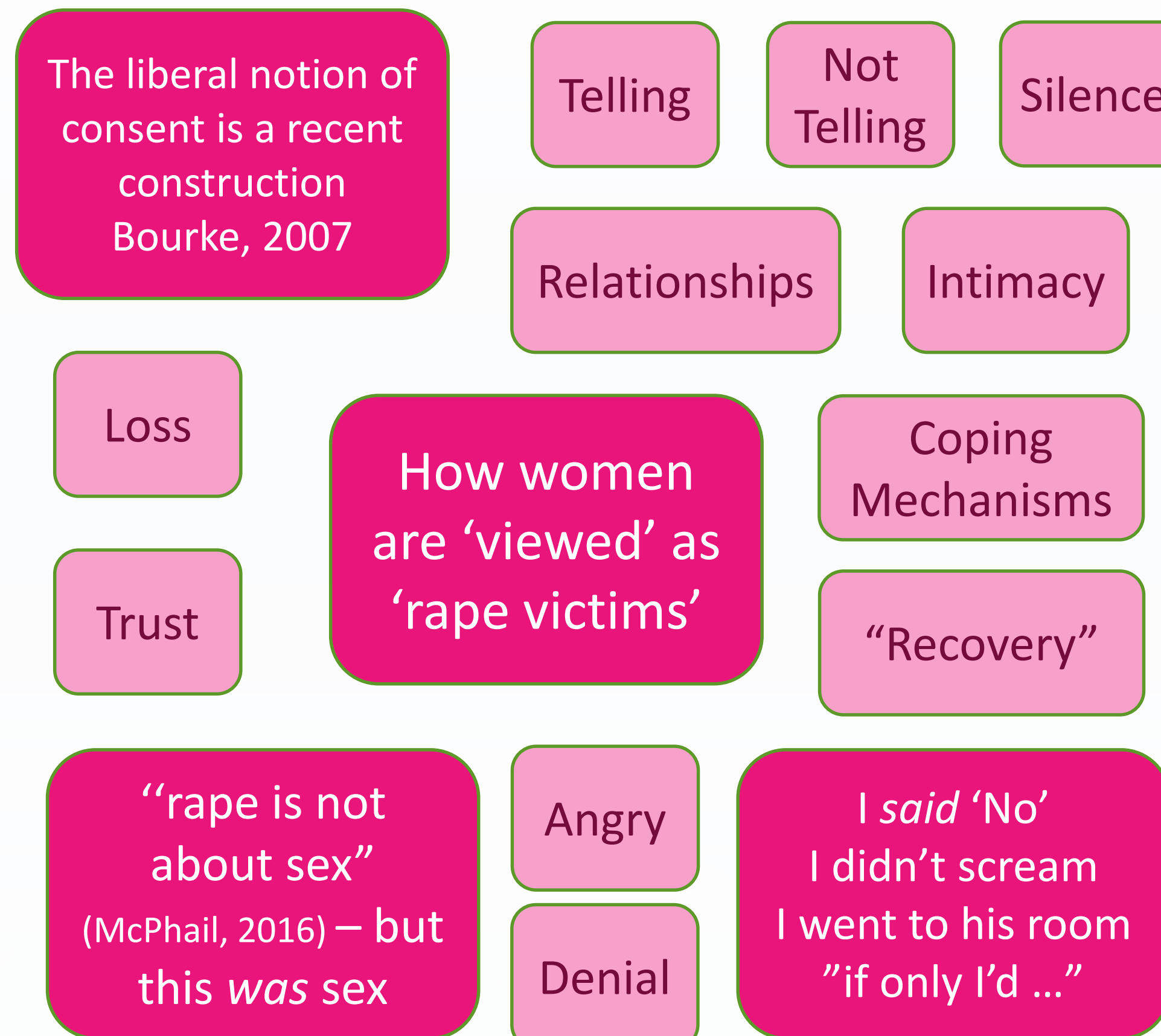
AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

RECOGNISE & ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION STYLES, RELATING TO RAPE

Her Language	His (the law)
Sassy	Consent
'That' 'It' 'Thing'	Rape
What it felt like	Intent
Humiliated	Penetrated
Shattered self	Her demeanour
Silenced	Rights
This happened	'Alleged'

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

HOW DO WE EUPHEMISE RAPE TALK?



METHODS

CONVERSATION & LANGUAGE ANALYSIS

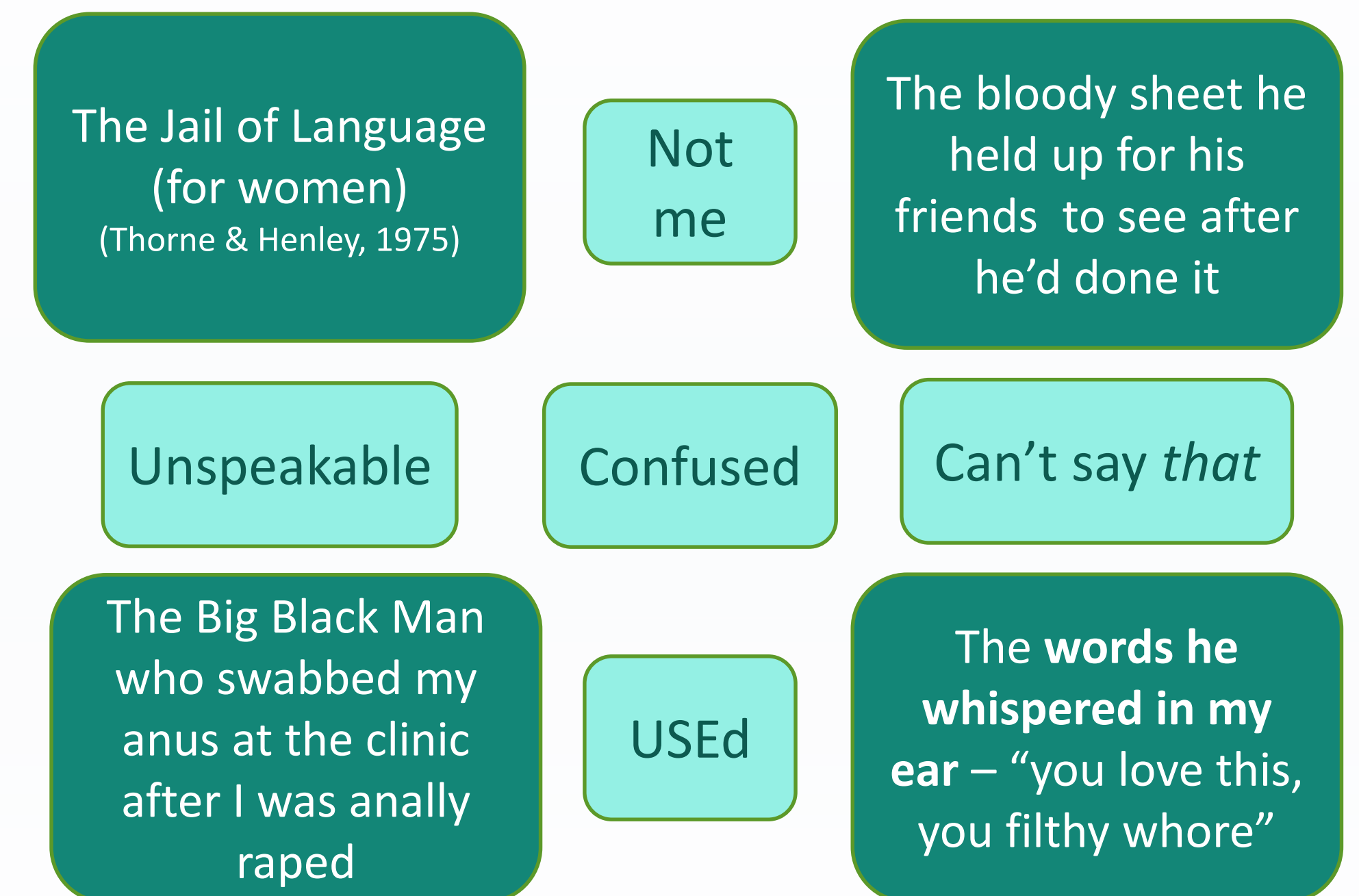
10 (out of 15) participants interviewed
Age range 18 – 52
All raped between ages of 11 – 21
No pattern of circumstance

The participants had different ways of talking about their experiences, and how they coped afterwards. What was common was their reluctance to describe what HE did

- Controversy over 'just met' vs 'stranger'
- Fears of exposure / disclosure
- Disassociation
- Intimacy & trust
- **Relief, laughter & curiosity**

SPECULATIVE CONCLUSIONS

'LEGAL' RAPE IS NOT WHAT WE EXPERIENCE



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FINAL OBSERVATIONS

All participants agree that there is much to be said that we have no way of saying. Many expressed anger at being so ill-equipped to put voice to something that has so fundamentally and irreversibly changed us.

Through analysis and further conversations, we are aiming to agree on some common and more intuitively comfortable ways of speaking out, speaking up and speaking justly about the rapes we have experienced and the impact they have had on us.

A word, after a word ... is power (Atwood, 2003)