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# SRV MATTERS - 7

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## What might SRV say about ... 'Crazes'

This is the second in a series of an SRV Matters theme, 'What might SRV say about?' This was originally written by Juliette McAleer. Juliette was then a Values in Action committee member, and is someone with a passionate interest in the teaching & application of SRV in supporting marginalised people & their families

So, what is a craze? Well might you ask! I am choosing to use the term 'craze' in reference to our very human partiality for the 'cult of the new and innovative' - where novelty reigns supreme!

A craze can present itself in the form of a new word or language, a new 'therapy', a new planning tool, or an all-encompassing model of support for vulnerable people. My intention is not to suggest that these things are not at times useful or even groundbreaking, but simply to take a brief look through useful SRV 'filters'. This way we can objectively examine and ultimately decide which of the many 'crazes' we will devote our precious time and attention to. As 'luck' would have it, SRV is exceptionally useful in this regard!

The following is a selection of a few of the filters I most commonly draw upon in my day-to-day work, in no particular order. The first is the fundamental concept of unconsciousness - especially as it relates to expressions of devaluation. Deliberately look past the 'bright and shiny' promises to consciously delve into the unstated, underlying, and implicit aspects of a craze thus potentially yielding surprising and sometimes confronting results. This exercise leads us to critically examine the

'real reasons' behind a craze that are often unlikely to be beneficial to the person and their most pressing need(s).

The culturally valued analogue (CVA) is also an immensely useful filter. It can help to weed out all kinds of 'weirdness' by drawing one's attention back to the question of 'how would anyone else who is not devalued get this need met?'. Finally, I also like to take Wolfensberger's 'if this, then that' formulation out for a spin every now and then. For example, this exercise asks 'If we do x, what will be the likely impact on a person's roles, image and/or competence.'

All of the above, while helpful, must not be allowed to take us into endless contemplation - we must ultimately act. With a commitment to greater consciousness coupled with a comprehensive, practical framework like SRV, we have a greater chance of getting it right than had we simply allowed ourselves to be swept along with the oft frenzied current of popular opinion and so-called 'best' or 'evidenced based' practice.

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If It Sounds Too Good To Be True ...

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SRV Ideas: Improved SRV application

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