



Intersectionality and health equity: exploring an evidence-based framework for influencing intersecting systems of power

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Intersectionality

- The term was first used by Kimberlé Crenshaw to address the multiple ways that both gender and race impact the experiences of black women
- Intersectionality ≠ Race + Class + Ethnicity + Gender + Faith + Sexual Orientation + Age + other factors.
- Not additive but interacting and synergizing ¹



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INTERSECTIONALITY ²

a fun guide



this is Bob.

Hi!

Bob is a stripey blue triangle!

AND SHOULD BE PROUD.

Yay me!

SADLY SOME PEOPLE DO NOT LIKE BOB. BOB FACES OPPRESSION FOR BEING A TRIANGLE, & FOR HAVING STRIPES.



LUCKILY, THERE ARE LIBERATION GROUPS! BUT THEY AREN'T INTERSECTIONAL.

SO THEY LOOK LIKE THIS



THEY DON'T TALK TO EACH OTHER. IN FACT, THEY COMPETE.

BOB CAN'T WORK OUT WHERE TO GO.

I'M MORE OPPRESSED!



NO, I AM! I DESERVE MORE!



AM I MORE STRIPE OR TRIANGLE?

BOB WISHES THAT THE TRIANGLES AND STRIPES COULD WORK TOGETHER.

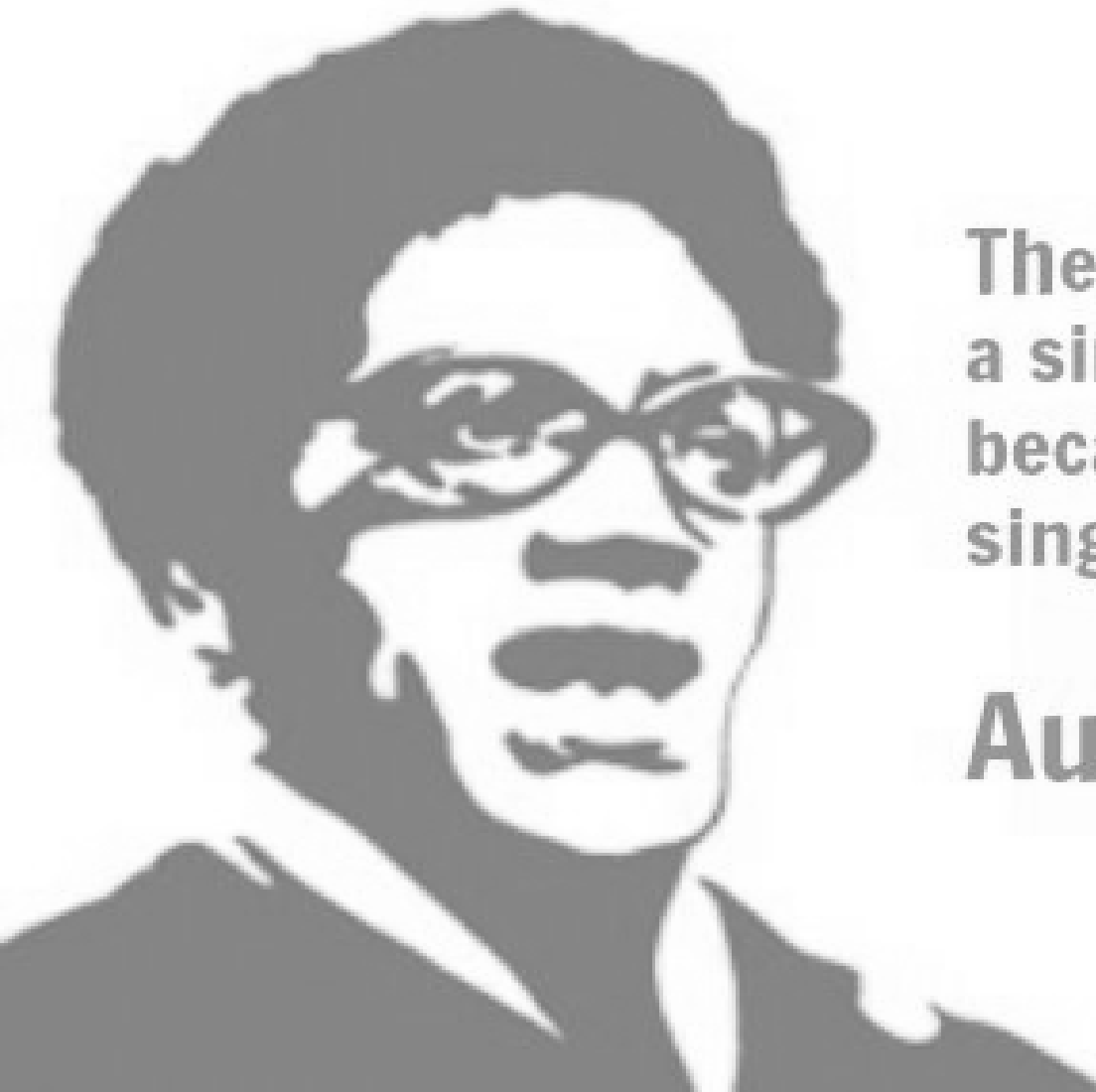
OPPRESSION OF ONE AFFECTS US ALL!



NO LIBERATION WITHOUT EQUAL REPRESENTATION!

INTERSECTIONALITY IS THE BELIEF THAT OPPRESSIONS ARE INTERLINKED AND CANNOT BE SOLVED ALONE.

OPPRESSIONS ARE NOT ISOLATED.
INTERSECTIONALITY NOW!



There is no such thing as
a single-issue struggle
because we do not live
single-issue lives.

Audre Lorde³



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Intersectionality and Public Health

*“I see **intersectionality** as the next step in social determinants of health frameworks, in that it explicitly pays attention to the **relationships between the determinants** looking at micro, mezzo, and macro levels of analysis. It does not necessarily limit it us to the typical lists that exist in determinants of health thinking, but most importantly it is explicitly committed to tackling questions of **power** and how power manifest at all those **different levels**, including the individual experience”* ⁴ pg.2

Olena Hankivsky, Simon Fraser University



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Why Intersectionality?

- Single identities do not effectively explain the intricacies of human life.
- Understanding the connection between systems that shape diverse populations
- Understanding the origin, root causes and characteristics of societal issues
- Effective response to persistent and growing social inequities ⁵



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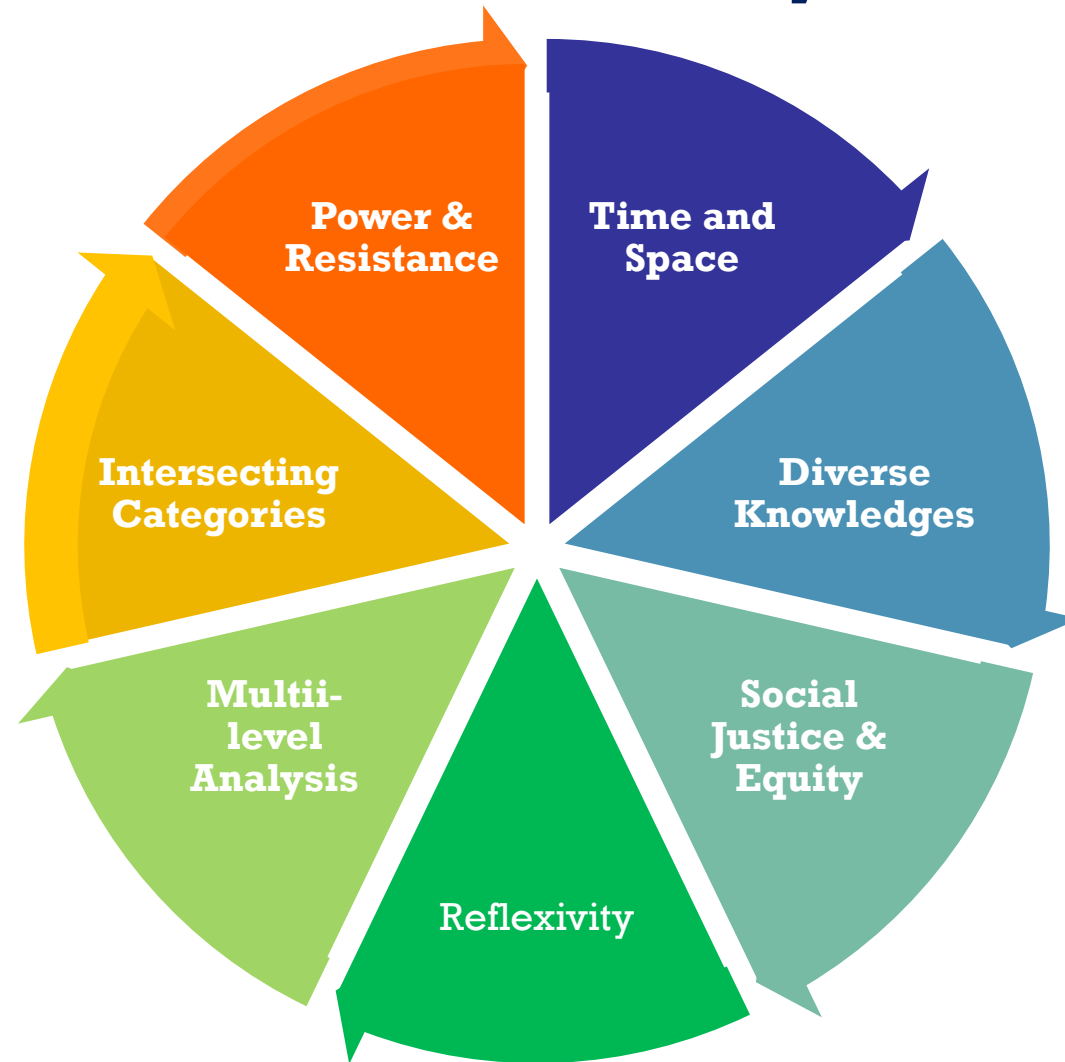
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Principles of intersectionality ⁵



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How can intersectionality as a framework address intersecting systems of power to reduce health inequities ?



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