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TACKLING RACIAL AND ETHNIC BIAS WHEN TRANSLATING RESEARCH INTO POLICY

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OUTLINE

1. How race was constructed to benefit the colonial project and exploitation.

2. How race construction manifests in the contemporary world of global health research –

3. How global south researchers can and should push-back

4. Beyond the Cape Town Statement

TRAJECTORY OF WESTERN COLONISATION

Crusades of the Middle Ages

Transatlantic slave trade

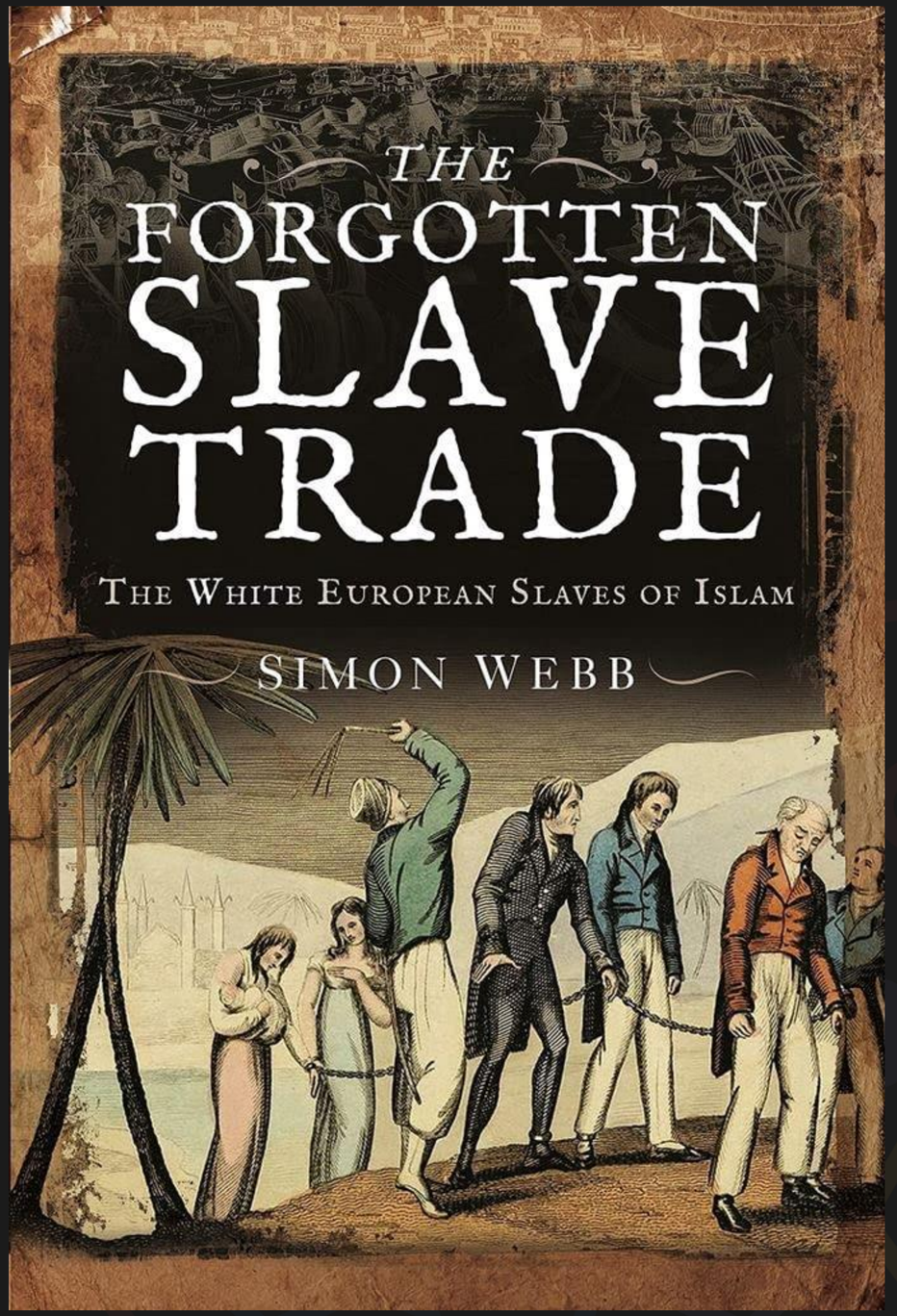
Cultural and biological genocide of Indigenous people in the Americas

Expulsion of the Moors and Jews from Spain

Loss of epistemologies ontologies, cosmologies, languages etc.

How race was constructed to benefit the colonial project and exploitation

Original slaves were Slavic people
Not easily differentiated form non-slaves

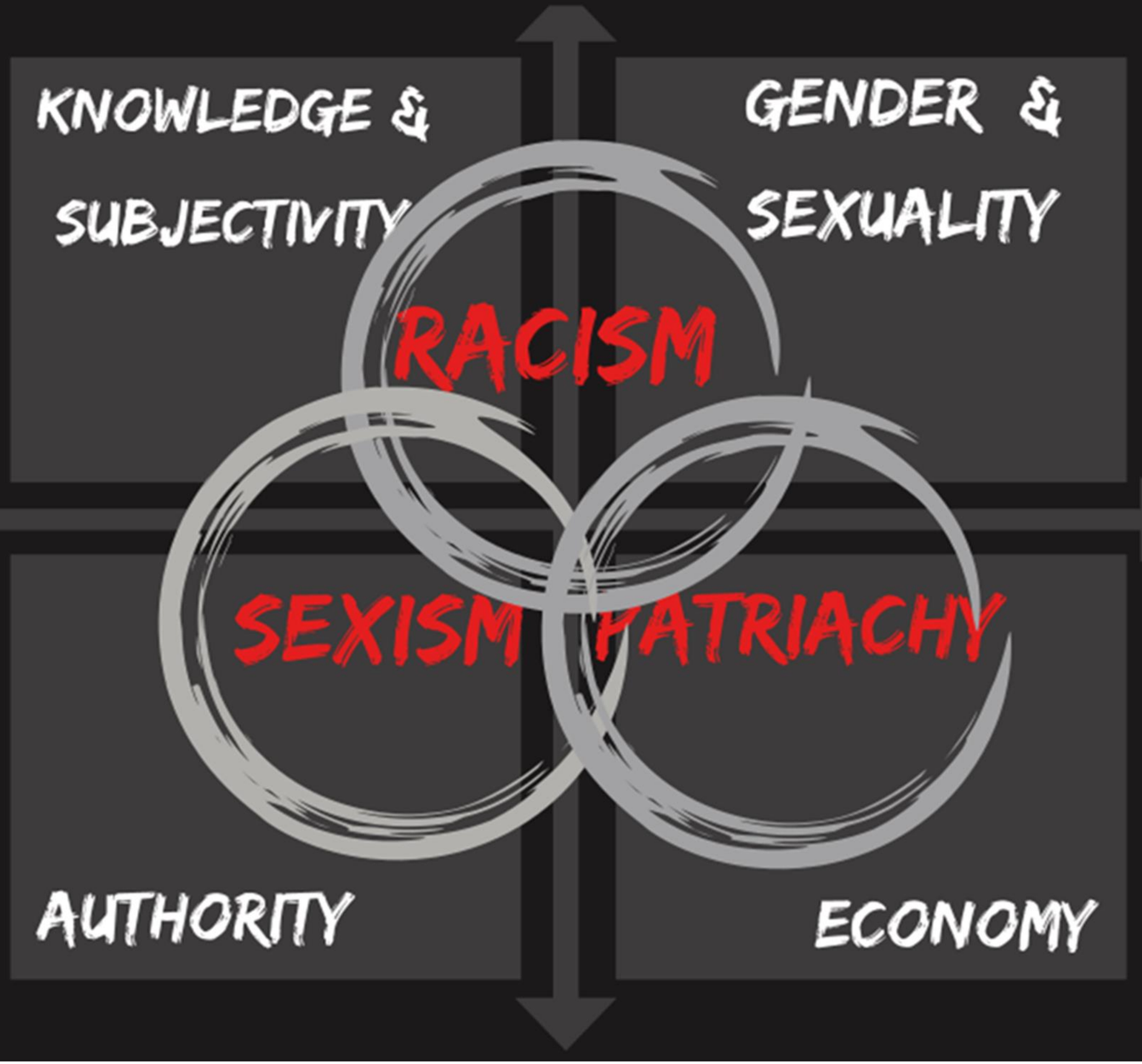


Thirusha Naidu (2023): The personal is political in the struggle for equity in global medical education research and scholarship, Medical Teacher, DOI: 10.1080/0142159X.2023.2206535

“Look a negro!”

The path of self-determination is restricted to people who have

power

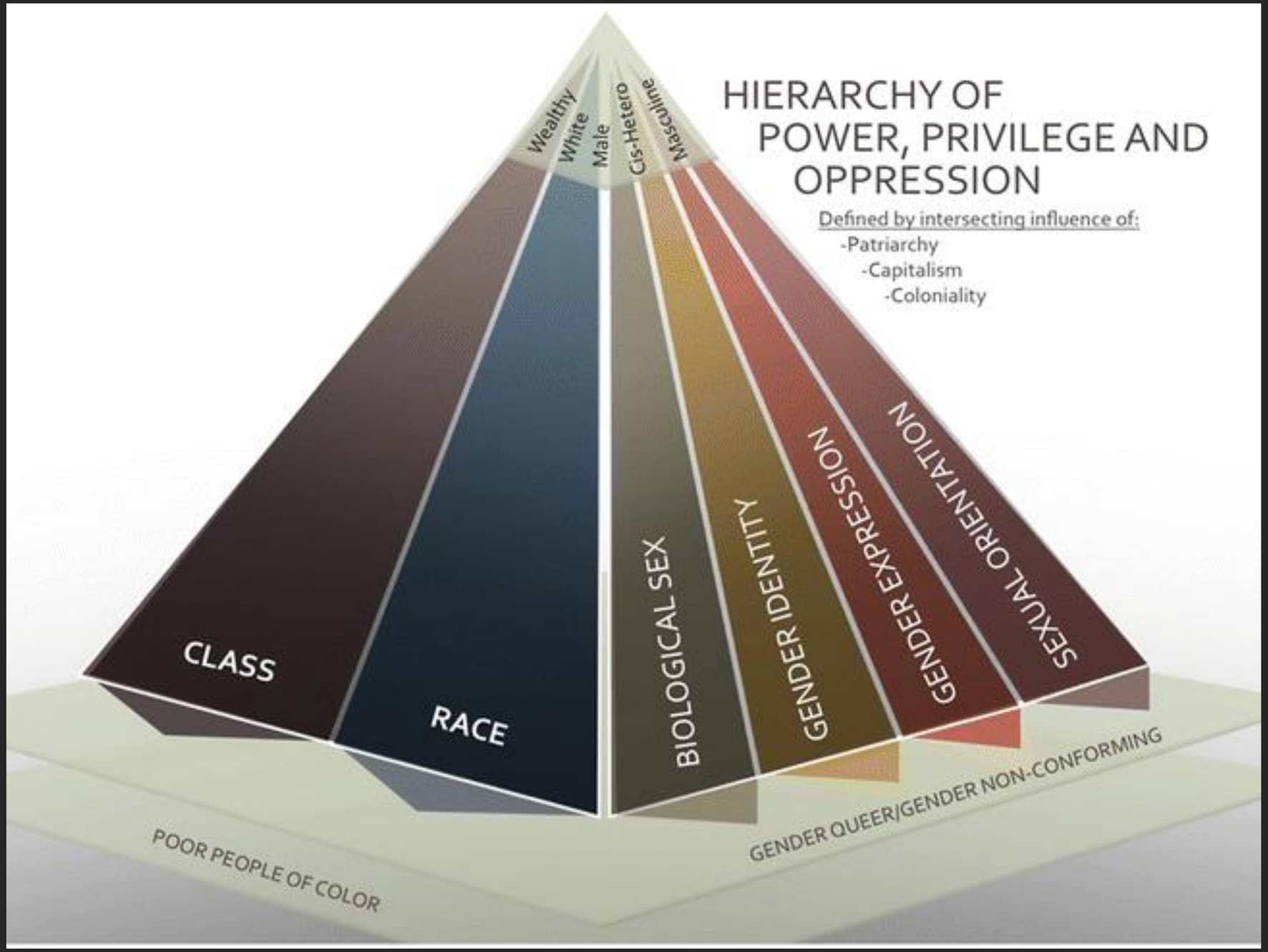


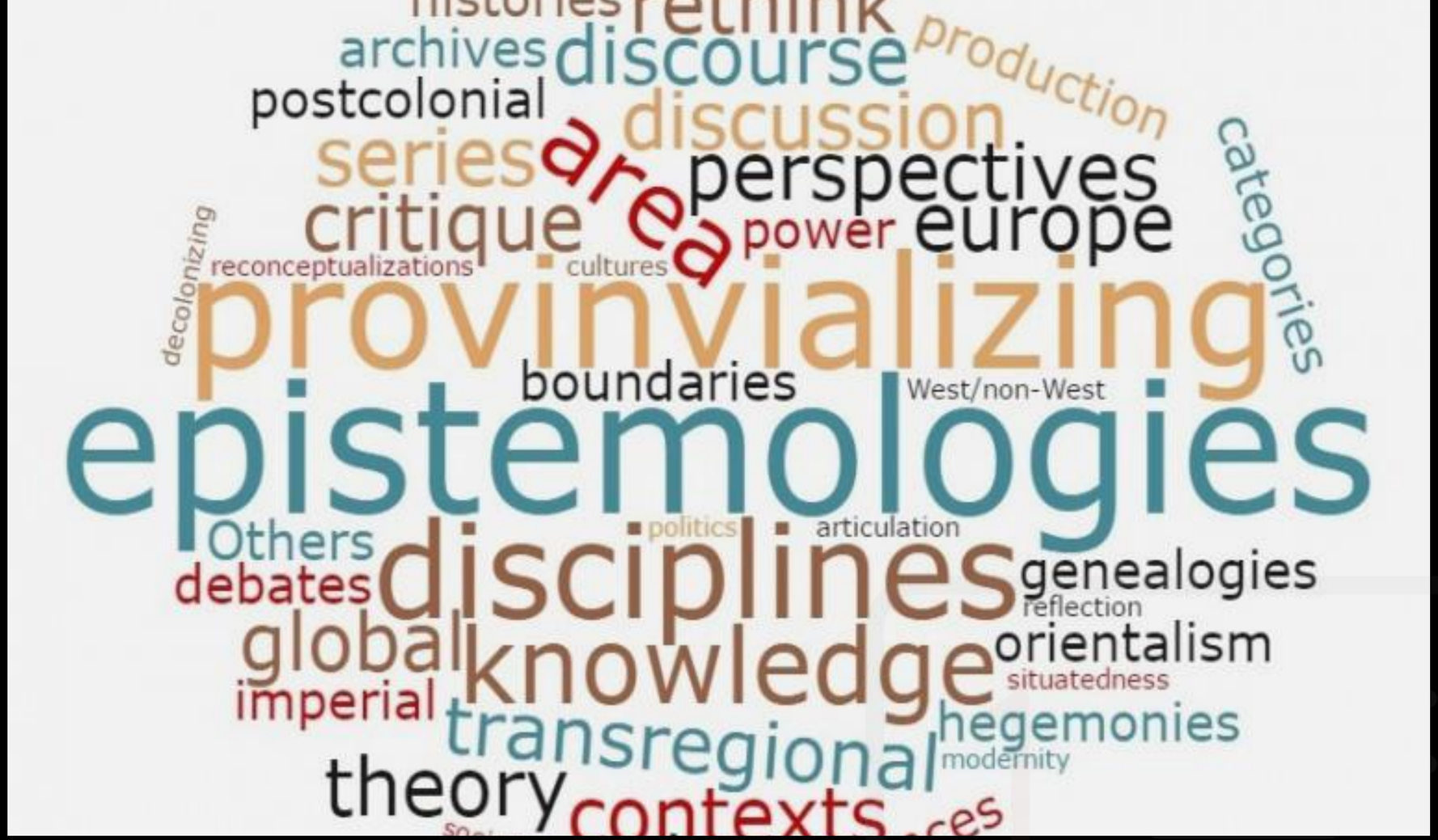
COLONIAL MATRIX OF POWER

ANIBAL QUIJANO

Zero-point Perspective

Castro Gomes





How race construction manifests in the contemporary research world...

Case Study – Equitable and open communication in global health research teams

In a global health project a graduate student from the Global South related to a local investigator how local healthworkers and lab techs on the study were becoming anxious and had begun to seek new positions when they overheard senior Global North researchers express concerns about funding that would pay their salaries being exhausted. Local lab workers and techs were not directly addressed about the issues and did not feel part of the team enough to raise their concerns openly. Instead they were considering quitting the project

Assumptions and dehumanizing practices in global health research

Not communicating,
Failure to understand research funded positions in research projects are precarious jobs in precarious environments
Assuming that local peoples' views do not need to be taken in account and people to not have the agency to participate in decision making.

Applications from Cape Town Statement

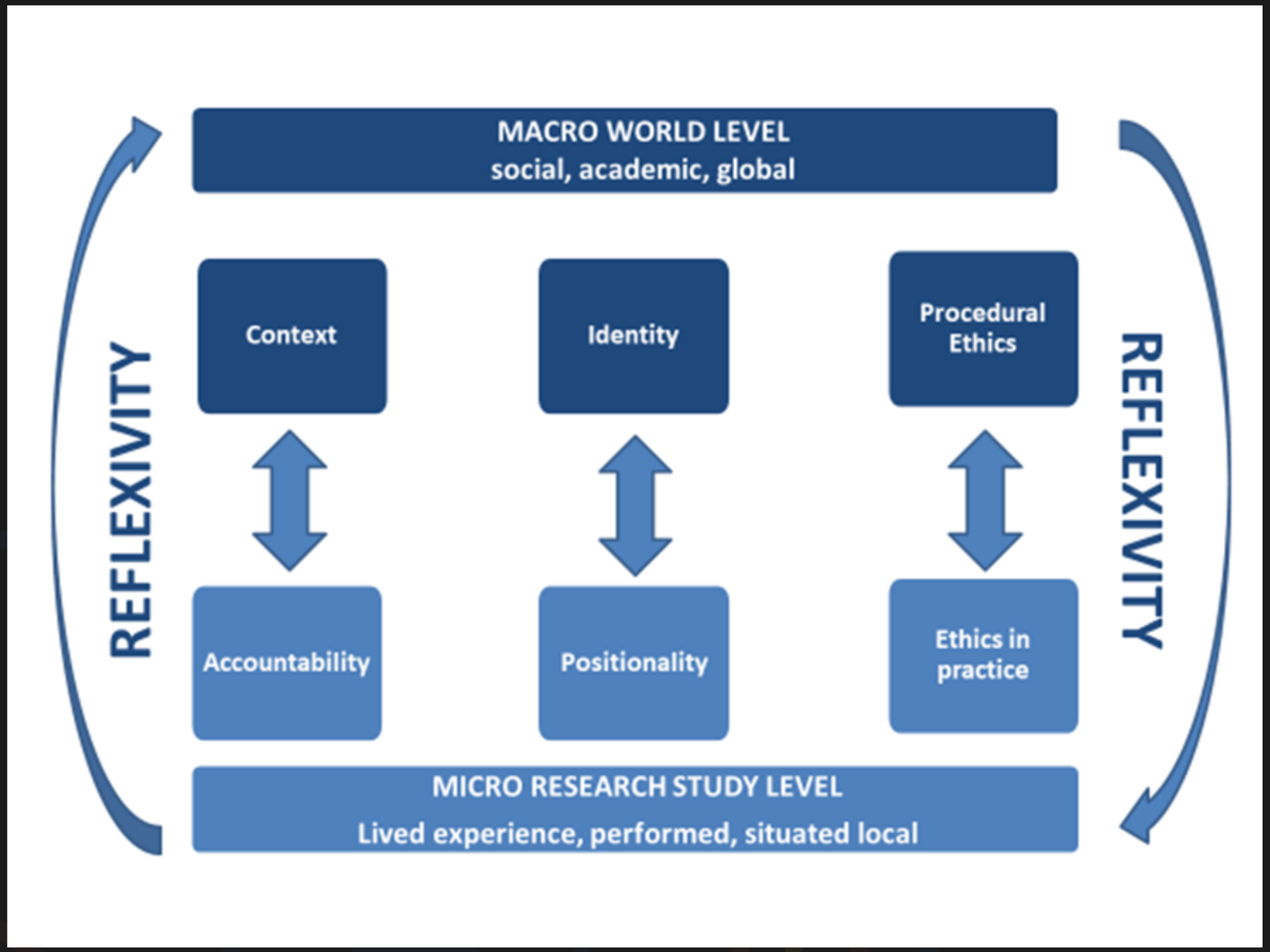
Encourage fair practice in research

Increase diversity and inclusivity

Provide infrastructure

Improve Fairness and Equity

Beyond the Cape Town Statement



Decolonial framework for applying reflexivity and positionalihty in global health research

Naidu T, Gingell G, Zaidi Z. Global Health Promotion. 2024;0(0).

DECOLONIAL FRAMEWORK

- **ACCOUNTABILITY** in context
- Consider relative **POSITIONALITY** and privilege
- Dynamic collaborative
- **ITERATIVE ETHICS**– not just ethics before and after research but reflexively throughout the process
- Researcher **REFLEXIVITY**

CAPE TOWN STATEMENT

Improve Fairness and Equity

Increase diversity and inclusivity

Encourage fair practice in research

Provide infrastructure

Recognise Indigenous knowledge

Global Equity for global problems

Horn L, Alba S, Gopalakrishna G, Kleinert S, Kombe F, Lavery JV, Visagie RG. The Cape Town Statement on fairness, equity and diversity in research. Nature. 2023 Mar;615(7954):790-793. doi: 10.1038/d41586-023-00855-y. PMID: 36964255.

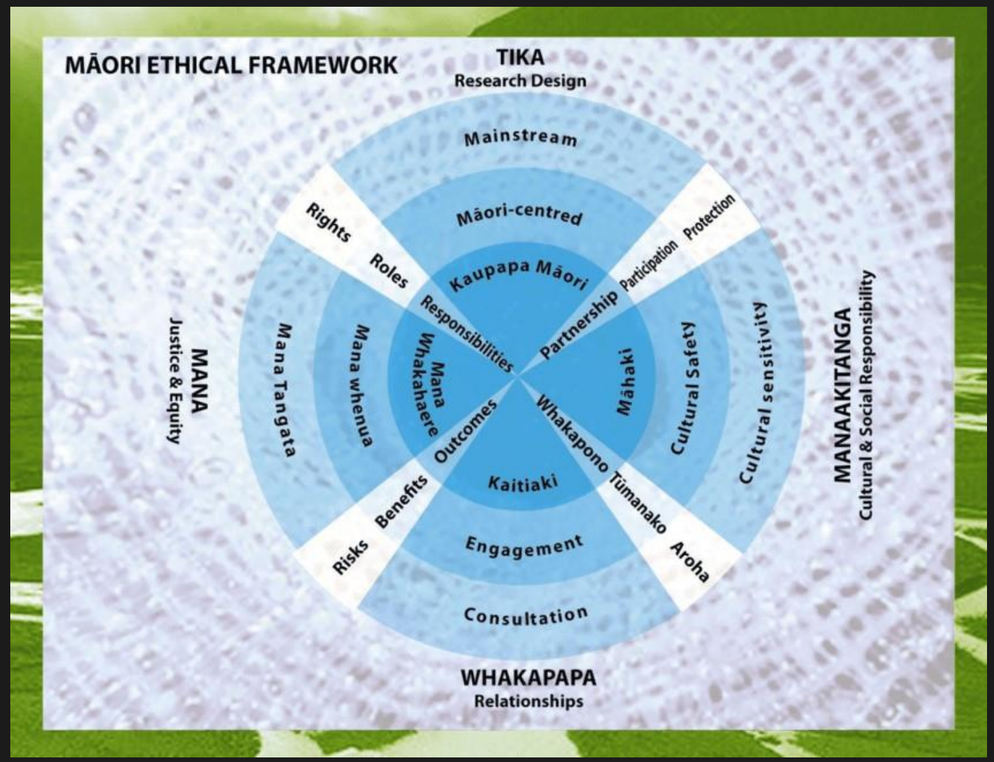
How Global South researchers can and do push back

FROM METHODS TO MADNESS??

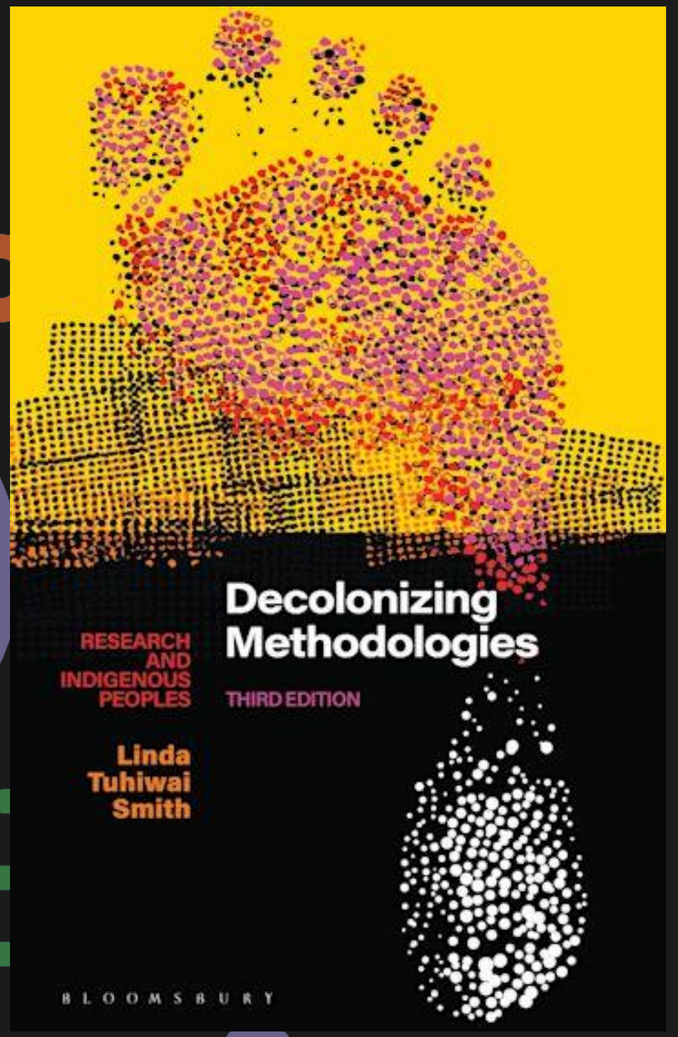
“I shall be derelict… I leave methods to the botanists and the mathematicians. There is a point at which methods devour themselves ”
(Fanon)

Naidu T (2024) **Epistemic disobedience–Undoing coloniality in global health research.** PLOS Glob Public Health 4(4): e0003033. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgph.0003033

Various indigenous communities in the world have developed research guidelines for engaging with people around issues regarding health, community development, climate change etc)



Indigenous- led Methodologies



Recommendations...

Advancing equitable research relationships...

Transparency – across processes

Dialogue -with researchers participants and communities

Stakeholder equity – directives or recommendations

Representivity in numbers

NOT MY SCIENCE

Watch me as I decolonise
Undress
Seek redress
I am going to regress
Be irrational
Be subjective

Look at me
You will see
That I cannot be known
Through method
I am not based in evidence
I am not quantifiable
Theory does not drive me
I am not a man
I am dark
Not white

Painting by South African artist Reggie Khumalo

I will not be replicated.
You will not clone me.
I am not parsimonious
I am not generalisable
therefore…
I am not valid
I am a foreigner in my own territory

Yet, I have value,
My unique vantage point.
I will not let White, Male, Science
Cloud my lens
Block my view
So difficult to do
When most white men
Are taller than you

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΏ