

Through Our Lens: Embracing Socially-Just & Anti- Oppressive Research

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Our Time Together

Participants will be able to:

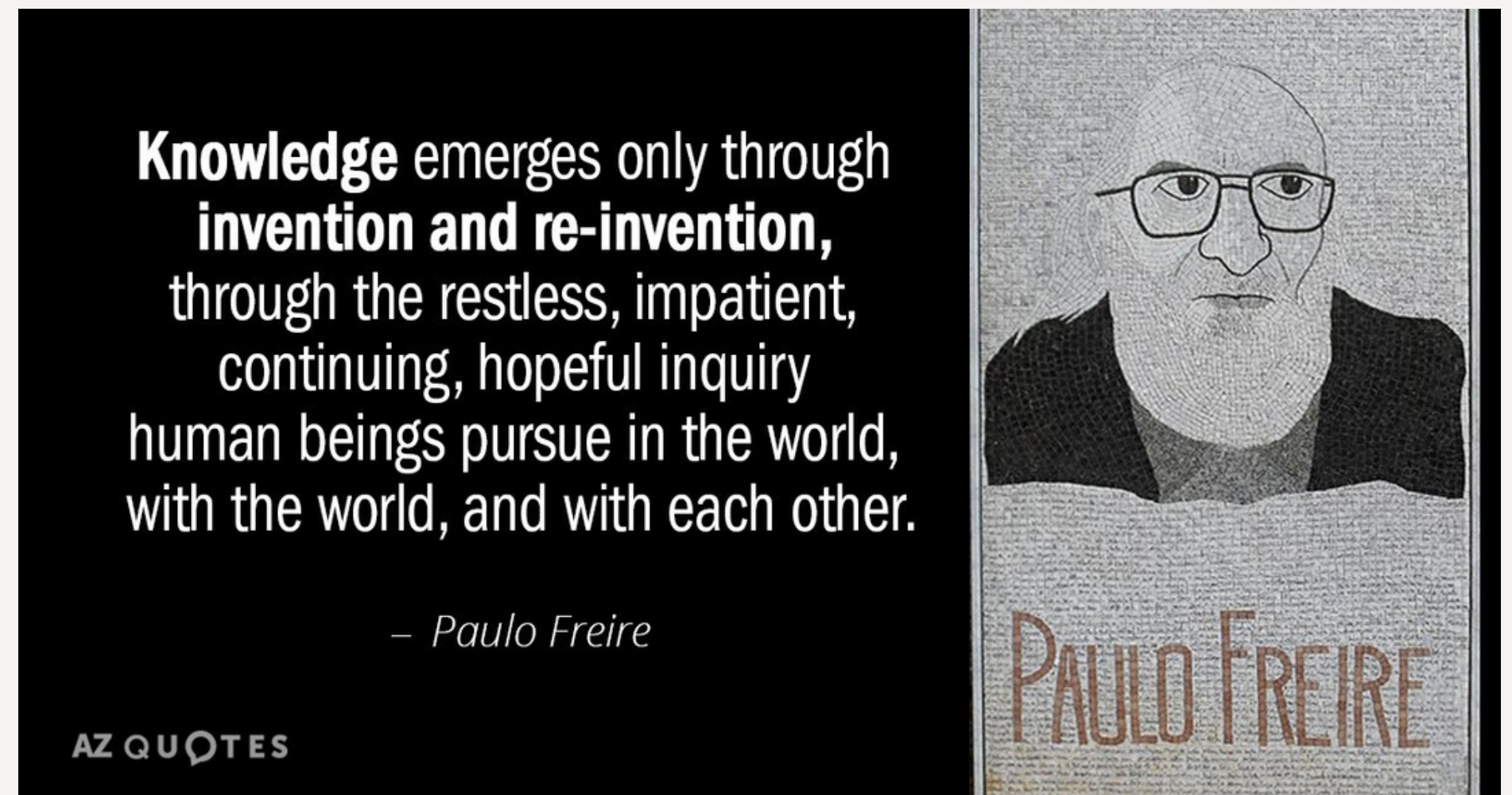
- list 3 principles of anti-oppressive research.
- assess the catalytic validity of anti-oppressive research.
- identify ways to integrate anti-oppressive research principles into your research.



Who does your
research benefit?

Liberation

- Critical social theories
 - Liberation theology
 - Liberatory education
- Multiple ways that marginalized and racialized folx can take action and find their voice.
- Liberatory education - engagement with communities that usually do not have opportunities to develop critical consciousness that allows personal and collective empowerment



(Dhungel et al., 2019; Freire, 1970; Ginwright, 2015; Sagris, 2008)

Anti-Oppressive Research

- No commonly agreed-upon definition
- Interconnected nature of social categories to understand risk and protection
- Egalitarian relationships with community researchers
 - Sharing power
 - Mutual decision-making
 - Sharing of knowledge
- Does not align with research that re-creates power differentials or limits access to the processes of knowledge creation

(Daly, 2016; Lyons et al., 2013; Marey-Sarwan et al., 2021)

Socially Just Researcher

“Being an anti-oppressive researcher means that there is political purpose and action to your research work...one is making an explicit personal [and professional] commitment to social justice [and] making explicit the political practices of creating knowledge...it is about paying attention to, and shifting, how power relations work in and through the process of doing research.” ~ Potts & Brown, 2005

Anti-Oppressive Research

- Reflexivity
- Decentralizing the role of "the researcher"
- Liberating the research process
- Participants as Co-researchers
 - Design
 - Data collection
 - Data analysis
 - Dissemination of findings
 - Action/Advocacy



(Baum et al., 2006; Latz, 2017; MacDonald, 2012)

Anti-Oppressive Research

- Community partnerships
- Exploring and shifting existing power dynamics
 - Social locations
 - Political commitments
- Co-creating and disseminating knowledge
- Increase critical consciousness



(Azzopardi & McNeill, 2016; Carlson et al., 2006; Morrow, 2005; Wang & Burris, 1994, 1997)

Participatory Action Research

- PAR is a social-justice approach to research.
- Partner with targeted communities to explore their experiences.
- Participants are seen as co-researchers.



(Kidd & Kral, 2005; Latz, 2017; MacDonald, 2012; Maguire, 1987; Smith et al., 2012)



Reflection Time

- How does your social location impact your work as a researcher?
- What is your identity as a researcher?
- What is your research agenda?
- Whom does your research agenda benefit?
Who does your research silence?

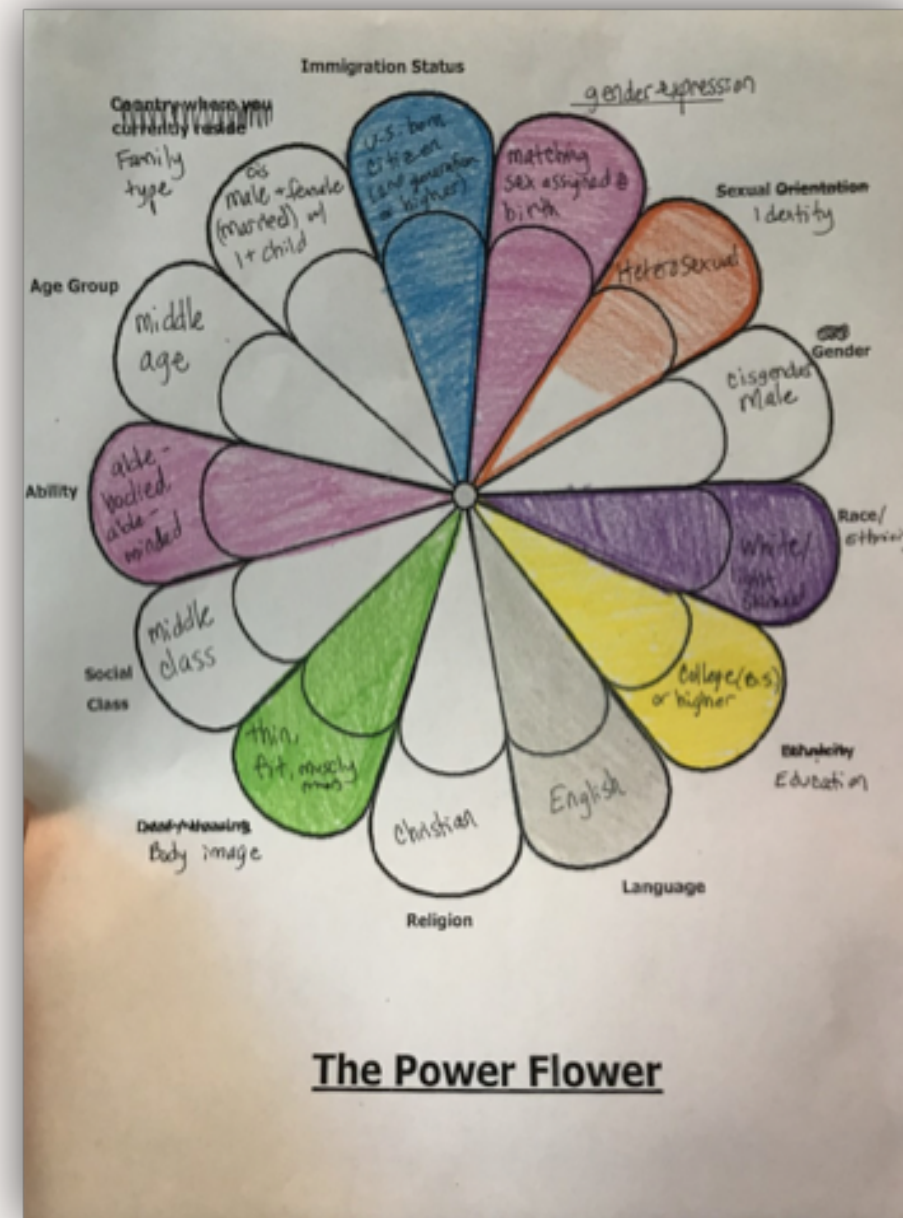
Reflection Time

- How do you conceptualize your work as a researcher?
- How do you see your relationship with participants/co-researchers?
- What research approaches do you use?



Practicing Transformative & Liberatory Research in Counseling

- Positionality
- Ongoing critical reflexivity
 - Questions listed by Savage et al., 2021
 - What is your research agenda? Who does your research agenda benefit? Who does your research silence?
- Decentralizing YOUR role



Practicing Transformative & Liberatory Research in Counseling

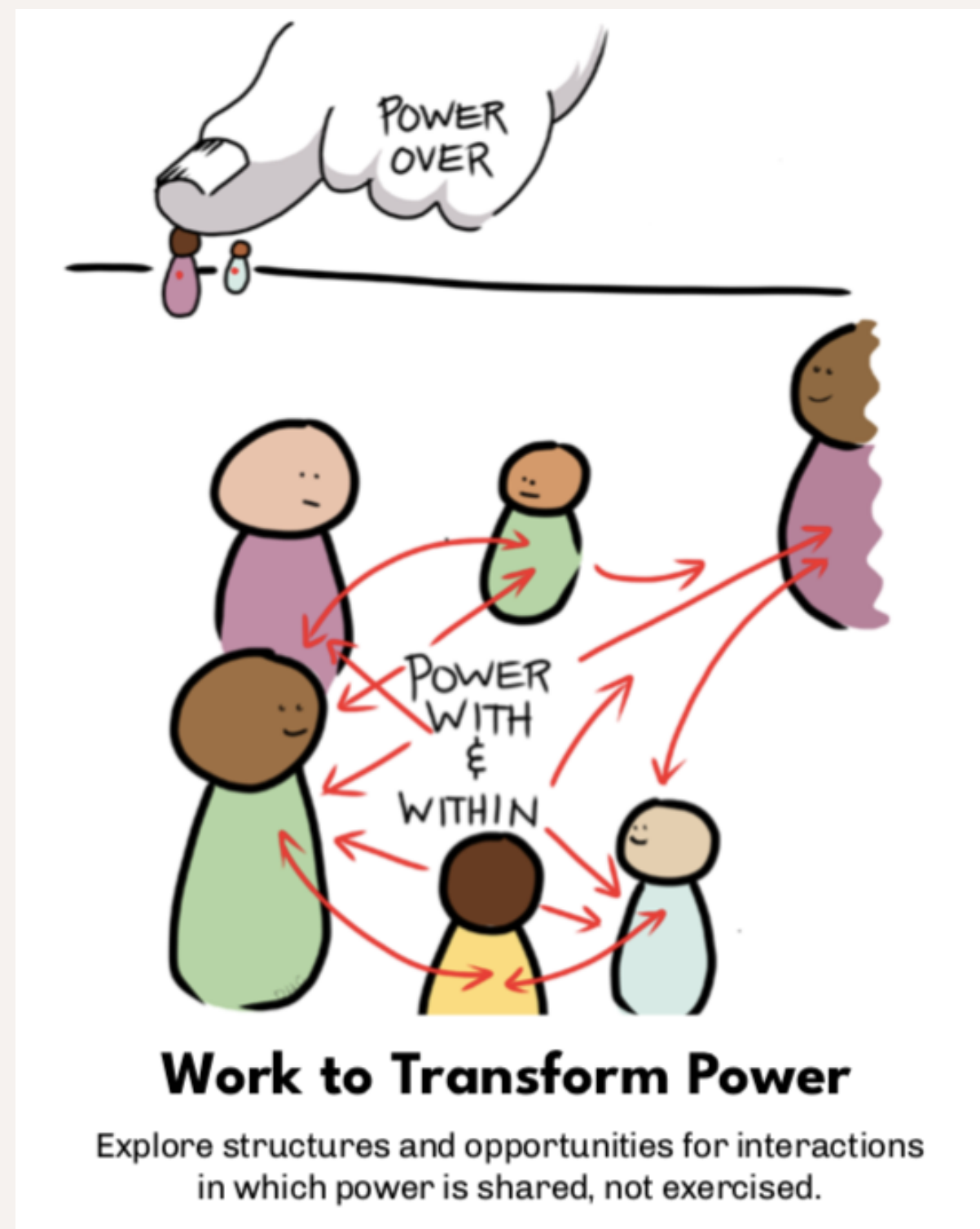


- Partner with marginalized and racialized communities
- Strategies for establishing rigor
- Development of critical consciousness
- Action and advocacy

Catalytic validity = “the degree to which the research process re-orientes, focuses, and energizes participants in” their development of critical consciousness for social transformation (Lather, 1986, p. 67).

Strategies for Establishing Rigor

- Reflexivity
- Peer debriefing
- Research team debriefings
- Prolonged engagement
- Triangulation of data sources
- Triangulation of the analysis team
- Member checking
- Ethical validity



Ethical Considerations

- Inherent power relations and inequality
 - Ongoing exploration of positionality and praxis
- Confidentiality
 - Increased risks of exposure/visibility/outing

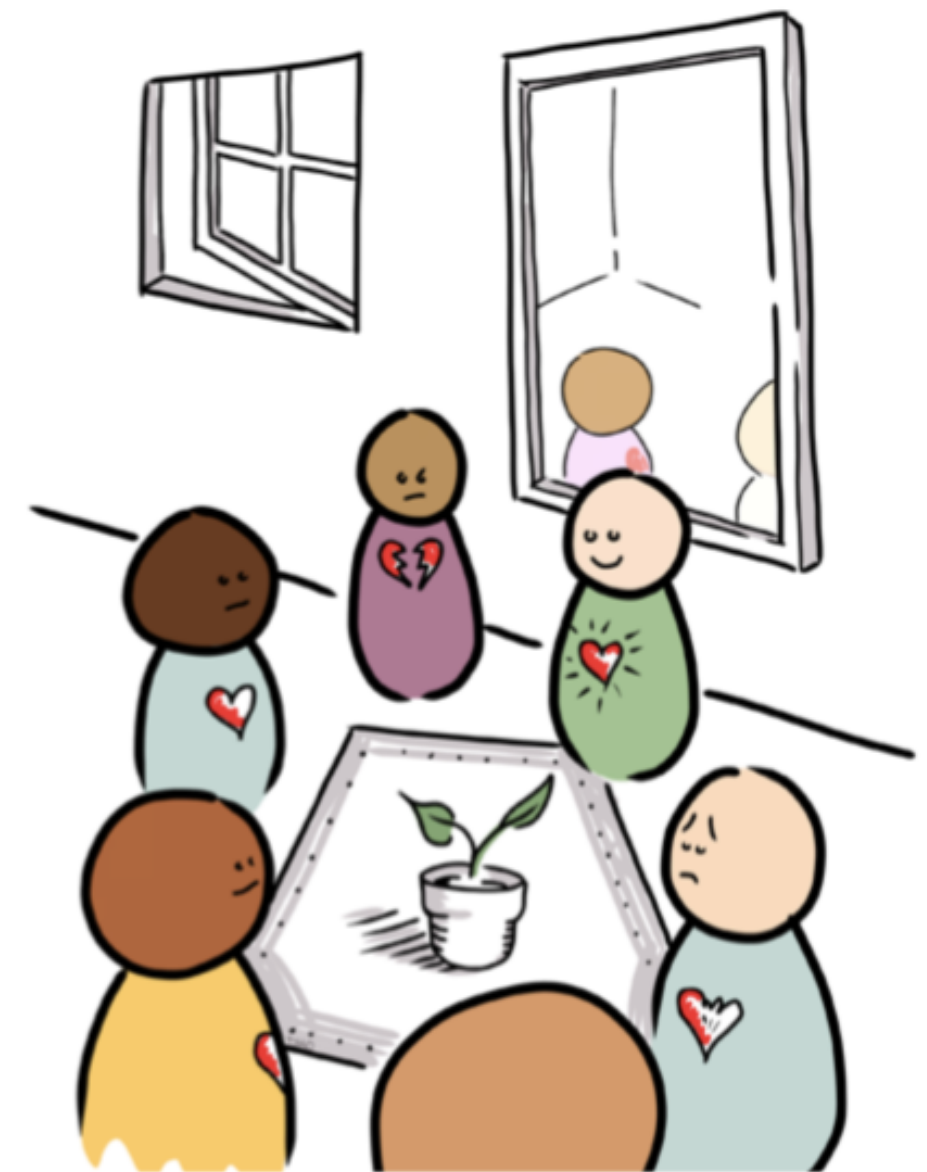


Ethical Considerations

- Screening and informed consent throughout the study
- Emotional distress
 - List of Resources & Referrals
- Compensation

Ethical Considerations

Research methodologies are not “independent of ongoing negotiations of power in participants’ lives” (Holtby et al., 2015, p. 331).



Attend to Healing

The effects of oppression are complex and often hinder our ability to take action. Integrate ongoing healing processes when designing for equity.

How can you start practicing
transformative & liberatory
research?



Questions & Closing Reflection

Contact Us

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