

Intersectionality and Decolonization

**A Discussion on the Implications and Accountabilities
for Engaging Men**

Presented by Tonya Lovelace, President and CEO
Lovelace Consulting Services, Inc. (LCSI)
NAMEN Symposium, November 30, 2020



Objectives

- To hold an interactive discussion introducing foundational elements of intersectionality and decolonization, centering in this discussion anti-Indigeneity and anti-Blackness
- To provide participants an opportunity through small and large group discussion to determine their relationship and accountabilities to those living at the intersections

Presentation Outline

TODAY'S AGENDA

- ✓ Breath and Chat Check-In (I identify as...)
- Group Agreements
- Chat Check-In (Why is this topic important to me)
- Video: Origins of Race
- Small Group Discussion
- Videos: Decolonization for Everyone + What is Intersectional Feminism
- Small Group Discussion
- Takeaway Offerings
- Large Group Discussion
- Chat Check-In (Why this topic is still important to me)
- Breath and Close

BREATHE

BREATH IS POLITICAL.

-TONYA LOVELACE

Chat Check-In

- My name is...
- I identify as...

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Group Agreements

Honor confidentiality – What is said here, stays here

Listen to others

Use “I” statements to communicate

Show respect for one another and myself, thus creating safety for everyone

Value risk taking from others and myself

Express thoughts and emotions with sensitivity toward others’ feelings

Uphold one another and be impeccable in communication about others

Use “ouch” if necessary

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Chat Check-In

- Why is this topic important to me?

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Video:

FIRST VIDEO (10:15 mins)

Origins of Race in the USA from the series Origins of Everything
Danielle Bainbridge, 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVxAlmAPHec>

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Small Group Discussion

I felt...

I learned...

This applies to my work because...

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Videos:

SECOND VIDEO (13:18 MINS):

Decolonization is for Everyone, Nikki Sanchez, TEDx Talks, 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QP9x1NnCWNy>

--AND--

THIRD VIDEO (4:24 MINS):

What is Intersectional Feminism? Kimberle Crenshaw at Omega Leadership Institute, 2007

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0TFy4zRsltY>



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Takeaway Offerings

Origins of Race...

Race is a human construct, born of scientific, religious, and legal actions to create a white class.

The purpose was to dehumanize non-white people thus claiming white superiority, and to justify the colonization of Indigenous land and Indigenous erasure around the globe institutionalizing anti-Indigeneity

It was also used to justify the enslavement of African people, and the eventual development of anti-Blackness, race caste, and colorism.

Takeaway Offerings

Intersectionality...

Begins with recognition that we all have multiple and layered identities

Centers those at the deepest of the intersections and the margins of identity, on the margins of the margins

De-centers single-issue approaches

De-centers privilege

Assumes that those on the margins can represent on behalf of identity groups and are not hybrid

Encourages all to self-identify and hold understanding of how we are positioned in relationship to those at the intersections

Takeaway Offerings

Intersectionality...

Challenges those with layers of privilege to self-locate and no longer uphold implicit identity

Sets a clear priority to end Patriarchy, Eurocentricity, Capitalism, and other 'isms simultaneously

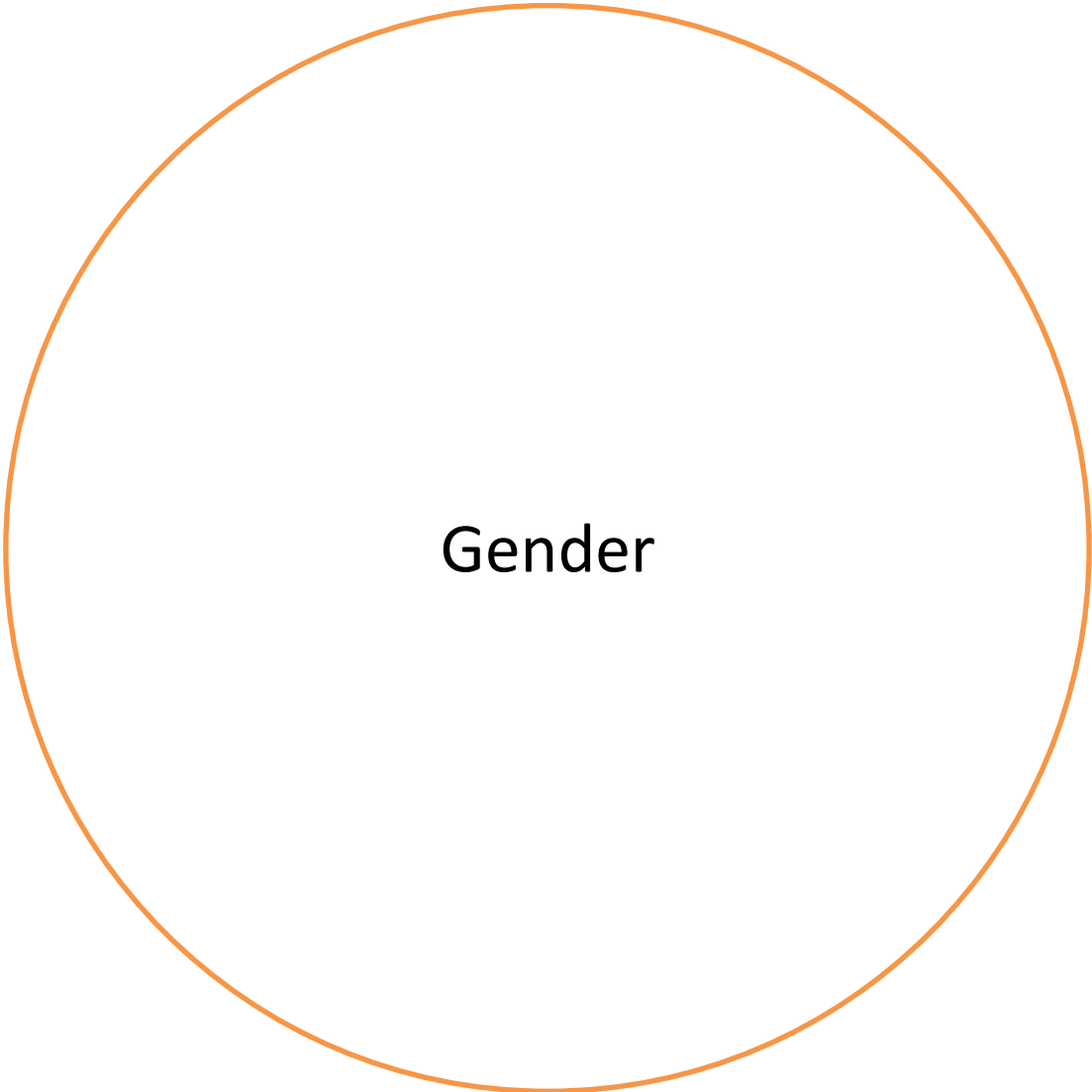
Intersectionality is NOT...

....just a listing of identities

....intended to amplify the experiences of those with compounded privilege

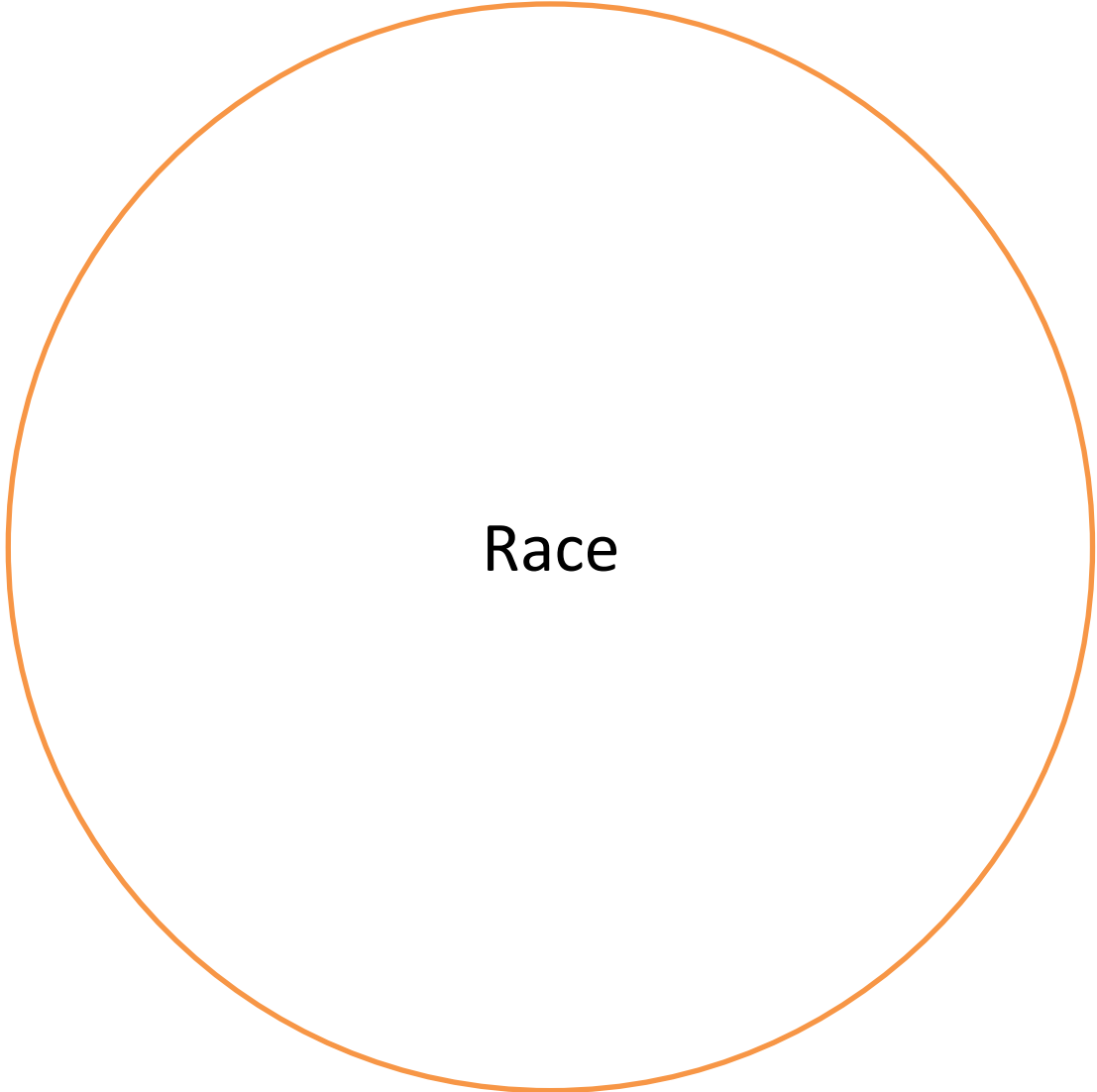
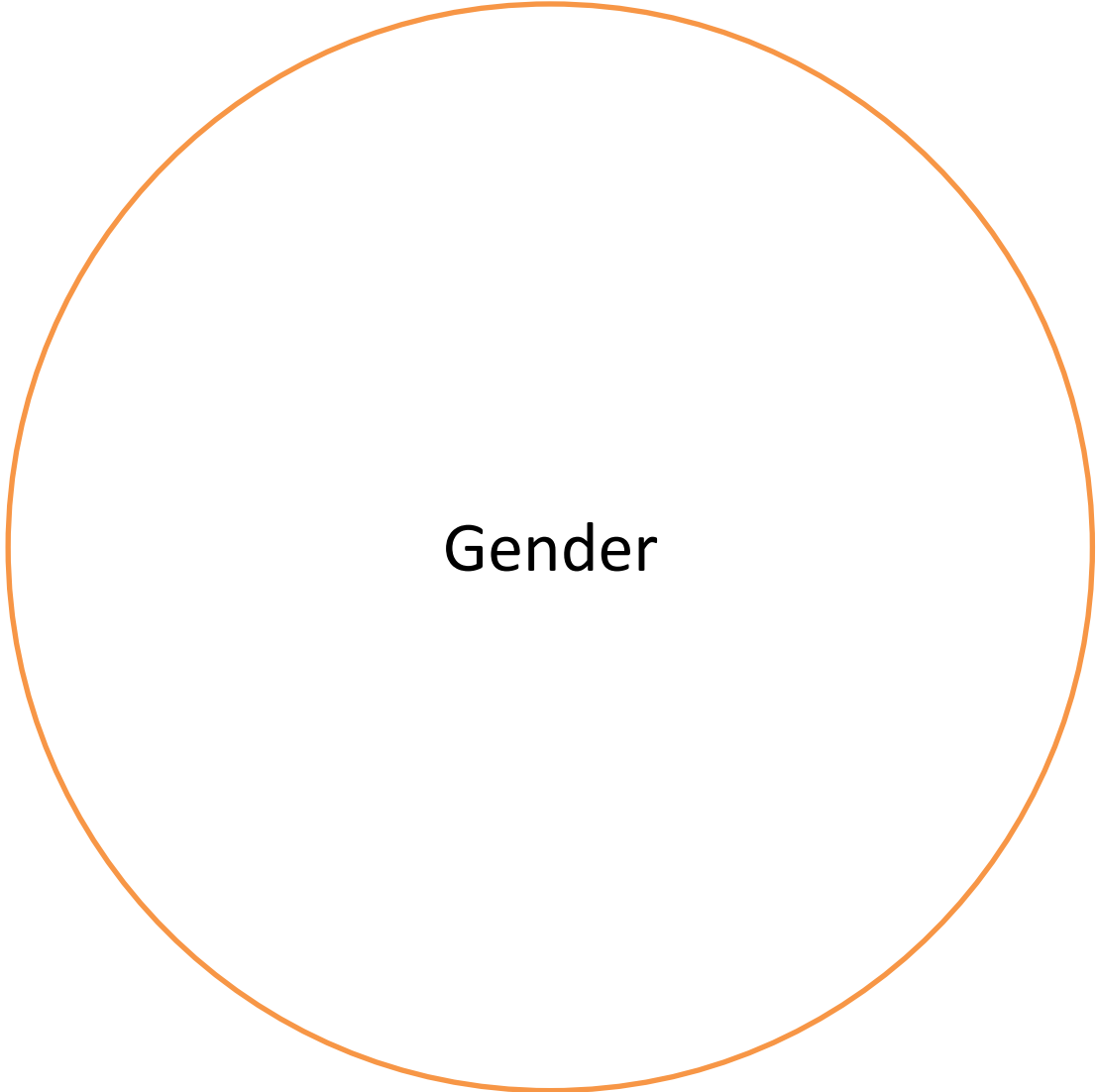
Intersectionality...

Single-Issue
Approaches



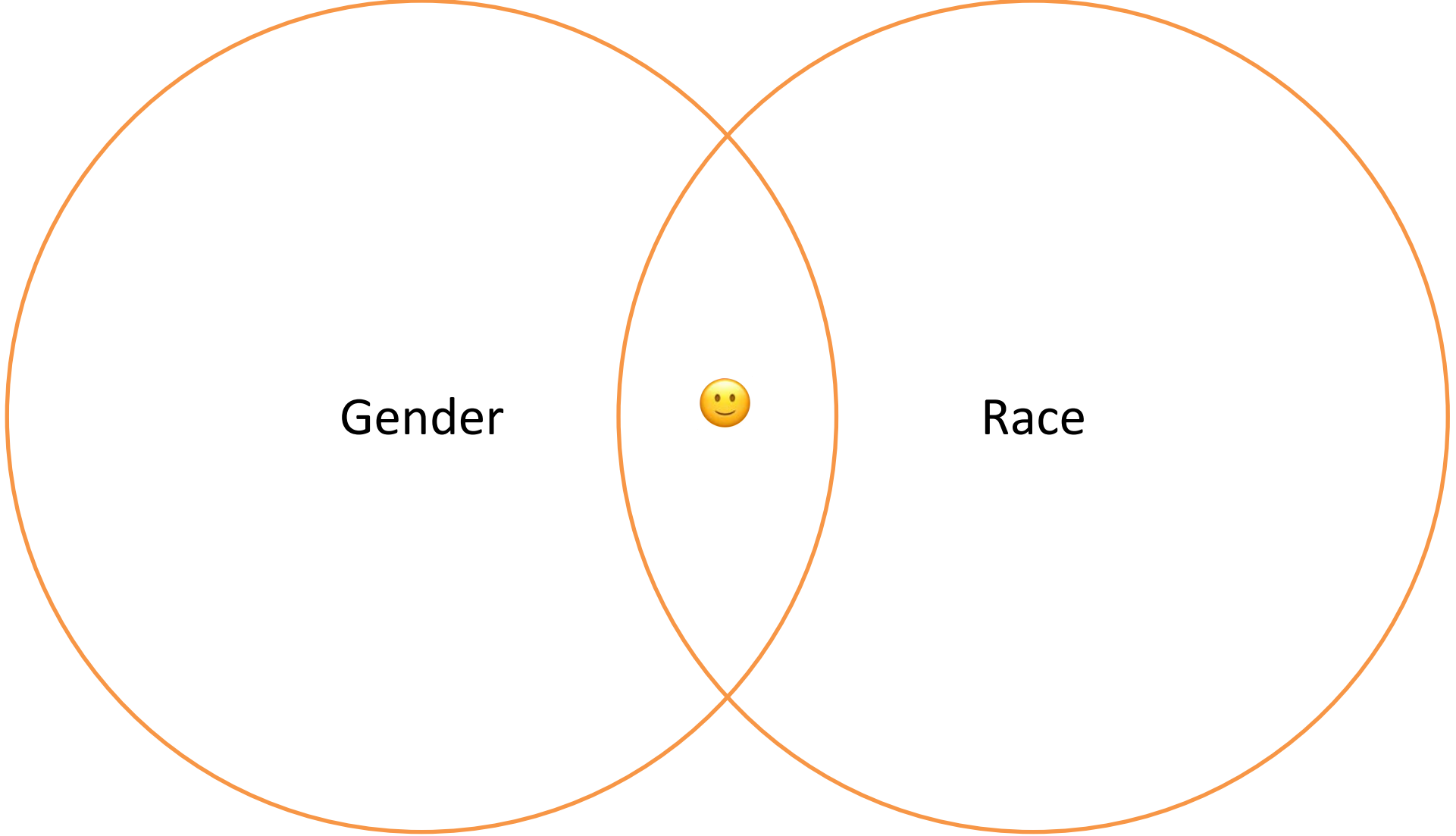
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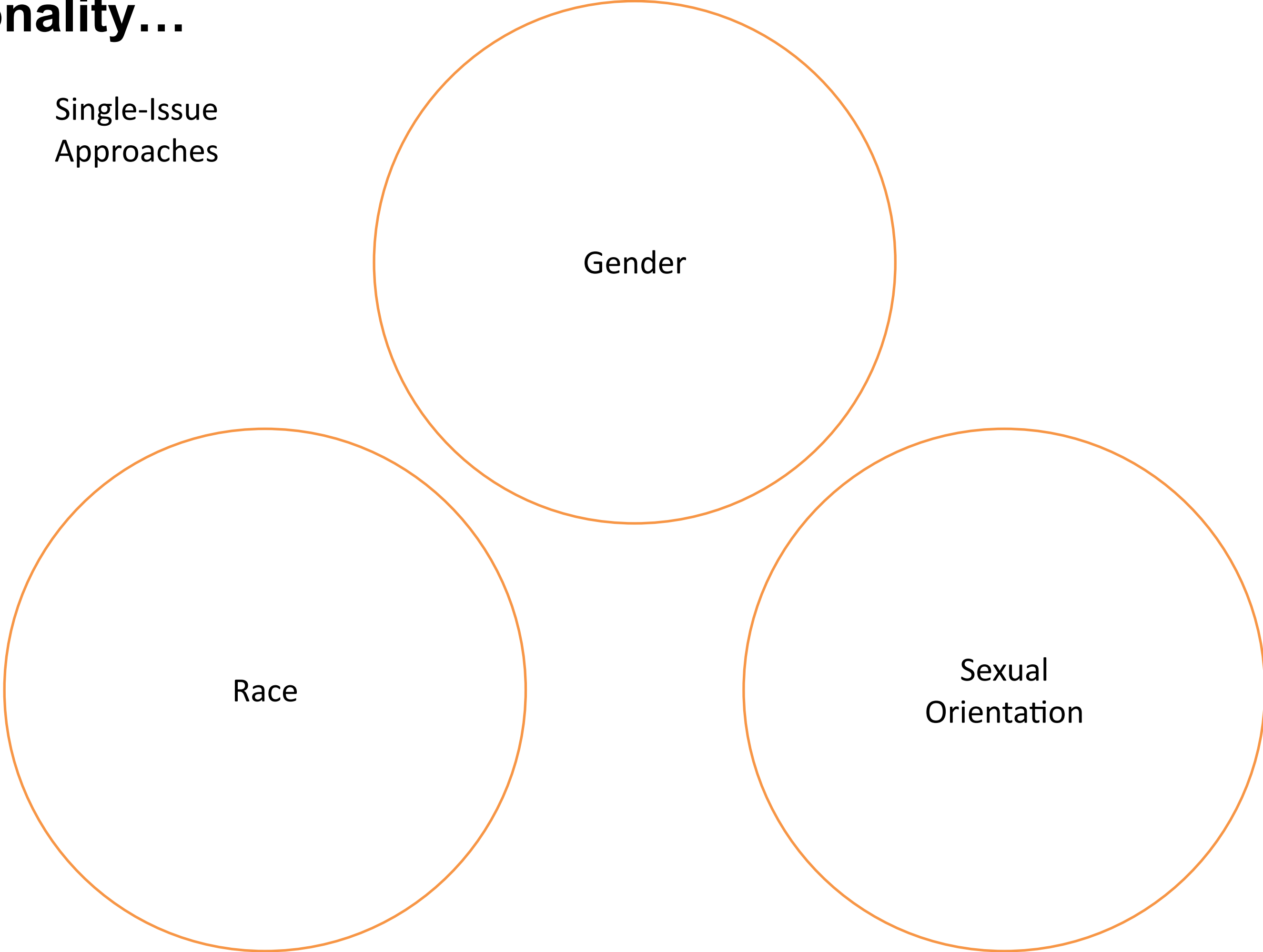
Intersectionality...

Margins



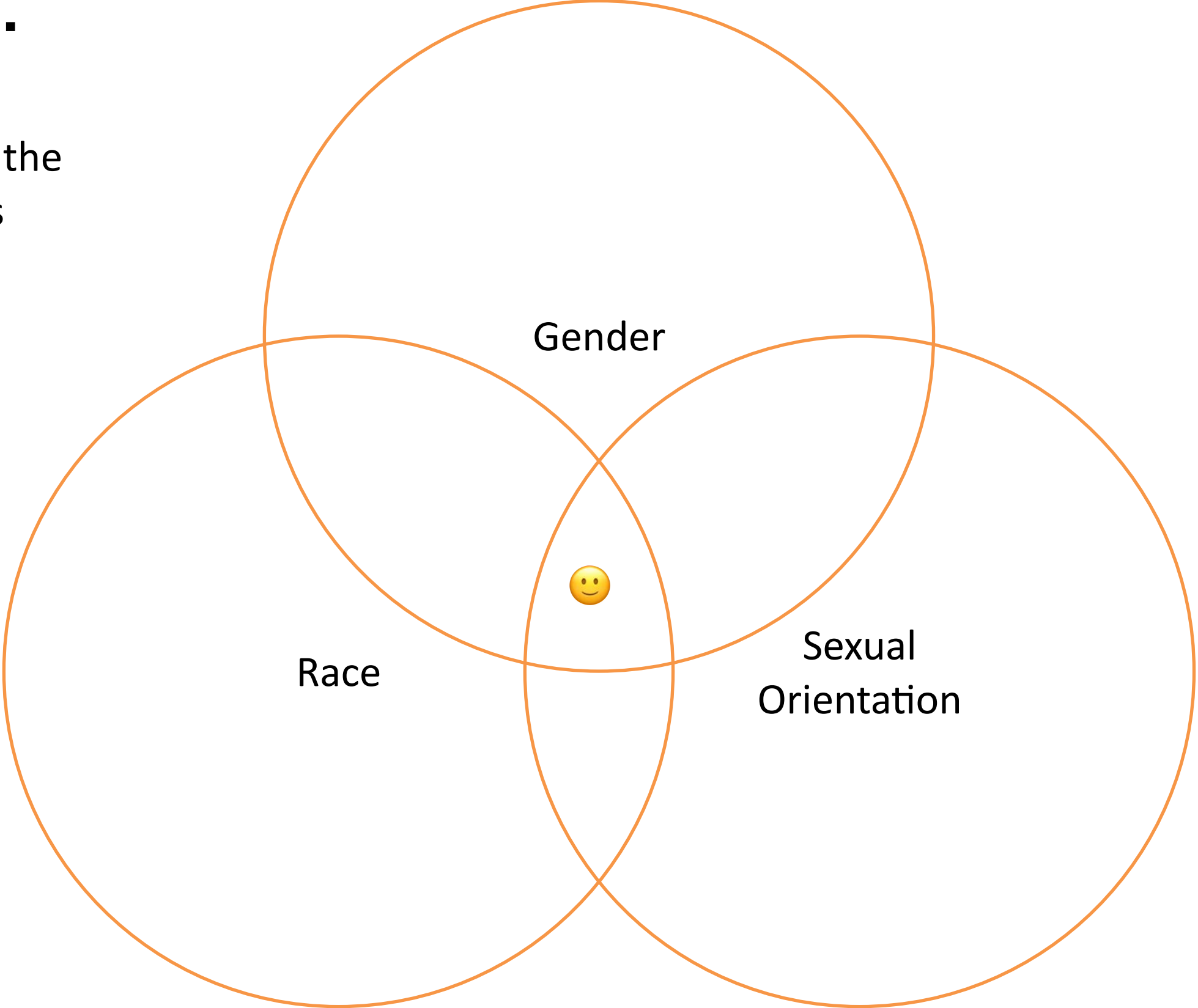
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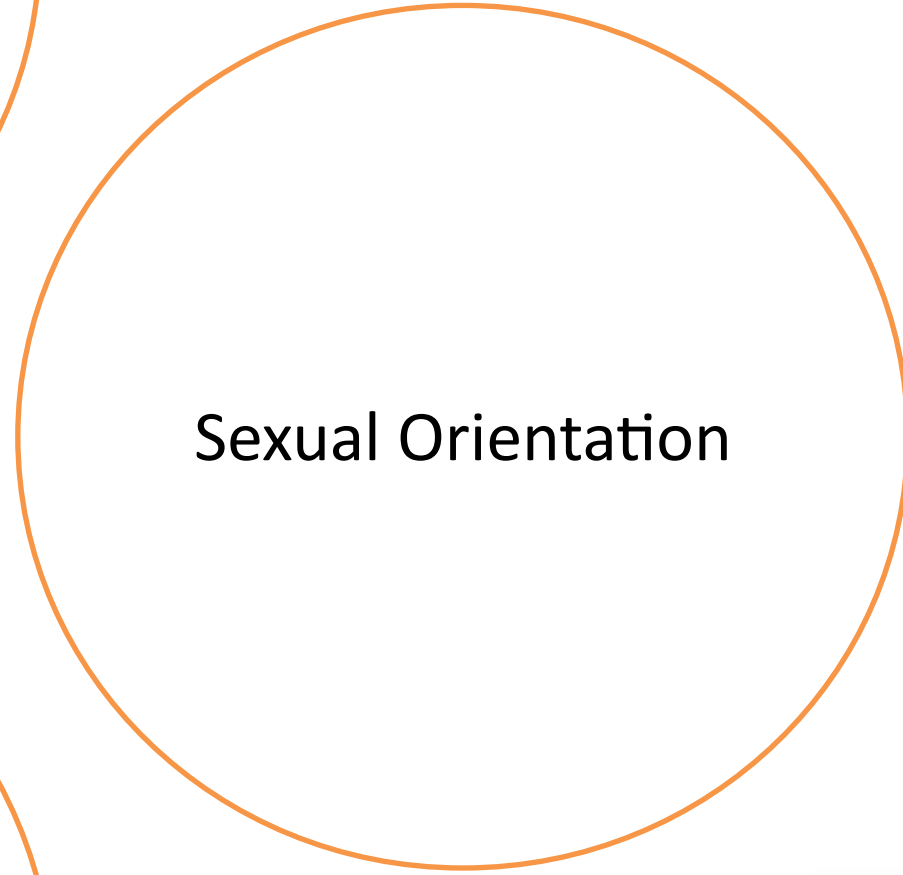
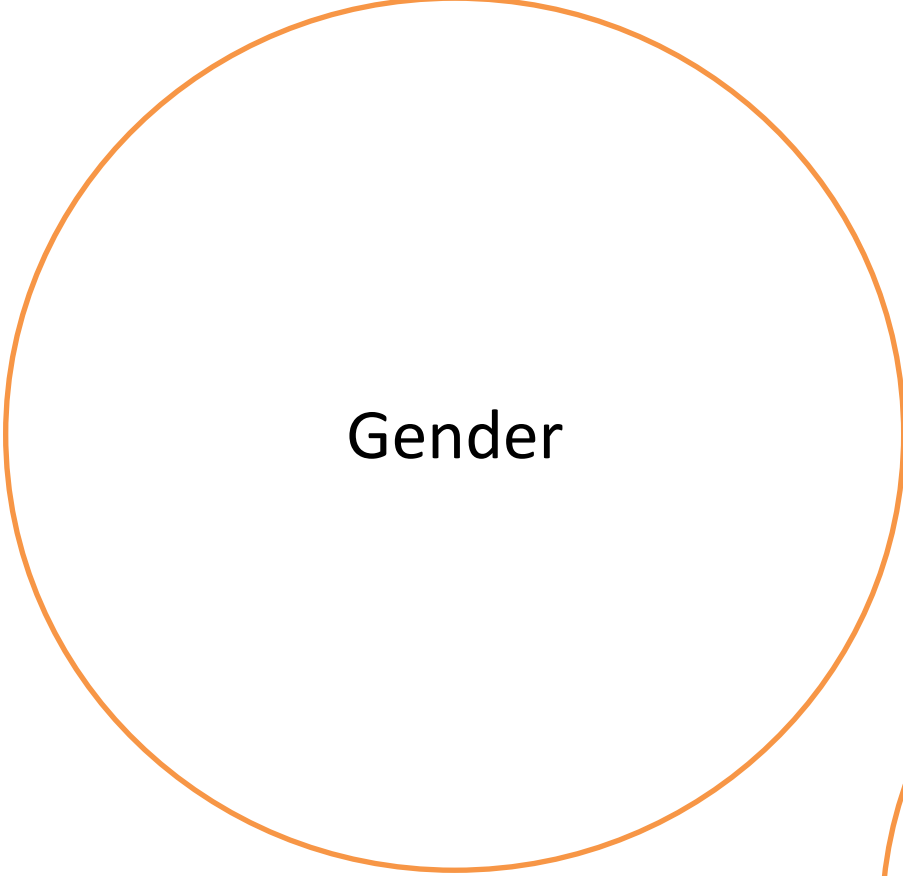
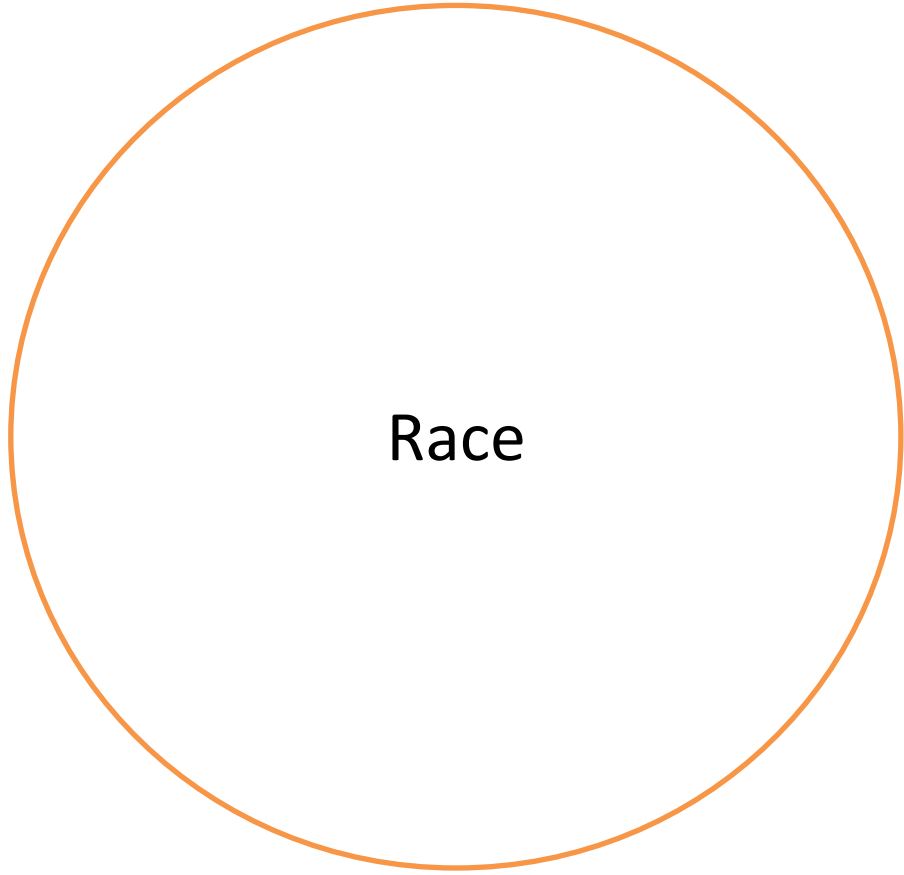
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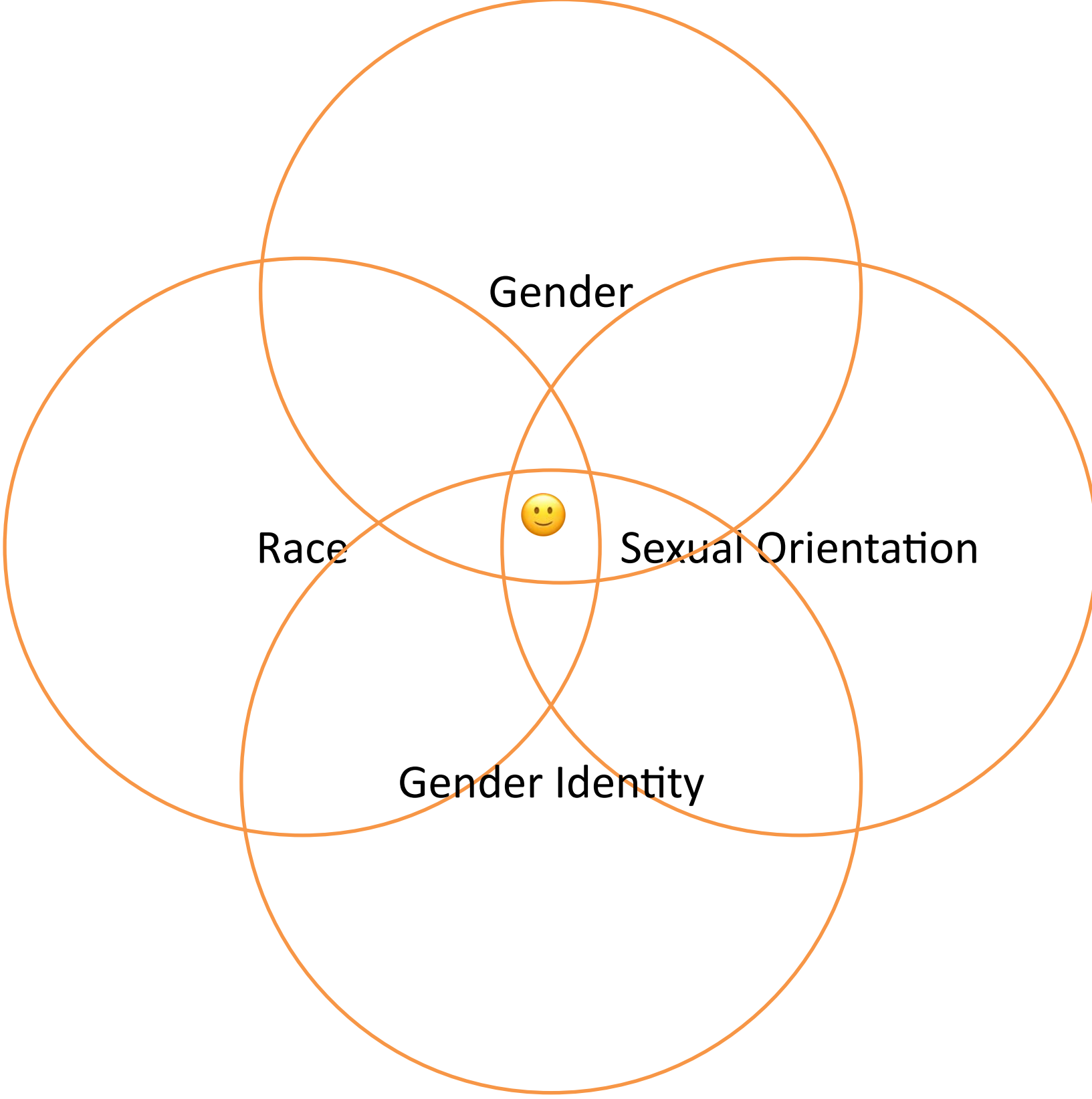
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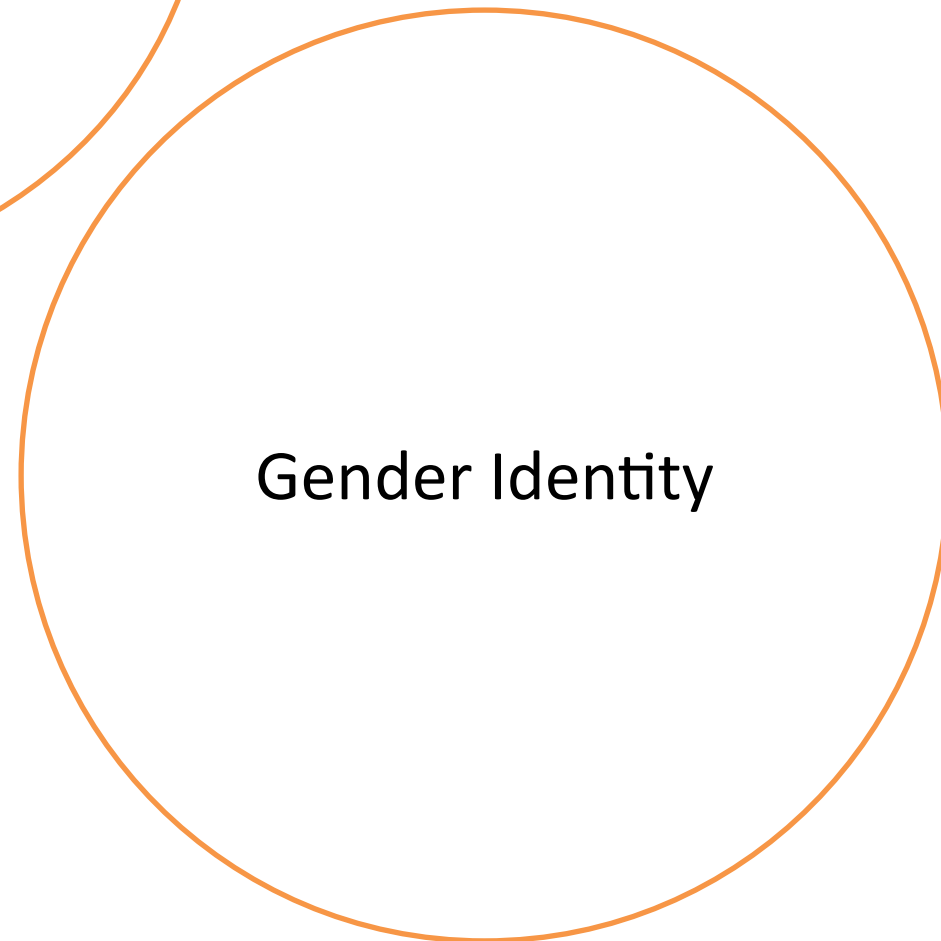
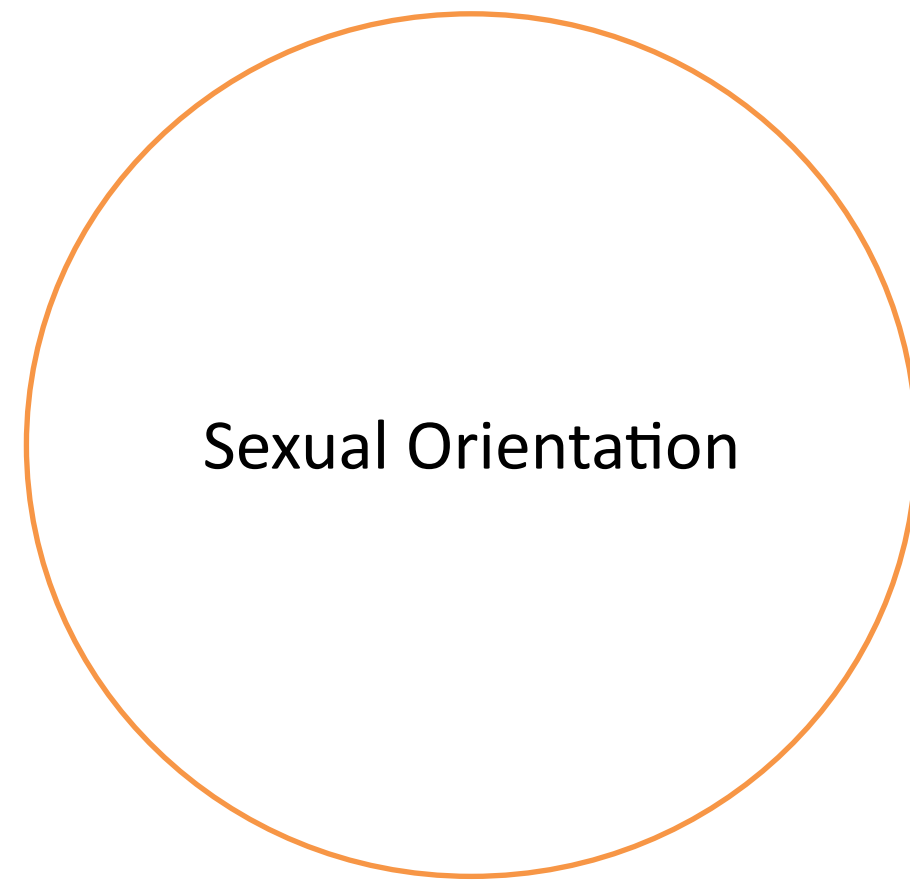
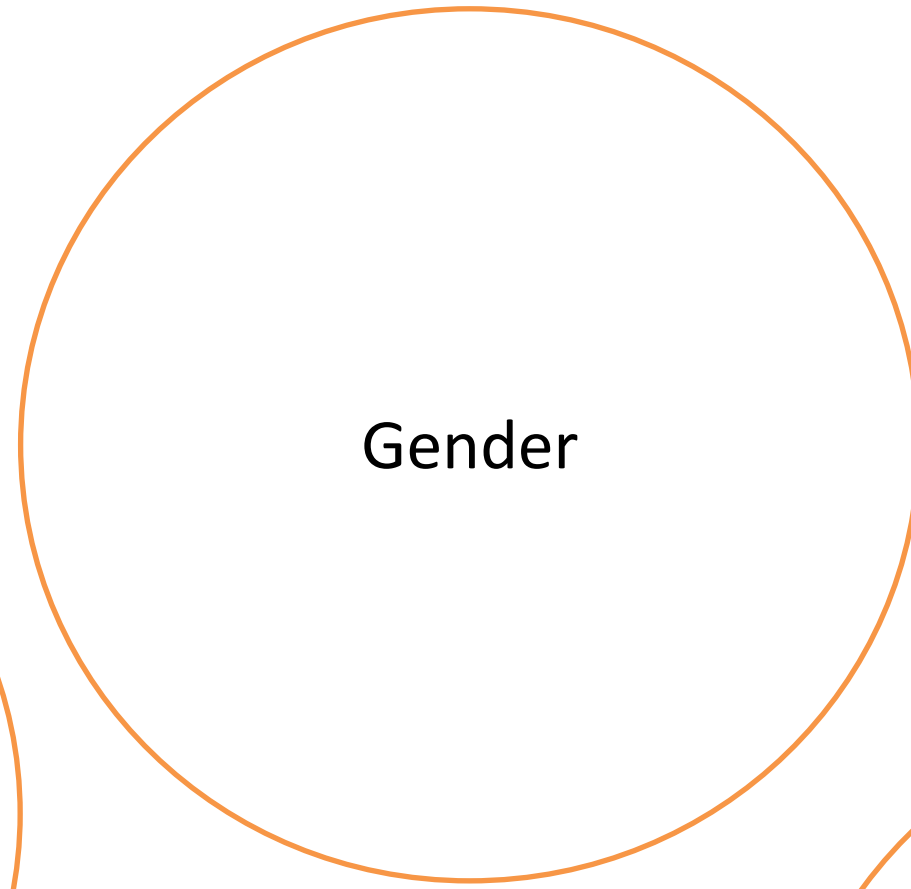
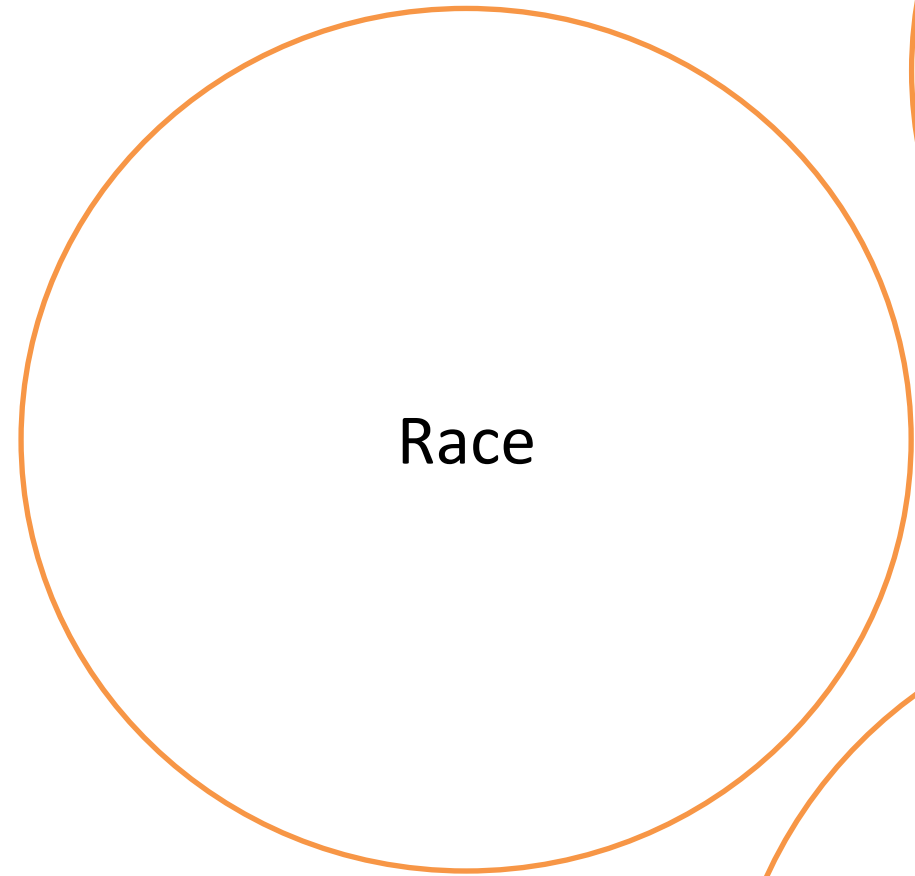
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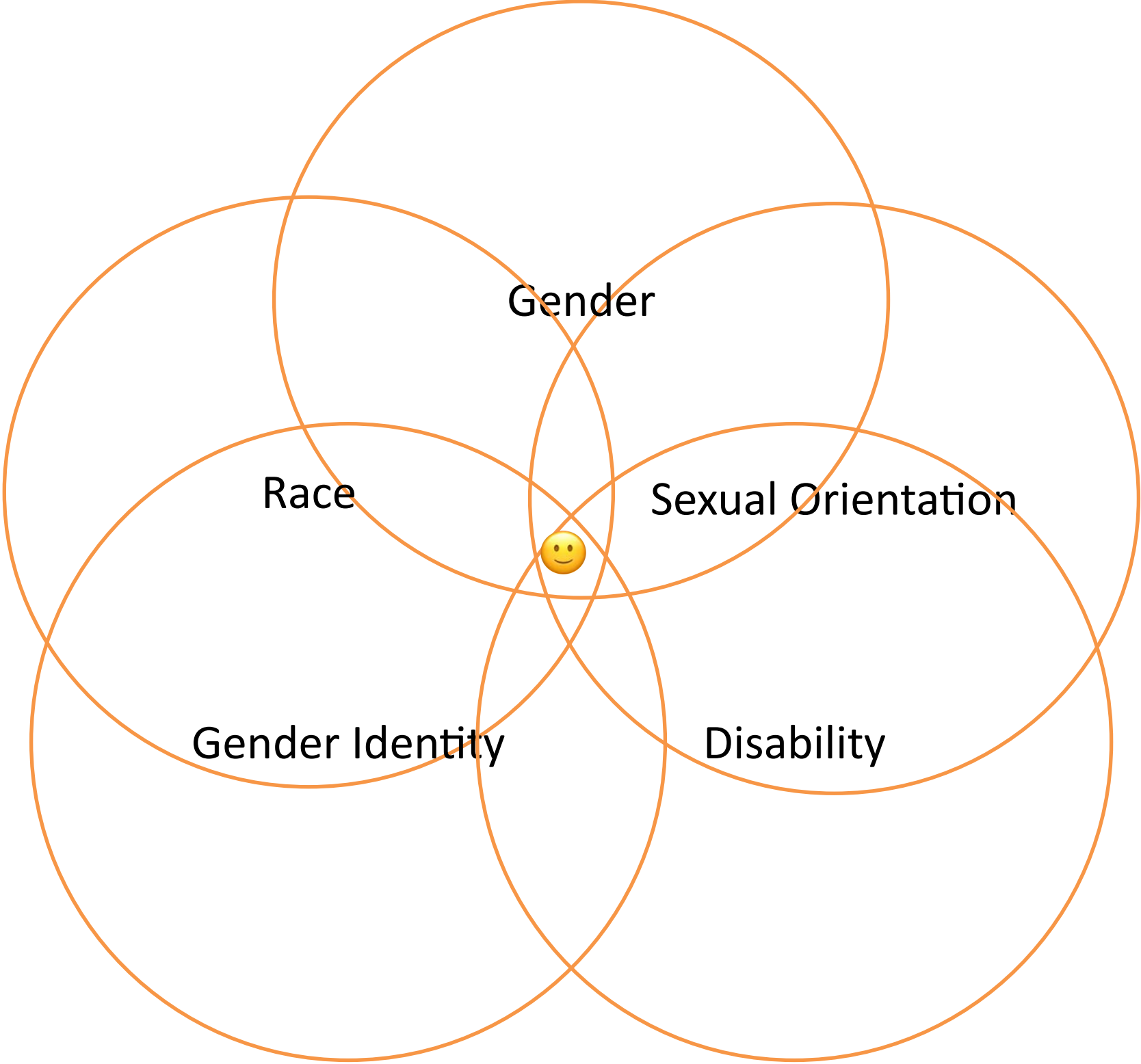
Intersectionality...

Single-Issue
Approaches



Intersectionality...

Margins of the
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Takeaway Offerings

Intersectionality...

EXAMPLE OF THE MARGINS OF THE MARGINS

- Black Transwomen are experiencing violence and homicide at greater rates *(In July 2020, 6 Black transwomen found killed in 9 days)*
- Focusing solely on women, transgender communities, and African-American communities as single communities leaves Black Transwomen marginalized within each of these single issues
- Those who seek to hurt Black Transwomen know and benefit thus escalating the violence

Decolonization...

Takeaway Offerings

DECOLONIZATION FIRST STEPS: (BECAUSE THE REAL WORK WE NEED TO BUILD TOGETHER)

- Learn who you are and where you came from
- Address the oppressive systems and histories that enable you to occupy the territory you now do
 - Learn whose land you live on and what has been done to them
- Find out how you benefit from that history and activate one strategy wherein you can use your privilege from which to dismantle that
- Share the knowledge that the work of Decolonization is for everyone

Screenshot from Decolonization is for Everyone,
Nikki Sanchez, TEDx Talks, 2019 – Her direct words

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Takeaway Offerings

Decolonization...

DECOLONIZATION LOOKS LIKE

- Decolonization looks like living without paralyzing guilt/ shame of your identity and the social identity you have inherited.
 - Decolonization looks like giving up social and economic power and privilege that directly disempowers, appropriates and invisibilizes others
 - Decolonization looks like dismantling patriarchy
- Decolonization looks like doing the work to find out who you are, where you came from and how you got here and committing to build communities that work together to find out where we are going (together) and what our individual roles and responsibilities are in this process.
 - Decolonization looks like celebrating who we are and connecting the unique knowledge we each bring work together to solve our global challenges

Screenshot from Decolonization is for Everyone,
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Takeaway Offerings

Decolonization...

TONYA'S THOUGHT ON BLACK AND INDIGENOUS COMMONALITY:

Indigenous people in North America and around the world have experienced colonization and are seeking “indigenization” and a reclamation of original language, land, body, and values, and to stop the tyranny that has resulted in thousands of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

Black people in North America and displaced around the world, and within African continent, have had their indigeneity stolen and many seek original language, land, body and values, and stop the tyranny that too has resulted in thousands of missing Black women and girls, and police brutality of Black people across gender rooted in anti-Blackness.

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Large Group Discussion

Given this information, what do I want to do more of?

What do I want to do less of?

What are my accountabilities in applying intersectionality and decolonization in my work to engage men and boys?

How will I apply what I have learned?

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Chat Check-In

- Why is this topic even more important to me now?

Additional Resources

- Kimberle' Crenshaw's original 1989 article
“Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and
Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of
Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory
and Antiracist Politics”

<https://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1052&context=uclf>

- “The Historical Foundations of Race

<https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race/topics/historical-foundations-race>



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