

Exploring Lived Experience of Privilege

This activity takes the wheel and spokes of the "Intersecting Axes of Privilege, Domination and Oppression" and puts them into the hands of the participants to work out and develop their awareness of lived intersections of privilege and oppression. It is noted that the spoke and wheel diagram of binaries is part of the discussion of social location. It is the intention of this activity to lead participants to ask and answer questions of their own social location.



1. Welcome & Introduction

Set up: - participants and facilitators sit in a circle - challenge to the typical western power hierarchy of a teacher standing at the front of the room.

Purpose & vision for group: Participants will understand their own relationships with privilege and will engage in an imaginative activity of putting off privilege or stopping the conferring of privilege.

2. Definition of Terms :

Social location

Indicates groups you belong to because of your place in history and society. All people have a social location that is defined by their gender, race, social class, age, ability, religion, sexual orientation, and geographic location. Each group membership confers a certain set of social roles and rules, power, and privilege (or lack of), which heavily influence our identity and how we see the world.^[1]

Privilege

Unearned power giving certain groups economic, social, and political advantages simply by virtue of their belonging to those dominant groups in any society, often enjoyed unconsciously

^[1] *Cultural Safety Module 2: Peoples' Experiences of Oppression.* University of Victoria. Developed by Ian Sloan, Lindsay Enns, Ramona Pauls at "Engaging Others! Facilitators Training" December 2016. Canadian Churches' Forum for Global Ministries www.ccforum.ca (director@ccforum.ca for permission to copy or use)

Entitlement

The condition of having a right to have, do, or get something. The feeling or belief that you deserve to be given something (such as special privileges)

Conferred Privilege

The privilege or advantage that is unearned, exclusive, and socially put upon a certain position or trait.

3. Introduce the Binaries

Together as a group, come up with categories or systems of classification in which we experience privilege or marginalization. Get the group to come up with personal and detailed examples from their own community and life experience. Invite each participant to fill in a blank Binaries of Privilege and Oppression table.

Eg.

Privileged	<->	Oppressed
male	<->	female
heterosexual	<->	queer
rich	<->	poor
white	<->	of colour
educated	<->	illiterate
	<->	

4. Imaginative activity

Explain that one of the binaries is privileged at the expense of the other. We can develop our agency to resist the effects of the privilege from whatever social location we are in.

Invite participants to give some thought to a binary that is present in their life and imagine what it would look like to either put off privilege or to stop conferring privilege to others.

Cite scriptures to support Jesus' upside down kingdom. (Last, first, etc)

Invite participants to use materials available to construct a representation of what it would look like to either put off privilege or to stop conferring privilege to others. Follow with a time of sharing (either in the large group or in small groups) where participants talk about what the structure means to them. *Facilitators might consider making this a gallery walk in which the group is invited to share what they observe in the constructions...*

5. Blank "Intersecting Axes of Privilege"

Hand out the blank axes wheel and request participants to put in their chosen categories on the axes with the privilege and oppressed terms on opposite sides of the axes.

Participants then decide where they would fit on each axis and plot their position on each of the lines.

Encourage group members to look at what it would mean to either put off privilege or to stop conferring privilege to others along all the axes that they have identified. Individuals may find that they have conferred privilege in some areas and lack of privilege in other areas. Participants can now add to their constructions or create something else with this in mind.

Consider talking about lateral oppression - that in some areas we will have the privilege and temptation to oppress others. How do we build awareness of these things in ourselves and seek to find balance?

6. "Intersecting Axes of Privilege" in the DUIM Manual

Introduce the Intersecting Axes of Privilege in the form it is in the Manual.

Purpose- to expand the imagination of other binaries that are present in society, but may not have been thought of by the group. Review in a critical way and come up with categories that are not there. (This is a living wheel that has spokes and the spokes change. It should serve our purposes and the other way around.)

7. For Further consideration/investigation

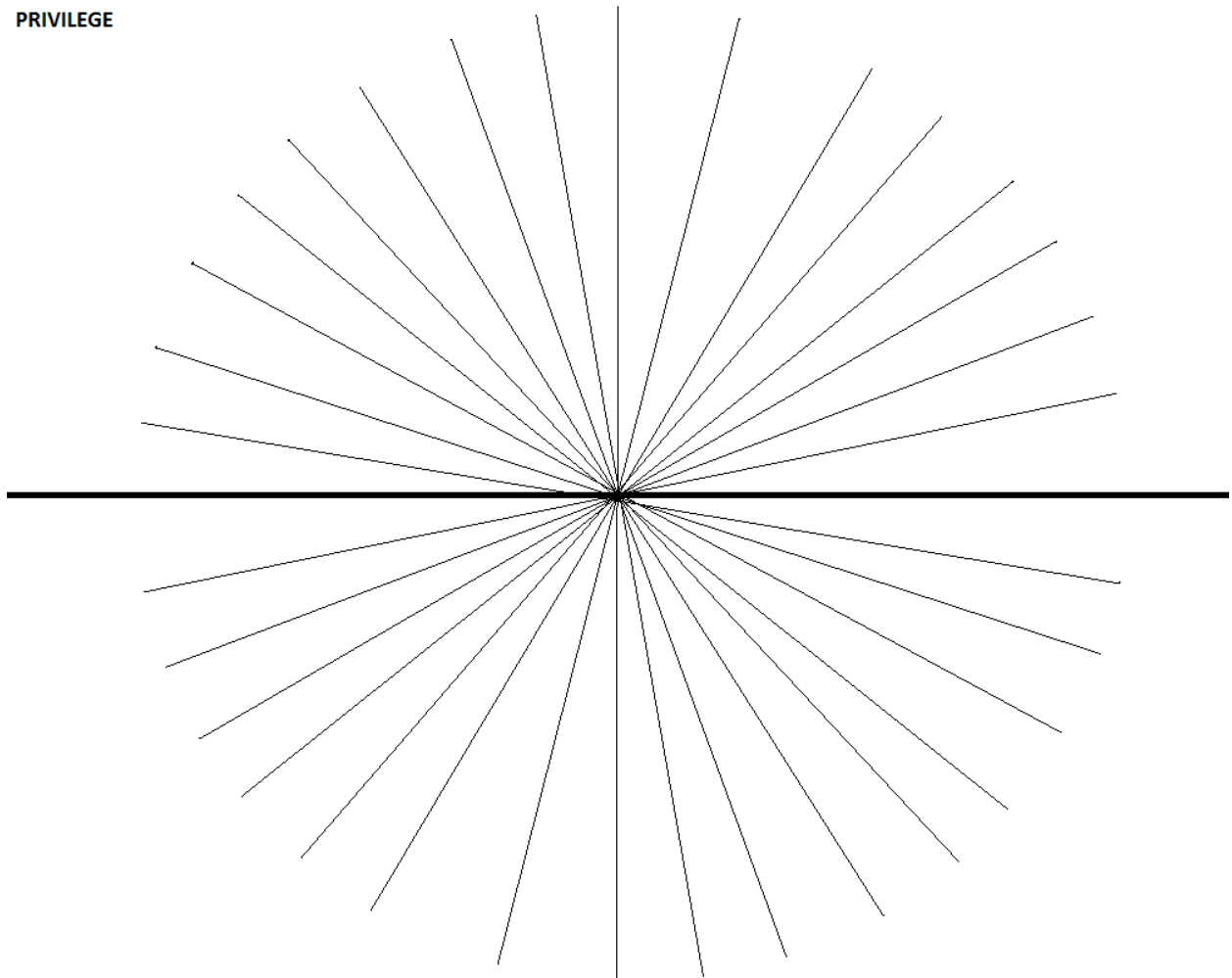
- How would the model presented here be transformed if we also think about the following images:
 - A wheel with spokes that can be 'tuned'
 - The Cross and healing suffering in this social world of oppression and marginalization.

- other models/images that can be used to represent privilege and marginalization, domination and oppression
- models/images of a transformed/more equitable society

Adapted from Kathryn Pauly Morgan, "Describing the Emperor's New Clothes: Three Myths of Educational (In)Equality." The Gender Question in Education: Theory, Pedagogy & Politics, Ann Diller et al., Boulder, CO: Westview, 1996.

Intersecting Axes of Privilege, Domination, and Oppression

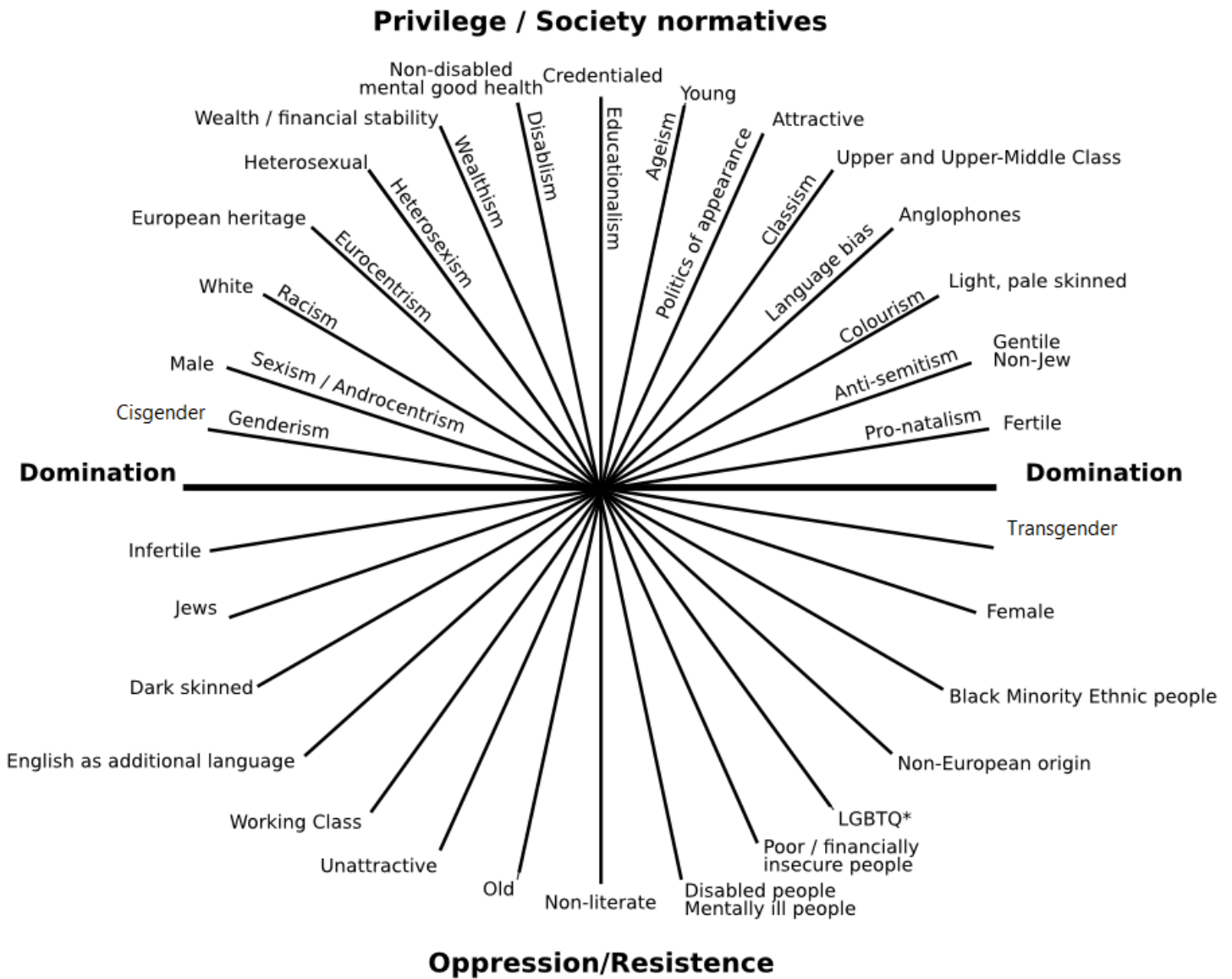
PRIVILEGE



OPPRESSION/RESISTANCE

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