

A TOOL FOR CONCEPTUALIZING & VISUALIZING INTERSECTIONALITY

Institute for the Study of Race & Social Justice

New Mexico Race Gender Class Data Policy Consortium

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“Intersectionality is a way of understanding and analyzing complexity in the world, in people, and in human experiences. The events and conditions of social and political life and the self can seldom be understood as shaped by one factor. They are shaped by many factors in diverse and mutually influencing ways. When it comes to social inequality, people’s lives and the organization of power in a given society are better understood as being shaped not by a single axis of social division, be it race or gender or class, but by many axes that work together and influence each other.

Intersectionality as an analytic tool gives people better access to the complexity of the world and of themselves...People use intersectionality as an analytic tool to solve problems that they or others around them face.

(Collins & Bilge 2016, p. 2).”

“An intersectional paradigm or conceptual universe takes identity categories embedded within systems of inequality as a starting point to understanding the interactions between individuals and systems and among individual identities, systems, and social locations across the life course (López & Gadsden 2016, p. 8). “

REFERENCES

Collins, P. H., and S. Blige. 2016. *Intersectionality*. Malden, MA: Polity Press.

López, N., and V.L. Gadsden. 2016. *Health Inequities, Social Determinants, and Intersectionality*. Discussion Paper, National Academy of Medicine, Washington, DC. <https://nam.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Health-Inequities-Social-Determinants-and-Intersectionality.pdf>

THIS IS AN INVITATION TO ENGAGE IN SELF-REFLEXIVITY ABOUT THE SIMULTANEITY OF RACE, GENDER, CLASS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, ETC.

CONSIDER HOW YOUR IDENTITY, VALUES, SOCIAL LOCATION AND LIFELONG CUMULATIVE EXPERIENCES WITHIN SYSTEMS OF POWER, PRIVILEGE AND DISADVANTAGE SHAPE YOUR COGNITION, POSITIONALITY AND PRACTICE (ACTION AND REFLECTION)

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