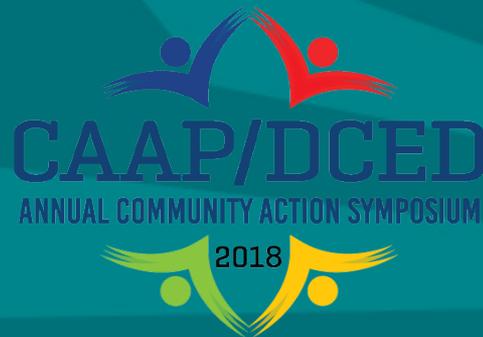




CAAP/DCED Annual Community Action Symposium 2018



Opening Keynote: Race and Poverty in a Time of Othering

PRESENTER:
john a. powell

DATE:
April 19, 2018

POVERTY

- Biggest Challenge to helping people in poverty
- It is not getting them stuff
- It is recognizing that they are people
- Recognizing that they belong
- To see them

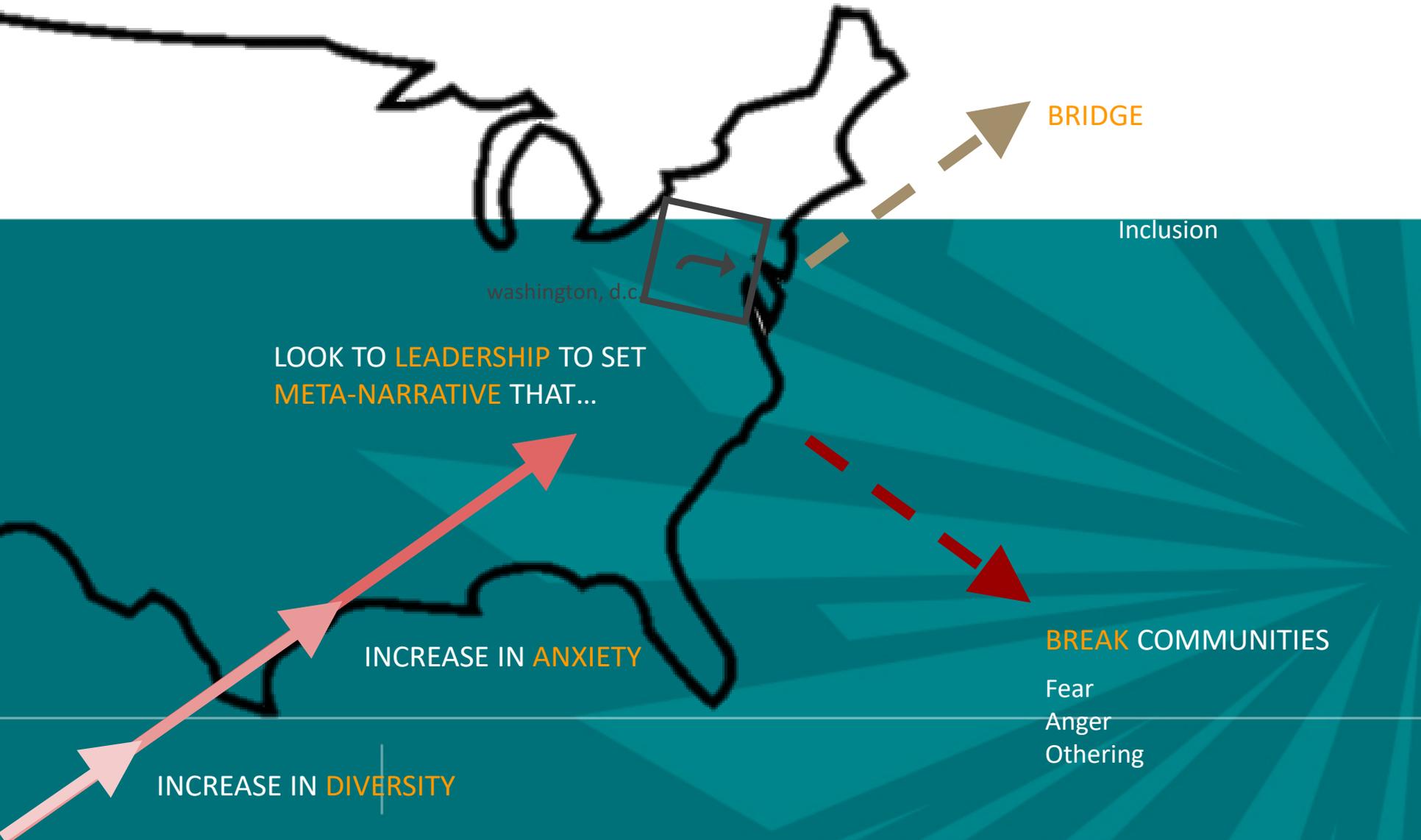
WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE GET FROM SOCIETY?

- It is not food
- It is not freedom
- It is membership
- It is to fully belong

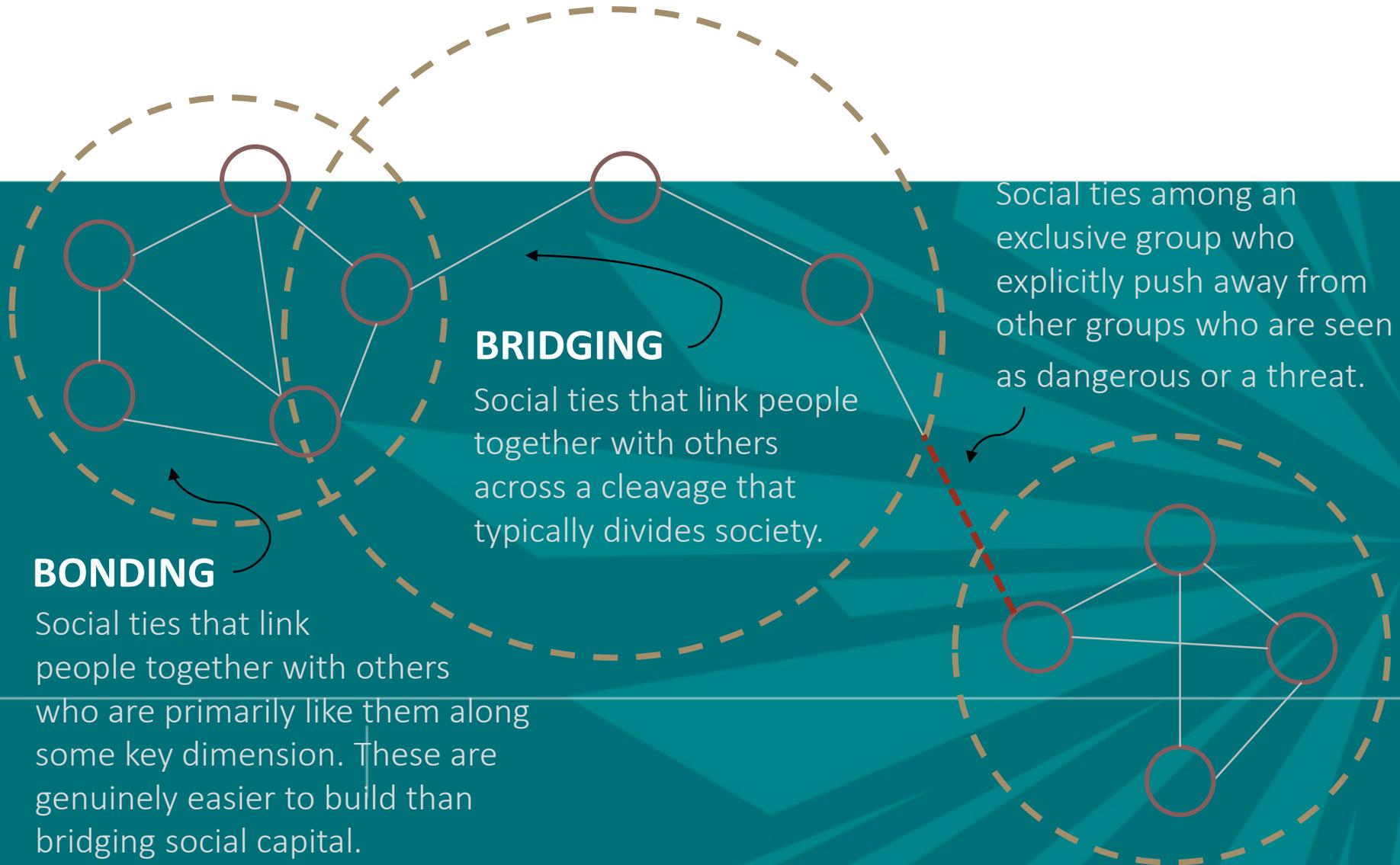
WHO IS IN THE CIRCLE OF HUMAN CONCERN?



does anxiety



capital





LOOK TO LEADERSHIP TO SET META-NARRATIVE THAT...

1. BRIDGE COMMUNITIES

EMPATHY

INCLUSION

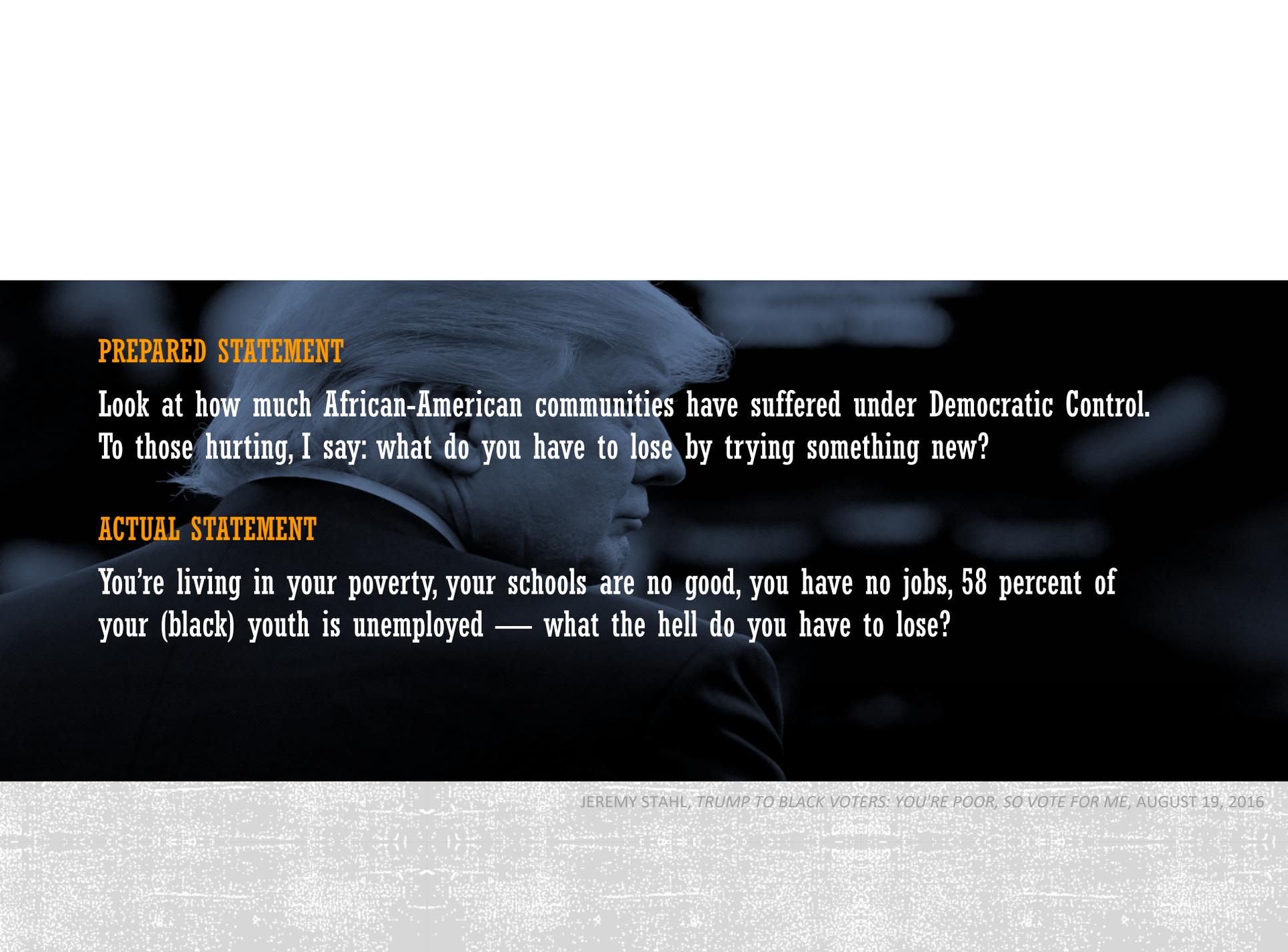
BELONGING

2. BREAK COMMUNITIES

FEAR

ANGER

OTHERING

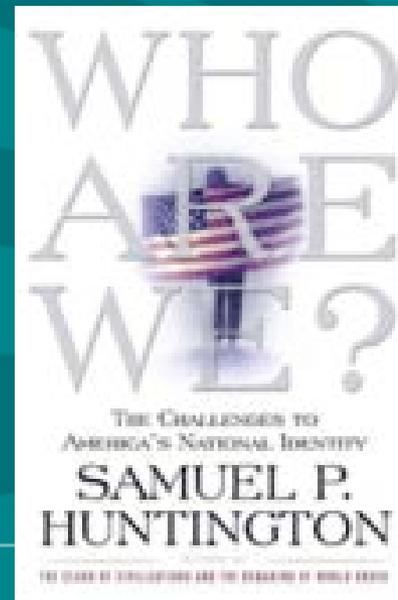


PREPARED STATEMENT

Look at how much African-American communities have suffered under Democratic Control. To those hurting, I say: what do you have to lose by trying something new?

ACTUAL STATEMENT

You're living in your poverty, your schools are no good, you have no jobs, 58 percent of your (black) youth is unemployed — what the hell do you have to lose?



Who do you call in an **emergency**?

Does it matter whether you are

...

- ❖ White?
- ❖ Latinx?
- ❖ Female?
- ❖ Living life in the U.S.
undocumented?



UNDERSTANDING IMPLICIT/UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

- People's conscious values and beliefs are only part of how they process information and make decisions
- Many biases affecting behavior towards others reside in the unconscious mind



UNDERSTANDING IMPLICIT/UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

- In other words, people who consciously value racial or other forms of equality can act and make decisions based on biases without even being aware that they have any biases at all
- Implicit/unconscious bias is when a person's actions are motivated by unconscious processes.

HOW IMPLICIT/UNCONSCIOUS BIAS LEADS TO DISCRIMINATION

- When one holds a negative stereotype about a group and meets someone who fits the stereotype s/he may discriminate against that individual
- It occurs even among persons who are not consciously prejudiced

PRIMING

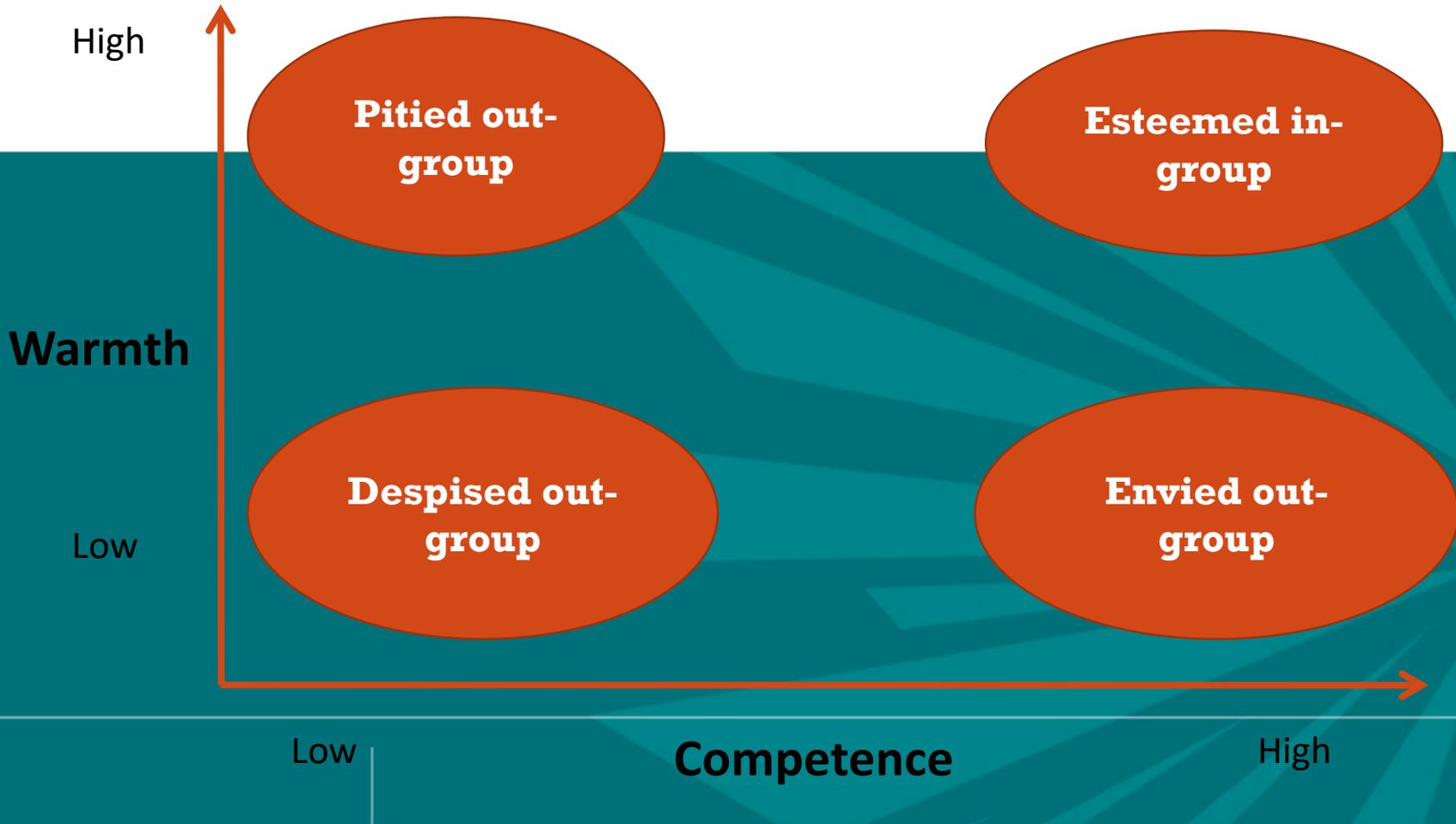
- Our environment affects our unconscious networks
- Priming activates mental associations
 - Telling someone a scary story activates a frame of fear
- Claude Steele's "stereotype threat":
 - For example, tell students about to take a test that Asian students tend to do better than whites, and the whites will perform significantly worse than if they had not been primed to think of themselves as less capable than Asians.

COUNTERACTING UNCONSCIOUS PREJUDICE AND STEREOTYPES

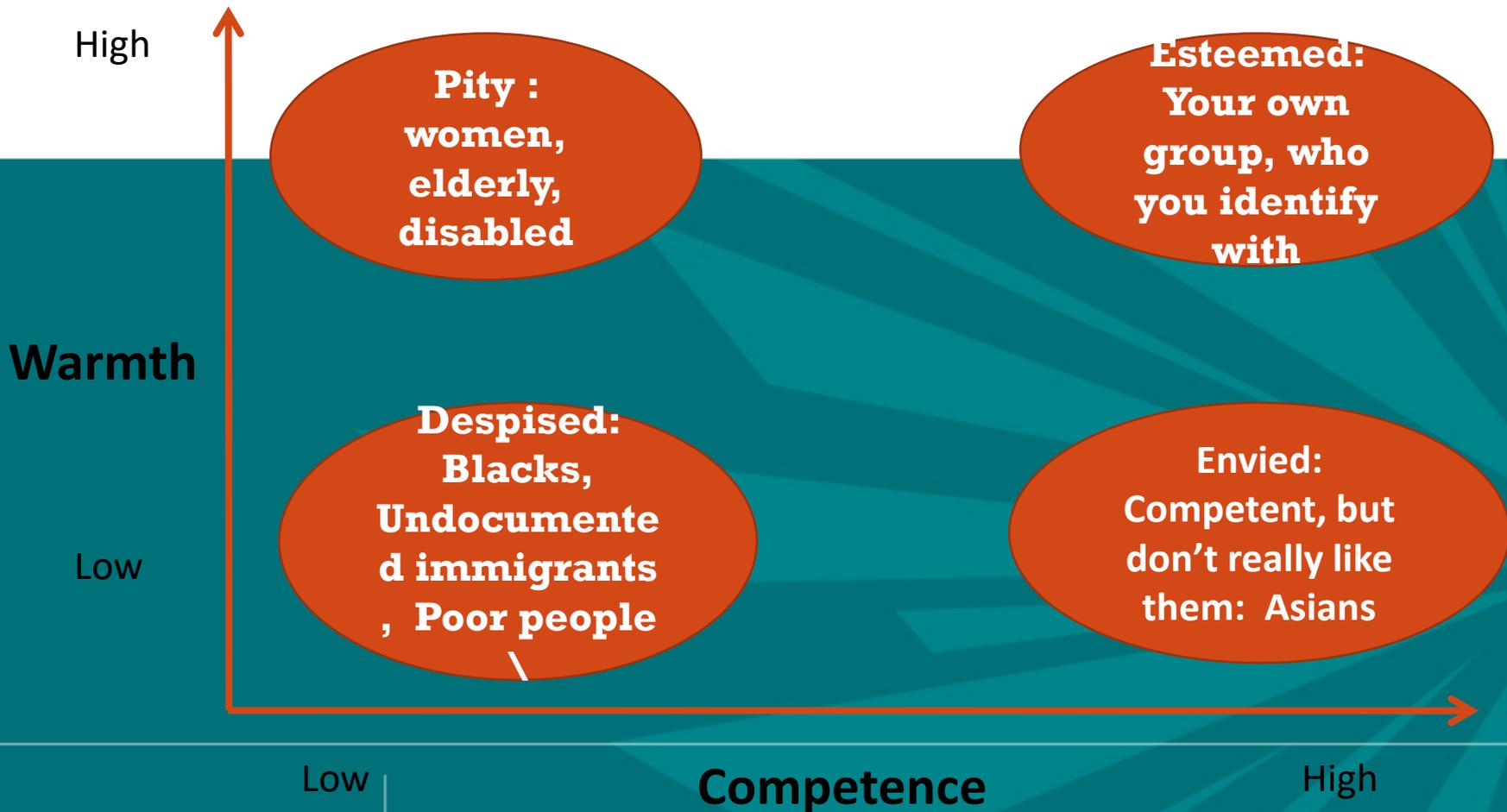
- **Individuation: focus on the individual attributes of specific person versus categorization or perceiving person through filter of their social group**

Source: Burgess, Van Ryn, Dovidio, and Saha, J Gen Intern Med (2007); Williams, 2012

STEREOTYPE CONTENT MODEL



SOCIAL COGNITION: WARMTH AND COMPETENCE



AMARTYA SENS

- Nobel economist from India
- Like you; he asked what is the cause of famine?
- It is not a lack of food but a lack of an effective democracy where people count.

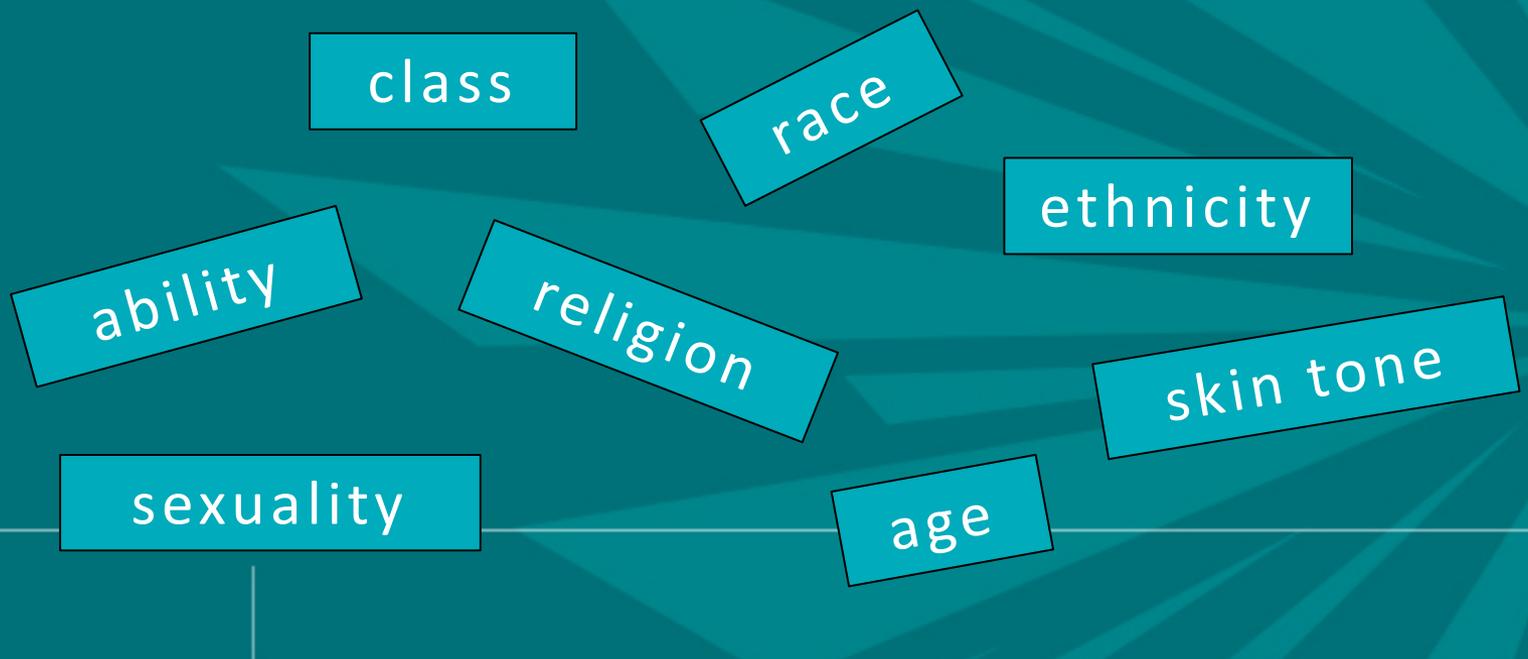
A high-angle, blue-tinted photograph of a person's legs and feet standing on a large map of the United States. The person is wearing a patterned skirt and is barefoot. A long, dark shadow is cast across the map, extending from the person's feet towards the upper left. The map shows major cities like Chicago, Detroit, and New York, as well as geographical features like the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River. The text is overlaid in the center of the image.

The problem of “Othering” is the
problem of the 21st century

We define othering as a set of processes, structures, and dynamics that engender marginality and persistent inequality across any of the full range of human differences. Othering and marginality can occur on a group basis or at the individual level.

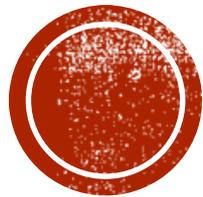


Dimensions include but are not limited to, sex, religion, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, sexual orientation, and skin tone.

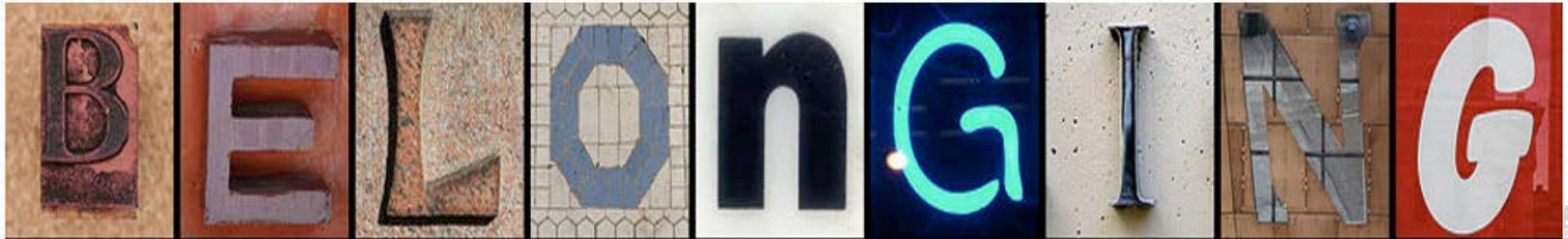


FIGHTING POVERTY IN THE U.S.

- What account for America weak and punitive support for people in poverty?
- Our ideologue of individualism
- Inability to see work of structure
- Story we live by
- The racial other



The term belonging reflects an objective position as well as the inter-subjective nature of group-based identities. In that respect, the process of othering and belonging are deeply relational and important in forming group identities and the self.





Many studies show that belonging and group identity impacts performance. There is a direct correlation between students belonging and doubts about their ability to perform well in academic settings. This doubt creates an incentive to drop out of school, thus continually perpetuating the cycle of “othering” in the nation’s collegiate system.

Our social networks impact our health and well-being.

- ❖ A person's social network is a key predictor in whether an individual will become a victim of a gun homicide, even more so than race, age, gender, poverty, or gang affiliation.
- ❖ Individuals who lack social networks tend to suffer higher rates of morbidity and mortality, as well as infection, depression and cognitive decline.
- ❖ Social disconnectedness is associated with worse physical health, regardless of whether it prompts feelings of loneliness or perceived lack of social support.

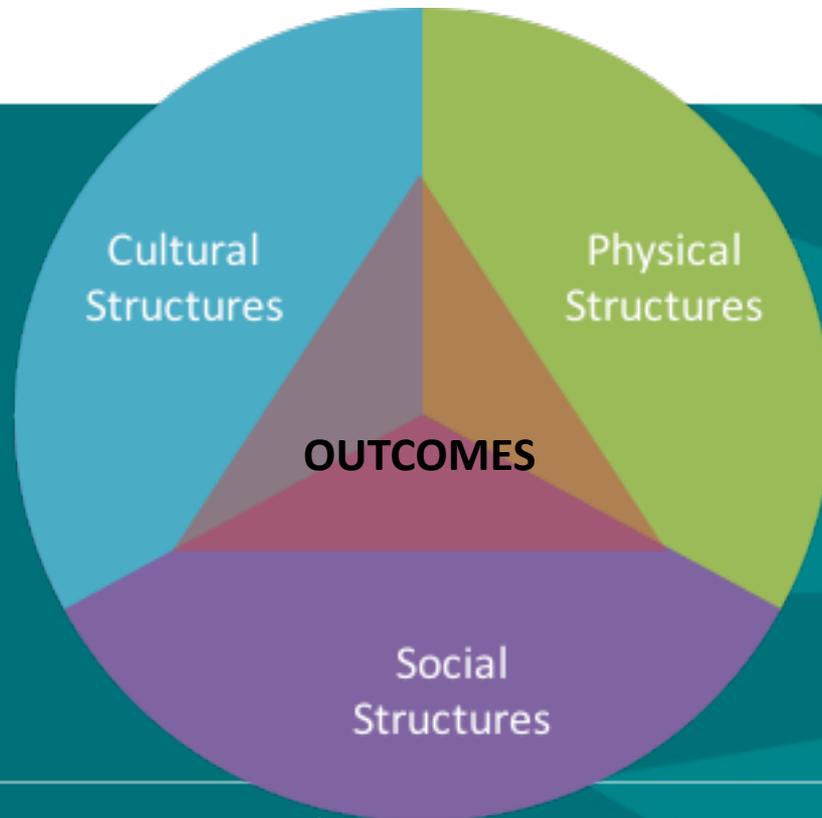


Our lives are made up of many different **networks**. Social networks; business and professional networks; community networks; and **opportunity networks**.



MOBILITY

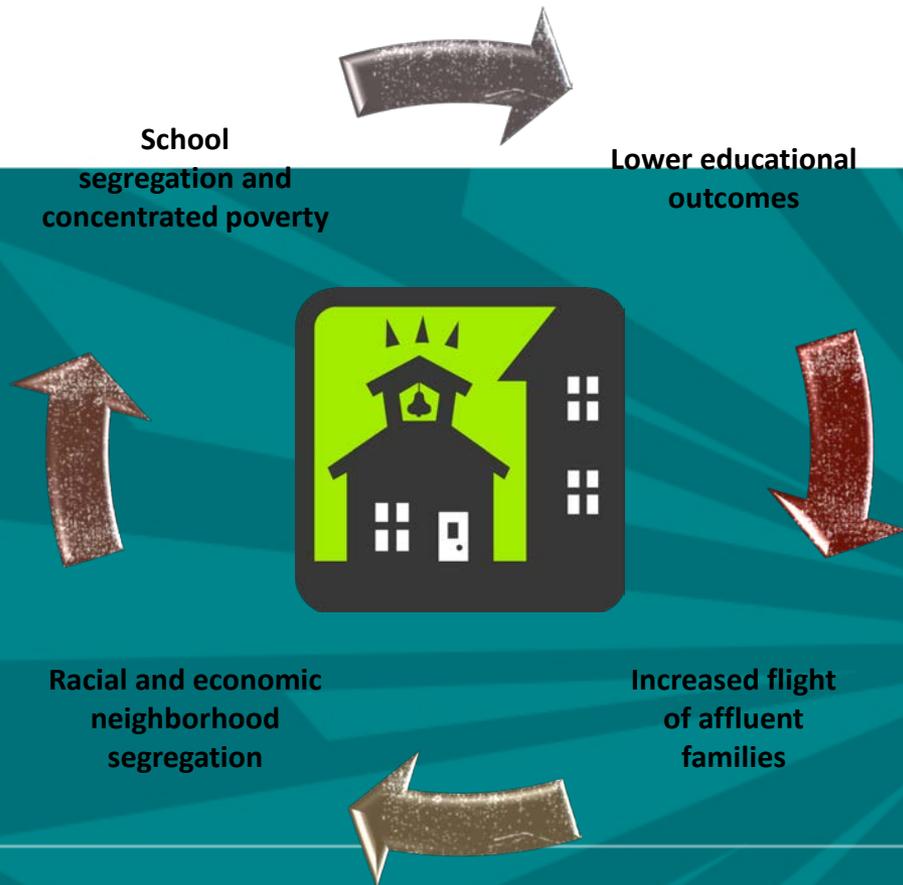
- Where you live
- Who you are



We are all situated within structures but not evenly

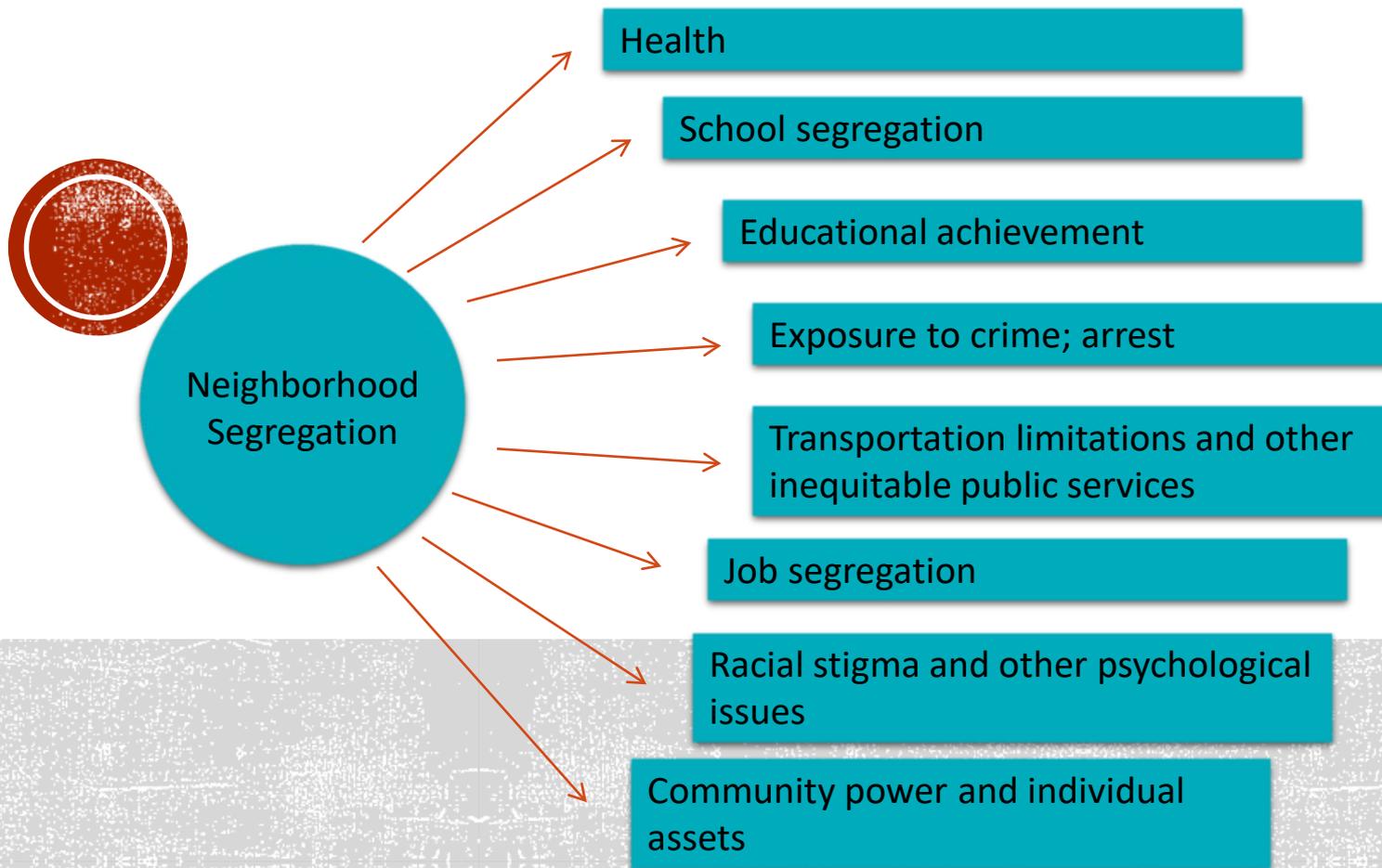
These structures interact in ways that produce a differential in outcomes

- Structures and policies are not neutral
- They unevenly distribute benefits and burdens to different groups differently
- Institutions can operate jointly to produce racialized outcomes



Neighborhoods & access to opportunity

- Five decades of research indicate that your environment has a profound impact on your access to opportunity and likelihood of success
- High poverty areas with poor employment, underperforming schools, distressed housing, and public health/safety risks depress life outcomes
 - A system of disadvantage
 - Many manifestations: urban, rural, suburban
- People of color are far more likely to live in opportunity: deprived neighborhoods and communities



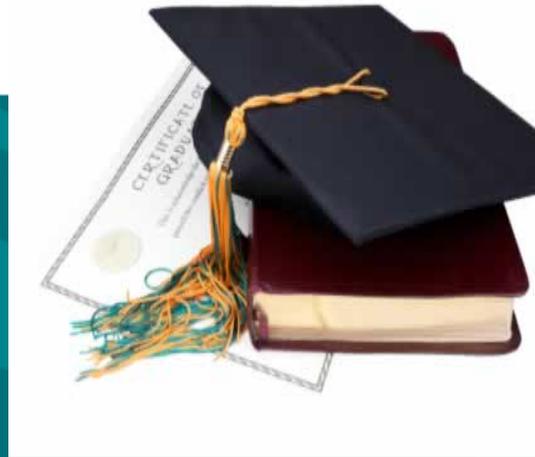
THE IMPACT OF CONCENTRATED FORECLOSURES IN A NEIGHBORHOOD



- ❑ Foreclosures pull wealth/equity and assets out of the neighborhood
- ❑ Widespread displacement of renters, homeowners which rips the neighborhood's social fabric and creates instability for school age children
- ❑ The growth of vacant property encourages crime, disinvestment and public safety risks
- ❑ Challenges which eventually ensnare all residents (even those



- Reduces **IQ** points of students by **4 points**, equivalent to one year of school (Sampson 2007)
- Generates **unhealthy levels of stress hormones** in children, which impairs their **neural development**





- Correlates with children having levels of lead in their blood **9 times above the average**; high levels of lead linked to ADD and irreversible loss of **cognitive functioning**



- Links to higher levels of **violent offending** among juveniles
- Is highly correlated with **childhood aggression** and **social maladjustment**

Low Opportunity

- Less than 25% of students in Detroit finish high school
- More than 60% of the men will spend time in jail
- There may soon be no bus service in some areas
- It is difficult to attract jobs or private capital
- Not safe; very few parks
- Difficult to get fresh food

High Opportunity

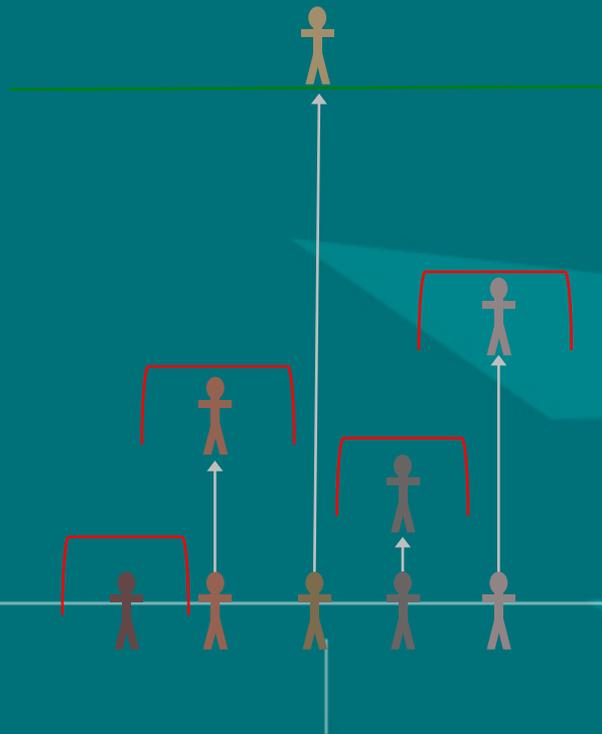
- The year my step daughter finished high school, 100% of the students graduated and 100% went to college
- Most will not even drive by a jail
- Free bus service
- Relatively easy to attract capital
- Very safe; great parks
- Easy to get fresh food

- Adopt strategies that open up access to levers of opportunity for marginalized individuals, families, and communities
 - Bring opportunities to opportunity-deprived areas
 - Connect people to existing opportunities throughout the metropolitan region
 - Targeted Universalism

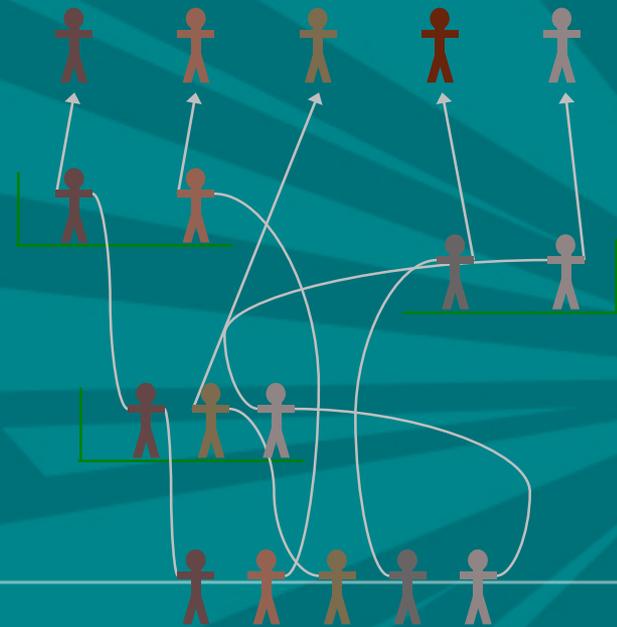


Structural inequity produces consistently different outcomes for different communities

Targeted universalism responds with universal goals and targeted solutions



VS.





- ❖ Universal programs alone are not truly universal.
 - ❖ Often based on a non-universal standard.
 - ❖ Example: social security. Able-bodied white males working outside the home full-time for pay.



- ❖ Targeted programs alone are not desirable because they appear to show favoritism toward a certain group, thus stigmatizing them



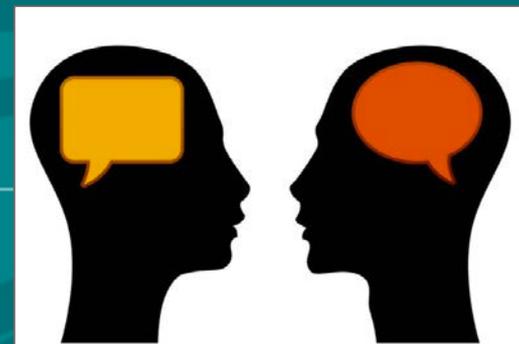
- ❖ Targeted universalism recognizes racial disparities, while acknowledging their presence within a larger inequitable, institutional framework. Set a benchmark for all.

❖ **An intervention strategy.**

- ❖ Repairs social cleavages not just distribution.

❖ **A communications strategy.**

- ❖ Employs strategic communications regarding universal goals and targeted approaches to inform the allocation of resources and policy approaches.



This strategic framework...

- ❖ Starts with identifying the universal goals for all, yet the current position of whites should not be normalized in the system whereby becoming the universal goal for all.
- ❖ Set a universal bench mark/goal not dependent on the dominant group. As we move all to universal goal, disparities also addressed. This is not simple distributive. Should support the identification of specific obstacles in particular geographies that limit certain populations from reaching those goals.
- ❖ Should identify particular barriers and enhancement for target group.
- ❖ Situate targeted group as canary in mine if possible.

Level of Analysis	Problem	Possible Intervention
Individual Fix the Individual	Individuals sign loan documents that they don't understand	Borrower education
Institutional Fix the institution	A particular bank won't make loans in historically red-lined neighborhoods	Organize a local, regional or state action, file a lawsuit, etc. to force that particular bank to change its lending practices
Structural Fix the system	All of the major leaders in the area have stopped giving loans or will only give sub-prime loans in historically red-lined neighborhoods	Collaborate with national alliances working to increase and enforce fair lending practices, community reinvestment act, etc. through community organizing and advocacy at the state and national level
Global Fix the global system	Loans are no longer held by local or even national banks, but are owned by foreign governments	Work with national and transnational organizations to increase regulation of multinational corporations, and reduce regulation of transnational population migration

The city of Austin, Texas, Department of Parks and Recreation developed a TU plan designed to improve recreational services and delivery by the department.

- They set as a universal goal that every resident should live within $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of a city park.
- An assessment revealed severe gaps for particular communities.

The Invention of Whiteness

with John A. Powell Professor of Law, UC Berkeley

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOYzr3mupbk>





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BRIDGING CONVERSATION PRACTICE

- Shared suffering
- Empathy space
- Bridging practices
 - We are more likely to engage in breaking
 - We have structure and culture that break

US PARTNERSHIP ON MOBILITY FROM POVERTY



Q&A

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SESSION



RACING TO JUSTICE

*transforming our conceptions of self and other
to build an inclusive society*

john a. powell

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