

Structural Inclusion & Public Health

In the case of Detroiters: access to clean water

PRESENTER:

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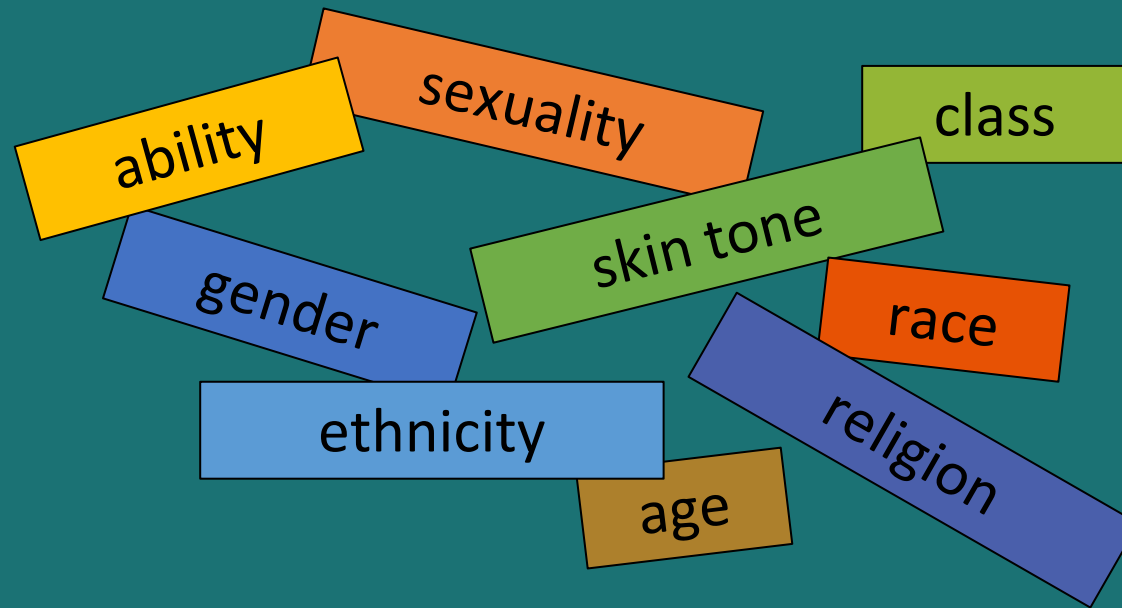
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Othering is the challenge of
our time.

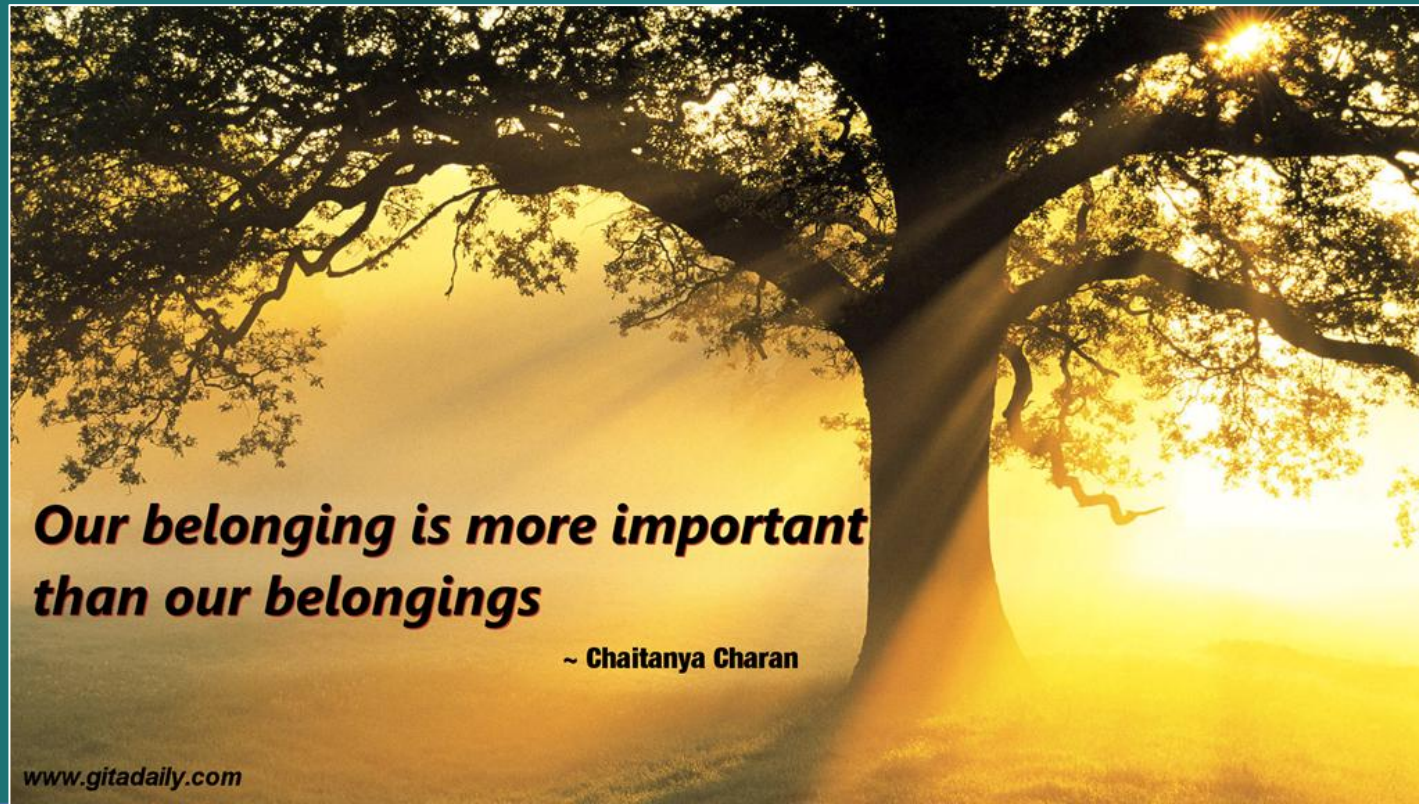


Othering is a generalized set of common processes that engender marginality and persistent inequality across any of the full range of human differences.

Belonging answers the
challenge of our time.

What is belonging?

To belong is to be a part of something greater than yourself. The term “belonging” connotes something fundamental about both how groups are positioned within society as well as how they are perceived and regarded.



Othering and Belonging in Detroit's Public Health

Bad apple or rotten tree?



What about the soil underneath?



Detroit's water crisis

Public health is entangled with institutions “beyond” the health care sector.

In particular, systems of credit and debt.

The way the state has contributed to the water crisis is shocking.

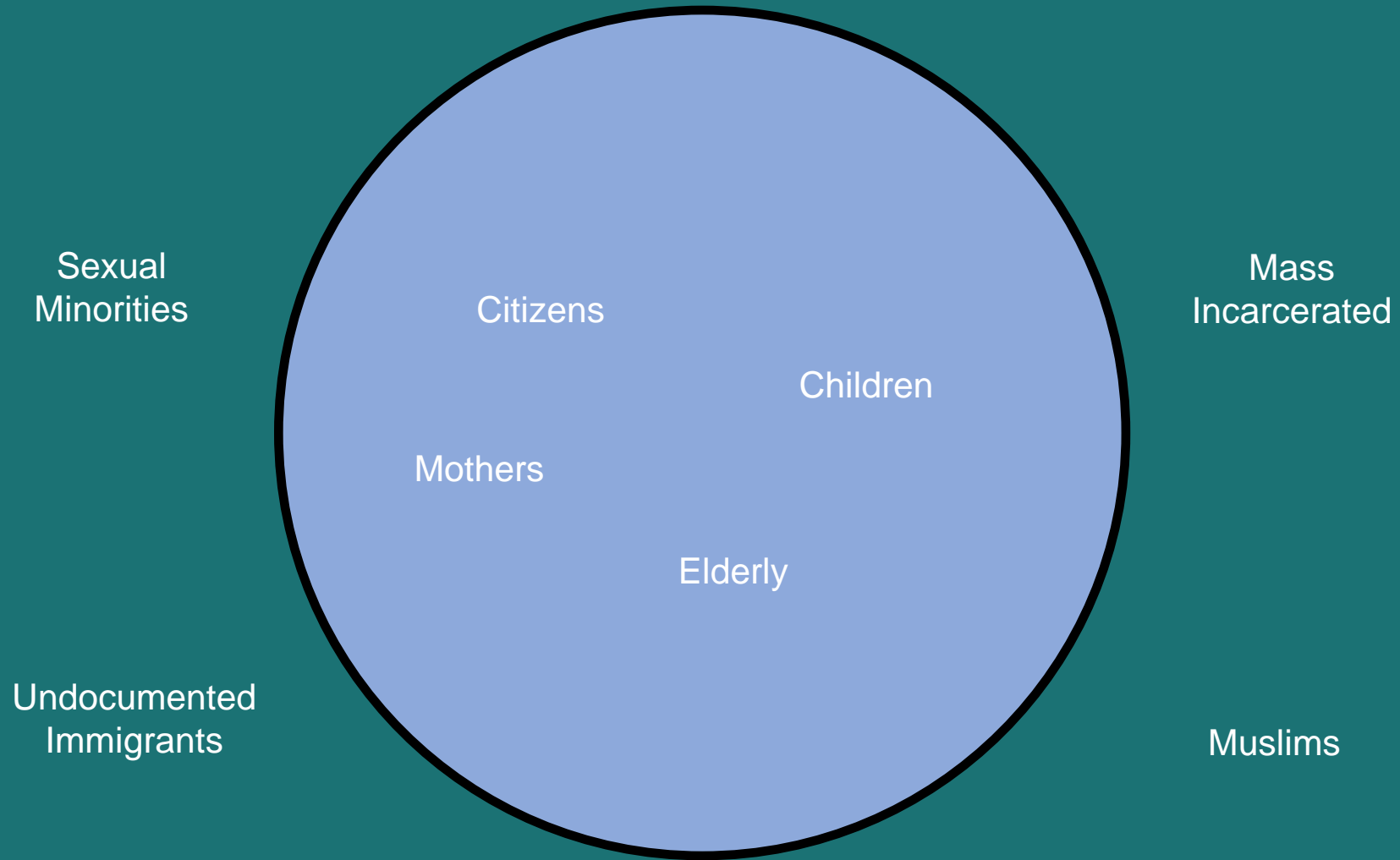
But the problems run deeper than water, state policy, or the clinical setting.

Structural Racialization & Othering

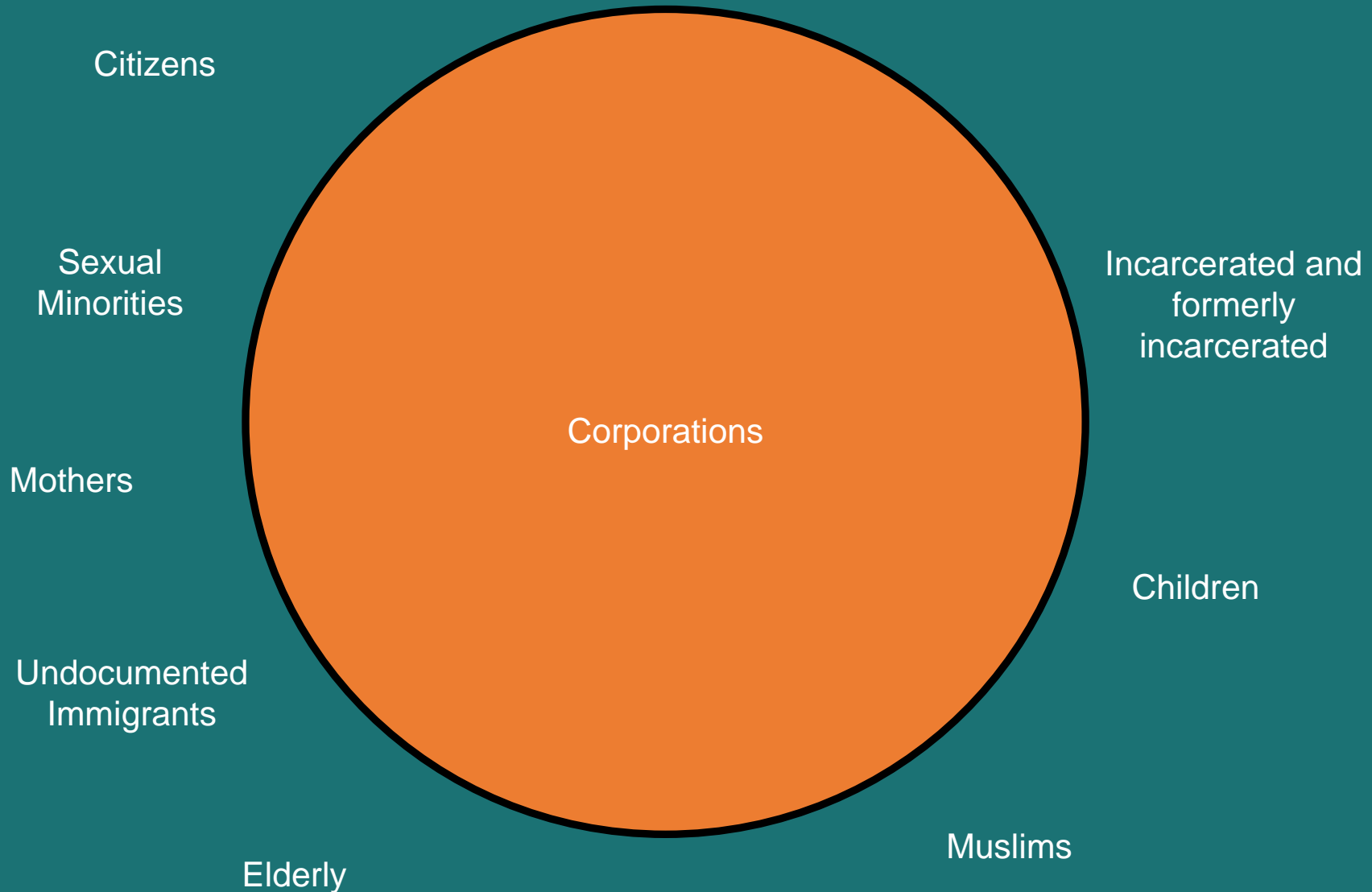
- How race works today
 - There are still practices, cultural norms and institutional arrangements that help create and maintain (disparate) racialized outcomes
 - Recent boil advisories in East and West Detroit, even closing Detroit Public Schools
- Othering, structural marginalization addresses inter-institutional arrangements and interactions
 - The ways joint operations of institutions produce groups viewed as “other”
 - Creates inequities across those groups
 - Water leakages from aging infrastructure passed off to costs borne by customers, adds to property tax bills, increases likelihood of tax foreclosures

Determining how we
proceed?

The Circle of Human Concern



Unfortunately, this is our reality



Chasing the Crown Jewel

- Emergency Manager tried to Privatize System by leasing or selling
 - International submissions from multinational corporations
 - Turning a profit on water and sewer
 - Alternative of breaking the system up dividing the system creating the Great Lakes Water and Sewer Authority

A proposal for structural inclusion in Detroit

Detroit's water crisis

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The Drainage Fee Creates a Vicious Cycle

- These costs will rise with the cost of chemicals, energy, labor and equipment...in other words faster than inflation
- The Drainage calculation is simplistic, divide the desired funding between the number of billed parties, as fewer parties are available to bill, the remaining stalwart members of the community will pay more.

Solving the Problem

- Solving the problem can be achieved in the following ways
 - Separate the sewage system in the exact same way that Detroit did for the suburbs
 - Have the storm water runoff calculated into the cost of service model with system costs shared equitably across the region DWSD and GLWSD customers system wide
 - DWSD initiates a massive green initiative to divert storm water from the combined sewer system thereby eliminating the operational costs relating to drainage

Solving the Problem

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Action Items

1. Further Research on “Common to All” cost formula of GLWA
2. Build a Bigger Coalition around Water Equity/Environmental and Social Justice
3. Rapidly Demonstrate Green Infrastructure Cost and Benefit for Churches so that any Green Credit is Fairly Structured
4. Have Collaborative –Led by MOSES and Churches ask for Mayor to champion a solution

Building a Bigger Collaborative

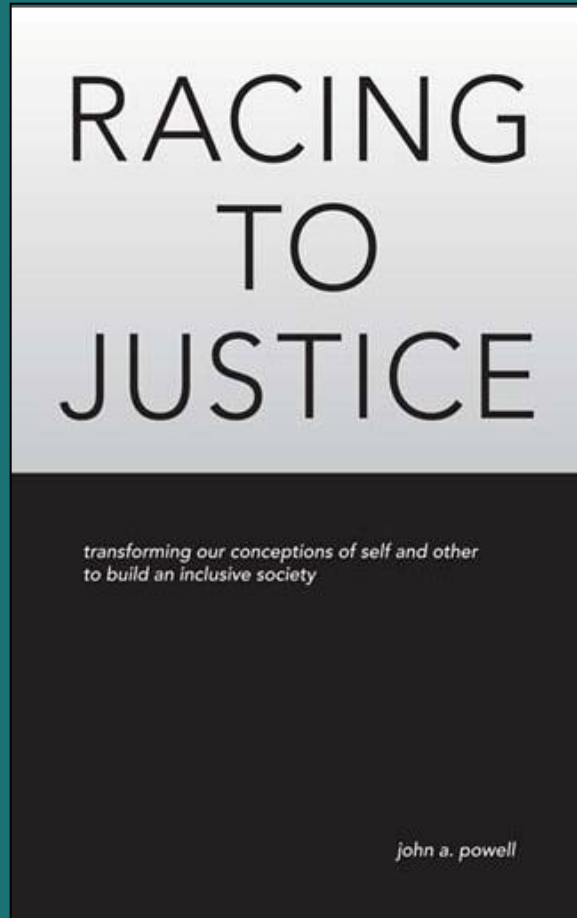
- Establish connection and mutual support with other organizations interested in :
 - Racial and Social Equity
 - Water Equity
 - Environmental Justice
 - Public Health
 - Neighborhood Revitalization
 - Progressive Land Use
 - Economic Development

<http://newsocialcompact.org/>





<http://conference.otheringandbelonging.org/>



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<http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/catalog/806639>



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