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DECOLONIALITY
Pathways

LEADERSHIP | LEARNING

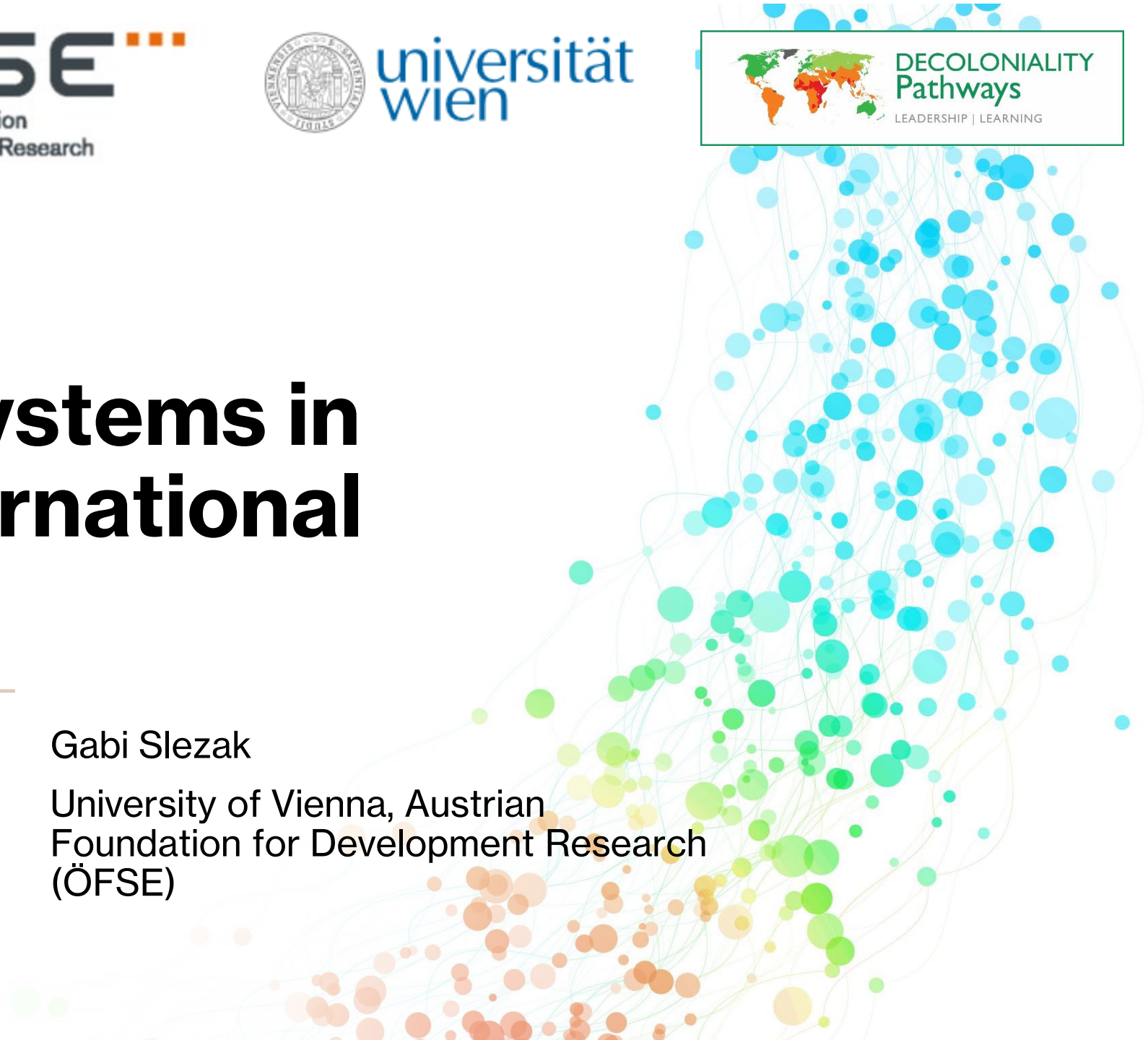
Decolonizing Knowledge Systems in Scientific International Cooperation

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(ÖFSE)



Valuing diversity

...decolonising requires that we open up the space for **free thinking**. Free thinking with regards to context, where local knowledge and local experiences in research methodologies challenge the Eurocentric (often dominant) nature...

- Valuing diversity in application of approaches to sustainability (*plurality*)



Challenging incumbencies

...by way of its definition around undoing colonial rule over subordinate countries, it implies looking for some level of positionality to **counter** aspects around **incumbent** power...

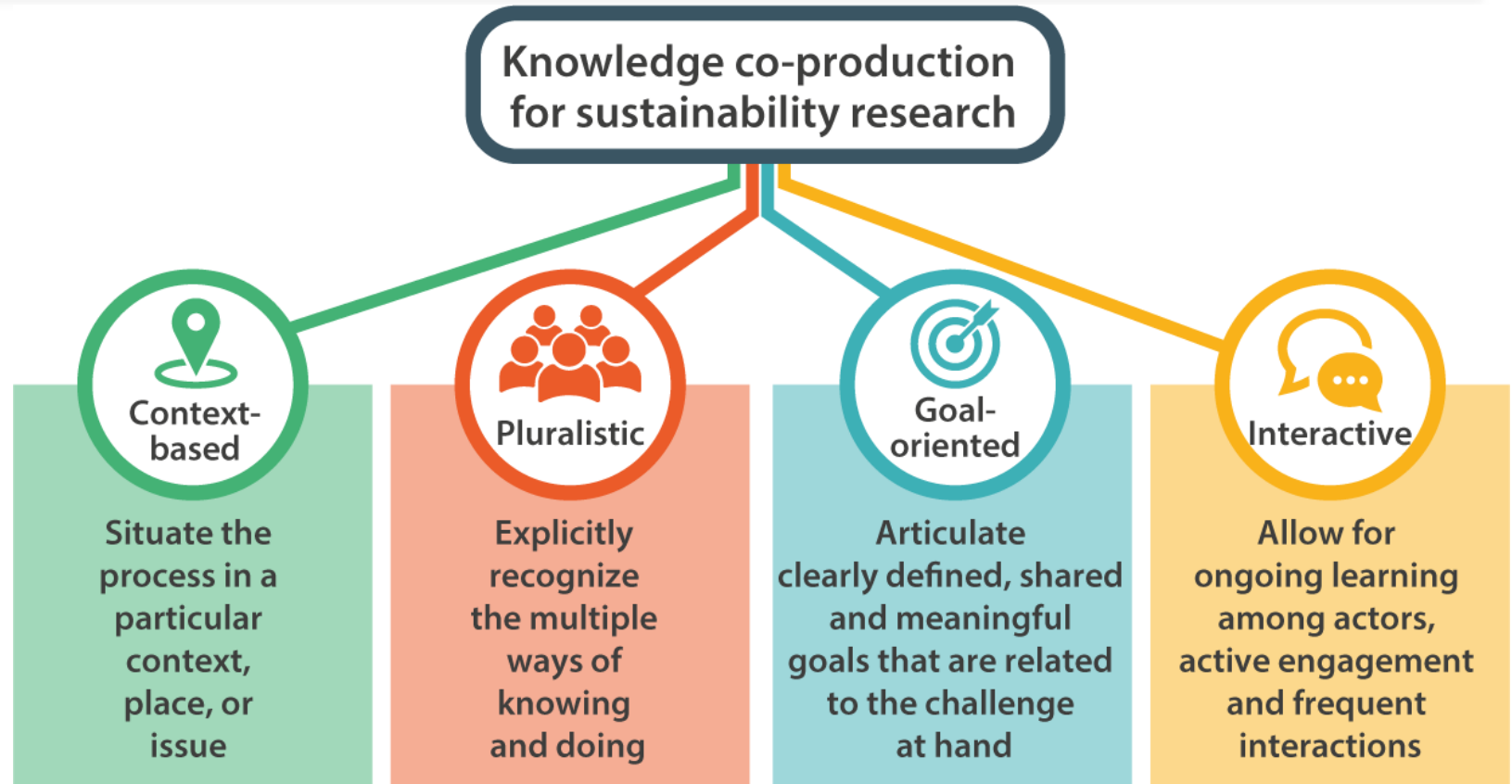
- Challenging power through approaches (*methodological rebellion* | *Scholarly activism*)



Articulation

...researcher should go beyond seeking the people being researched where there are not just mere objects of the research but **collaborators and co-designers** of the research agendas...

- Articulating approaches (*context*)



Philosophical underpinnings

...there are various **philosophical underpinnings** around methods based on prior commitments... therefore bring in different ontological and epistemological perspective...

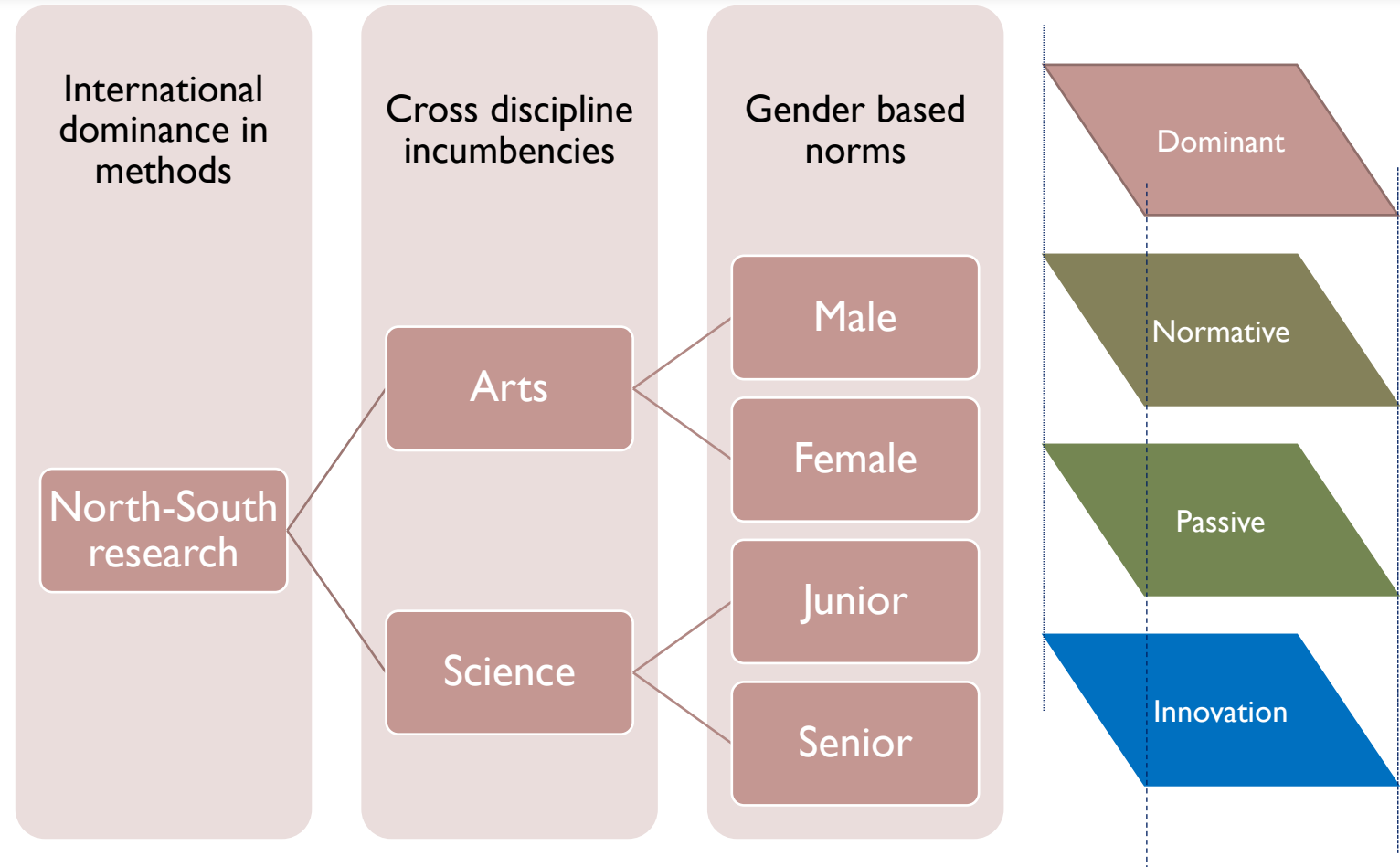
- Philosophical underpinnings in approaches (*parallels and hegemonies*)



Multiple pathways

...perceived research power dynamics between north-south, female-male researcher; is likely to tilt decolonising research into **multiple layers of actions...**

- Multidimensionality of approaches (*multiple pathways*)



...to decolonise, is to offer **more space** for participation, action, and innovation...

Examples from Collaborations:

Research
Power
Dynamics

Research
Funding

Pseudo-Multidisciplinarity

Gender Reflective Foci

Research Politics

But...decoloniality is a process..



Elitism?

- (Several) key stakeholders have absolute power

- Power shifting to (several) stakeholders depending on context

Coloniality

Decoloniality

Colonial with reflexivity

Decolonial with reflexivity

Colonial with dominance

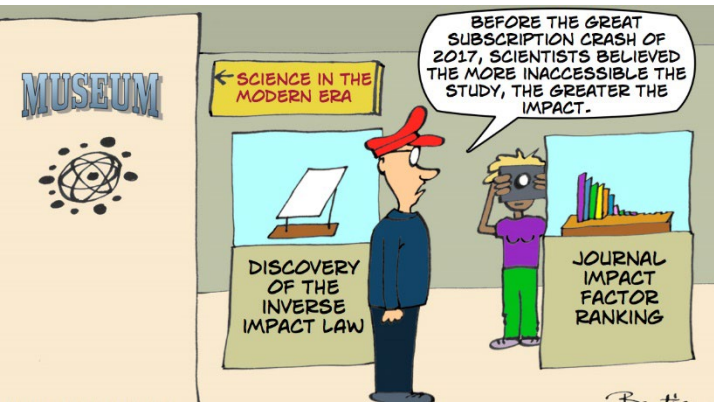
Decolonial with dominance

- Incumbent have absolute power

- Incumbent shifting power

Neocolonialism?

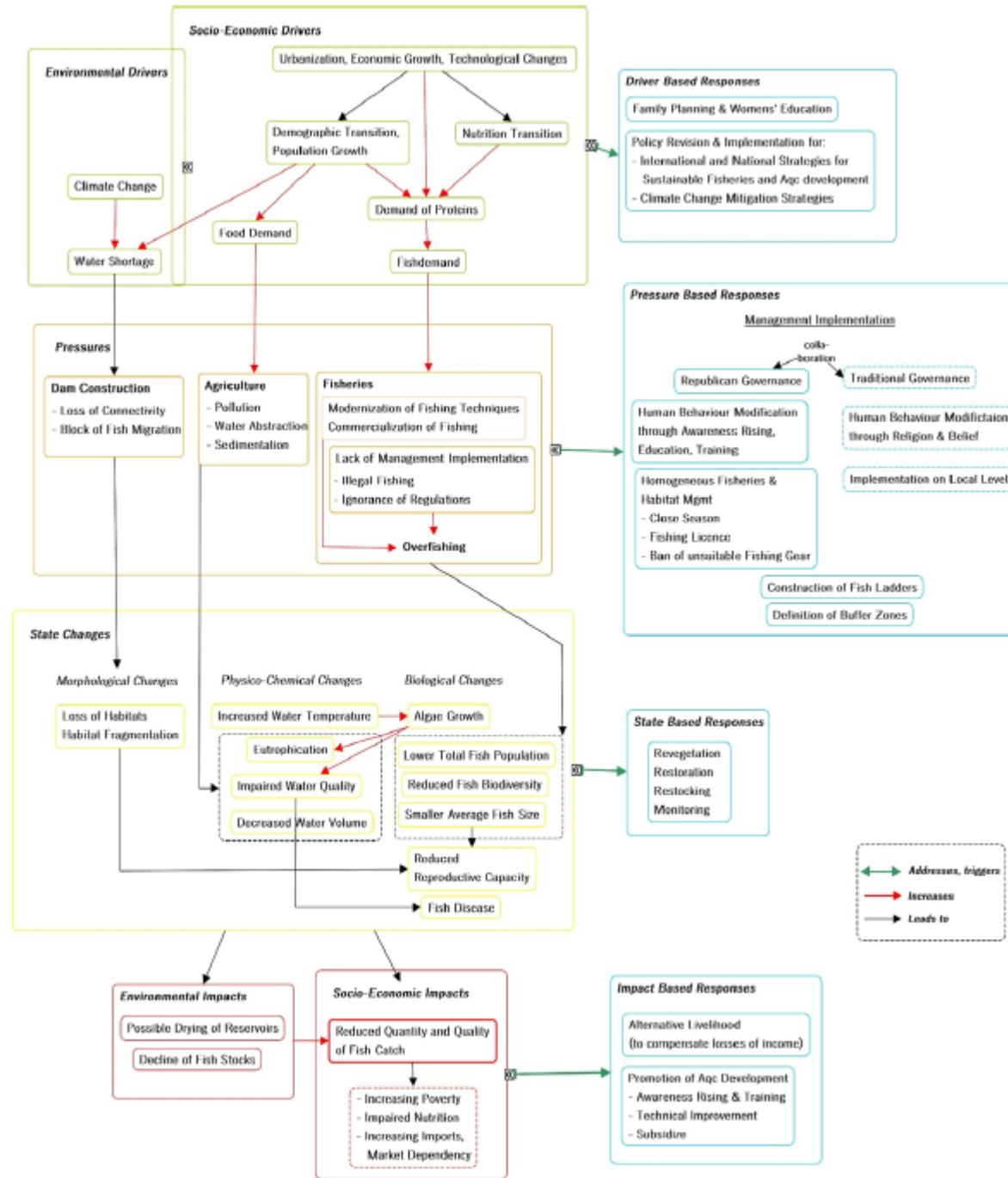
Dominance



What can you do?

- **Recognize the power dynamics embedded in knowledge production**
- **Engage with different knowledge systems and epistemologies**
- **Create spaces for knowledge exchange and dialogue**
- **Create equitable partnerships and collaborations within knowledge production**

Complexity in transdisciplinary research



Complex model

Drivers-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR)
 Hundscheid 2019

Social Simulations with diverse groups of stakeholders



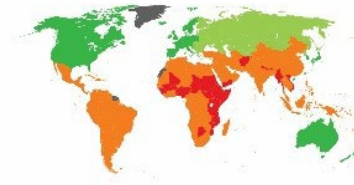
*Melcher et al. (eds.) 2020 in print
SUSFISH Book*

Multiperspectpective approach

- ✓ Power dynamics embedded in knowledge production
- ✓ Spaces for knowledge exchange and dialogue
- ✓ Equitable partnerships & collaborations within knowledge production

- ? Engaging with different knowledge systems and epistemologies

Thanks!



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