

Before we begin...

We aim to create a principled space for open and respectful communication.
In being present today you are agreeing to the following guides:

- We have zero tolerance for racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, islamophobia, xenophobia, ableism, ageism and any other form of discriminatory behaviour.
- We have zero tolerance for prejudice based on class, faith/religion, language ability, gender presentation, physical ability, learning difficulty or mental health.
- We do not assume anyone's gender (if in doubt ask or use gender neutral pronouns until specified otherwise).
- If we are called out, we redirect defensive behaviour and use the space as an opportunity to reflect and learn.





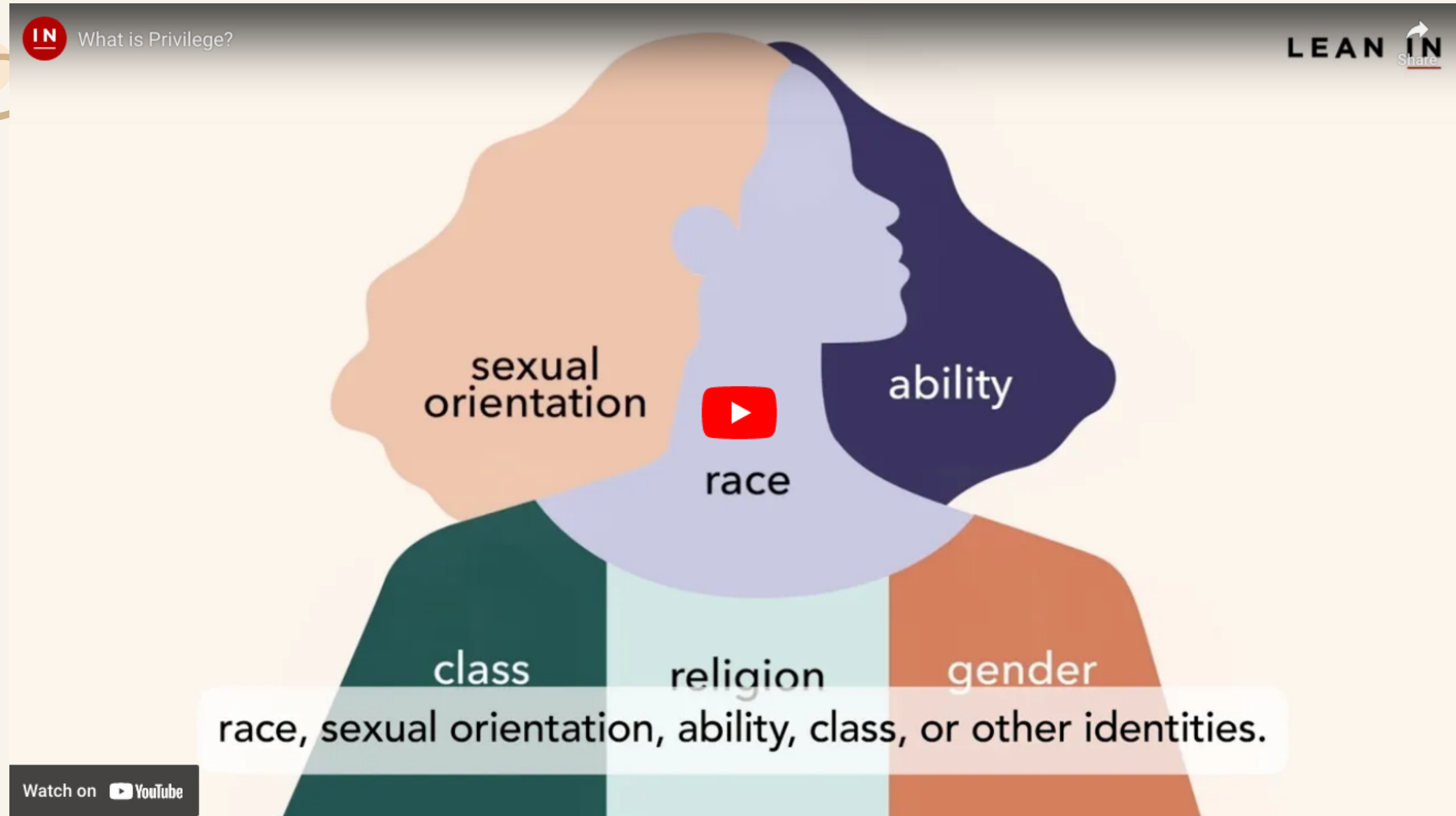
SCAN ME

The Decolonisation and Anti-Racism (DAR) study group presents...

Understanding Privilege



What is privilege?



Some historical context....

- In the 1930s, African-American sociologist and civil rights activist William Du Bois 'wrote about the “**psychological wage**” that enabled poor whites to feel **superior** to poor blacks.
- These low-paid white labourers were given access to public functions, parks, and good schools; they populated the ranks of the police and could participate in civil society. This impacted the **personal treatment** and the **level of respect** shown to them compared to their black counterparts.
- In 1988, American women's studies scholar and activist Peggy McIntosh referred to '**white privilege**' in her paper called “White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences Through Work in Women’s Studies,” in which she listed 46 examples of white privilege such as: “**I can be pretty sure that if I ask to talk to the ‘person in charge,’ I will be facing a person of my race.**”

Our first set resource for this session was:

Expanding the definition of privilege:

The concept of social privilege

By Linda L. Black and David Stone





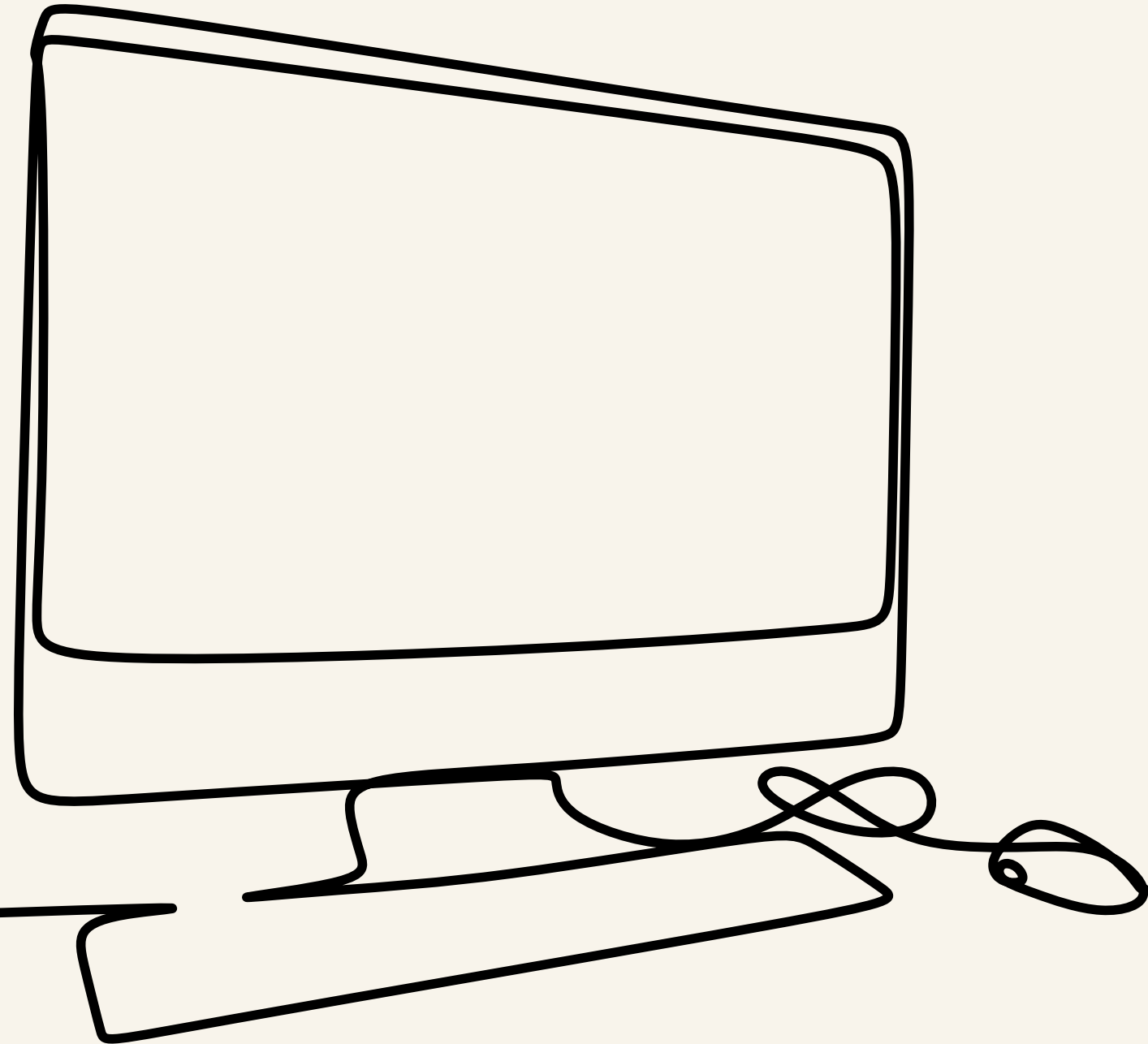
Respond to these using the whiteboard:

In what ways does privilege show up in your life?

How did you come to realise this?




Our second set resource for this session was:



Rethinking Privilege

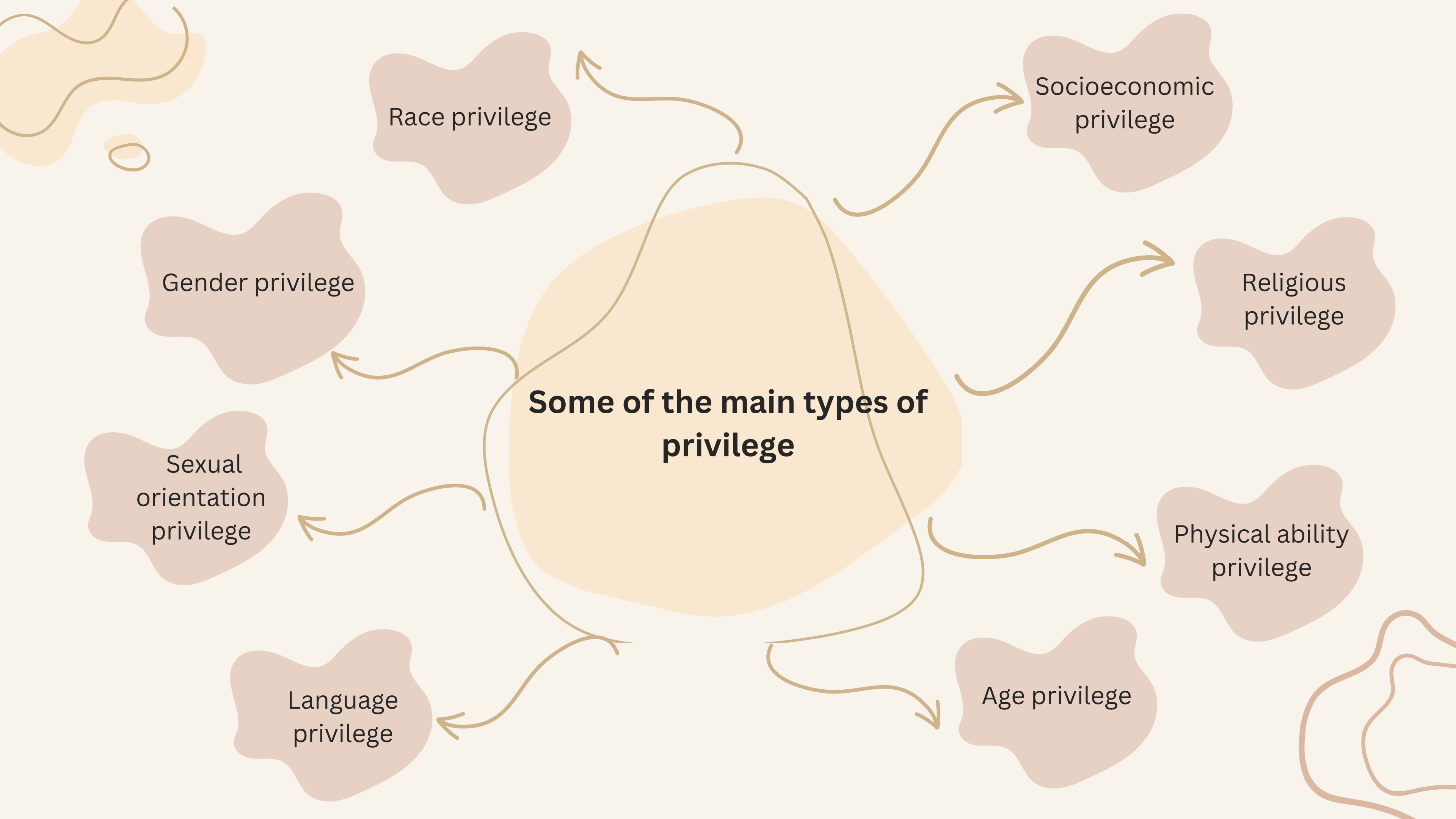
by Mariam Veiszadeh



'What I believe is that everybody has a combination of unearned advantage and unearned disadvantage in life.'

- Peggy McIntosh, 2014







Thinking about your educational journey...

In what ways have you benefitted from the system?

In what ways have you not?

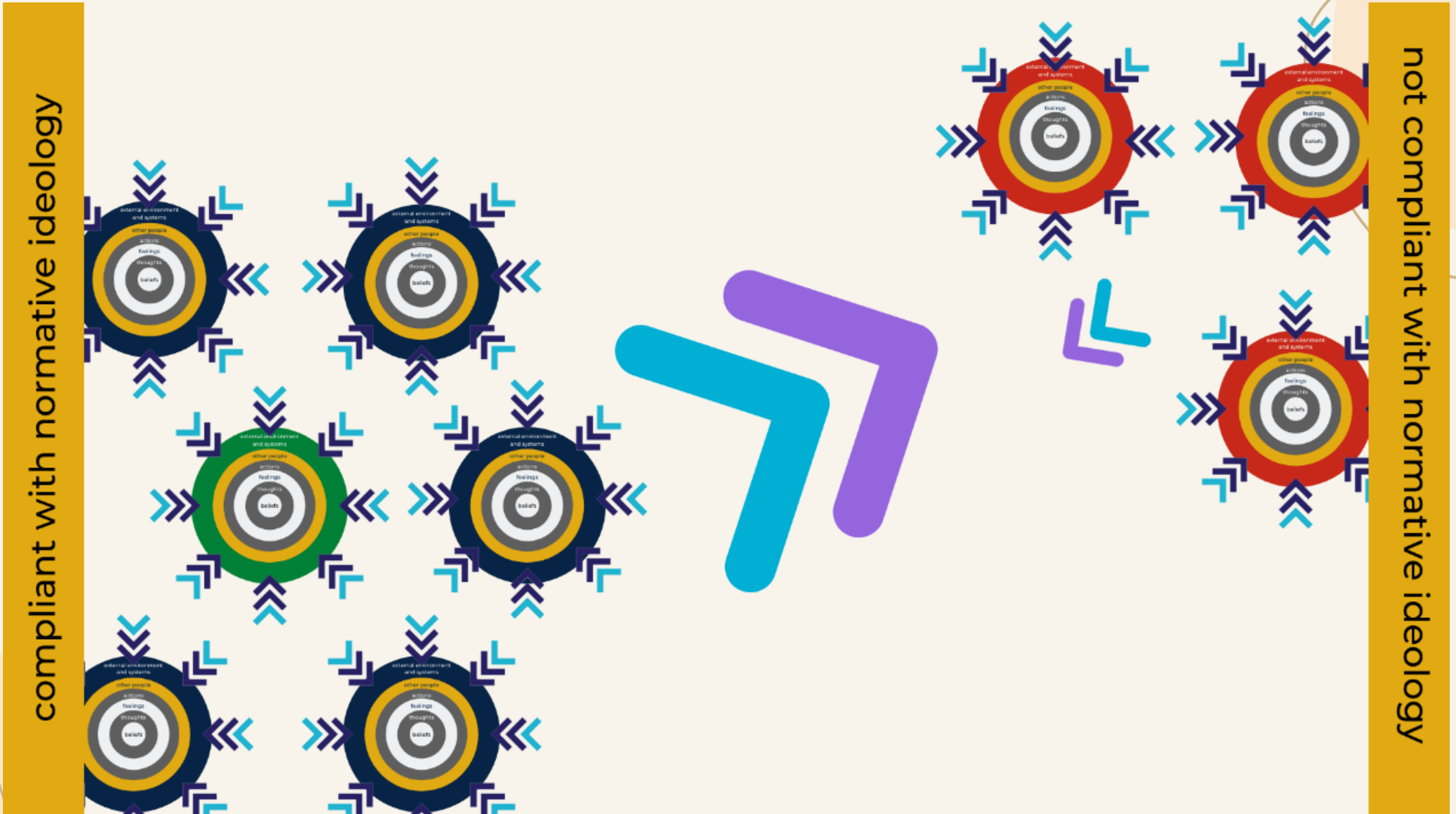


Critiques:



- 1 Oversimplification and Reductionism
- 2 Essentialism
- 3 Individualism
- 4 Ignoring intersectionality and Polarisation
- 5 Victimhood and Group think

Cont:



Critique: What does it mean?

Michael Monahan (2014), the concept of privilege refers to advantages gained by certain groups through the historical marginalization of other groups.




Lauwers (2022) argues that privilege should not be seen as monolithic and that different types of privilege exist.

Ought to focus on fighting collectively (i.e. working class) against the system as a whole instead of focusing on inequality between individuals.

The UK Government's commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities found that despite the societal disadvantage, some white individuals from deprived backgrounds are still being left behind. Dr Sewell's report states that the system is no longer deliberately rigged against ethnic minorities and that the impediments and disparities are varied, with few being directly related to racism.





'Privilege is when you think something is not a problem because it's not a problem to you personally.'

- David Gaider, 2013



Thank you for listening and
for your contributions!



Some further resources:

Navigating white privilege – the key to achieving anti-racism in social work

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rstAt9da4_k&ab_channel=ScienceAnimated

Recognizing Privilege: Power to All People | Michael Yates | TEDxTexasStateUniversity:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2-RvClIZdE&ab_channel=TEDxTalks

The power of privilege: Tiffany Jana at TEDxRVAWomen:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0acvkHliZs&t=556s&ab_channel=TEDxTalks

The National Seed Project. (1989). White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack. *Peace and Freedom Magazine*, 10-12.

<https://nationalseedproject.org/Key-SEED-Texts/white-privilege-unpacking-the-invisible-knapsack>

(Slides can be accessed on our website after the session)

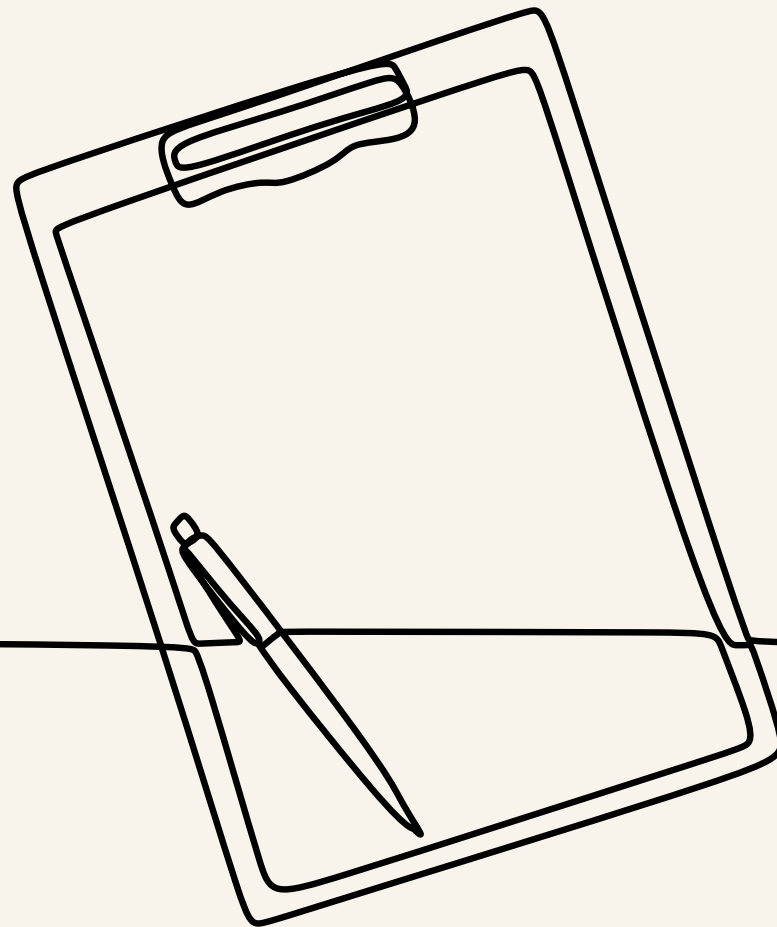
Questions to think about:

What brought you here today?

What are your biggest takeaways from today's session?

How much learning/unlearning are you willing to do?

How can you make regular space for self reflection?



Links and contact information:

Follow and interact with us on Twitter:



To see our website and ways to follow the project:

<http://blog.westminster.ac.uk/psj>

To watch our seminars about ethical and decolonial partnerships:

<http://cti.westminster.ac.uk/student-partnership-resources/>

To listen to our podcast about decolonising the curriculum:

<https://anchor.fm/student-partnership>

To read discipline-specific and general reading lists about decolonising higher education:

<http://blog.westminster.ac.uk/psj/tools/reading-lists/>

If you have any questions about the DAR study group, email Kyra Araneta (Student Partnership Coordinator) at aranetk@westminster.ac.uk

