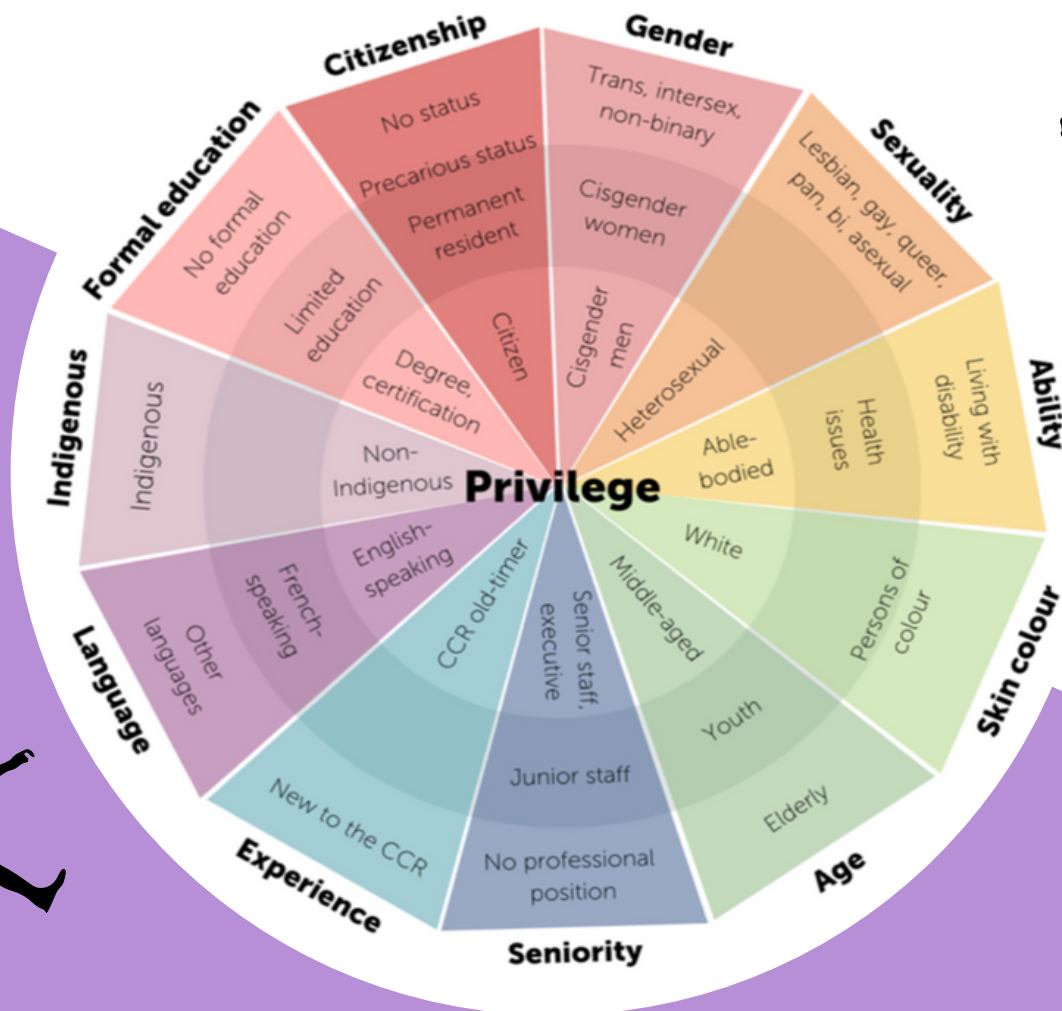


INTERSECTIONALITY



Intersectionality is the overlapping and connected social systems of oppression and privilege that shape the lives of individual children based on their race, gender, class, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, disability, and other identities. One way to think of intersectionality would be like a web. All of us are tangled within this web, but how it impacts our lives will depend on our location within the web. Intersectionality goes beyond the individual identities we hold, and acknowledges there are several interlocking systems of oppression and that the synthesis of these systems creates the conditions for our lives.



The web, above, shows one example of the idea of intersectionality created by the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR). The web shows us that as people move towards the margins of the web, they are subject to increasingly oppressive systems, therefore, are more likely to be marginalized.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ABOUT YOURSELF:

- The many identities you hold as well as the relative oppression and privilege you may experience as a function of your identities
- How your experiences of privilege and oppression change under different circumstances (e.g., at work, in your family, at church, communities)

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ABOUT YOUR CLASSROOM:

- How you can apply classroom practices so that students from all backgrounds feel valued, respected, included, and supported
- How to center equity for all genders, for students with different abilities/disabilities, for students raised by different caregivers: single parents, dual parents, grandparents, two fathers, two mothers, for students of all socio-economic levels, for students of different races, ethnicities and religious backgrounds, and more

LASTLY, CONSIDER WHAT YOU CAN DO TO BETTER:

- (1) **RECOGNIZE** biases, inequities, and oppressive ideologies
- (2) **RESPOND** to biases, inequities, and oppressive ideologies in the immediate term
- (3) **REDRESS** biases, inequities, and oppressive ideologies in the long term by addressing their root causes

For more on intersectionality see the work of Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw and the Combahee River Collective.

