



Human Rights and Health Impact Assessment



Presentation

- Where I'm from
- Setting the scene
- Health Impact Assessment
- HR and HIA
- Things to think about
- Interdisciplinarity



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

IMPACT - International Health Impact Assessment Consortium

'Improving health and reducing health inequalities
through Health Impact Assessment (HIA)'

HIA Research

- HIA methodologies
- HIA evidence-base
- HIA methods and tools

HIA Consultancy

- Commissioned HIAs
- HIA capacity building
- HIA support and guidance
- HIA peer review

HIA Training

- HIA courses
- Commissioned HIA training
- HIA capacity building
- HIA Action Learning Sets
- HIA Master of Public Health module



The scene

- Increasing calls for RtHIA
- Talking —→ Action



What is HIA?

A combination of procedures, methods and tools by which a policy, programme or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population

Source: WHO Gothenburg consensus paper, 1999



HIA Objectives

- Identify potential health impacts
- Identify differential impacts
- Develop recommendations
- Involve stakeholders



HIA features

- Prospective
- Aid to decision making
- Trade-off between brevity and rigour
- Increasingly common at all levels
- Different models of health and different procedures and methods



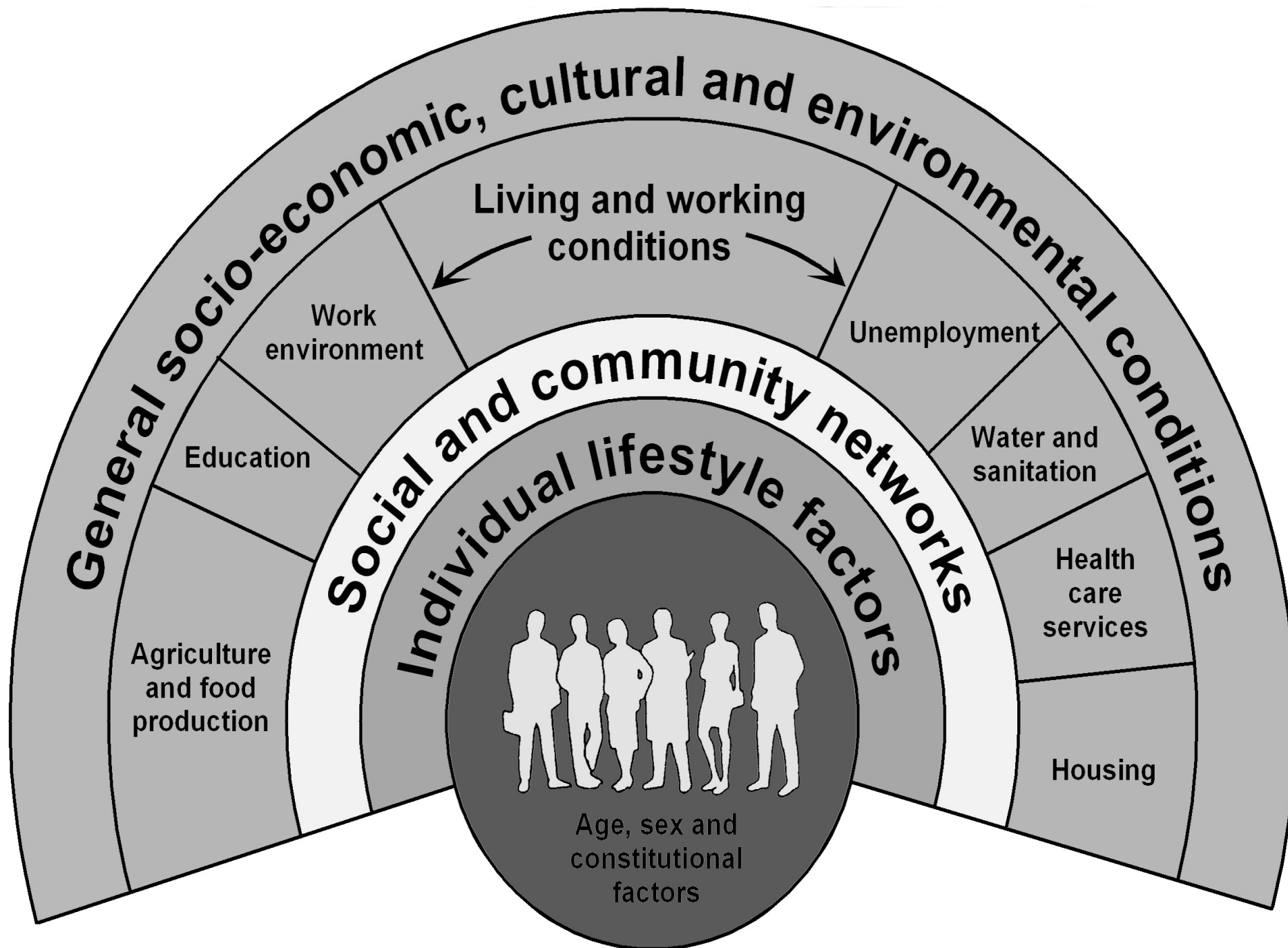
Current uses of HIA

- creation of healthy PPPs
- planning
- health advocacy
- advocacy for disadvantaged groups
- partnership building



Principles and values

- Socio-environmental model
- Public involvement
- Robust
- Reduce inequalities
- Transparent
- Shared ownership
- Ethical
- Sustainable
- Practicable
- Objective



Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

Examples of determinants of health

Biological factors

- ? age, sex, genetics

Lifestyle and individual factors

- ? diet
- ? physical exercise
- ? use of alcohol
- ? cigarettes
- ? non-prescribed drugs
- ? sexual activity
- ? other risk-taking activity

Social and community influences

- ? family organisation and roles, parenting
- ? citizen power and influence
- ? social support and social networks, neighbourliness
- ? sense of belonging
- ? local pride
- ? divisions in community
- ? social isolation
- ? peer pressure
- ? community identity
- ? cultural and Right to health or human rights and health faith
- ? other social exclusion

Mental wellbeing protective factors

- ? Enhancing control
- ? Increasing resilience- promoting support and communication
- ? Facilitating participation and promoting social inclusion

Physical environment

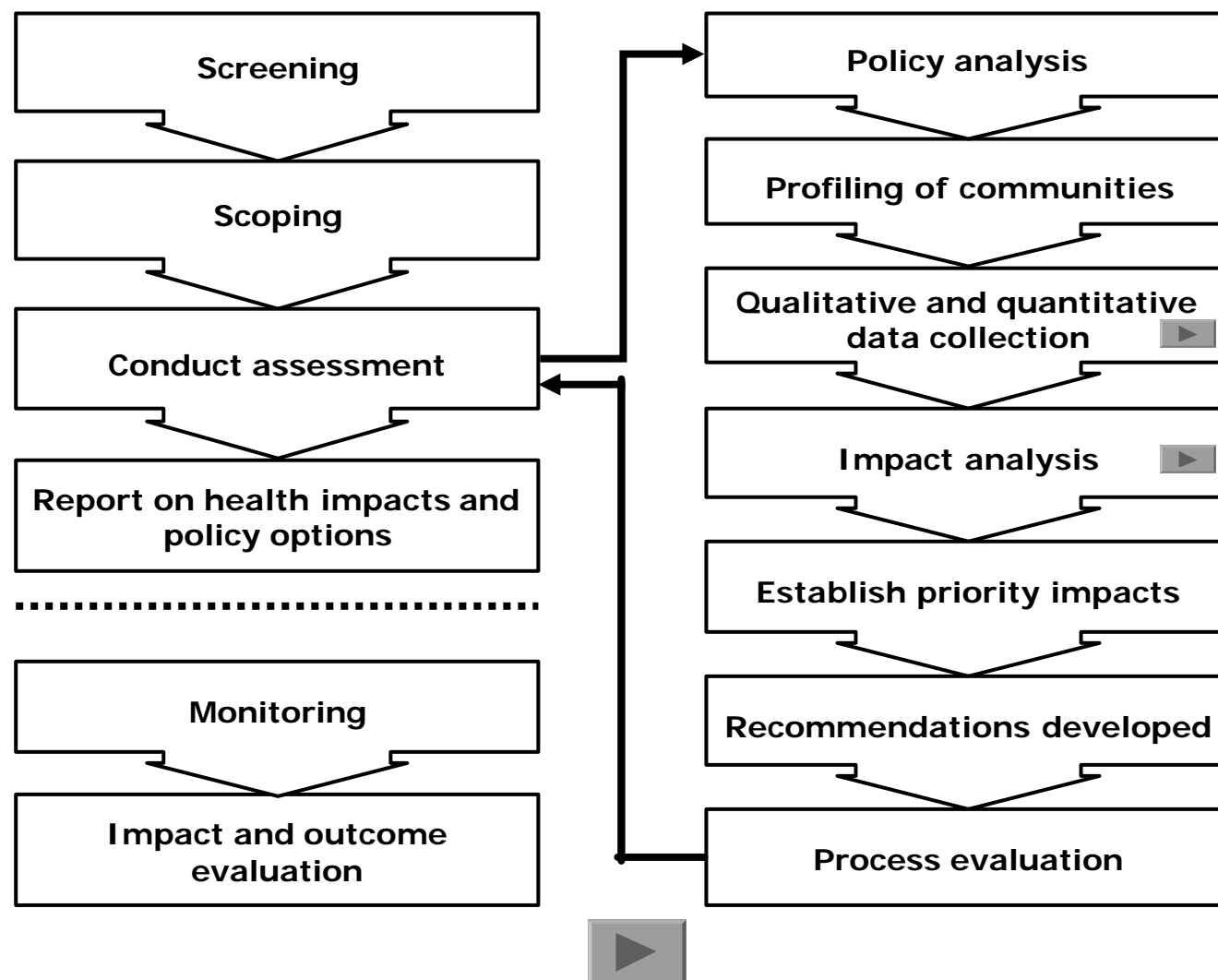
- ? built environment, neighbourhood design
- ? access to open and green space
- ? housing
- ? indoor environment
- ? Noise, smell
- ? air and water quality
- ? attractiveness of area
- ? community safety
- ? waste disposal
- ? road hazards
- ? injury hazards
- ? quality and safety of play areas

Services, public policy and socio-economic conditions

- ? unemployment
- ? income
- ? type of employment
- ? workplace conditions
- ? access to services (location / disabled access / costs)
 - o Health care services
 - o Other caring services
 - o careers advice
 - o Housing advice
 - o Community safety
 - o shops and commercial services
 - o public amenities
 - o transport
 - o education and training
 - o information technology
- ? Economic / social / environmental trends
- ? local and national priorities
- ? policies, programmes, projects
- ? climate



HIA methods and procedures

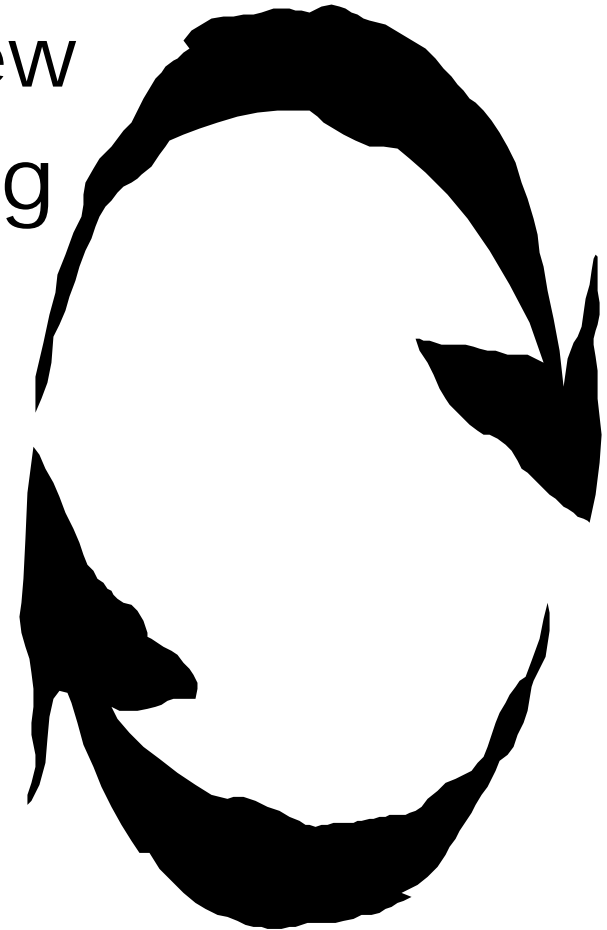




Collecting Evidence

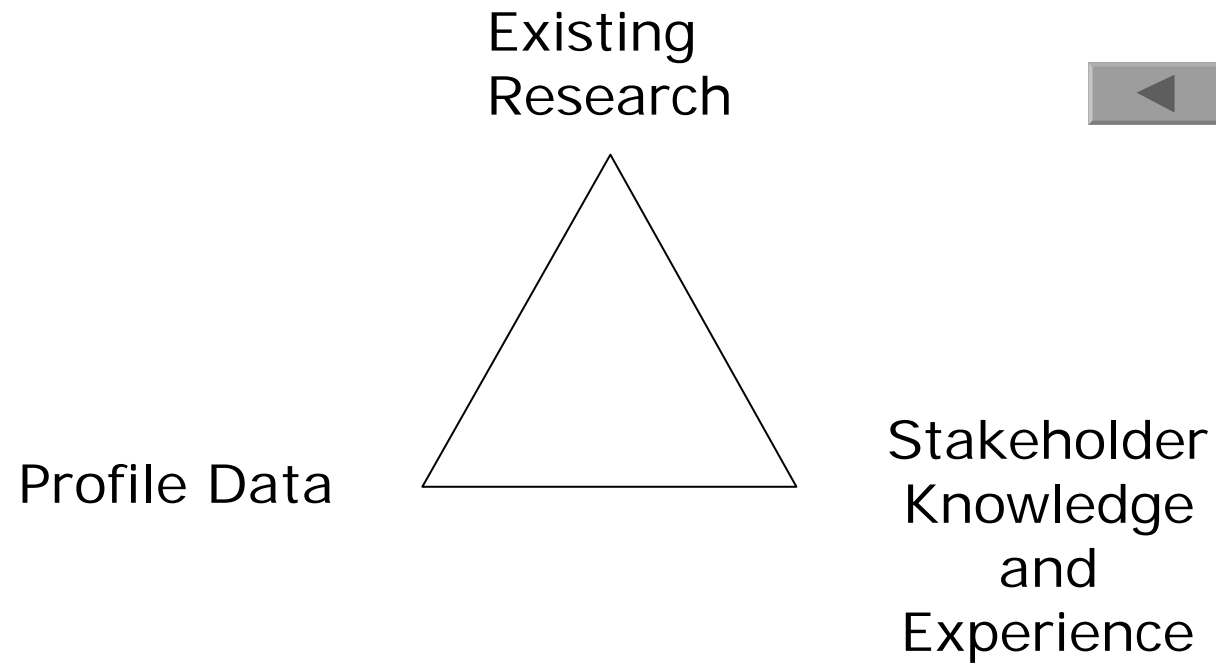


- Literature review
- Profile/ mapping
- Modelling
- Primary data
 - Interviews
 - Focus groups
 - Workshops





Sources of evidence





HR and HIA

- Links
 - Human rights and health relationship
 - determinants of health and rights
 - inequalities
 - participation
- ownership (shared)
- Win - Win
 - HIA=Robust, systematic transparent process
 - HR = needs → obligations



Things to think about



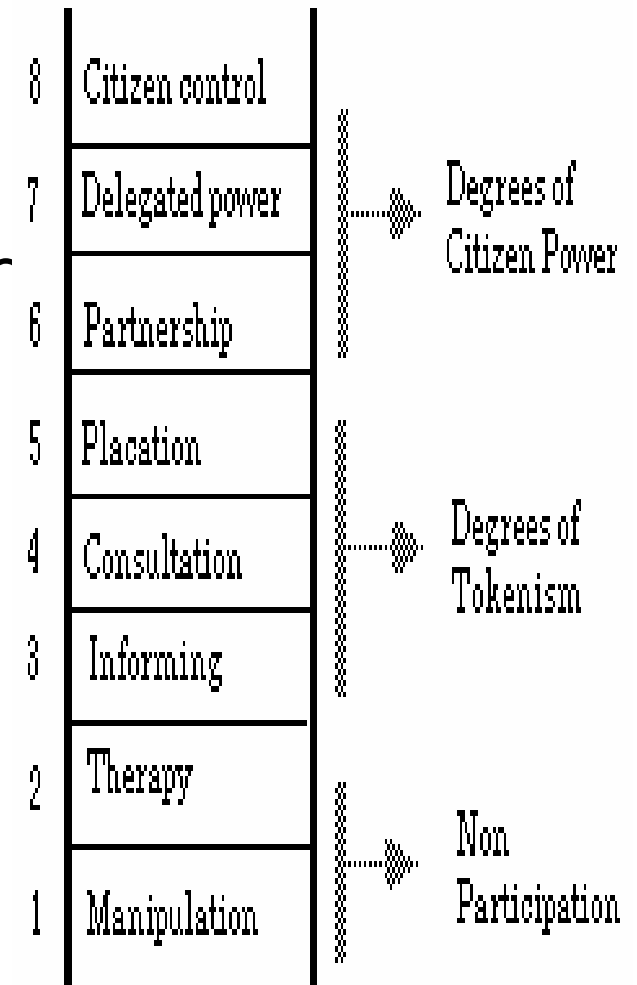
Things to think about

- Who commissions?
- Who carries it out?
- Trade offs
- Context specific but comparable?
- Prospective- not an evaluation



Participation

- Steering group
- 'Lay' researcher
- Workshops
- Focus groups
- Interviews

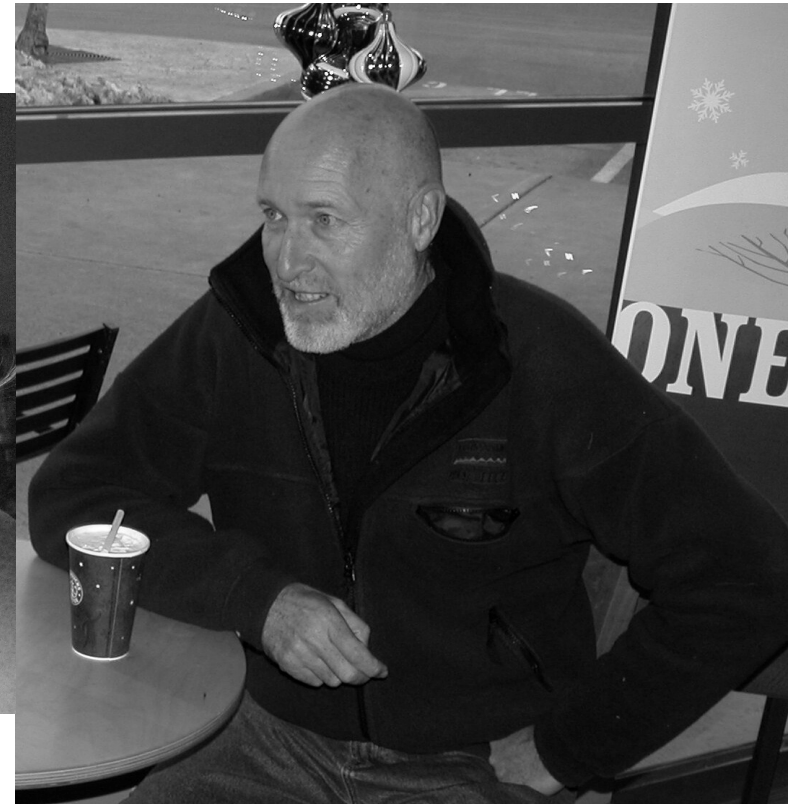




Interdisciplinarity



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Public Health Researcher



Neil
Father
Academic Staff Developer

(Haigh & Haigh 2007)



Challenges

1. Unfamiliar, multidisciplinary, complex and contested concepts
2. Different community, discipline and professional backgrounds
3. Unfamiliar ways of teaching and learning



Strategies

- Identify shared views
- Enhancing perspective taking and self reflexivity
- Encouraging conversation
- Identifying opportunities



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