

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.

(Audre Lorde)

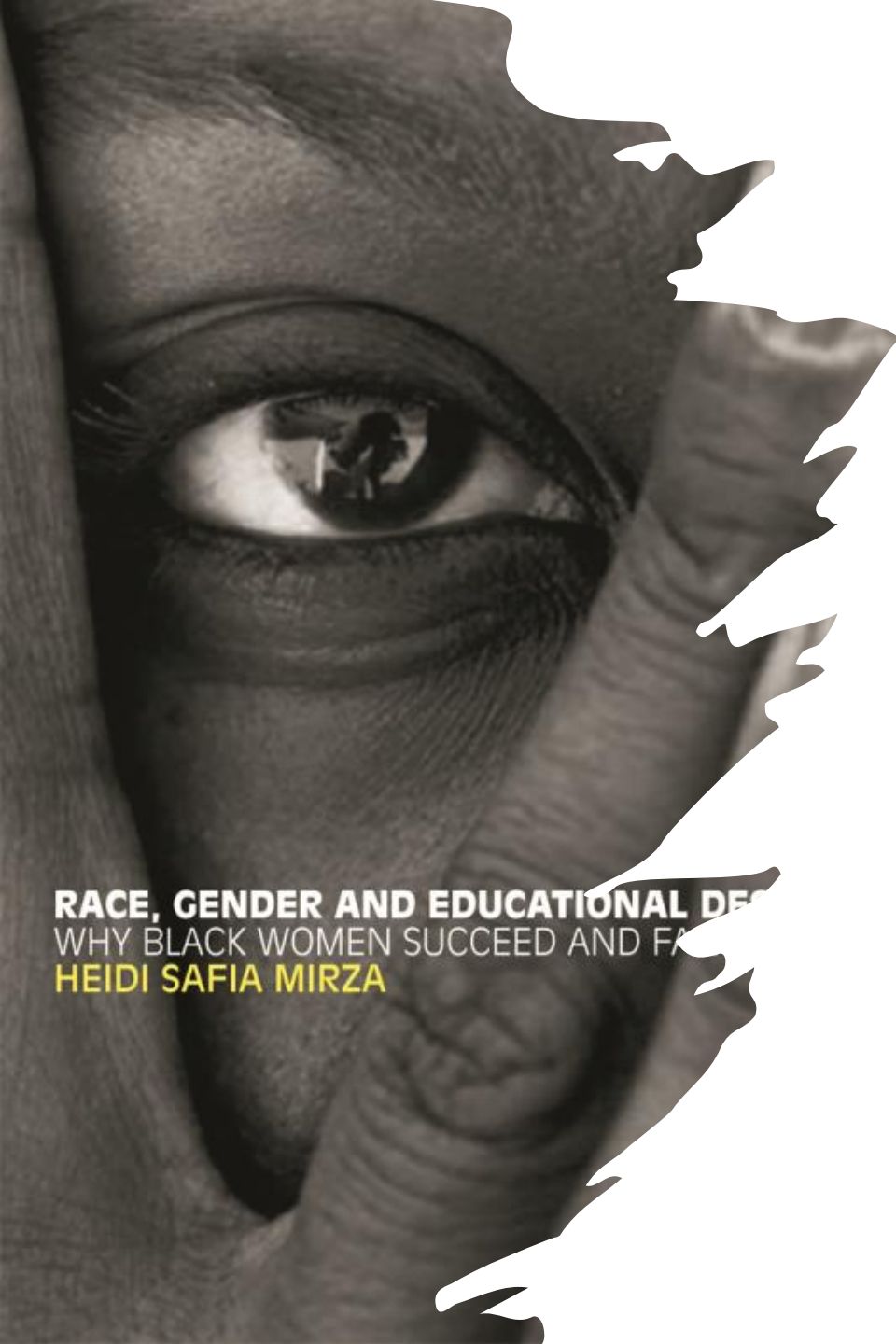
Decolonising Research:

Rethinking Race, gender and intersectional approaches to research.



Women educators as transformative decolonising agents for social change

My Grandmother



A certain private information

“For black women and women of colour visible difference means it is impossible to escape the body inside the teaching machine...we end up sharing private information to make a point ” (Simmonds 1997:227)

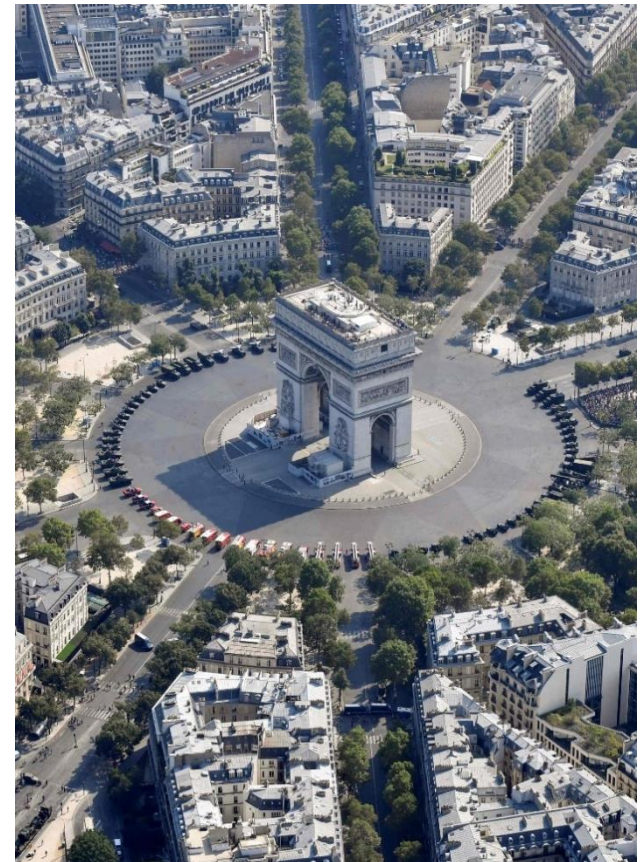
RACE, GENDER AND EDUCATIONAL DE
WHY BLACK WOMEN SUCCEED AND FA
HEIDI SAFIA MIRZA

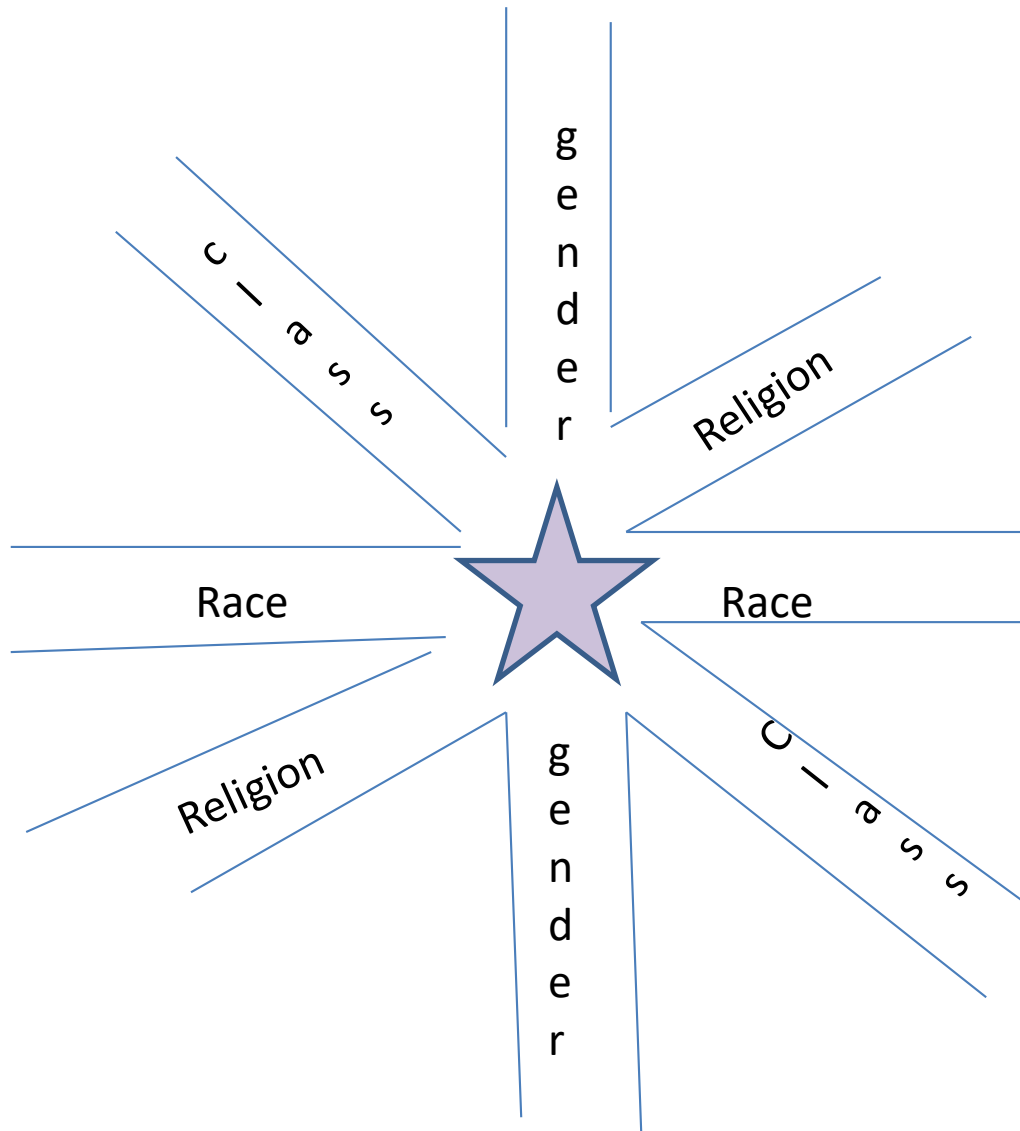
Definitions of Intersectionality

**Intersectionality ...'aims to make visible the multiple positioning that constitute everyday life and the power relations that are central to it'
(Phoenix and Pattynama 2006: 187)**

**'...gender is always lived in the modalities of ethnicity and class, and nationality in the modalities of gender and race , and class in the modalities of gender and nationality'
(Prins 2006:278)**

**Because the intersectional experience is greater than the sum of racism and sexism, any analysis that does not take intersectionality into account cannot sufficiently address the particular manner in which black women are subordinated'
(Crenshaw 1989 : 140)**





Historical/situational

- Post-coloniality
- Migration
- Nationality
- Citizenship
- Immigration status

Embodied/lifecourse

- Sexuality
- Ethnicity/
- Culture
- Age
- Disability
- Pregnancy
- Mental health

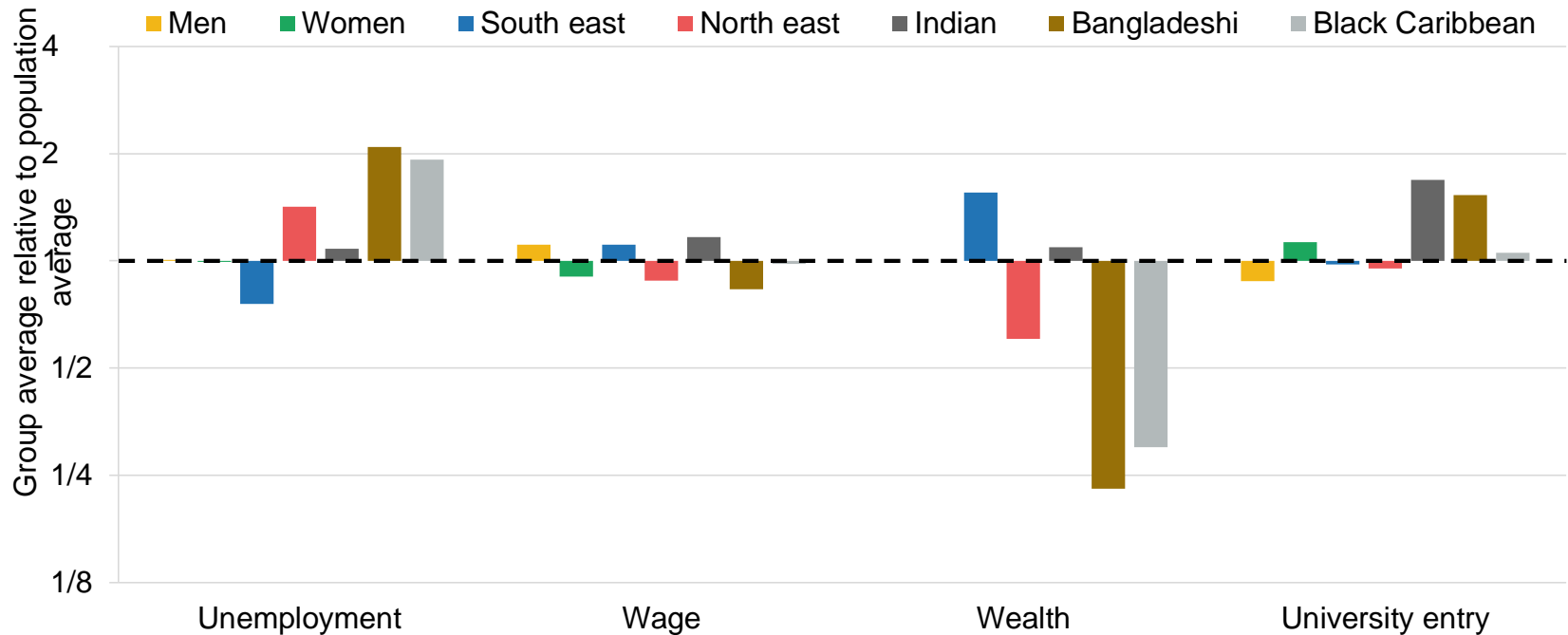
INTERSECTIONALITY TRAFFIC LIGHT METAPHOR

A complex picture

Not only are there big differences across groups, with some minority groups doing relatively well, but there are varied patterns across outcomes for the same group



Example inequalities by group across different socio-economic outcomes, relative to population benchmark

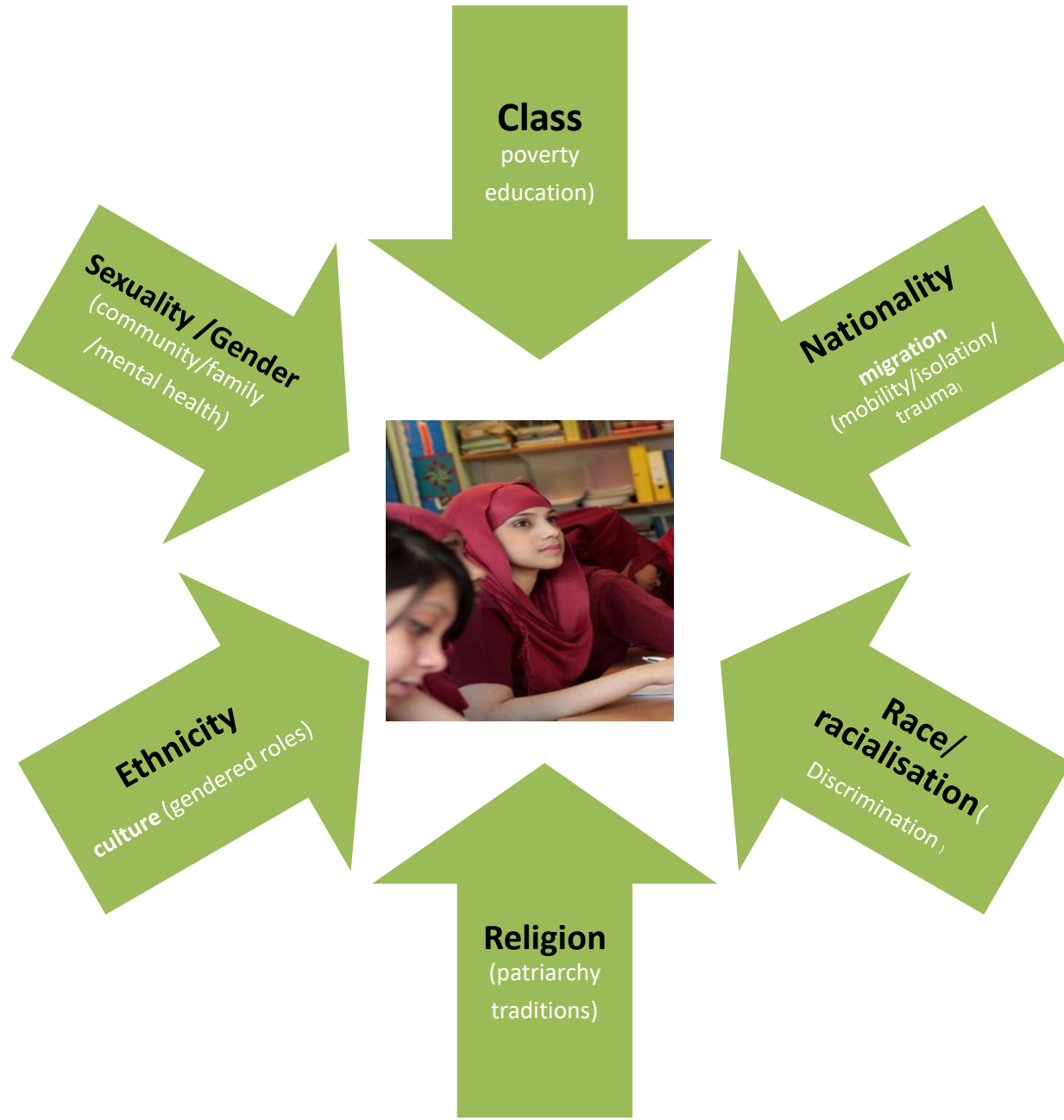


Muslim Girls in School: Key findings

- 1. Regulation** of dress and behaviour
- 2. Surveillance** by Family & community
- 3. Invisibility** in education policy
- 4. High Academic Performance**
(Expectations/ gender 'empowerment')
- 5. Bullying** (same race/ religion)
- 6. Mental Health** (depression, suicide, eating disorders)



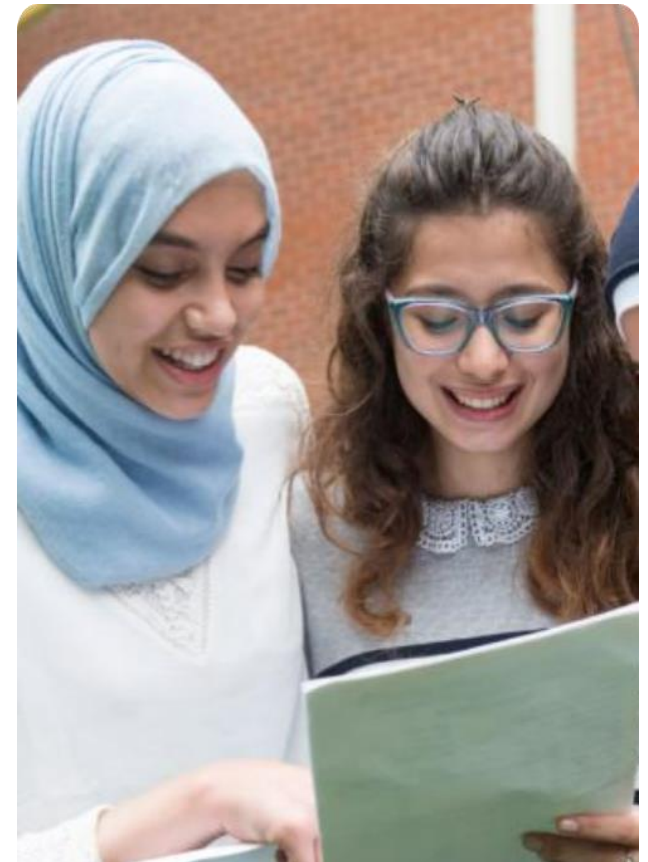
The intersecting and cross cutting experience of Muslim Girls

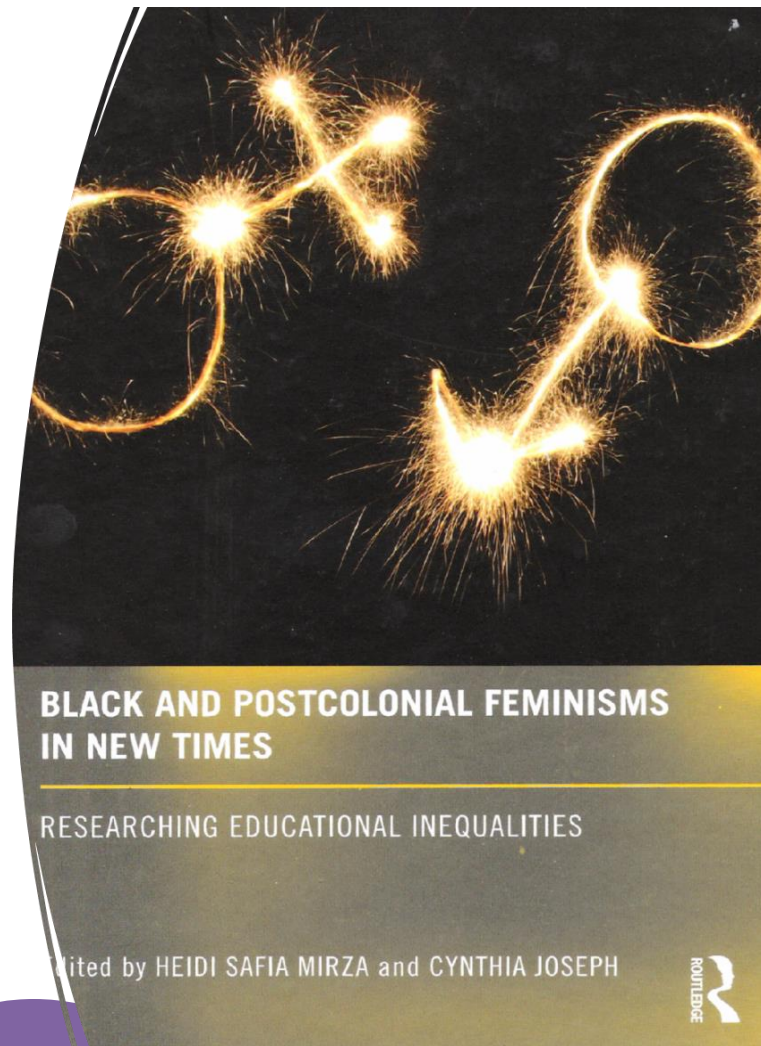


Muslim Girls and the collision of discourses

- **Public and Private** (family and State)
- **Patriarchy and Religion** (masculinity and ethnicity)
- **Honour and Shame** (morality & purity
- **East and West** (colonialism and modernity)

- **Traditionalism and Globalisation** (culture and capitalism)
- **Multiculturalism and Islamophobia** (national identity and religion)
- **Fear and Risk** (war on terror, security and order)





Black Feminism and embodied intersectionality

- **IDENTITY:** How race, class, gender and religion are lived through black/othered women's selfhood
- **Lived Experience:** How her daily struggles show how her access to resources shape her everyday reality
- **Structural racism and sexism :** How her difference is systematically organized into social political and economic structures and institutions in unique historical moments

Black feminists reclaiming Intersectionality



IF I DIDN'T DEFINE
MYSELF FOR MYSELF,
I WOULD BE CRUNCHED
INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S
FANTASIES FOR ME
AND EATEN ALIVE.

AUDRE LORDE