

Design justice

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Intro

- Nick Stevens
- PhD Canditate in Design group
- Interaction and Industrial/ product design background. So my take on Design Justice reflects this.
- Not an IS viewpoint specifically, but from an acknowledgement that the objects, services and platforms we design and implement form sociotechnical systems together with the communities in which they are implmented.

Overview

- Introduction to design justice
 - Origins
 - Terms
 - Aims
- Aligned fields
- Examples

Origins of design justice

- Design Justice: towards an intersectional feminist framework for design theory and practice
Sacha Constanza-Chock
2018
- Design Justice:
Community Led Practices to build the worlds we need
Sacha Constanza-Chock
2020
- Network of advocates
2015

Design Justice

is concerned with how the design of objects and systems influences the distribution of risks, harms, and benefits among various groups of people.

Constanza-Chock 2018

Design Justice

focuses on the ways that design reproduces, is reproduced by, and/or challenges the matrix of domination (white supremacy, heteropatriarchy, capitalism, and settler colonialism).

Constanza-Chock 2018

Design Justice Principles

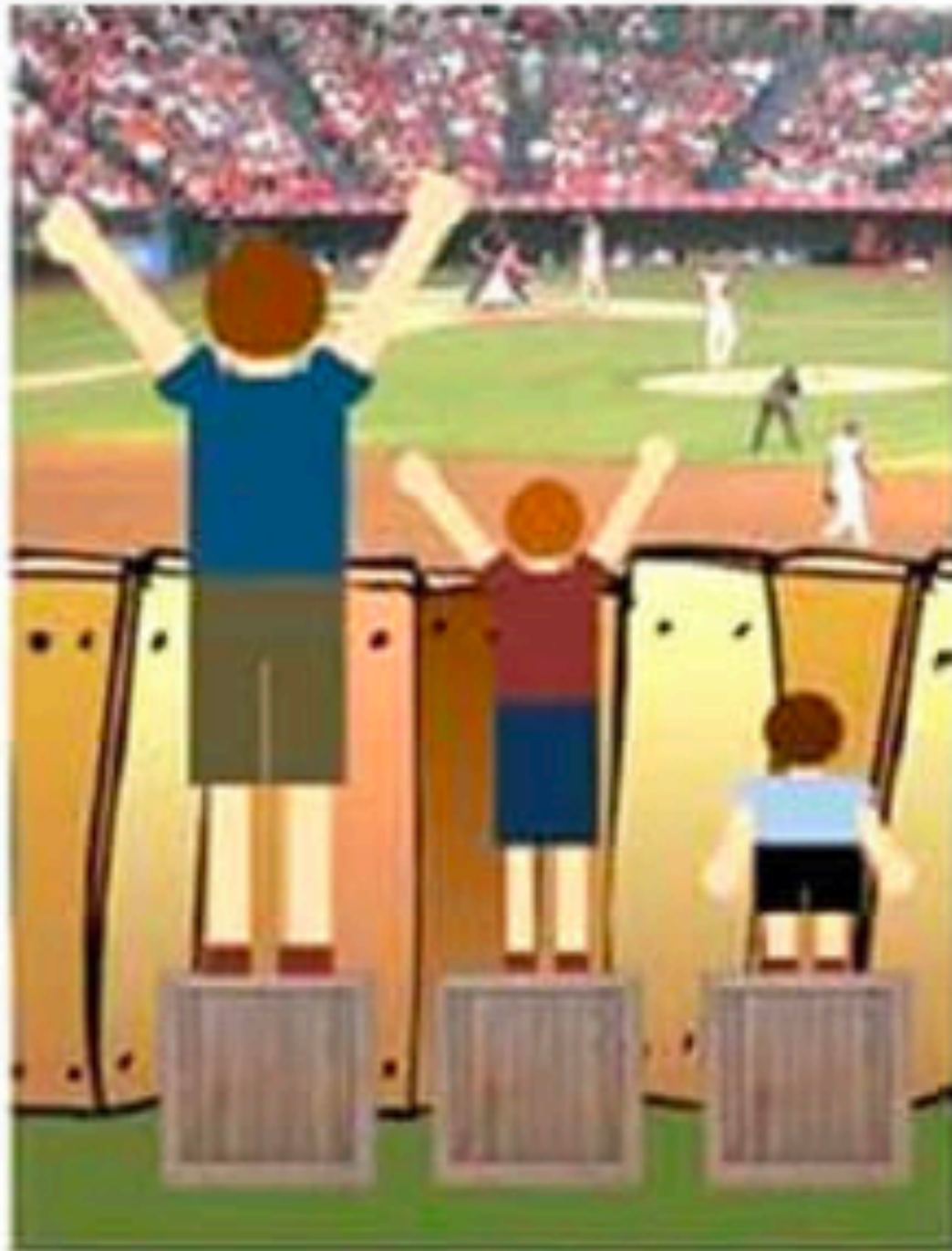
1. We use design to **sustain, heal, and empower** our communities, as well as to seek liberation from exploitative and oppressive systems.
2. We center the voices of those who are directly impacted by the outcomes of the design process.
3. We prioritize design's impact on the community over the intentions of the designer.
4. We view change as emergent from an accountable, accessible, and collaborative process, rather than as a point at the end of a process.
5. We see the role of the designer as a facilitator rather than an expert

Design Justice Principles

6. We believe that **everyone is an expert based on their own lived experience**, and that we all have unique and brilliant contributions to bring to a design process.
7. We share design knowledge and tools with our communities.
8. We work towards sustainable, community-led and -controlled outcomes.
9. We work towards **non-exploitative solutions** that reconnect us to the earth and to each other.
10. Before seeking new design solutions, **we look for what is already working** at the community level. We honor and uplift traditional, indigenous, and local knowledge and practices.

Equality vs Equity vs Justice

EQUALITY VERSUS EQUITY



In the first image, it is assumed that everyone will benefit from the same supports. They are being treated equally.



In the second image, individuals are given different supports to make it possible for them to have equal access to the game. They are being treated equitably.

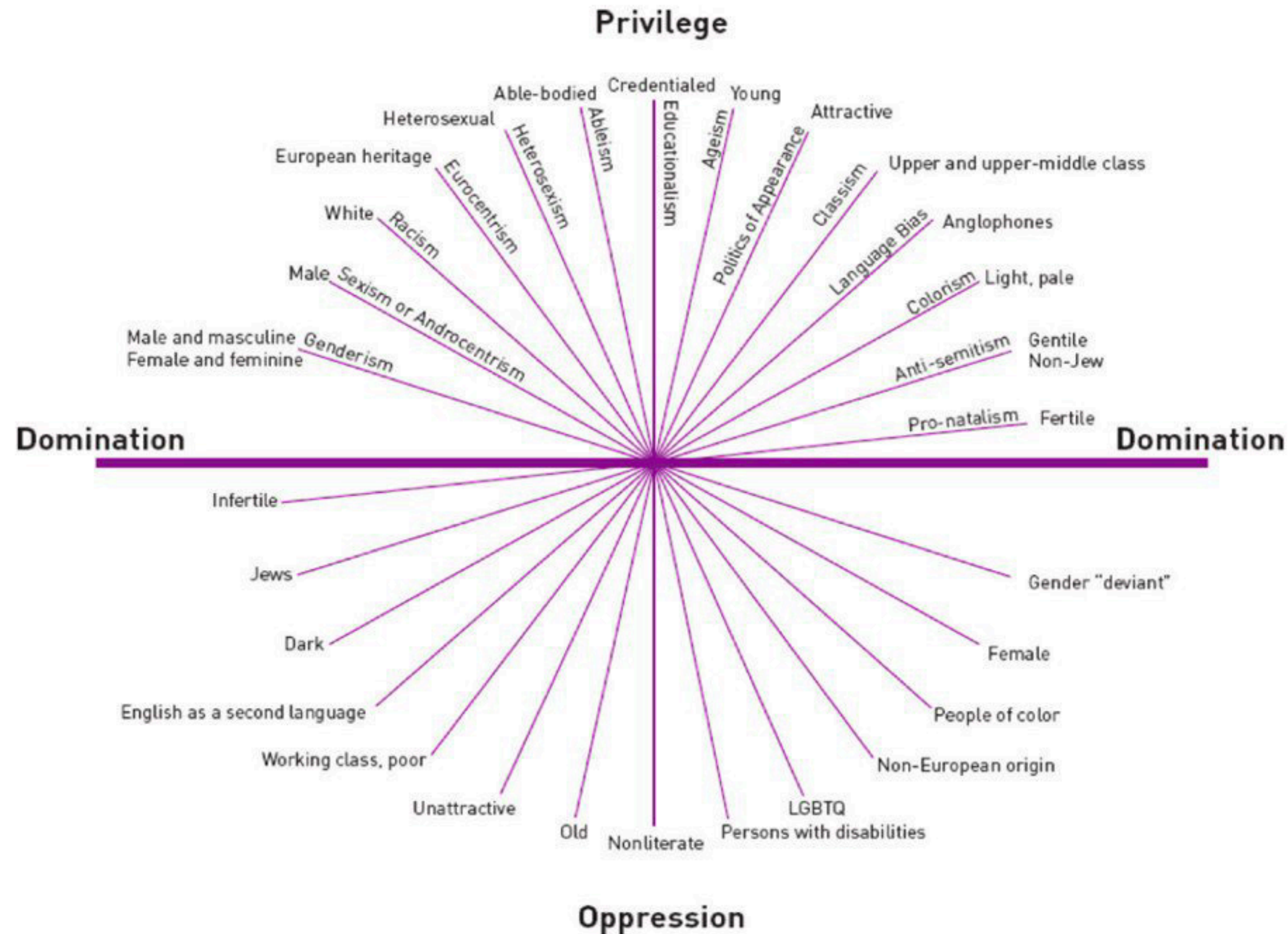


In the third image, all three can see the game without any supports or accommodations because the cause of the inequity was addressed. The systemic barrier has been removed.

Design Justice builds on

- Participatory Design
 - (more so the Scandinavian variant than US variant)
- Value Sensitive Design
- Universal Design
- Disability Justice Movement
- Black Feminist theory

Intersectionality



Source: Morgan, K.P. Describing the emperor's new clothes: Three myths of educational (in)equity. In *The Gender Question in Education: Theory, Pedagogy, & Politics*. Westview Press, Boulder, CO, 1996, 105–122. Used in AWIS' intersectionality fact sheet at <https://www.awis.org/intersectionality/>

AWIS

Concepts

- Intersectionality - Kimberlé Crenshaw
 - Observed from legal cases taken by black women that were dismissed where the court did not recognise their multiple identities
- Single Axis analysis - Kimberlé Crenshaw
- Matrix of domination - Patricia Hill Collins
- We each encounter these on a Personal level, Community level, Systemic level

Users

There is nothing wrong with making things that people want. The problem is that personhood and desire are constrained by capital; money affects whose wants appear to matter. The kids in Startup House may want a pizza delivery drone, but not in the same way low-income families want health care, or the elderly men lying in their own faeces on Howard Street want a safe place to sleep.

Users

There is nothing wrong with making things people want. It's just that too little attention is being paid to the things people need. The wants and needs of young, healthy, middle-class people with connections and a reasonable amount of spare cash are overrepresented among Start-up City's priorities.

Values

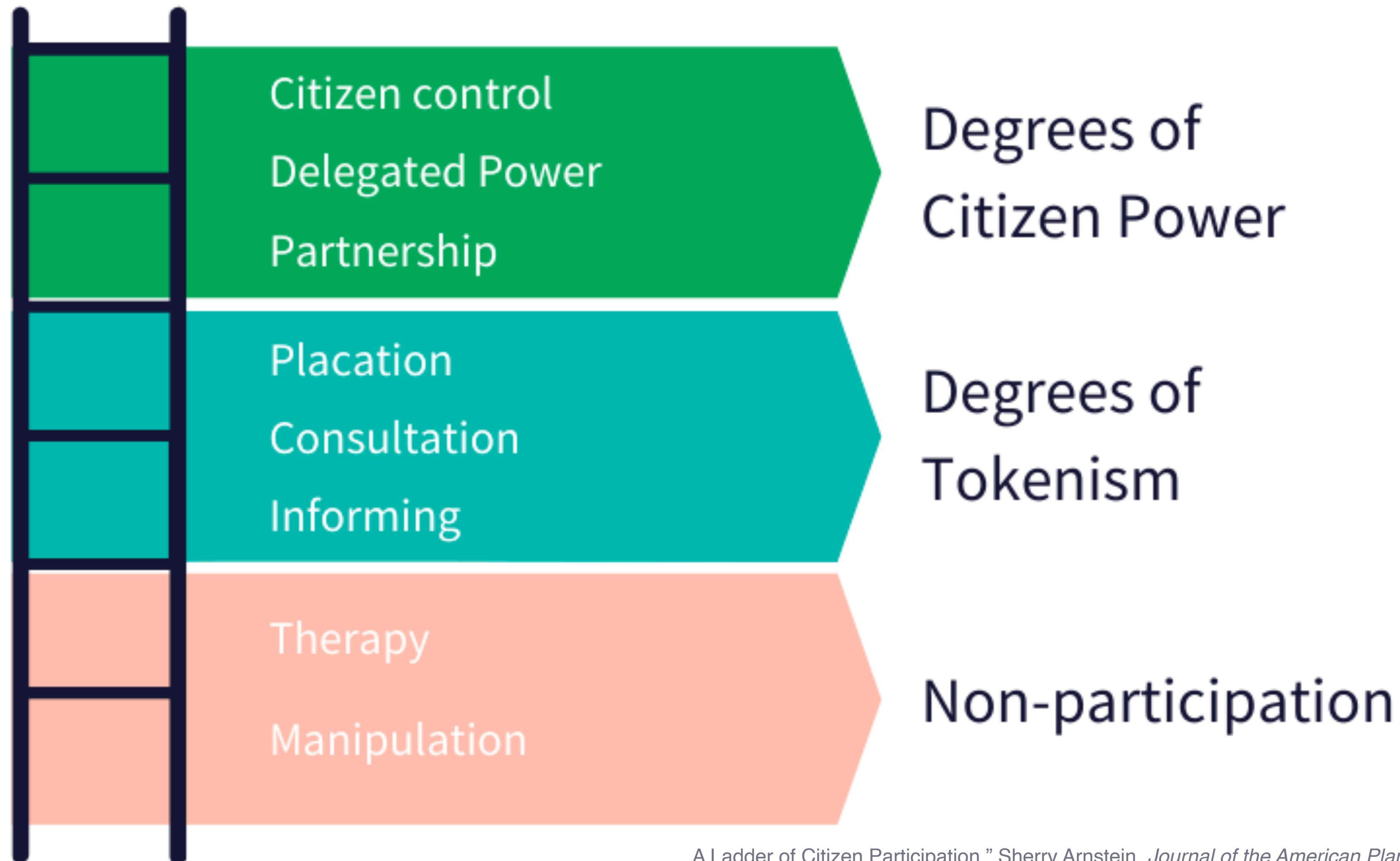
- What values are encoded (un/consciously) in the designed object and process?
- Who's values are encoded (un/consciously) in the designed object and process?
- Biased datasets
- Biases in general
- Those values that are encoded help to shape society

Accountability

- Those most affected should own the development of the project
- “Nothing about Us, without Us” Charlton 1998

Accountability

Arnstein's Ladder of Public Participation



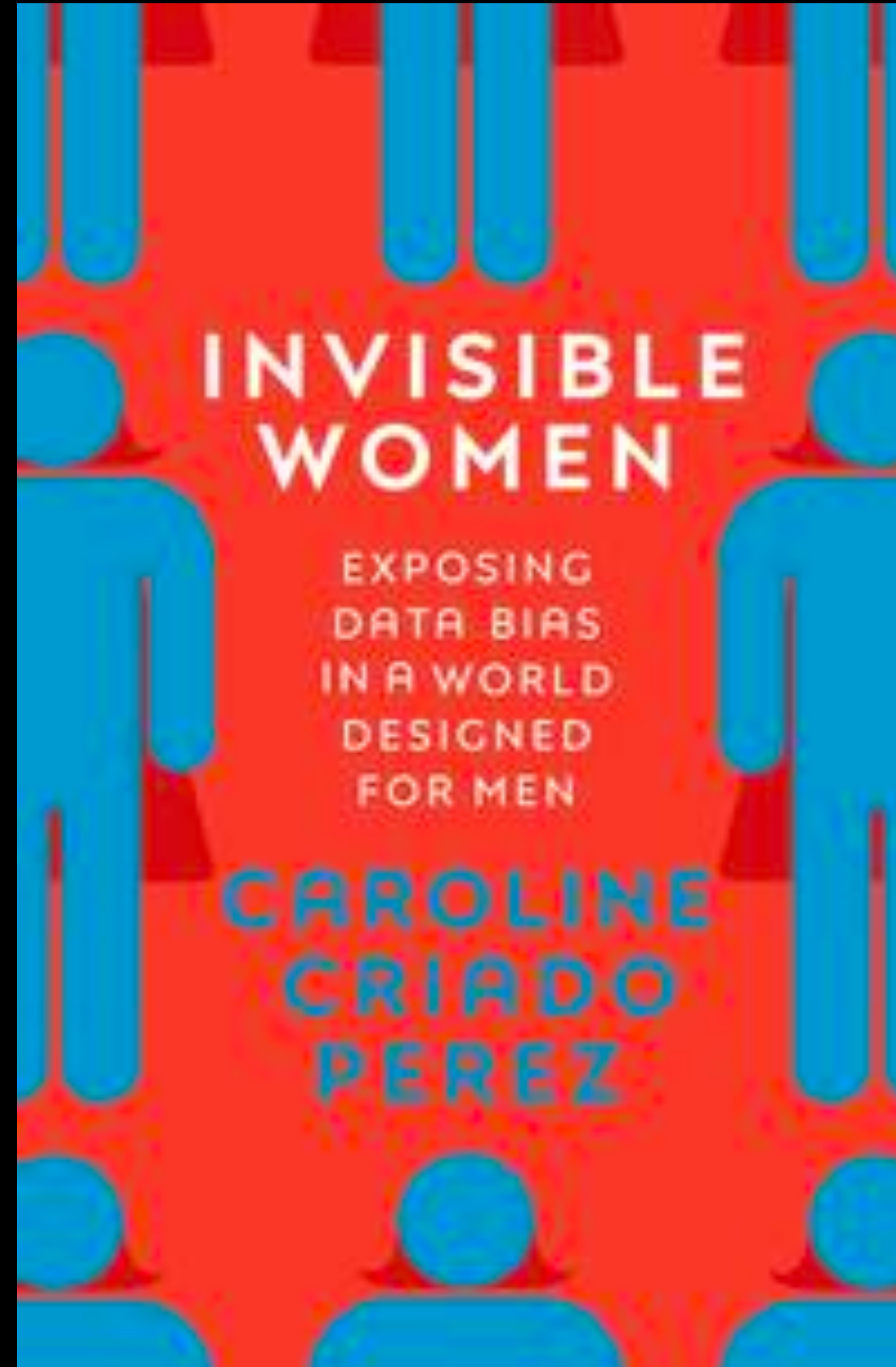
Some catches

- Beware of possible tokenistic/superficial aspects of design processes
- These may exacerbate/ paper over issues
 - Simplistic forms of inclusion of users
 - User Personas
 - Disability simulations
- Issues with A/B testing
- However, methods of assessment are needed

Aligned movements

- Design Justice builds on a number of movements that acknowledge the power of design
- That recognise the complicit nature of design in maintaining the status quo
- Each act of design either works against or further reinforces

Data Feminism



Decolonizing design



DECOLONIZING DESIGN

A Cultural Justice Guidebook

ELIZABETH (DORI) TUNSTALL

with illustrations by Ene Agi

Climate Justice



Photo credit shutter stock

tech won't build it



**Tech Won't Build It: The New Tech Resistance
Discussion Panel July 11, 2018**

Outcomes

- Ontological nature of design
- What values will be encoded?
- Substantive inclusive policies
- Non extractive policies
- Attribution

Outcomes

- Designer as facilitator
- Acknowledging that the outcomes will not be equal.
- But also being conscious of who suffers the implications
- Don't overlook what is established in the community

Examples

- After the break?

Outcomes

- Acknowledge the importance of how issues are framed
- Acknowledge impacts rather than intentions
- Linking this to Mirias talk yesterday on predictive policing

References

Articles

- Costanza-Chock, S. (2018). Design Justice: towards an intersectional feminist framework for design theory and practice. *DRS2018: Catalyst*, 2. <https://doi.org/10.21606/drs.2018.679>
- Costanza-Chock, S. (2020). *Design Justice*. The MIT Press. <https://doi.org/10.7551/mitpress/12255.001.0001>
- Hill Collins, P. (2002). Black Feminist Thought. In *Contemporary Sociology* (Vol. 21, Issue 1). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203900055>
- Crenshaw, K. (1989). Demarginalizing the intersection of race and sex: A black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine, feminist theory, and antiracist politics. In *Living With Contradictions: Controversies In Feminist Social Ethics* (Vol. 1989, Issue 1, pp. 39–52). <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429499142-5>

Links

Examples

- [Social Inequalities Explained in a \\$100 Race](#)
- [The Coded Gaze: Unmasking Algorithmic Bias by Joy Buolamwini](#)
- [Digital Social Innovation to Empower Democracy | Audrey Tang | TEDxVitoriaGasteiz](#)
- <https://designjustice.org/>
- <https://t4sj.co/>
- <https://civic-ai.org/>
- <https://darkmatterlabs.org/>
- <https://tacticaltech.org/>
- <https://rad.cat/>
- <https://zebrasunite.coop/>
- <https://www.humanetech.com/>