

Bridging feminist philosophy and occupational science:

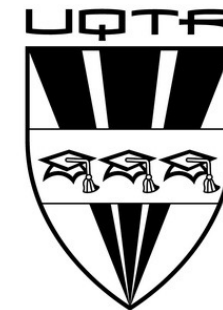
A critical framework for addressing structural gender injustices

Cassandra Lavigne

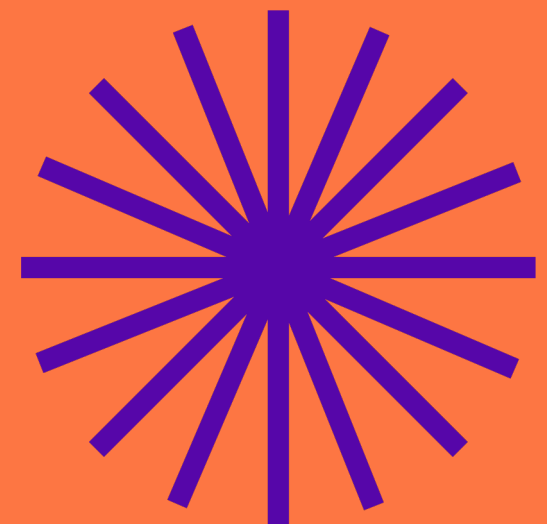
French OT, MSc,
PhD candidate



Inspiring Change, Innovating Futures



Université du Québec
à Trois-Rivières



Context of the presentation

Thesis project : "Occupational governance and misogyny: Non-binary occupational paths, between assimilation and resistance"

Cassandra Lavigne

Author and presenter

Marie-Josée Drolet

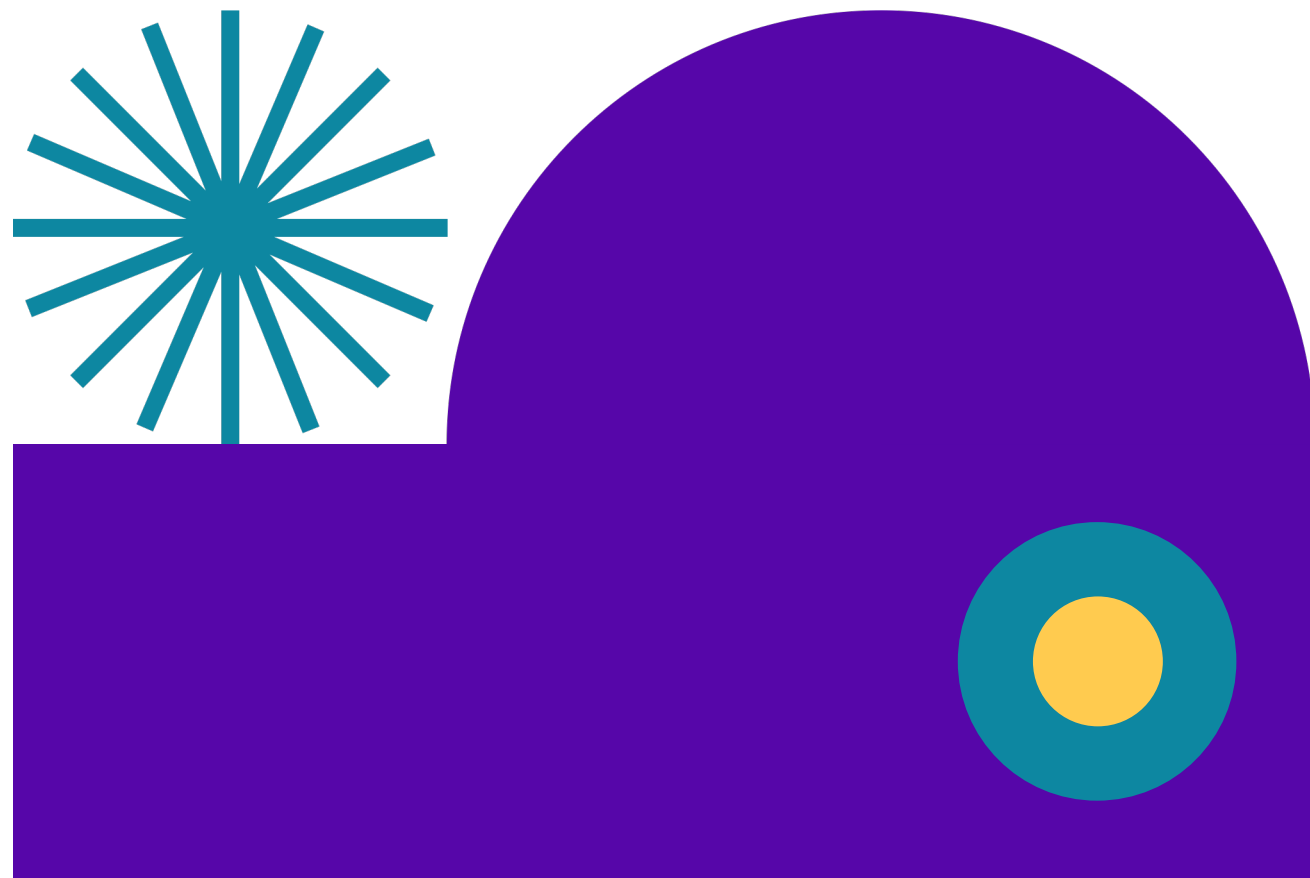
Co-author

Naima Hamrouni

Co-author



Objective and plan of this presentation



Presentation of a critical framework for analyzing the intersections between gender, occupation, and power



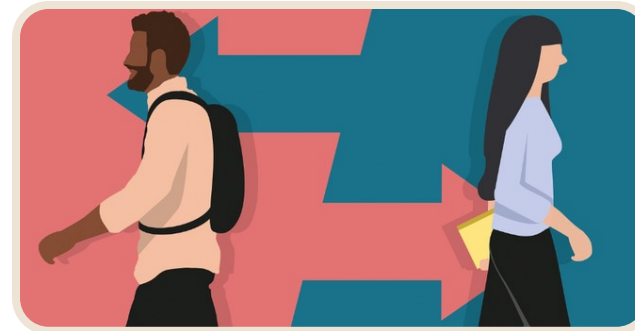
Exposing how occupational practices can unwittingly or unknowingly sustain systems of oppression



Advance theoretical discussions by demonstrating how governing through occupation operates as a tool for power structures to reproduce structural gender-based injustices

Introduction

Occupations are neither neutral acts nor simple choices but are embedded in a system that reproduces structural gender injustices.





The concept of governmentality Michel Foucault (1975, 1977)

Governmentality is the art of governing human behavior, not only through law or force, but through norms, knowledge, and mechanisms.



Governing through occupation

Debbie Laliberte Rudman (2012)

"I use the term 'governing through occupation' to refer to the ways in which various types of social authorities shape expectations for occupation for particular individuals and collectives.

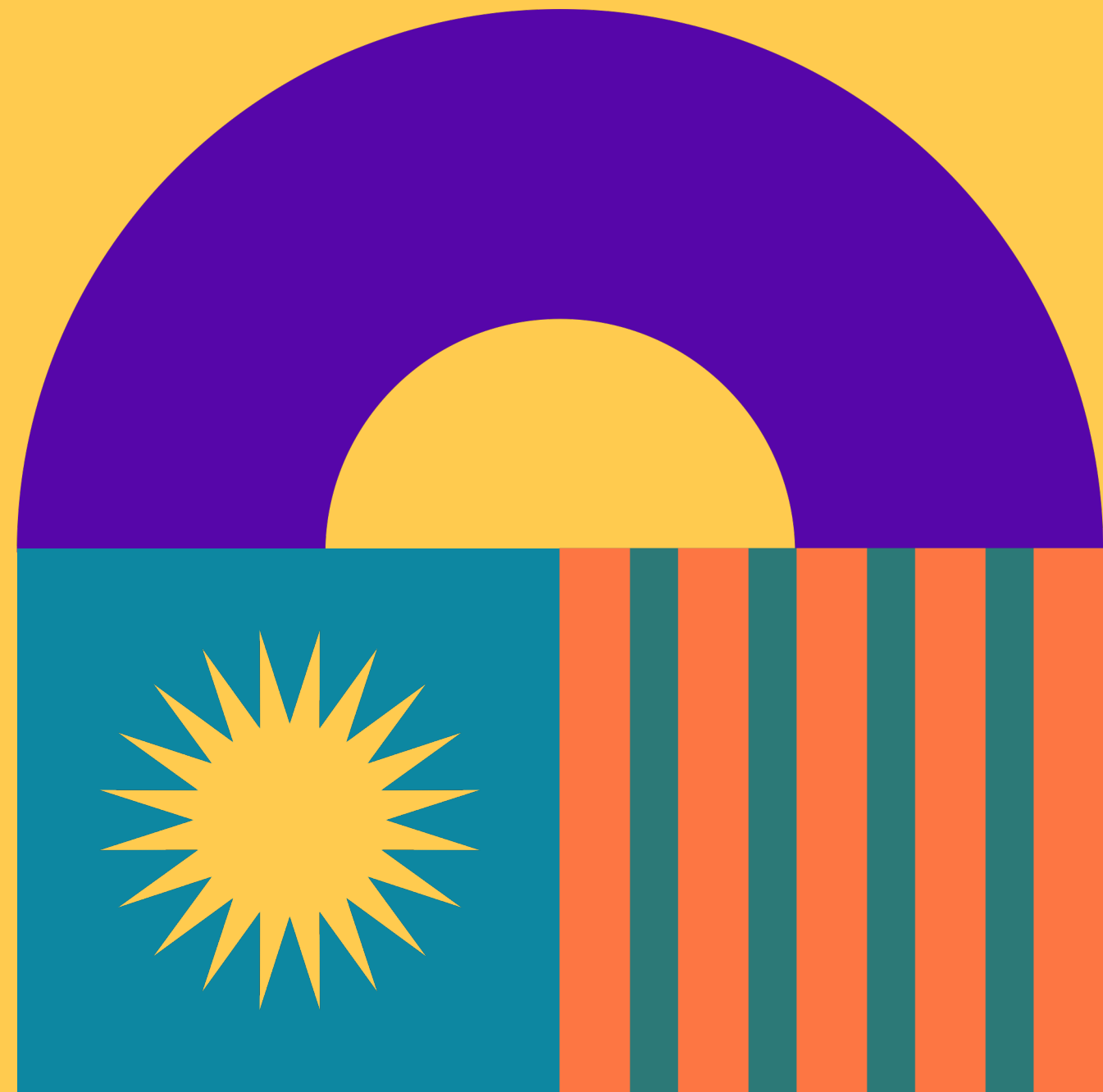
Governing through occupation also encompasses the concept of occupational possibilities, which extends beyond what is expected to consider what comes to be taken-for granted within specific socio-political contexts as ideal, ethical and 'right' occupations for particular socially constructed categories of people." (p. 102)

Down Girl

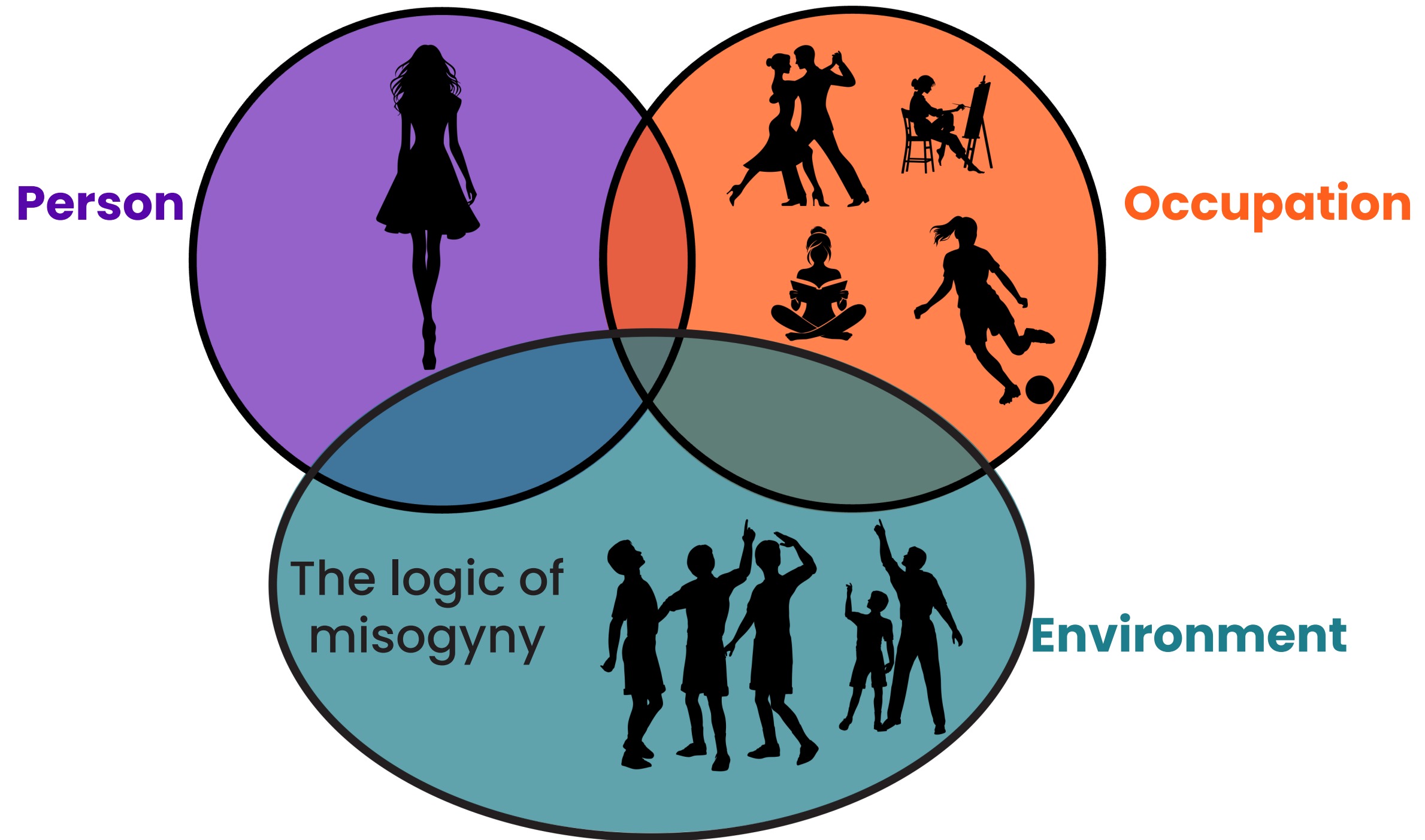
The logic of misogyny

Kate Manne (2018)

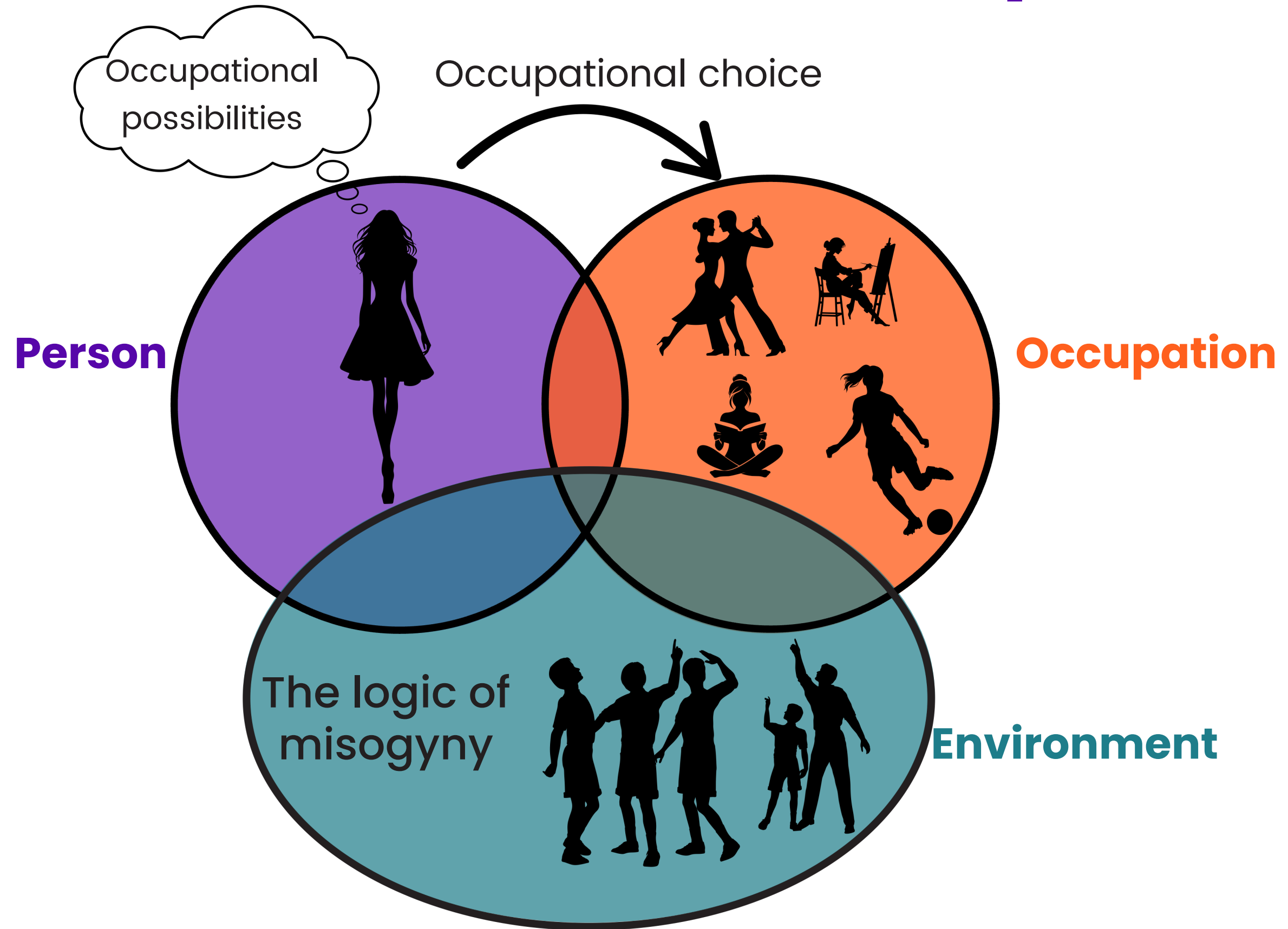
While occupational governance establishes gendered expectations, misogyny functions as a “social police” that punishes those who transgress these expectations.



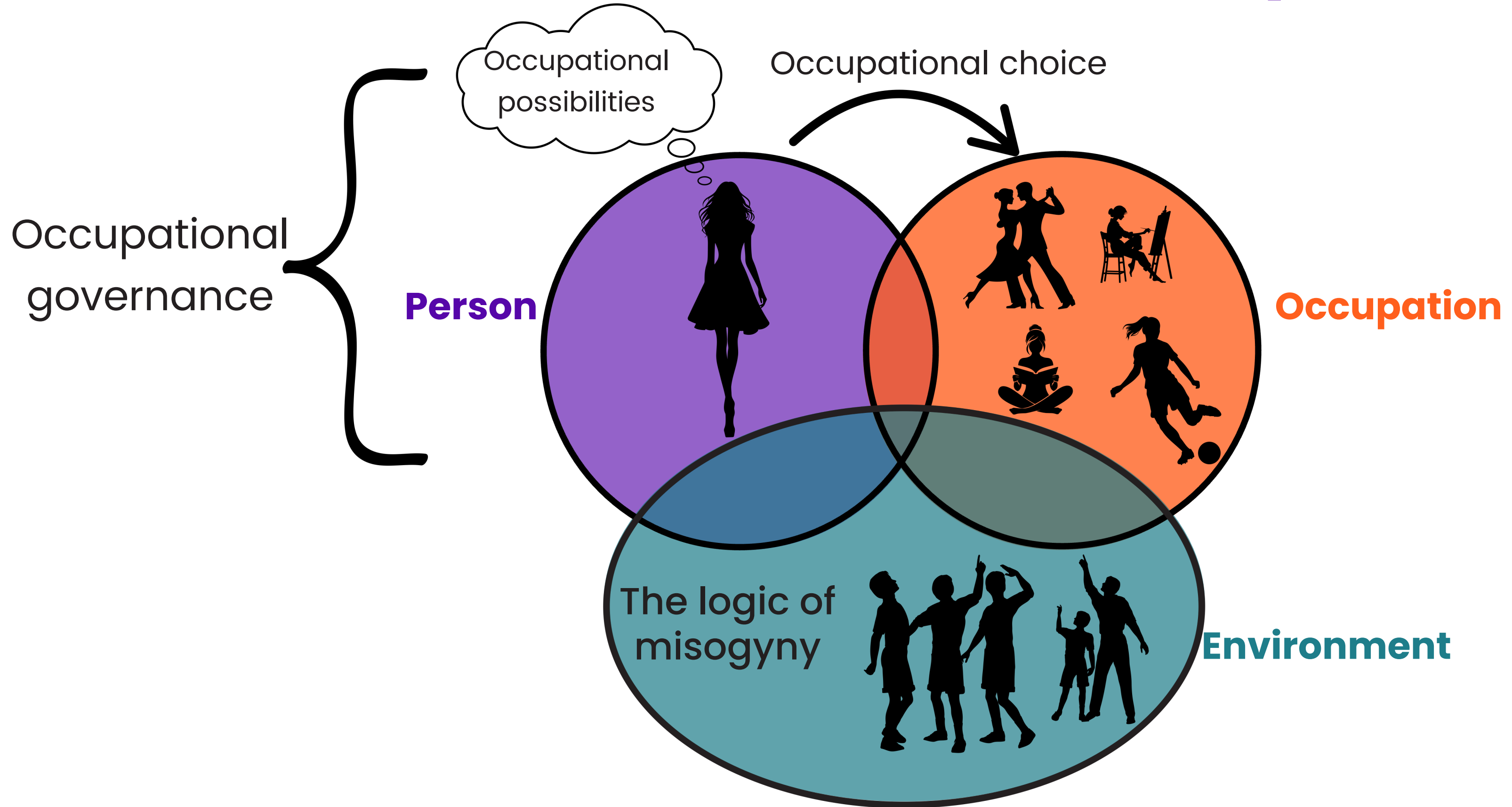
Person-Environment-Occupation



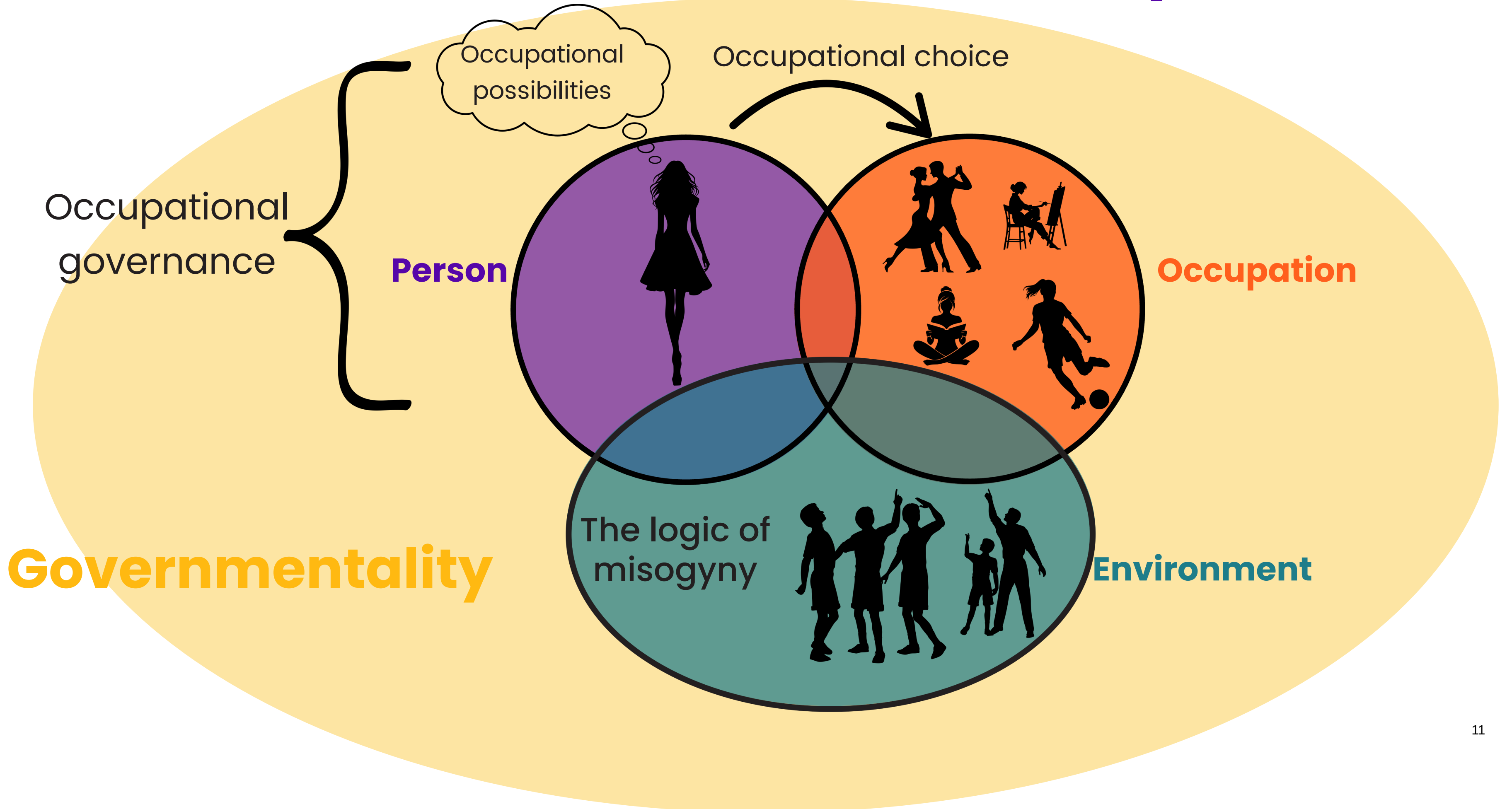
Person-Environment-Occupation



Person-Environment-Occupation

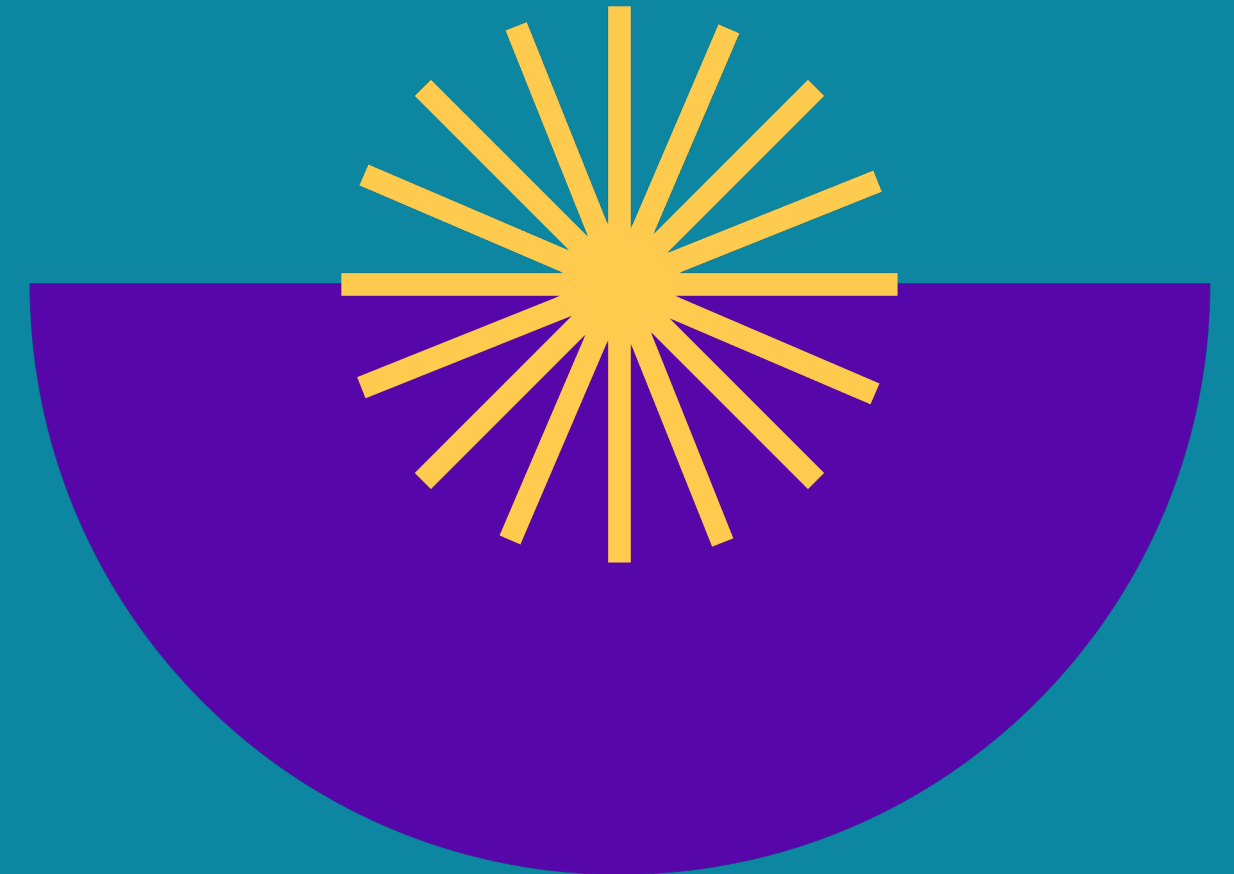


Person-Environment-Occupation

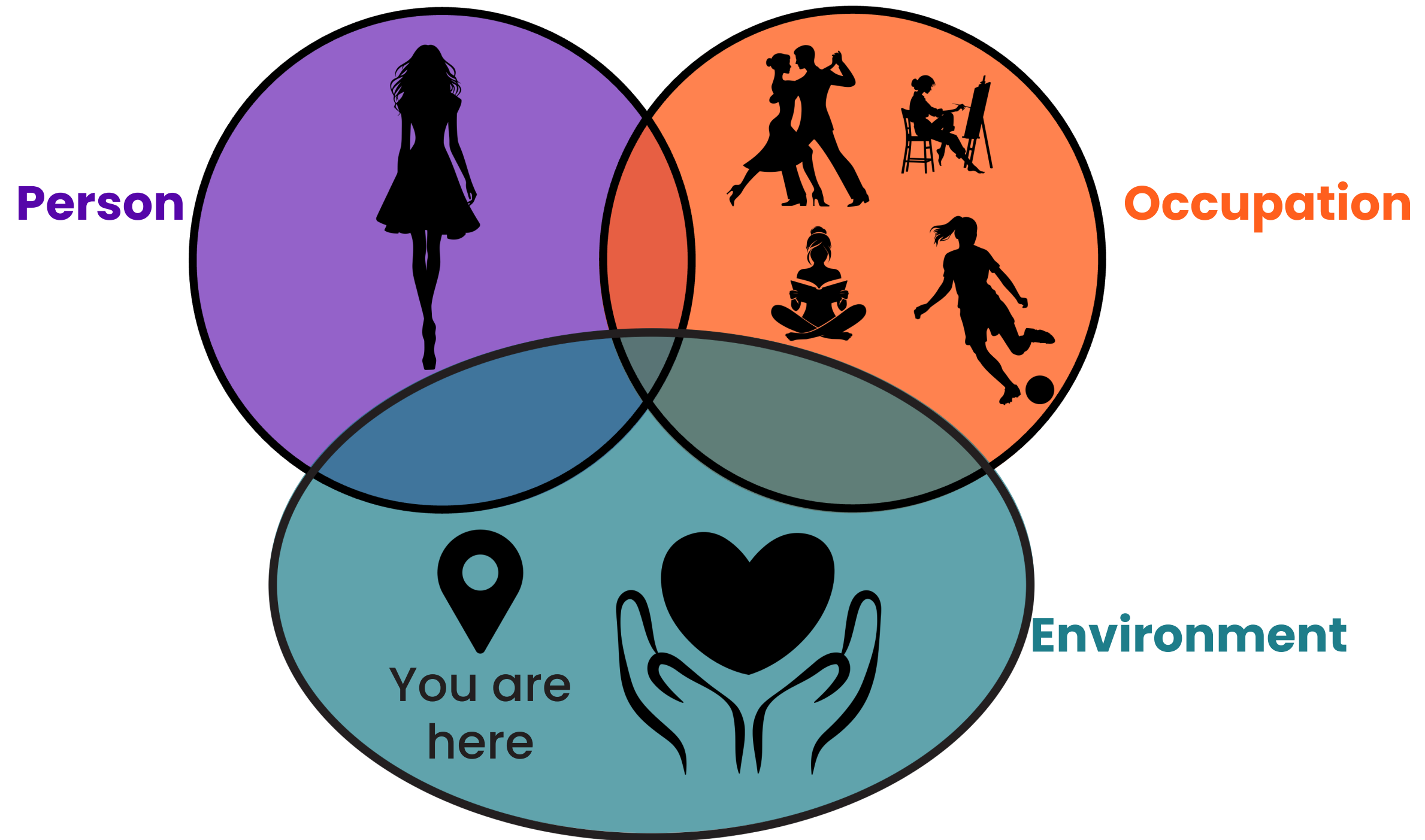


What OTs can do?

As occupation-focused professionals, OTs can influence occupational trajectories, either by reinforcing gender norms or by providing safe environments that enable the empowerment of those they support.



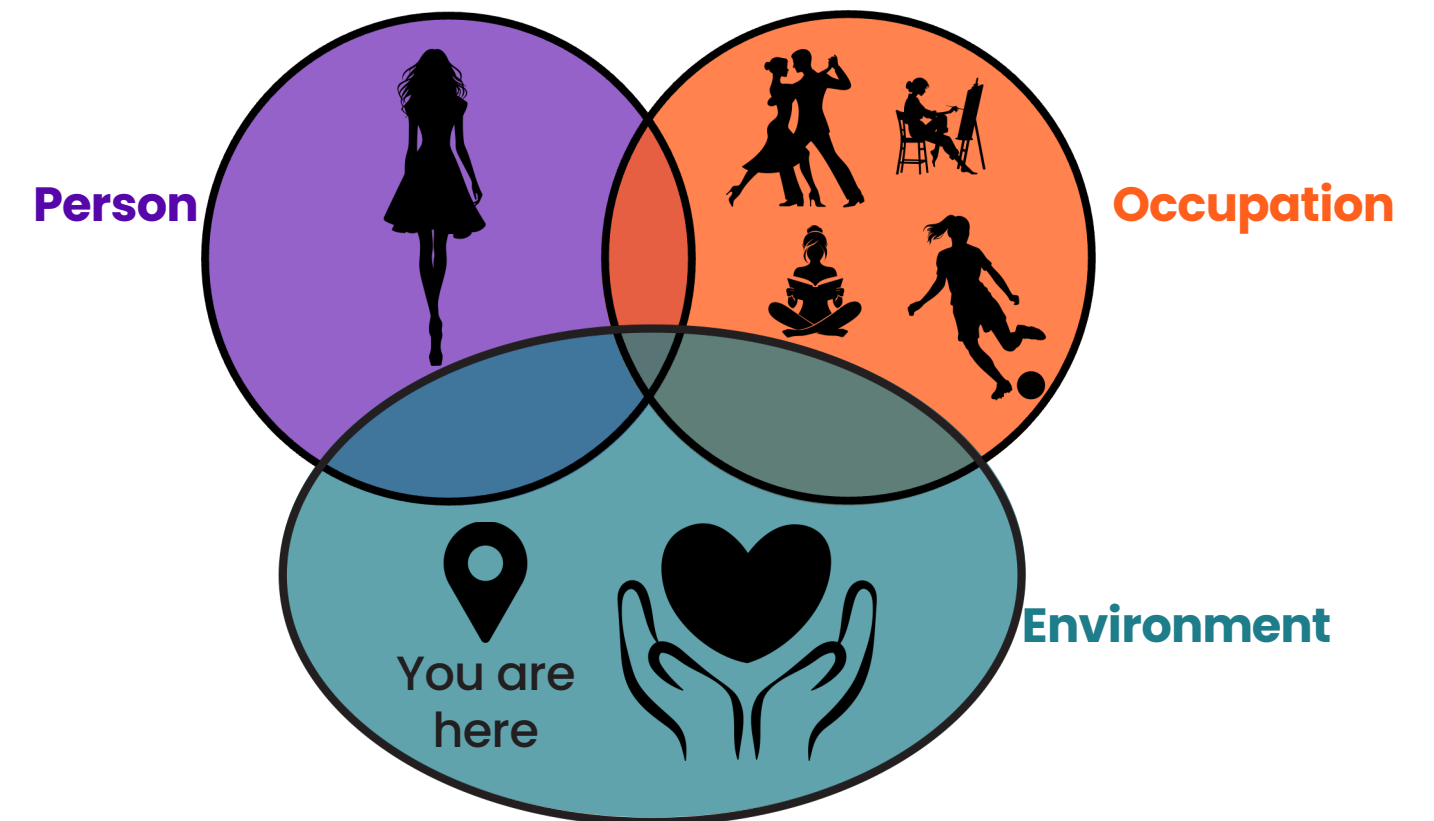
Person-Environment-Occupation



Person-Environment-Occupation

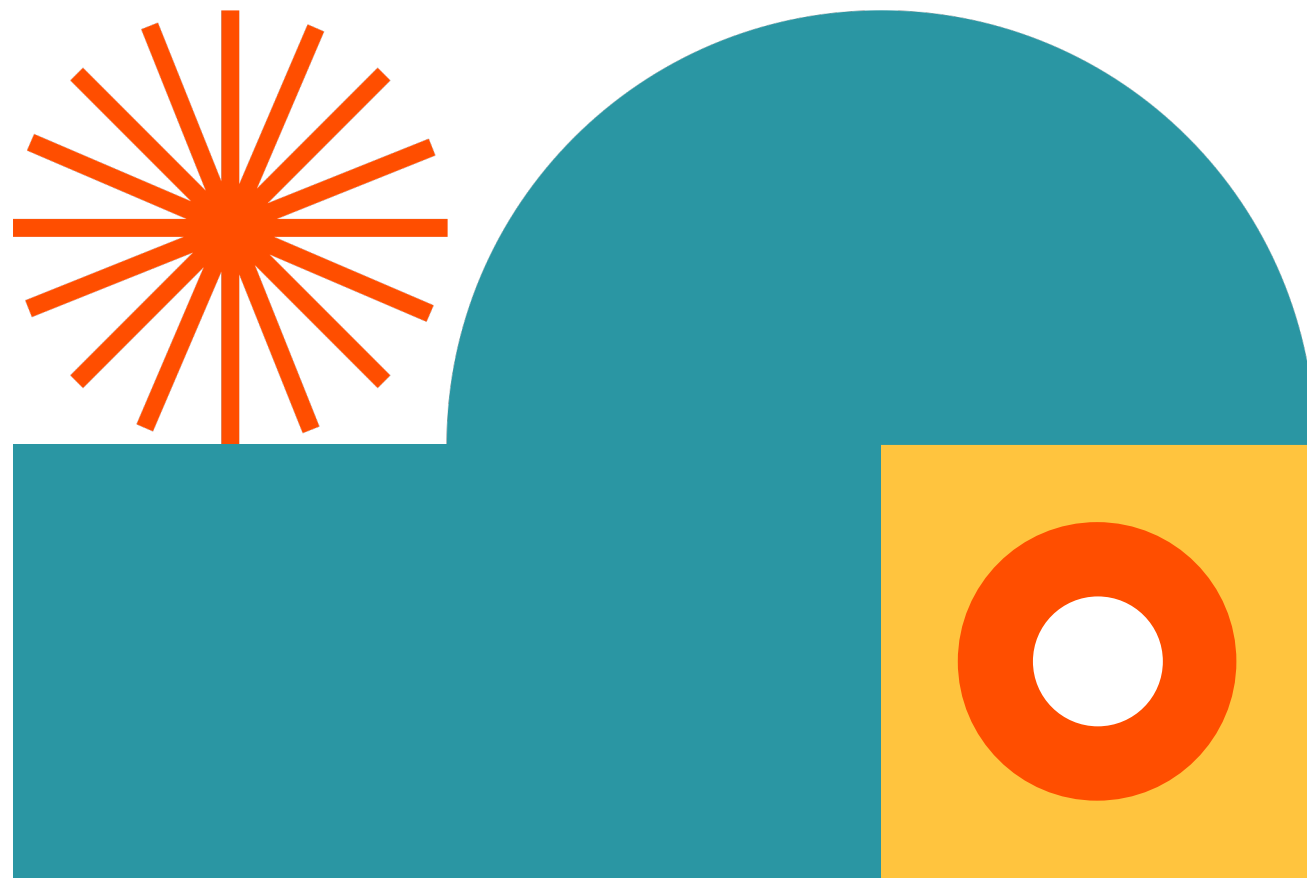
We can create truly **safe spaces in our practices and therapeutic relationships** by following a few principles:

- Be aware of your biases.
- Be aware of the mechanisms of governmentality, while respecting people's choices.
- Neutralize the “gender police” (Manne) in the therapeutic relationship.
- Allow authentic occupational desires to emerge.
- Support freer, fairer, and more inclusive occupational trajectories.



Occupational therapy then becomes a space for social transformation, not just rehabilitation.

Some questions you may ask yourself



Am I reproducing a gender norm?

- Did I assume that a certain occupation was “natural” for this person?

Have I explored their real occupational desires?

- Have I asked what the person really wants, beyond social expectations?

Am I valuing certain occupations more than others in my practice or discourse?

- Am I influenced by patriarchal hierarchies (productivity vs. care)?

Am I expanding or restricting their occupational possibilities?

- Does my intervention open up spaces for empowerment?

Is the occupational demand that of the person I am supporting?

- Who benefits from the rehabilitation of this occupation?



MAIN REFERENCES

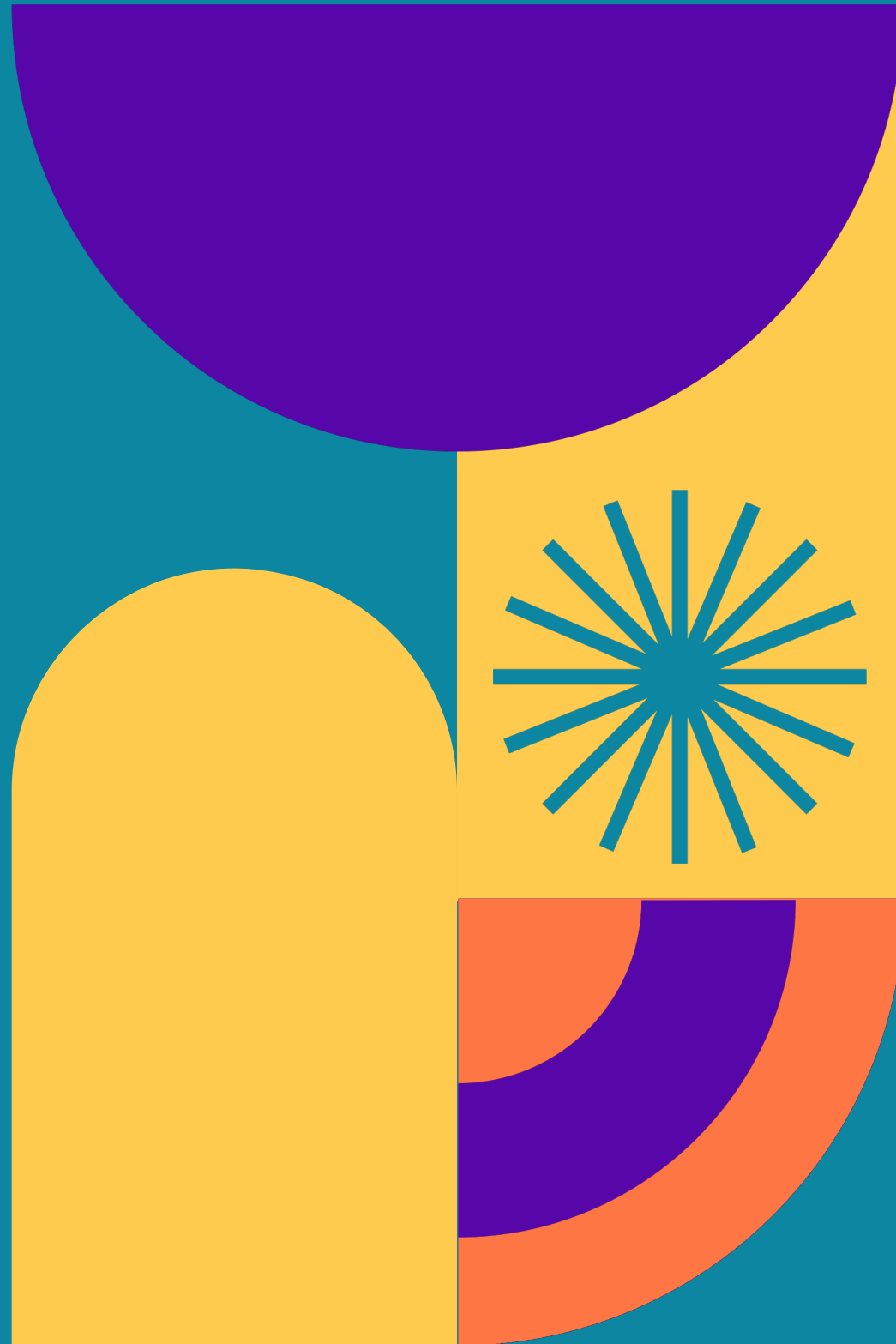
Foucault, M. (1975). *Surveiller et punir : naissance de la prison*, Gallimard.

Foucault, M. (1977). *Sécurité, territoire, population. Cours au Collège de France.*

Manne, K. (2018) *Down Girl. The Logic of Misogyny*, Oxford, Oxford University Press.

Rudman, D. L. (2010). Occupational terminology: Occupational possibilities. *Journal of Occupational Science*, 17(1), 55–59.

Rudman, D. L. (2012). Governing through occupation: Shaping expectations and possibilities. *Occupational science: Society, inclusion, participation*, 100-116.



Sex, Culture, and Justice: The Limits of Choice Clare Chambers (2008)

"We do not have to be acting under the commands of a dictator to be acting in response to power." (p. 28–29)



Thank you for listening!

Feel free to send in any questions or
suggestions to cassandra.lavigne@uqtr.ca