



FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE IN GENDER EVALUATION

A systematic review of approaches in
International Development



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Overview

BACKGROUND

APPROACH

RESULTS

DISCUSSION

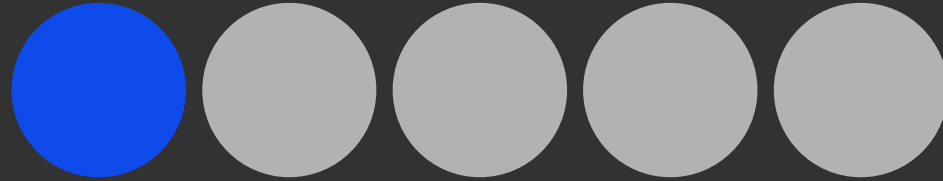
IMPLICATIONS

PARADIGMS

THEORIES

TRENDS

BACKGROUND





Background



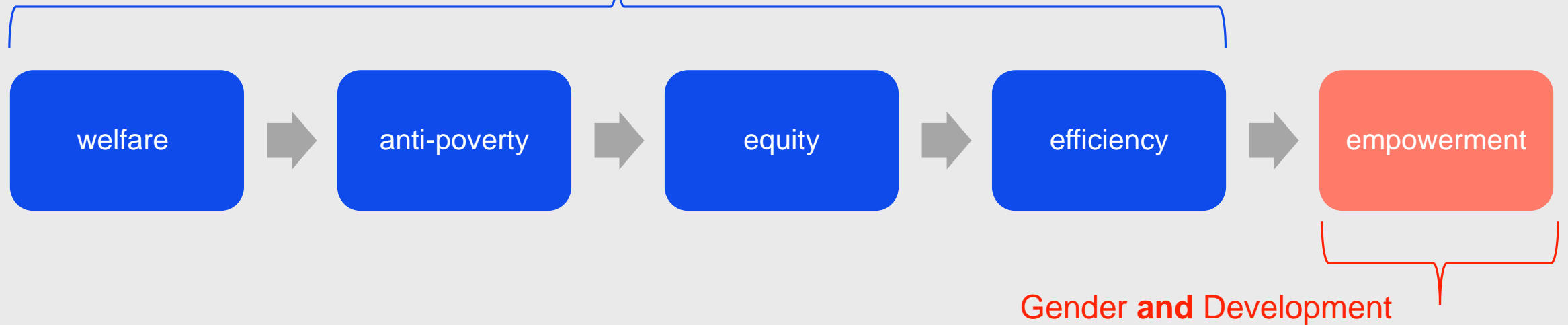
How are aspects of gender equality investigated in academic literature of international development programs?

Gender Equality in International Development

Background



Women in Development



Moser 1989

Gender Equality in International Development

Background



practical
changes

strategic
changes



Moser 1989

APPROACH



Systematic Search Strategy

Approach ●●●●●

Search Locations

- Scopus
- ProQuest
- Web of Science
 - Science Citation Index Expanded
 - Social Sciences Citation Index
 - Arts & Humanities Citation Index

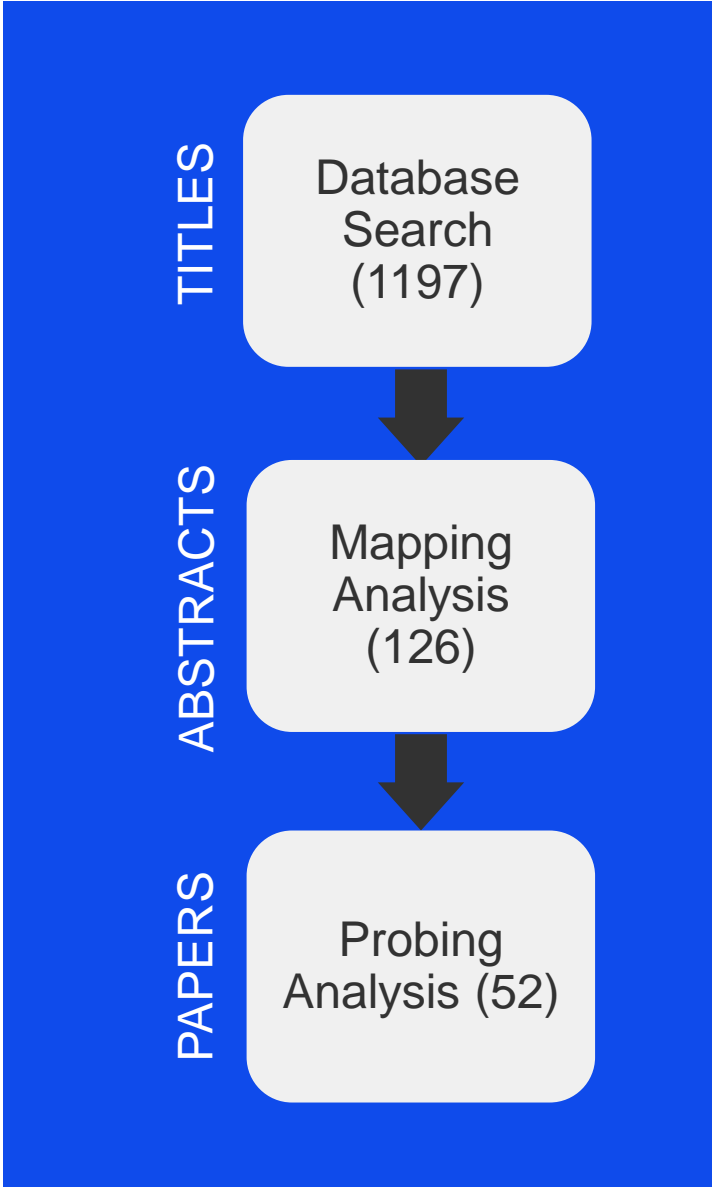
Search Focus

- 2008-2018
- English
- Journals Articles



Systematic Search Strategy

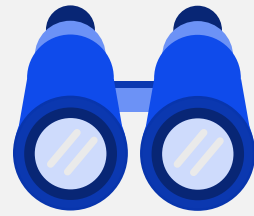
Approach ●●●●●



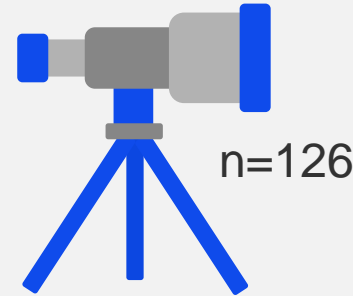
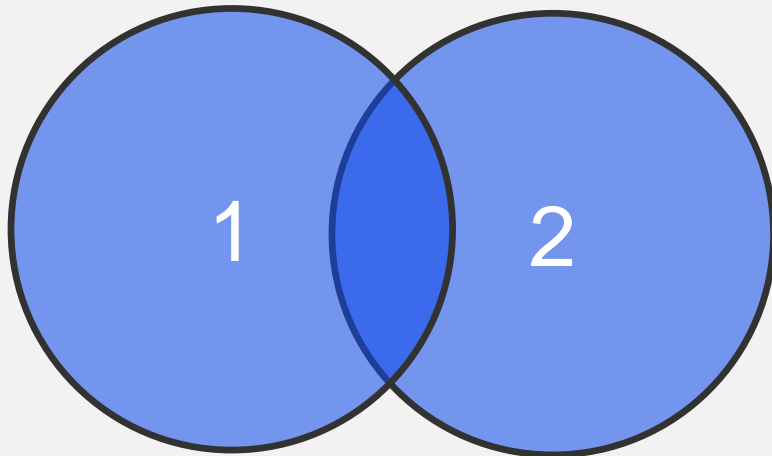
Analysis Strategy

3 Lenses

Approach ●●●●●



n=52



n=126



RESULTS

LENS 1 PARADIGMS

n=52



Research Paradigms

Results ●●●●●

Worldview Framework

Pragmatic

Postpositivist

Constructivist

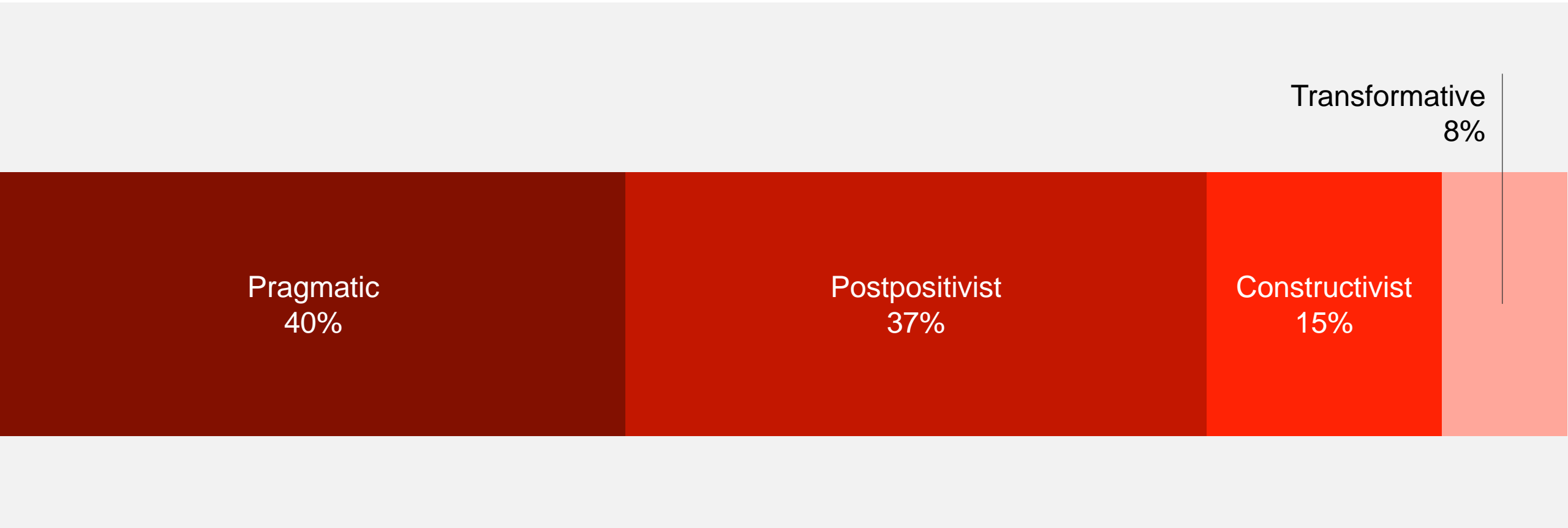
Transformative

Paradigms from Creswell 2014

Research Paradigms

Results ●●●●●

How are changes in gender equality being measured?



Pragmatic Paradigm focuses on programs

Assess

Describe

Frame

Demonstrate



Postpositivist Paradigm

Measure

Verify

Validate

items control validate
impact measure survey studies verify
data quantitative structured interview index
treatment measures scale
measurement evidence quasi-experimental

Results ●●●●●



Constructivist Paradigm

Results ●●●●●

Interpret

Explore

qualitative
ethnographic
abductive observation
contextualized
voice visioning
focus groups
inductive
thematic analysis
embedded
participatory mapping
interpret
explore
unstructured interviews



Transformative Paradigm

Transform

political change
within assessment
thematic analysis
reform
activity based
transform
strategic
qualitative
oppression
change
action agenda
structured analysis
focus groups

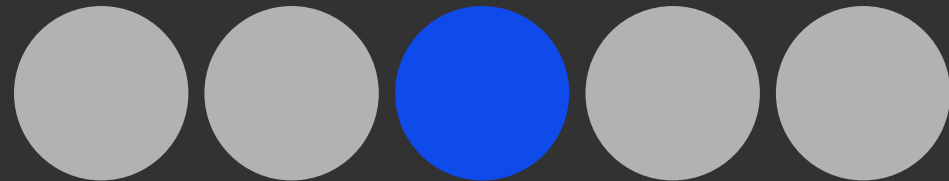
Results ●●●●●



RESULTS

LENS 2 THEORIES

n=52



Research Theories

Conceptualizations

Results ●●●●●

Human Development *red*

Empowerment as Agency
Empowerment - Resources, Agency and Outcomes

Economic Development *green*

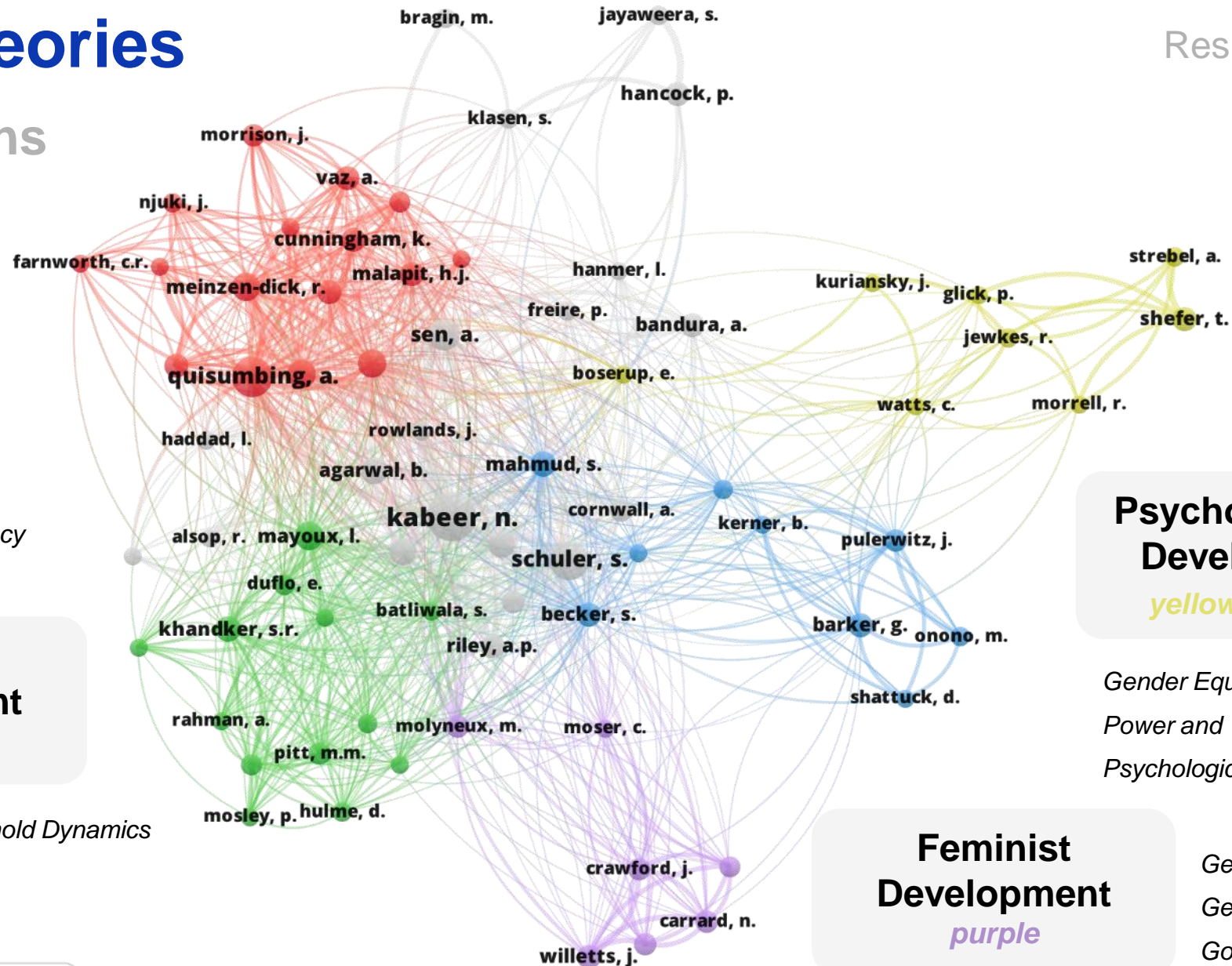
Empowerment in Intra-household Dynamics
Beyond Economics

Psychology and Development *yellow and blue*

Gender Equitable Attitudes
Power and Violence
Psychological Empowerment

Feminist Development *purple*

Gender Roles and Power
Geography
Governance



Research Theories

Results ●●●●●

Conceptualizations of Gendered Change



Human Development

"Empowerment is about change, it refers to the **expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices** in a context where this ability was previously denied to them"

(Kabeer 1999)

Economic Development

Changes in **"production and consumption decisions** in household **allocation** as well as inform the determinants of household **decision-making** processes"

(Bonilla et al. 2017, Doss 2013)

Psychology & Development

"Changes in **attitudes toward gender norms**... those related to intimate relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and disease and violence prevention"

(Pulerwitz & Barker 2008)

Feminist Development

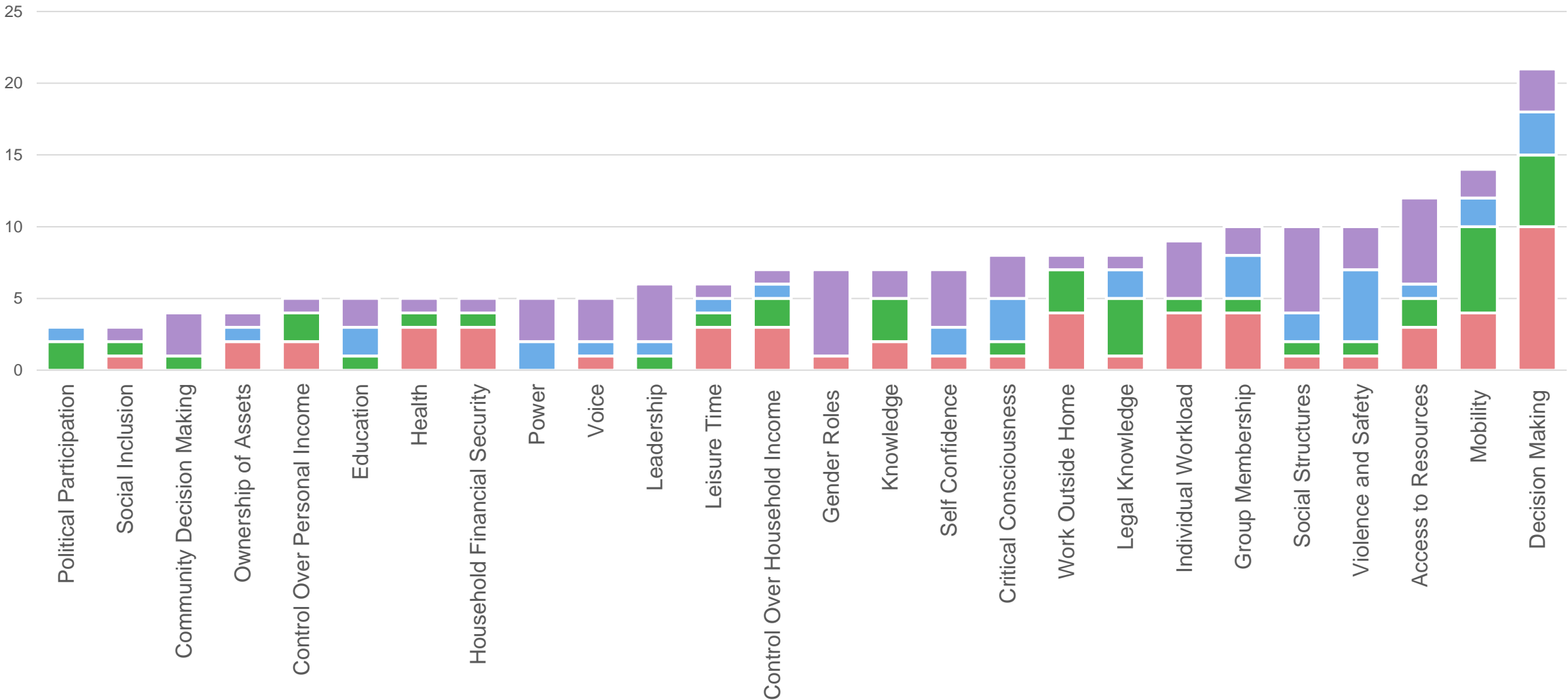
Changes that engage with both **practical gender needs and strategic gender interests** that challenge oppressive **gender structures**

(Moser 1993; Molyneux 1985)

Domains of Inquiry

Results ●●●●●

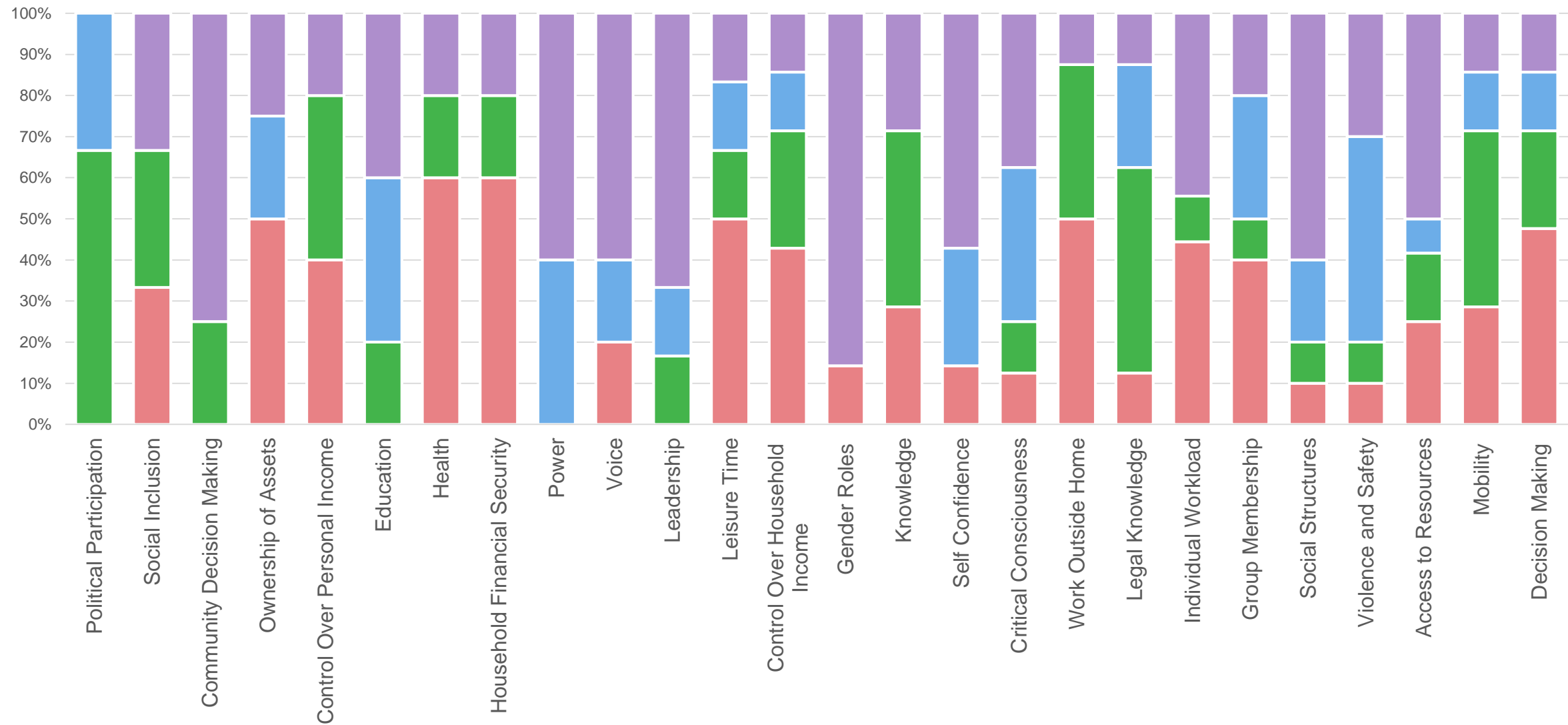
Key Indicators and Themes



Domains of Inquiry

Results ●●●●●

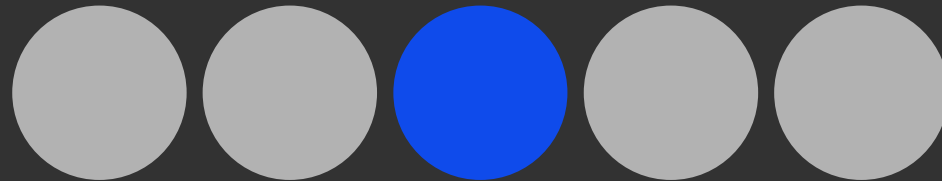
Key Indicators and Themes

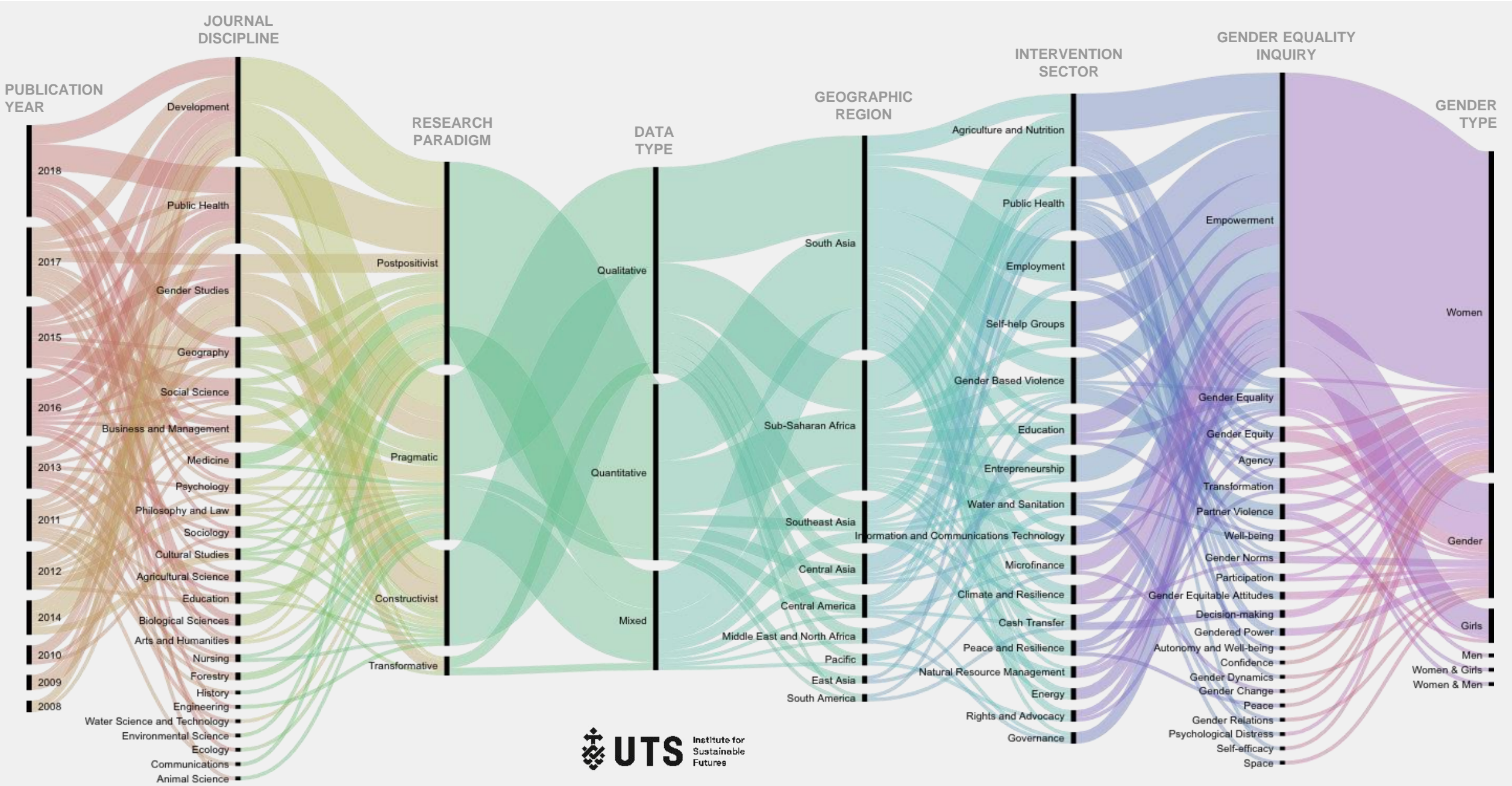


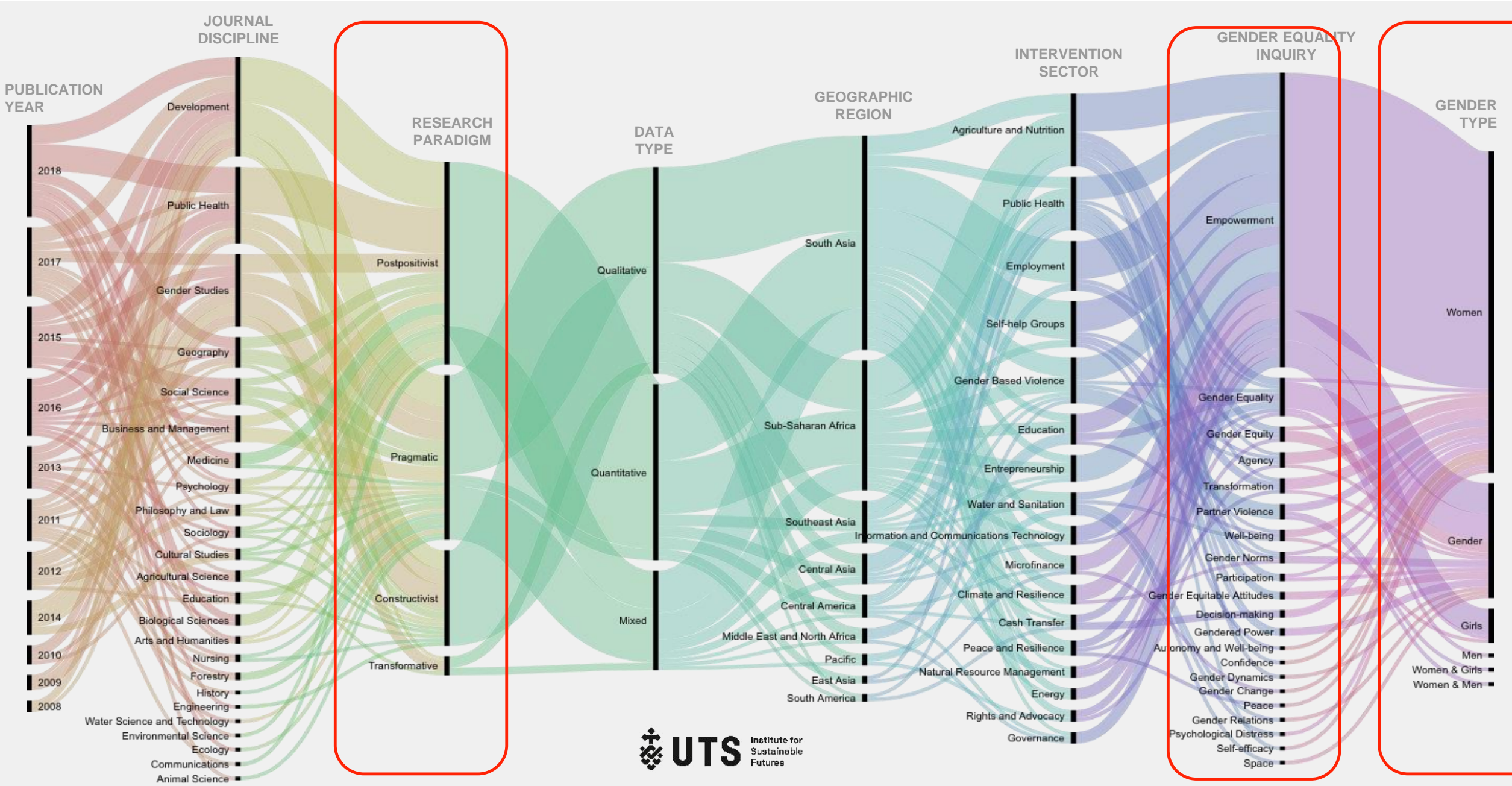
RESULTS

LENS 3 TRENDS

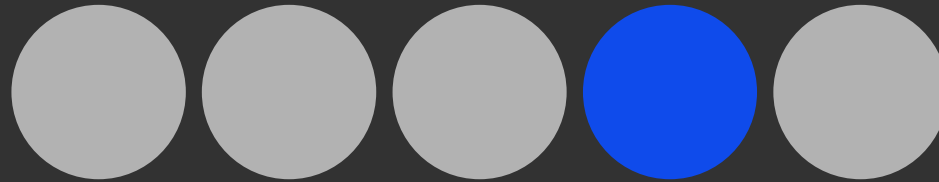
n=126







DISCUSSION



Dominant Themes

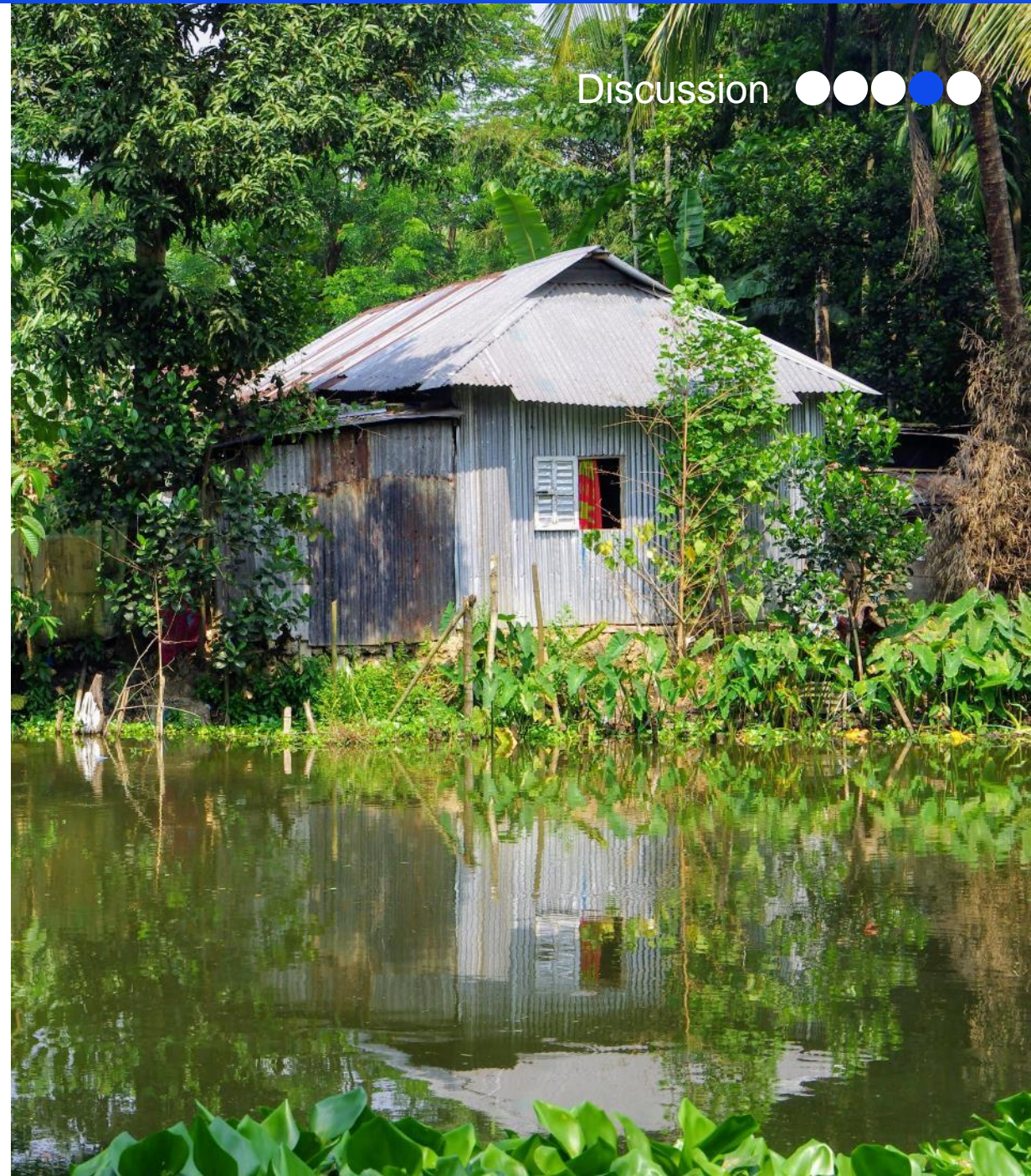
Paradigm – Pragmatic and Postpositivist

Theory – Human Development

Focus – Empowerment

Gender – Women

Inquiry – Intra-household Decision-making



Missing Themes

Paradigm – Transformative

Theory – Feminist Development

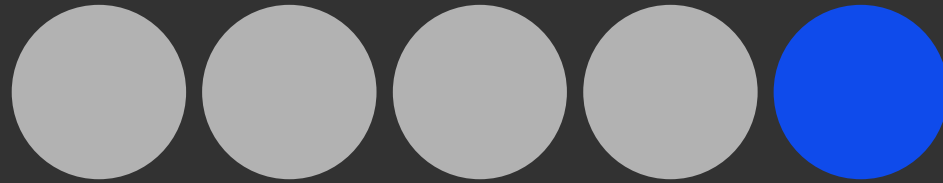
Focus – Strategic Gender Equality

Gender – Men and Boys

Inquiries – Collective Action and Critical Consciousness



IMPLICATIONS

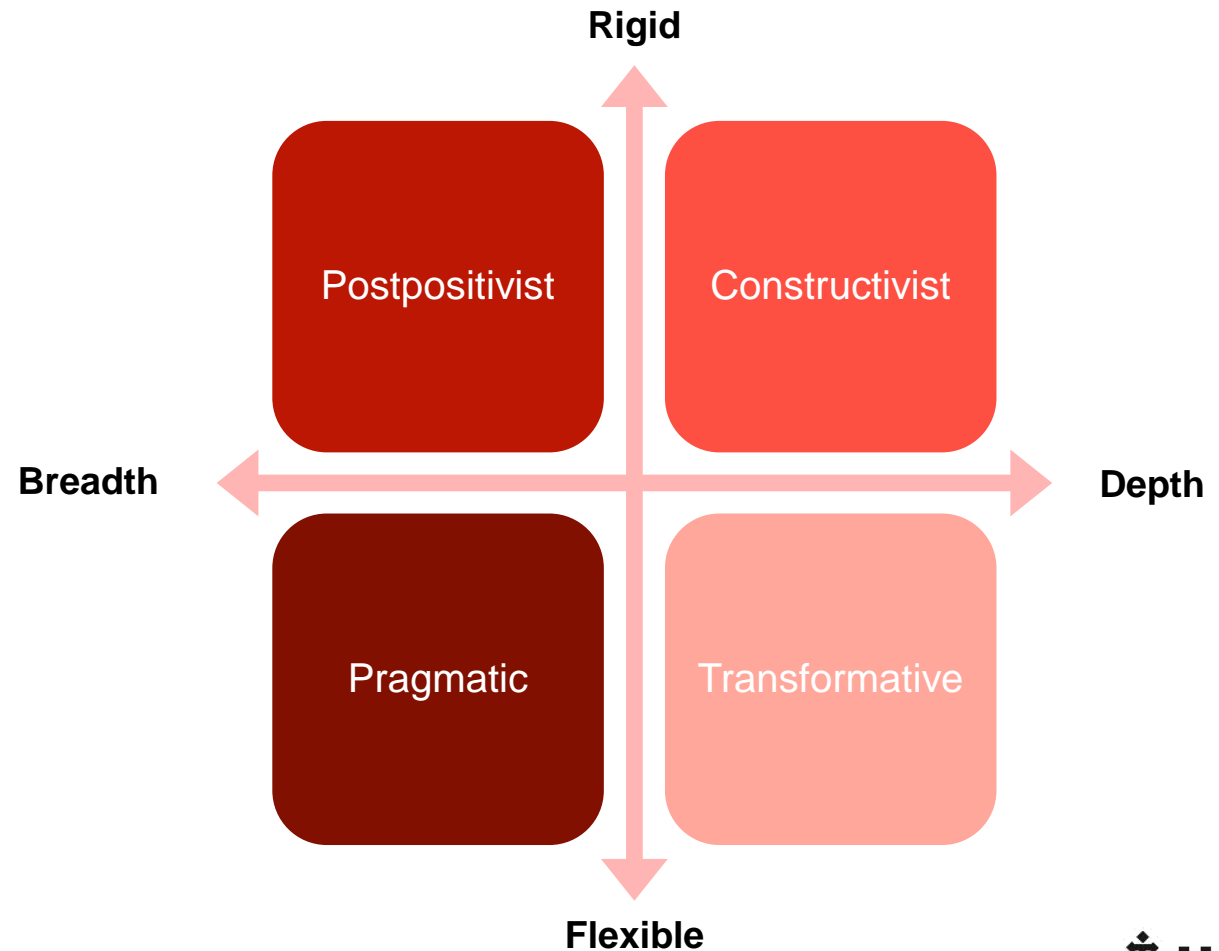


Implications

Implications ●●●●●

1

Unspoken
paradigms
shape research
methodologies.



Conclusions and Implications

Conclusions ●●●●●

2

Evaluators should gain familiarity with foundational approaches to gender equality research.

Human Development

Ibrahim & Alkire 2007
Robeyns 2005
Kabeer 1999

Economic Development

Doss 2013
Duflo 2012
Kabeer 2001

Psychology & Development

Zimmerman 1990
Glick et al 2000
Cattaneo & Chapman 2010

Feminist Development

Moser 1993
Rowlands 1997
Clever 1998

Conclusions and Implications

Conclusions ●●●●●

3

Change logic can support a stronger focus of inquiry.

4

Gender equality includes men and boys.



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Creating change towards
sustainable futures



Additional Slides

ISF Research Areas

ISF conducts solutions-focused, transdisciplinary research in areas that address the most pressing sustainability challenges of our time.





Background ●●●●●

Related Literature Reviews

Topical

Health (Taukobong et al. 2016)

Economic Empowerment (Pereznieto & Taylor 2014)

Child Nutrition (Carlson et al. 2015)

Maternal and Child Health (Pratley 2016)

Electricity (Winther et al. 2017)

Geographies

South Asia (Govinda 2012)

Sub-Saharan Africa (Pratley & Sandberg 2018)

Sub-domain - Empowerment

Gram, Morrison & Skordis-Worrall 2018

Malhotra, Schuler & Boender 2002

Richardson 2018

Sharaunga, Mudhara & Bogale 2019

General

Lam et al. 2018

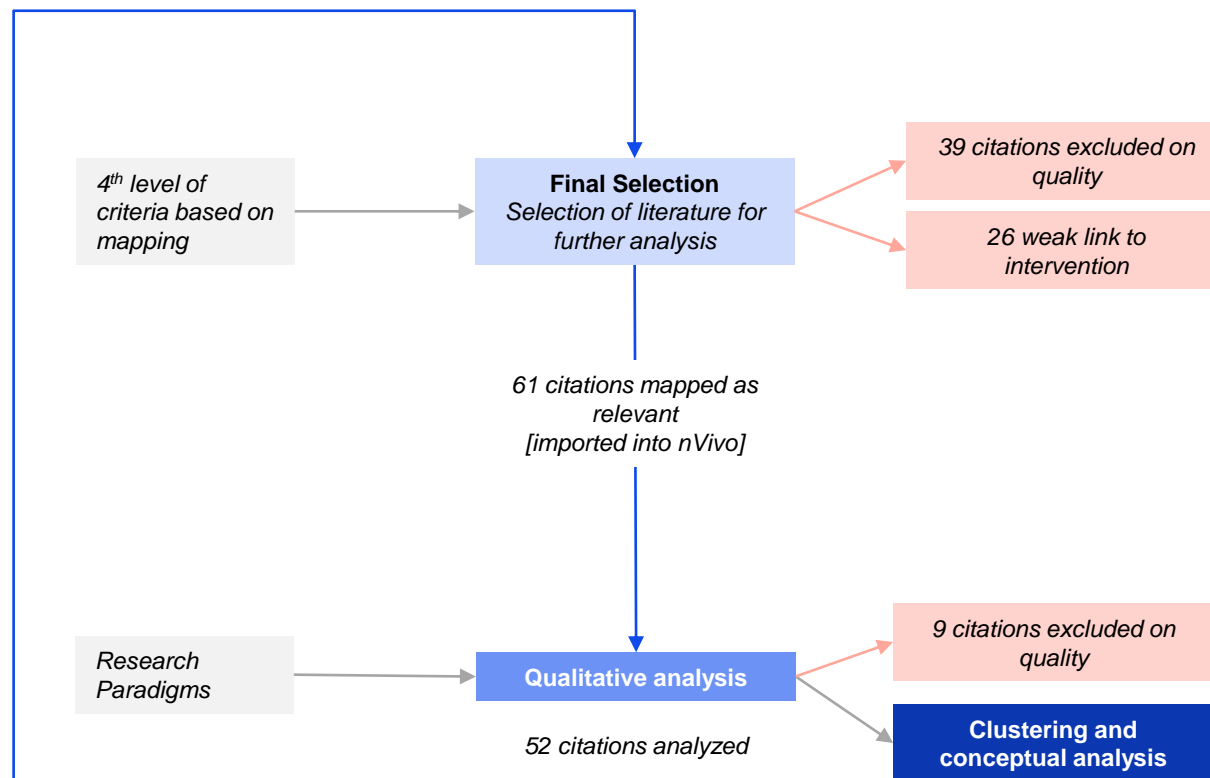
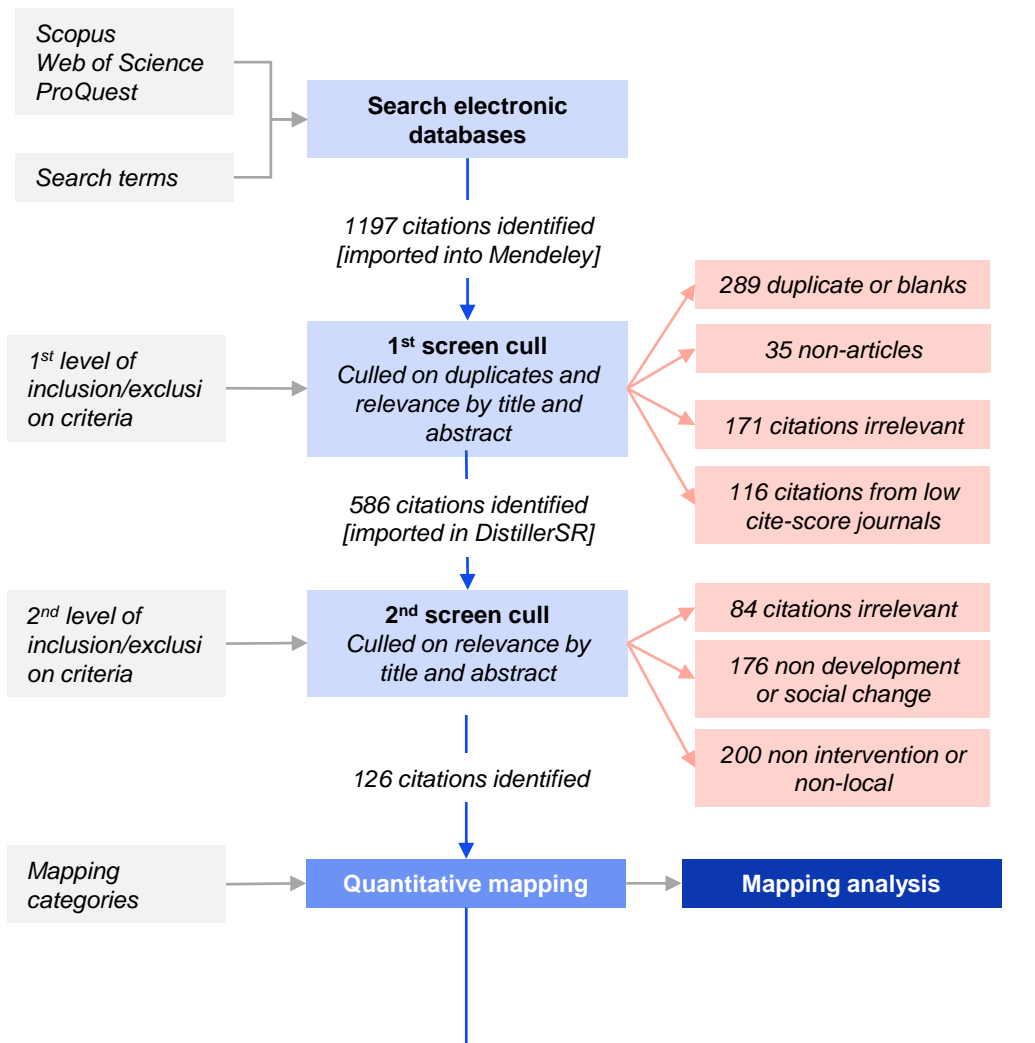
Batliwala & Pittman 2010

Hillenbrand et al. 2015

Hunt & Brouwers 2002

Espinosa 2013





EXCLUSIONS

Criteria	Definition	Location
Exclusion Level 2		
Journal Quality (CiteScore 2017)	Study is published in a first, second or third quartile journal as per CiteScore 2017	Journal
Focus	Study is focused on measuring changes or a measuring a social construct Study is focused on development and social change Study discusses the connections between intervention and social construct	Abstract
Intervention	Study is empirically analyzing the changes or a social construct in the presence of an intervention	Title
Location (Fantom & Serajuddin 2016)	Study is in a developing or middle-income country or countries Study reviews a local or regional intervention, excluding national level policy changes Study frames gender equality as a pre-cursor and not a goal of the intervention	Abstract/ Article
Exclusion Level 3		
Study Quality (Northcote 2012)	Study is defensible with a clear logic of inquiry Study presents a demonstrated link between data and conclusion Study is contributory with accessible reporting	Article

QUALITY

Defensible in design by providing a research strategy suitable the questions posed	1.clear logic of inquiry	As seen in abstract (neutral or less)
Credible in claim, providing well-founded and plausible arguments about the significance of the evidence generated	6.demonstrate link between data and conclusions,	As seen in abstract (weak or less)
Contributory in advancing wider knowledge or understanding	3.accessible reporting,	As seen in abstract (weak or less)

AROSH HAS A LOT TO SMILE ABOUT

Under the shade off the tin roof, Arosh breaks into a big smile. Even after the smack of a pomelo on the roof causes us all to jump and launches us to a fit of giggles, Arosh's smile doesn't go away.

Arosh has begun raising ducks with the Mogal Bazar poultry cluster with the support of her neighbor Kokila. Even though she only started recently, Arosh already has 18 ducks who are producing valuable quality eggs.

Ducks are more rare in this region, but their novelty helps to bring a good market price, but even with this good price she is only selling 40%. Another 40% go to feed her big family of eight members and 20% are raised for ducklings.

Arosh's husband has a vegetable nursery, but is happy to help her purchase feed for her ducks or to bring them to the nearby haor or wetland for natural feed. This new found partnership with her husband is helping to build Arosh's confidence.

Arosh hopes to buy a goat in the next six months and a cow early next year; converting her eggs to a cow would ensure that she can provide nutritious foods such as milk and cheese to her whole family on a regular basis.



AROSH ALI
Mogal Bazar, Bangladesh

Suchana Project - DFID

METHDOLOGIES

Post Positivist

Measure

- Impact Studies

Verify

- Impact Measures

Validate

- *Measure Design*

Pragmatic

Assess

- Mixed Assessments

Demonstrate

- Outcome Assessments

Frame

- *Indicator Design*

Describe

- Case Studies

Constructivist

Interpret

- Thematic Analysis

Explore

- Ethnographic Studies

Transform

Transform

- Transformative Studies

Research Paradigm	Research Approach	Typical Definition	Focus	Typical Methods	
Post Positivist Public Health Psychology Economics	Measure Impact Studies	Experimental or quasi-experimental studies using fit-for-purpose measures to provide evidence of intervention impact	Intervention impact	quantitative	Statistical analysis of survey data to establish treatment versus control impacts
	Verify Impact Measures	Experimental or quasi-experimental studies using modified pre-validated measures to provide evidence of intervention impact	Impact measurement		Statistical analysis of survey data using established measures
	Validate Measure Design	Quasi-experimental validation of measures to assess impact of future interventions	Measure validation		Measure validation through statistical analysis of survey data
Pragmatic Education Management Development	Assess Mixed Assessments	Parallel mixed-methods studies on program outcomes and processes to assess intervention progress	Outcome pathways	mixed	Regressions, descriptive statistics and thematic analysis of semi-structured interviews
	Demonstrate Outcome Assessments	Studies using existing frameworks to assess contextual outcomes of interventions	Intervention outcomes		Mixed-method deductive analysis of focus groups and/or unstructured interviews
	Frame Indicator Design	Design and validation of indicators and frameworks to assess outcomes of interventions	Future assessments		Mixed-method empirical validation of indicators
	Describe Case Studies	Narrative case studies describe the impact of an intervention	Intervention design		Theory based analysis using fit-for-purpose data collection
Constructivist Anthropology Sociology Psychology	Interpret Thematic Analysis	Inductive or abductive analysis of qualitative data for contextualized definitions of gender outcomes within an intervention	Individual voices	qualitative	Qualitative thematic analysis of focus groups and/or interviews
	Explore Ethnographic Studies	Embedded ethnographic case studies to explore impact of on intervention	Impact on people		Theory-based analysis using a data from observations, interviews and focus groups
Transform Feminism Gender Studies Development	Transform Transformative Studies	Studies which seek transformative change within the assessment itself alongside an intervention	Strategic change	mixed qualitative	Participatory focus groups and/or interviews with thematic or structured analysis

Pragmatic Paradigm focuses on programs

Assess

Parallel mixed-methods studies on program outcomes and processes to assess intervention progress

Describe

Narrative case studies describe the impact of an intervention

Frame

Design and validation of indicators and frameworks to assess outcomes of interventions

Demonstrate

Studies using existing frameworks to assess contextual outcomes of interventions



Postpositivist Paradigm

Results ●●●●●

Measure

Impact studies which use fit-for-purpose survey items to provide evidence of intervention impact

Verify

Studies using modified pre-validated survey **measures** to provide evidence of intervention **impact**

Validate

Validation and **design** of **measures** to assess impact of future interventions

items control validate
impact studies verify
measure survey structured interview
data quantitative index
treatment measures scale
measurement evidence quasi-experimental



Constructivist Paradigm

Interpret

Inductive or abductive analysis of qualitative data for contextualized definitions of gender outcomes

Explore

Embedded ethnographic case studies to explore impact of on intervention

qualitative
ethnographic
abductive observation
contextualized
unstructured interviews
voice
visioning
focus groups
inductive
thematic analysis
interpret
embedded
participatory mapping

Results



Transformative Paradigm

Transform

Studies which seek transformative change within the assessment itself alongside an intervention

political change
participatory
within assessment
reform
thematic analysis
activity based
transform
strategic
action agenda
structured analysis
qualitative
oppression
change
focus groups

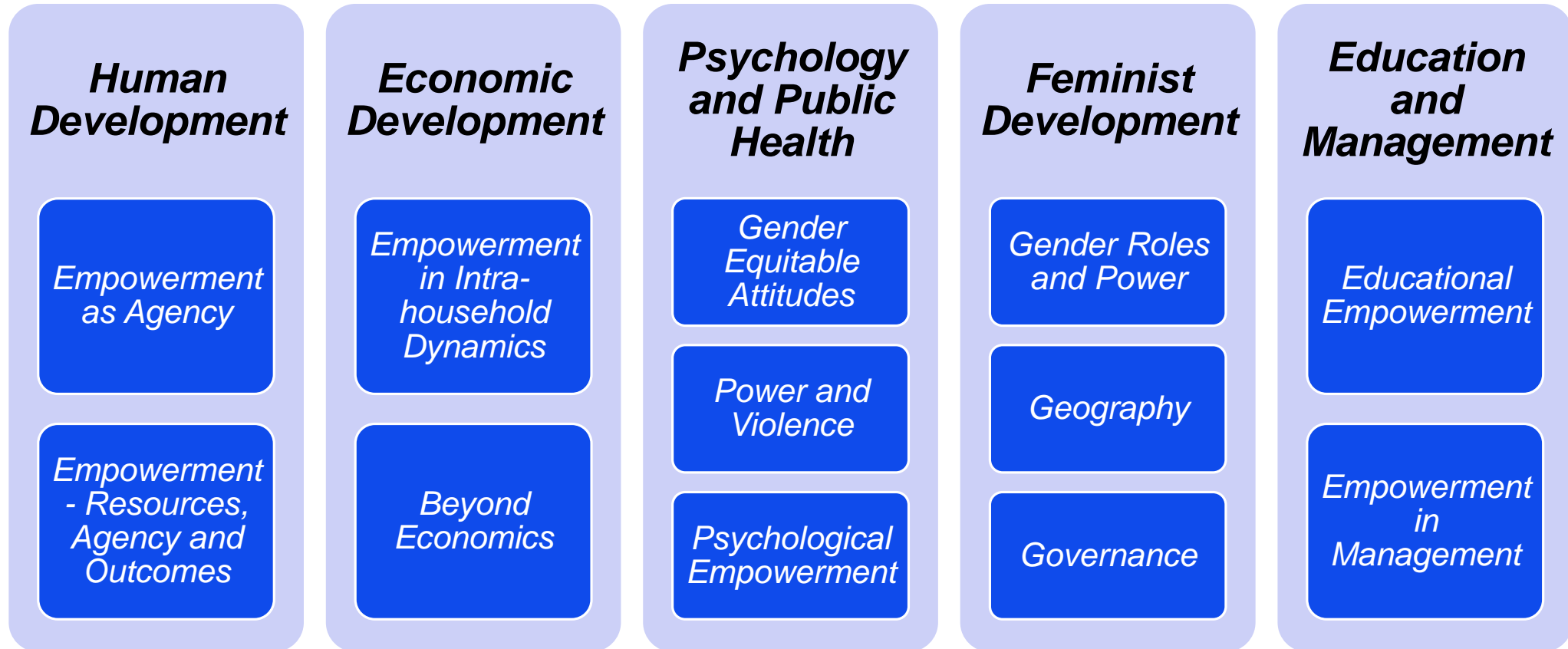
Results ●●●●●



Research Theories

Results ●●●●●

Conceptualizations of Gendered Change

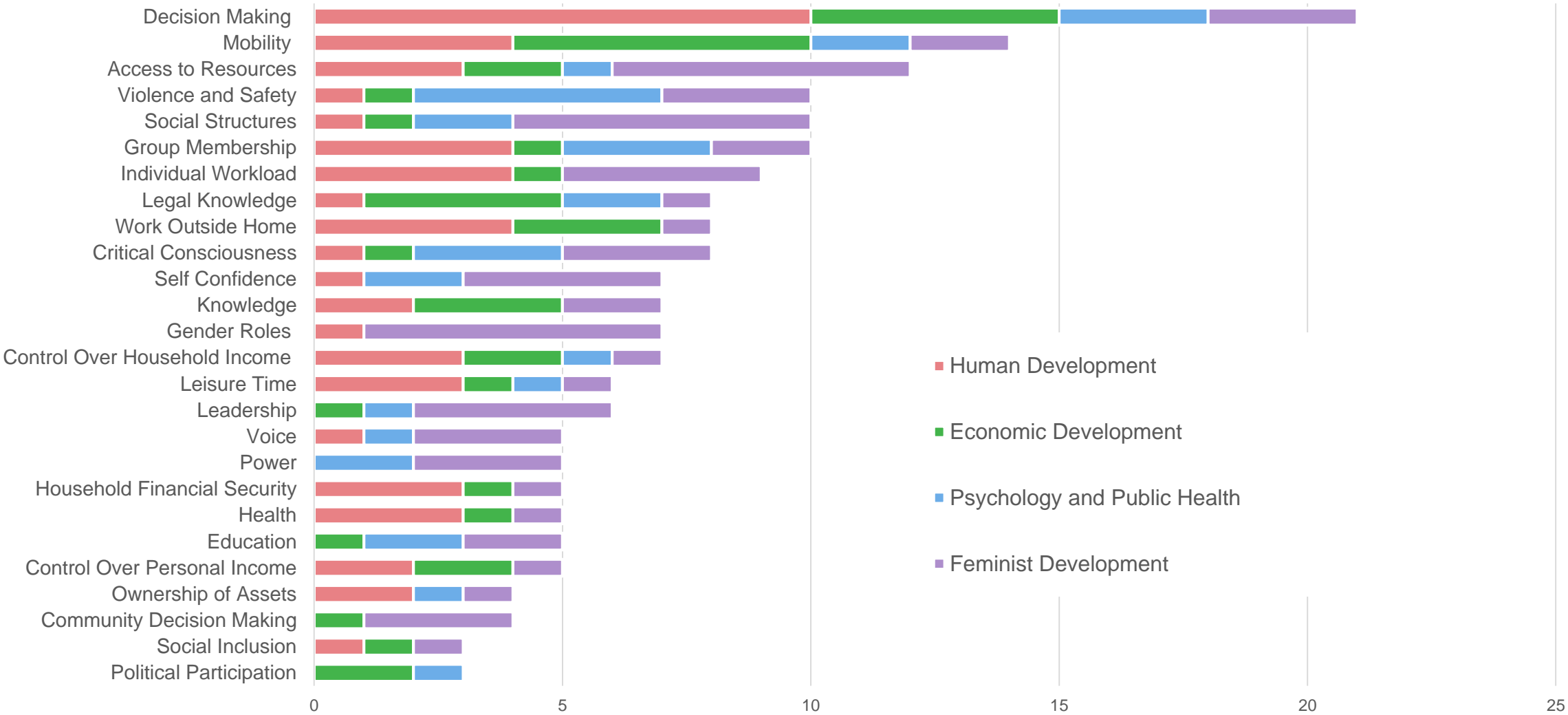


Theoretical Cluster (Key Theories)	Theoretical Sub-cluster	Definition of Gendered Change	Foundational Literature	Dominant Paradigm	Dominant ‘Powers’ (Rowlands 1997)
Human Development (Sen 1992; Nussbaum 2000; Robeyns 2005)	Empowerment as Agency	Changes in “empowerment focus not only upon the person’s freedom to act, but upon the concrete material, social and institutional preconditions required to exert agency” (Ibrahim & Alkire 2007, p.385)	(Ibrahim & Alkire 2007; Alkire et al. 2012)	Postpositivist	Power-to
	Empowerment - Resources, Agency and Outcomes	“[E]mpowerment is about change, it refers to the expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them” (Kabeer 1999, p.437).	(Kabeer 1999; Alsop & Heinsohn 2005)	Postpositivist Pragmatic	
Economic Development (Boserup 1970; Quisumbing & Maluccio 1999)	Empowerment in Intra-household Dynamics	Changes in “production and consumption decisions in household allocation as well as inform the determinants of household decision-making processes” (Bonilla et al. 2017, p.56; Doss 2013)	(Doss 2013; Duflo 2012; Kabeer 2001)	Postpositivist Pragmatic	Power-over
	Beyond Economics	Changes “aim not only to increase the incomes, but also the bargaining power, of poor producers through group activities” leading to empowerment (Mayoux 1995, p.4)	(Mayoux 1995; Hashemi, Schuler & Riley 1996)	Pragmatic	
Psychology and Development (Zimmerman 1990; Rappaport 1987; Bandura 1989)	Gender Equitable Attitudes	“Changes in attitudes toward gender norms...those related to intimate relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and disease and violence prevention” (Pulerwitz & Barker 2008, p.324)	(Pulerwitz & Barker 2008)	Postpositivist	Power-within
	Power and Violence	Both “changes in gender power relations” (Shefer et al. 2008, p.1) and “changes in the norms of masculinity with which IPV [intimate partner violence] is typically associated” (Schuler, Field & Bernholc 2018, p.670)	(Jejeebhoy 1995; Glick et al. 2000; Jewkes, Flood & Lang 2015)	Postpositivist Constructivist	
	Psychological Empowerment	“[P]sychological processes of empowerment such as self-capacity, agency, control and competence accompany the opening up of mental spaces” (Eger, Miller & Scarles 2018, p.209) for greater well-being.	(Zimmerman 1990; Diener 1984; Freire 1970)	Postpositivist Constructivist	
Feminist Development (Molyneux 1985; Moser 1989)	Gender Roles and Power	Changes that engage with both practical gender needs and strategic gender interests that challenge oppressive gender structures (Moser 1993; Molyneux 1985)	(Rowlands 1997; Moser 1989; Kabeer 1994; Batliwala 1993; Cornwall 2000a)	Transformative Pragmatic	Power-with
	Geography	Changes in the performance and negotiations of gender roles and gender relationships as expressed through changing space and resources (Van Houweling 2015)	(Pratt 2014; McDowell 1999)	Constructivist	
	Governance	Changes in local power dynamics “rules, norms, perceptions and endowments in a gender-progressive direction” (Agarwal 2001, p.1641) primarily through equitable participation in governance	(Agarwal 2001, 2009; Cleaver & Hamada 2010; Cleaver 1998)	Pragmatic	
Practice and Development (Freire 1970; Lukes 1974)	Educational Empowerment	A “process of change within the individual or the group, but on the outcome, thus equating empowerment with visible results” (Rocha 1997, p.39)	(Rocha 1997; Freire 1970)	Pragmatic	n/a
	Empowerment in Management	“[C]hanges in traditional family organisation, finances, decision-making processes, and gender dynamics” which “led potentially to an increase in the feeling of empowerment in that population and raised more questions about what factors contribute to and foster such feelings in the community and in individuals” (Hancock et al. 2014, p.298)	(Lukes 1974; Klasen & Schöler 2011)	Pragmatic	

Research Theories

Results ●●●●●

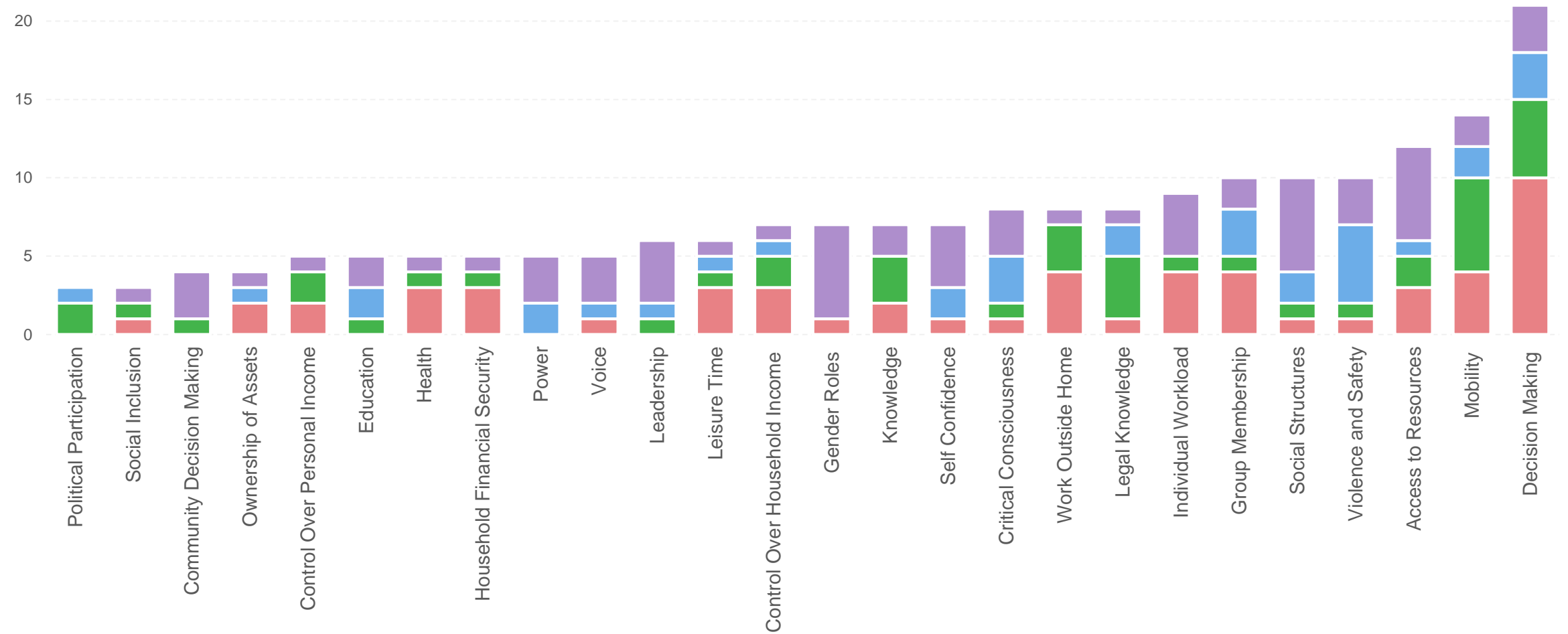
Key Indicators and Themes



Research Theories

Results ●●●●●

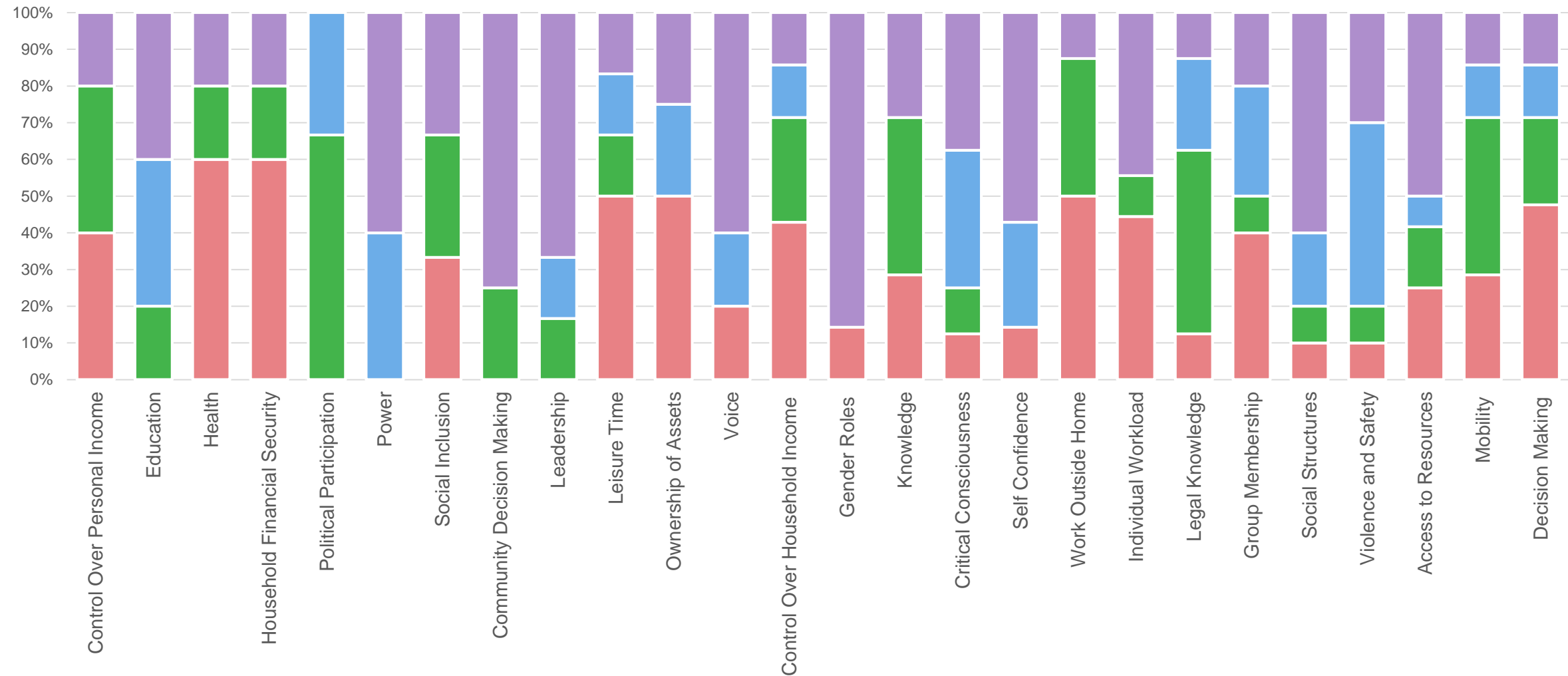
Key Indicators and Themes



Research Theories

Results ●●●●●

Key Indicators and Themes



Domains of Inquiry

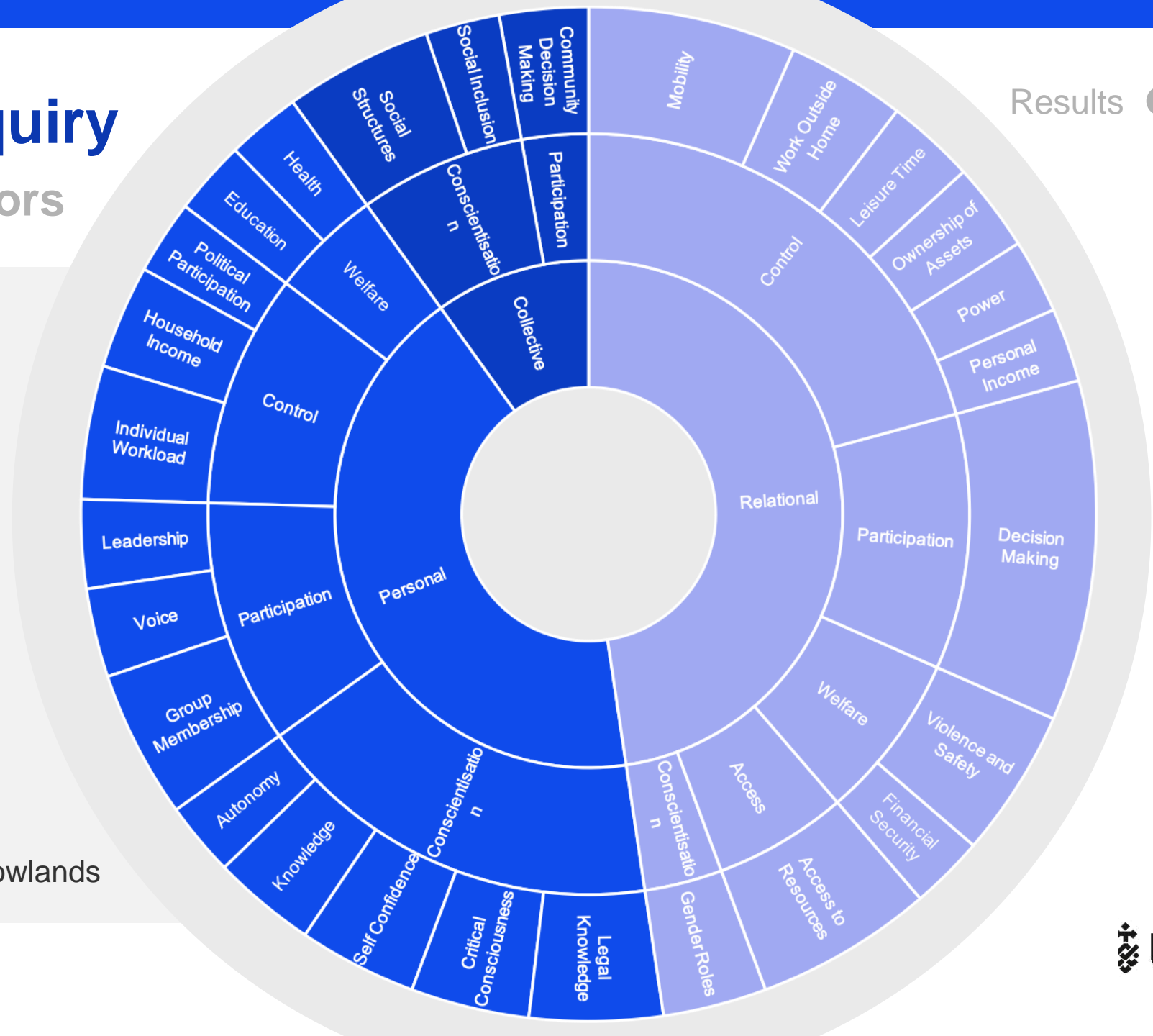
Themes and Indicators

Results ●●●●●

Personal
Relational
Collective

↑
Control
Participation
Conscientisation
Access
Welfare

n=52 – 62 themes
Frameworks from Longwe and Rowlands



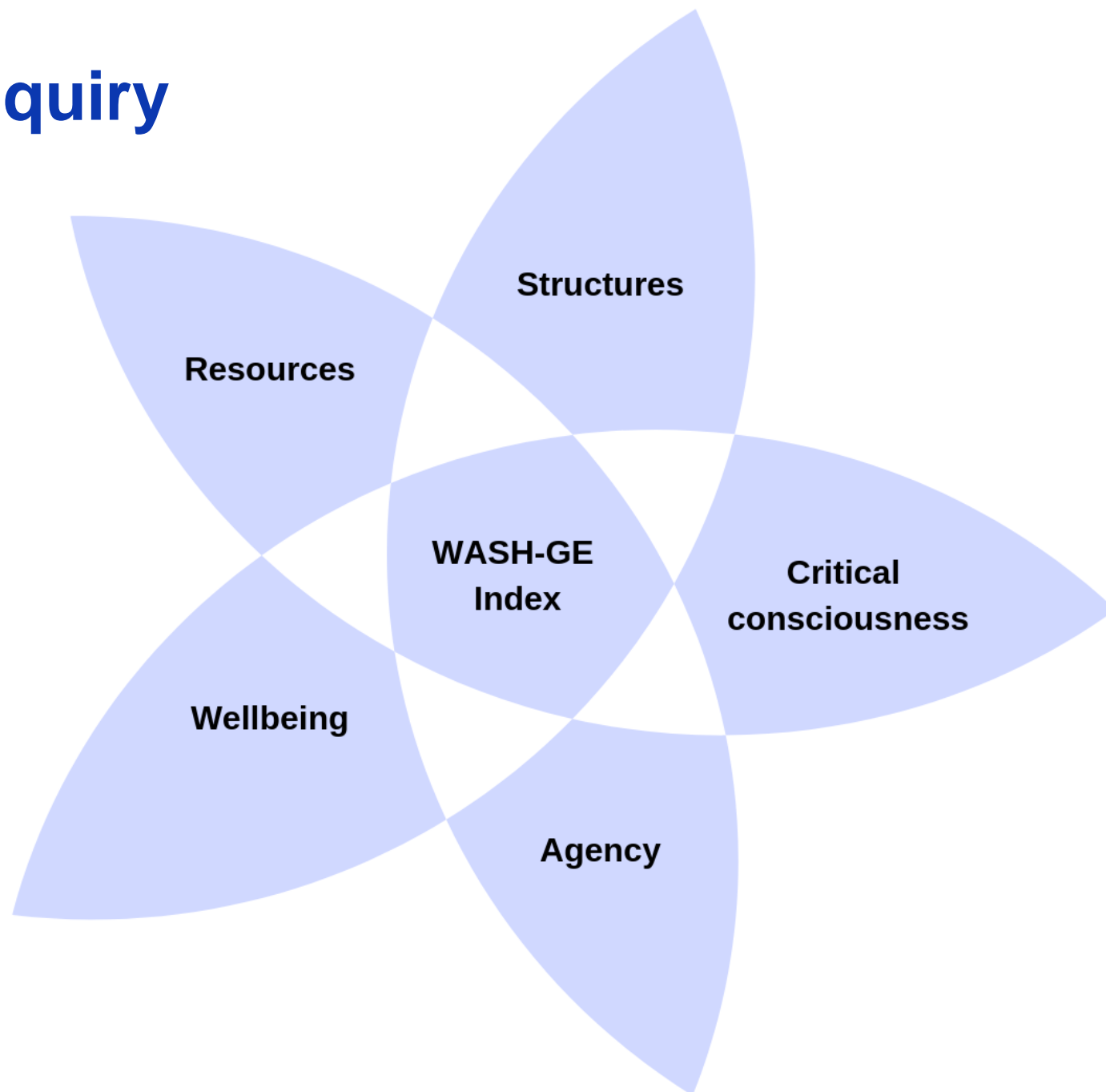
Conclusions for Academics

Conclusions ●●●●●

Paradigm Reflexivity	Clear selection of paradigm
	Bridge paradigms where appropriate
	Connect paradigms through literature
Theoretical Reflexivity	Positioning in relevant theories
Gender Equality Reflexivity	Selection of inquiries – avoid dilution of empowerment
	Inclusion of men and and boys

Embedded responsibility in gender research.

Domains of inquiry



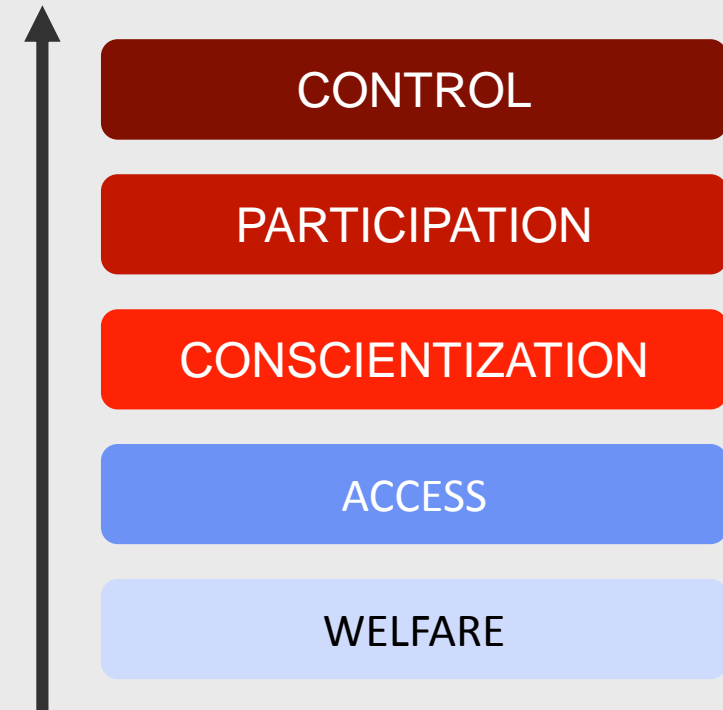
Moving Forward

Conclusions ●●●●

Relevant WASH-Gender Types of Change



Moser 1989

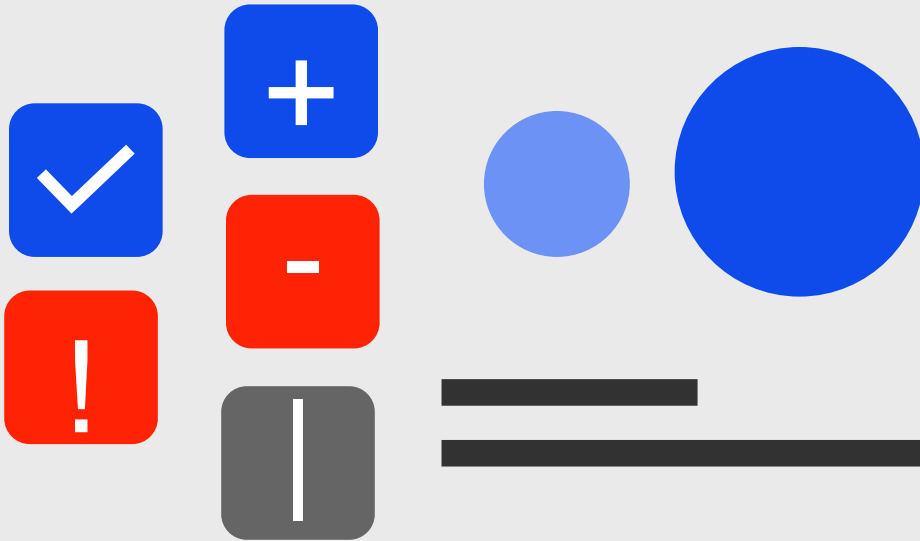


Longwe 1991

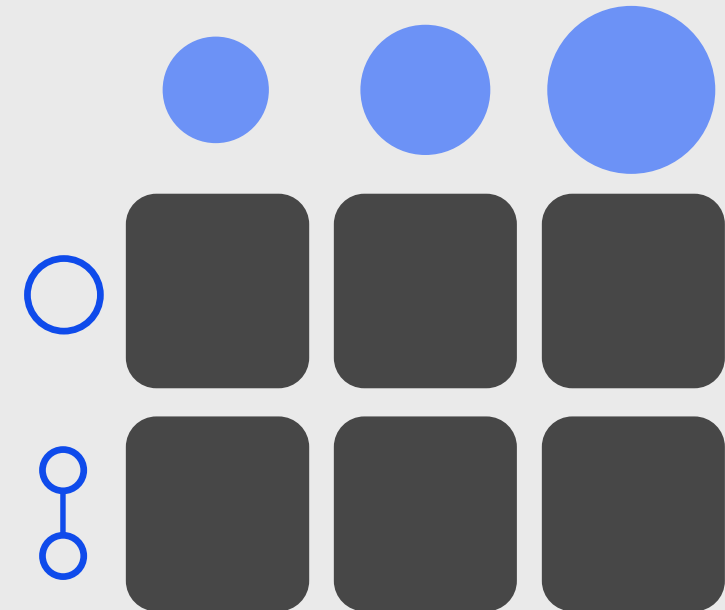
Moving Forward

Conclusions ●●●●

Relevant WASH-Gender Outcome Frameworks



Jabeen 2018



Carrard et al. 2013

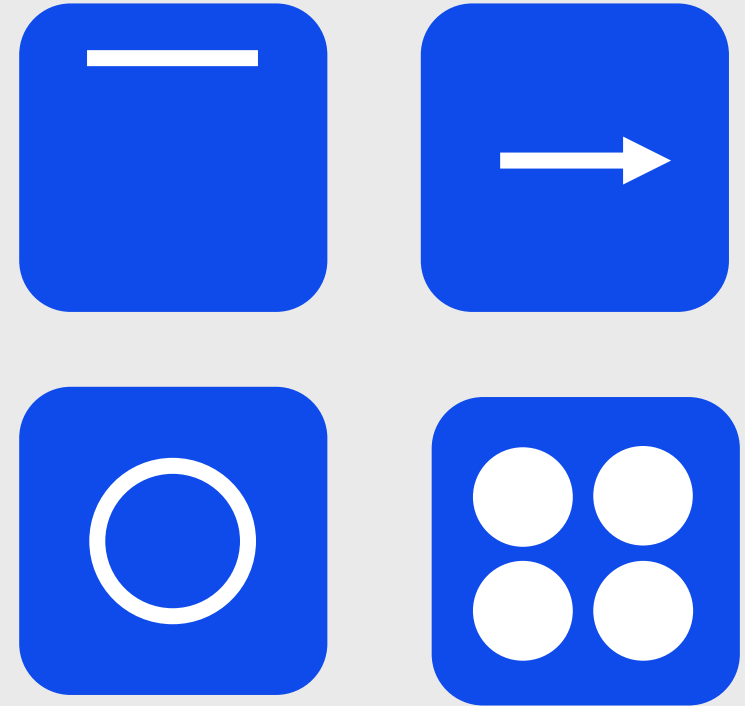
Moving Forward

Levels and Types of Power

Conclusions ●●●●



Rowlands 1995



Rowlands 1997

Moving Forward

Conclusions ●●●●

Relevant WASH-Gender Outcome Frameworks

practical
changes

strategic
changes

Moser 1989

CONTROL

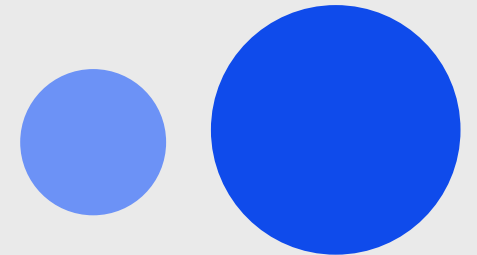
PARTICIPATION

CONSCIENTIZATION

ACCESS

WELFARE

Longwe 1991

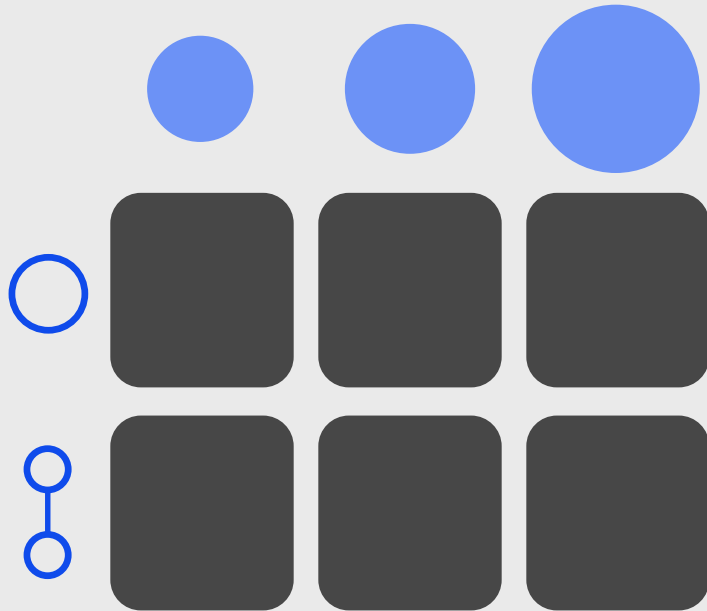


Jabeen 2018

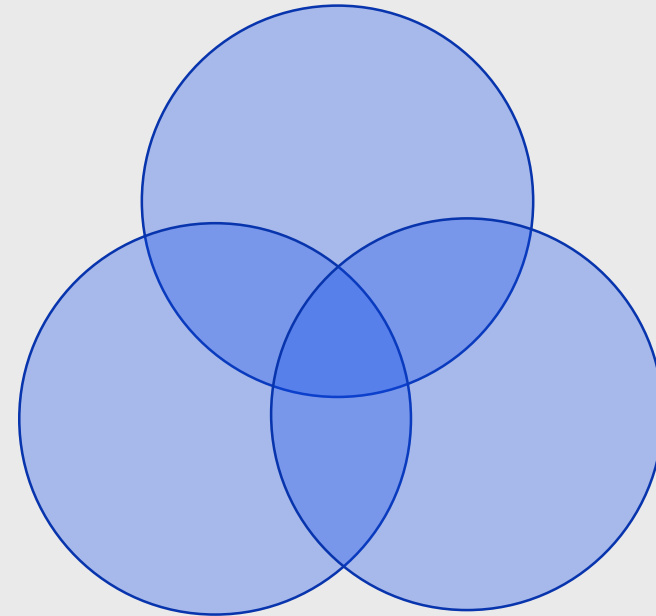
Moving Forward

Conclusions ●●●●

Relevant WASH-Gender Outcome Frameworks



Carrard et al. 2013



Rowlands 1997