

# Battles for Occupied Academic Space



*Welcome, Fàilte, Bienvenue, ласкаво просимо*

You belong here.  
This *is* your space.

International Women's Day

Tuesday 8 March

#BreakTheBias



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd  
agus nan Eilean

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# *Using **Intersectionality**, drawing on Indigenous & critical race theory (CRT): how do we acknowledge our spaces?*

*The University of Windsor sits on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, which includes the Ojibwa, the Odawa and the Potawatomie.*

*"The land was stolen from Indigenous peoples and enslaved Africans were brought en masse to build these cities. This is occupied Indigenous territories of many nations and these cities are built with stolen African labour and resources. One cannot be remembered without the other. We invite you into a tradition with us of acknowledging and remembering whose territory you are on wherever you are in the Americas (from the North to the Caribbean and to the South) and, also remembering and acknowledging that it was built with stolen African & Black labour and resources as well."*

***Blackness Between Us Collective** – Bishara & Ashaj*

# Occupied Space

*'To become aware of invisibility, one must know how to identify invisibility and its effects...the University as a space is not a neutral container; it plays an active role in determining one's ability to learn and thrive in the World' (Aboagye & Dlamini, 2021)*

## Some examples of Colonisers *re*-establishing Space

- 1. Employment and permanence in the University space:** *Upon receiving a post in anti-racist education at the University of Toronto, Dr. Rosalind Hampton reports that she was told, 'We know you are an excellent scholar because you have been hired by us. You are the U of T brand.'*\*
- 2. #TheAggressiveConference 'Q&A' space:** *Dr. Becky Farbstein reported that a senior antagonistic male professor said to her following a presentation at a key conference and hostile questions, 'Well, that's all well and good sweetie, but it's just kid's stuff you're doing there'; and he walked out.*

### 3. Re-dressing the Physical Space we Occupy

*After*



*Before*



*'Space is an active force shaping human life' ~Urban theorist Edward Soja*

**4. The Language Space:** Prof. S.X. stated that her male dean said to her at one point in her research, 'Slow down, I am going to have to rein you in' on a research project she was in charge of (2021).

**5. The Time Space:** Expected occupied space of domestic work, despite long workload research hours, the equivalent of **3** full-time jobs.

Women continue to carry the load when it comes to unpaid work

*Greg Jericho*

2021



It is good that men have increased their workload since Covid,

**Women shoulder the responsibility of 'unpaid work'**

10 November 2016

2016

National Statistics

Women carry out an overall average of 60% more unpaid work than men, ONS analysis has shown.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM 2020

Global Agenda | COVID-19 | Gender Inequality

### COVID-19: How women are bearing the burden unpaid work





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Time for a **breakout**  
room:

1. Share **1 story** of space/exclusion;
2. Who/what helped you through?

*(15 minutes)*

Please share a **story of exclusion** from a space, *and/or*

*Now,*

What helped yourself/a colleague **feel a valued** part of the space?

**Community Cultural Wealth**, an asset-based framework (Yosso, 2005).

Six types of wealth that students possess, develop, and draw upon during their studies, namely:

Aspirational Capital

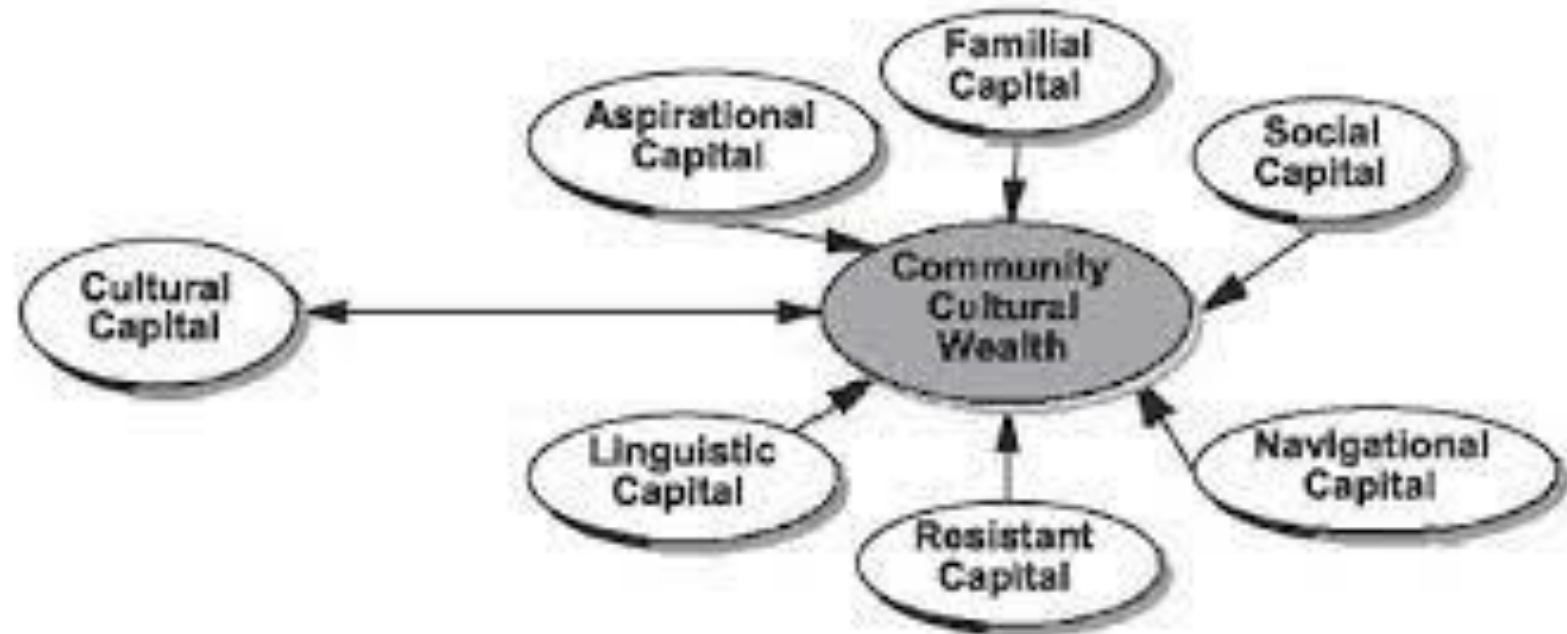
Familial Capital

Linguistic Capital

Navigational Capital

Resistant Capital

Social Capital



# Why is **re-dressing** occupied space important?



Patricia Williams (1991) 'Spirit Murder',  
the death of resilience.

Revilla (2021) found that women were the protectors  
and restorers of [our] space in the Academy.\*\*

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# How can the Academy **re-dress space**? (From Aboagye & Dlamini's 2021 framework)

1. Acknowledgement, respectful welcoming into the space (our beginning).
2. Recognition.
3. Un-learning Pre-conceived notions of a University (sharing our stories).
4. Support for first-generation academics.
5. Mentoring, **trusting**.

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Дякую, *Gracias*, Mòran taing, *Merci*,  
Thank you for sharing *your* space  
with me today.

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