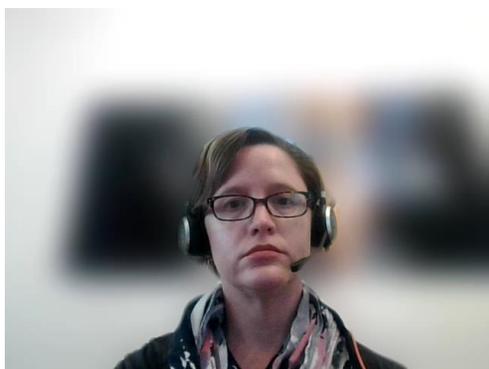




GBA+ in Socio-Economic Impact Assessment: Advancing Methodology in Context



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IAIA 2022 – Vancouver, BC



Background

1. What is Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+)?

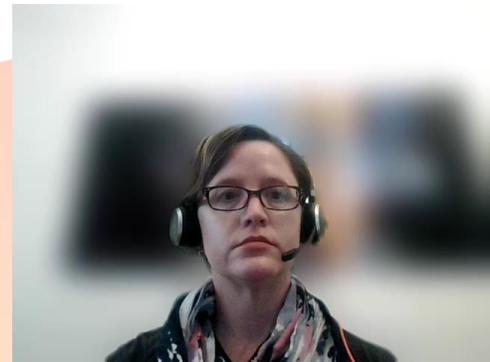
Aims to understand how systemic inequalities disproportionately affect certain groups of people (Government of Canada 2021)

2. Legislative Requirements and Guidance (Canada)

- Federal: *Canadian Impact Assessment Act, 2019 22 (1) (s)*
- Guidance: Gender-based Analysis plus in Impact Assessment (2019)
- Provincial (BC): *Environmental Assessment Act, 2018 25 (2) (d)*
- Guidelines for Assessing Social, Economic, Cultural, and Health Effects in Environmental Assessments in B.C.

3. Guidance Gaps

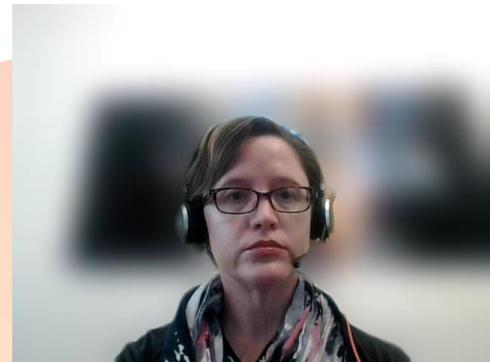
- Urban contexts
- Communities plural
- Large cross- section of society
- Practitioner context and diversity





Objectives

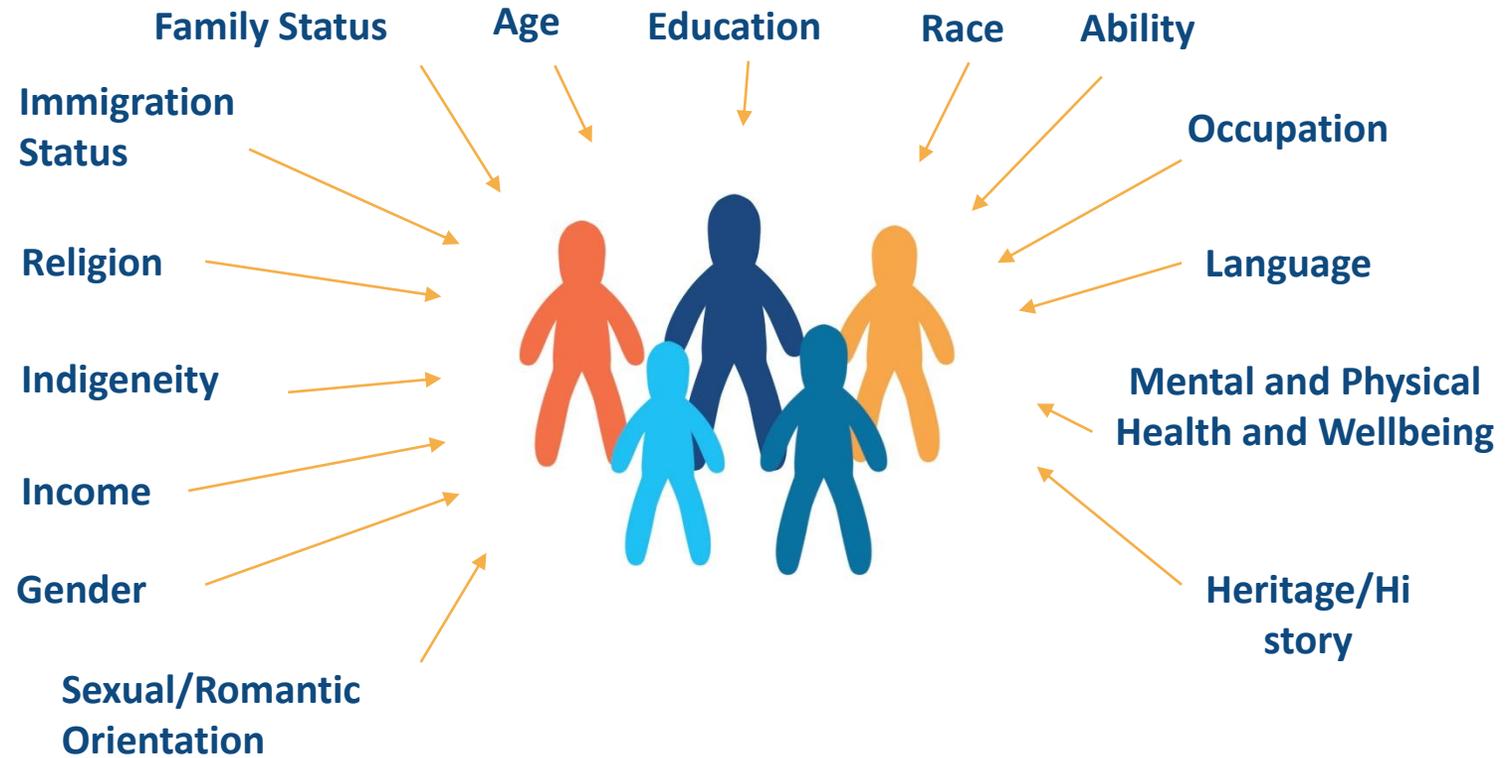
1. To highlight GBA+ issues our team encountered working through a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) in an urban context;
2. To identify ways to manage these issues and improve the application of GBA+ in SEIA;
3. To provide a safe space for reflecting on a methodological process that is a relatively new formal requirement for IA in Canada





Positionality and Bias

1. What is positionality and why is it important?





Positionality Example - Draco



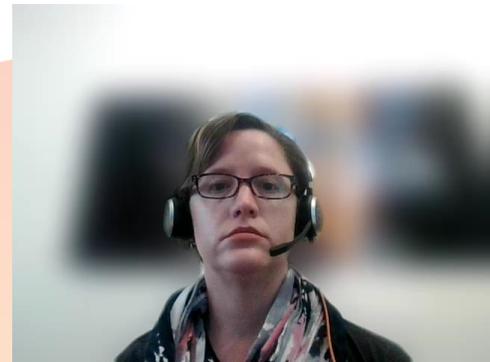


Positionality Example - Farron





Positionality Example - Bethany





Positionality and Bias

What are the implications of positionality for the application of GBA+ in SEIA?





Managing the Issue(s)

1. Employing reflexivity

Being aware of how your personal identity factors shape your perceptions, assumptions, preferences, and biases; positionality statements

2. Diverse teams and positionalities

Checking our biases with those differently positioned than ourselves

Cautions: “Diversity Washing” and performative work





Framing and Defining Vulnerability

1. Importance of language and framing

“Terms such as ‘vulnerable’ can generate the blank space – what we are calling the ‘vagueness’ –necessary to host common and damaging narratives” (Katz 2020, p. 602)

2. Risks of definitions and creating narratives

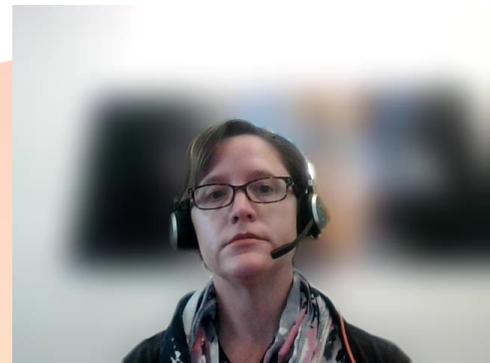
- “Indigenous women can be vulnerable to trafficking due to socio-economic status, high levels of unemployment and poverty, precarious housing, lack of access to social and economic resources, and intergenerational trauma and family violence.” (Canada, 2019)
- Without additional context, this information leaves room for assumptions about these vulnerabilities





Managing the Issue(s)

1. Unpacking and refining the concept of vulnerability
 - Structural conditions, project-related vulnerabilities, compounding vulnerabilities
2. Understanding vulnerability throughout the SEIA
 - E.g. Baseline and effects assessment
3. Breadth versus depth of vulnerability

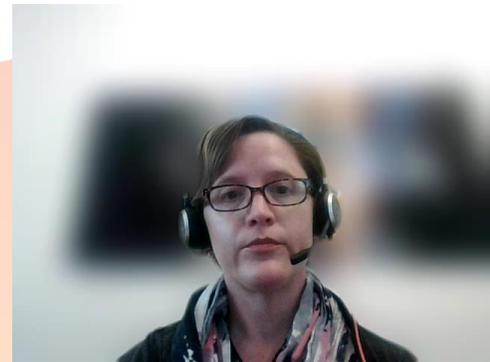




Conclusions and Recommendations

- GBA+ as robust and reflexive practice that is context specific
- Greater diversity in context specific examples needed as GBA+ practice unfolds in IA
- Co-learning through diverse teams that goes beyond the performative
- Power and peril of defining who is vulnerable
- Can GBA+ in IA be a driver for more diverse representation in practitioner teams, and highlight the need for more primary research that addresses GBA+ information gaps?

Thank you!





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