

Using an intersectional lens in co-developing interventions to strengthen a ,BioDiverse Edible City‘ concept for Graz

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The world is not on track ...

... for achieving most of the targets of the sustainable development goals

- rising inequalities and
- biodiversity loss

are among the trends that move in the opposite direction.

Therefore, PLANET4B aims to utilize the concept of intersectionality in the field of biodiversity.

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Intersectionality

- Race, gender, disability, sexuality, class, age, and other social categories are interrelated and lead to different levels of power and oppression influenced by forces like colonialism and neoliberalism (Crenshaw 1989, Hancock 2007, Walgenbach 2012, Rice et al. 2019, Bauer et al. 2021)
- Intersectionality is more than adding up social categories

„An intersectional research project examines categories at multiple levels of analyses — not simply by adding together mutually exclusive analyses of the individual and institutional levels but by means of an integrative analysis of the interaction between the individual and institutional levels of the research question.” (Hancock, 2007 p.251).



What has this to do with biodiversity?

- Systems of oppression such as patriarchy, ableism, racism, ageism, colonialism and imperialism marginalize people.
- Intersectionality is seen as a concept, which helps to understand these interlinked complexities of discrimination (Monjurul Kabir et al. 2022).

“Women occupy the front lines of the present ecological crisis, making up 80 percent of climate refugees. In the global South, they constitute the vast majority of the rural workforce, even as they also bear responsibility for the lion’s share of social-reproductive labor. Because of their key role in providing food, clothing, and shelter for their families, women play an outsized part in coping with drought, pollution, and the overexploitation of land, likewise, poor women of color in the global North are disproportionately vulnerable. Subject to environmental racism, they constitute the backbone of communities subject to flooding and lead poisoning.”
(Arruzza et al. 2019, p. 47 f.)

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Co-created methodological framework of P4B

1. Reflexivity of researchers informed by intersectionality

- reflect on one's own privileges and experiences of discrimination and
- position oneself within the learning community

2. Approaching actors of biodiversity case studies

- need to build trust with new learning communities
- connect to people in local communities
- using individual entry points and harmonized motives

3. Understanding power relations by illuminating dualisms of nature and humans

- Processes of 'backgrounding', 'incorporation', 'exclusion' and 'objectification'
- Aiming at environmental justice, including social and multispecies justice

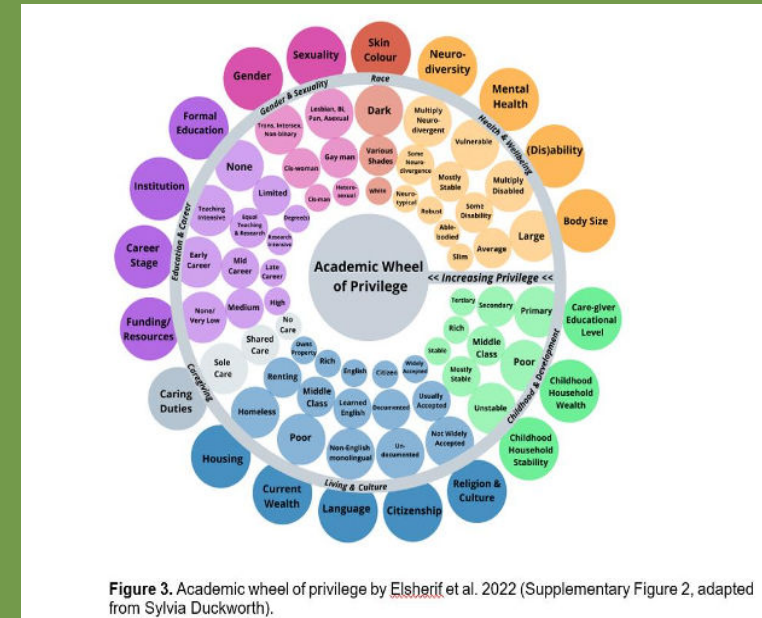


Figure 3. Academic wheel of privilege by Elsharif et al. 2022 (Supplementary Figure 2, adapted from Sylvia Duckworth).



Intersectionality in food systems research

1. Reflexivity

- ‚Good food‘ is not equally accessible to everybody.
- The important point for our reflexivity:
What is ‚good food‘?
Framing of ‚good food‘ and its impact on public policies (incl. various aspects, such as good for health, the environment, economies, culinary and aesthetic aspects etc., see Karner et al. 2023)
- Area-based inequalities in cities:
residents of low-income and ethnic minority neighbourhoods have disproportionately poorer access to healthy food than residents of more affluent neighbourhoods
—> ‚food deserts‘ (e.g. Jaskiewicz et al. 2016)

*“Inequality, not unavailability, is the main driver of food insecurity”
(Interview from 2015 with Johan Swinnen, in Karner et al. 2023)*

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Intersectionality in food systems research

1. Reflexivity

- ‚Green edible (urban) spaces‘ are not equally accessible to everybody
- Unequal distribution of accessible green spaces in different districts
- Unequal weighting in the assertion of different interests and needs
- Appropriation by certain groups and conflicts of use
- (Infra)structural shortcomings: equipment, design, security arrangements, physical accessibility, etc.
- Shortcomings in inclusive participatory planning processes
- Ignorance of specific (local) needs



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Intersectionality in food systems research

2. Approaching actors of biodiversity case study

- Stakeholder mapping
 - City of Graz: administration & policy
 - Already existing boards
 - Thematic experts
 - CSOs and advocacy groups
 - Intermediaries as central actors (e.g. neighborhood centres) – link to citizens
- Co-creation workshops
- System Mapping
- Role play, games
- Joint reflections & learning

Policy LC



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Intersectionality in food systems research

2. Approaching actors of biodiversity case study

- Identification of disadvantaged local residents
- Finding entry points through intermediaries
- Co-creative planning and implementation of pilot activity
- Co-creation workshops
- Arts-based activities
- Practical hands-on implementation of pilot activity
 - Edible garden of biodiversity
- Joint reflections & learning

Citizen LC



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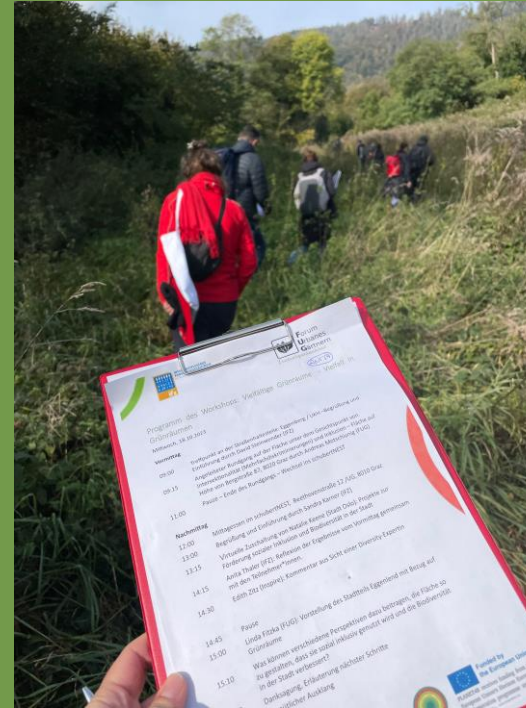


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Intersectionality in food systems research

3. Understanding power relations

- ...Analyzing factors of poverty and social exclusions in Austria
- Analyzing socio-geographic dimensions in a specific area of Graz (case study)
- Analyzing existing and planned city development strategies and broader policy contexts
 - How are aspects of biodiversity and in/equalities considered?
 - Synergies, forces and drivers for integrated policies?
- „See the world with my eyes“-walk in the biodiversity garden of the future
 - 14 diverse personas (gender, sexual identities, socio-economic and migrant background, relationship status, care responsibilities)



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Transformative interventions

Addressing:

- Strategies and related policies relevant to inter-

=> enhancing biodiversity in urban spaces

ing of a green inclusive, park

- Engaging citizens => equal access to green urban spaces & good food

=> empowering marginalised and vulnerable groups

- Practising => improved alignment of city strategies

=> institutionalisation of cooperation

- Practising => institutionalisation of inclusive participation

=> more inclusive urban communities

- Co-creation

Policy LC

Citizen LC

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.



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