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COVID-19, Intersectionality, and Geographies of Vulnerability

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Guideposts

-What is Intersectionality?

-Intersectionality and COVID-19

-Reframing Research for the Greater Good

Dialogues in
Human Geography

Commentary

Intersectional geographies and COVID-19

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Abstract

We argue that it is time for geography as a discipline to embrace intersectionality. Using the COVID-19 pandemic as the subject of analysis, we raise questions for geographers about the novel coronavirus' overlapping impacts. We argue that intersectional feminist approaches yield anti-racist, anti-sexist, and anti-oppressive research outcomes.

Keywords

intersectionality, feminism, COVID-19, anti-oppression, U.S. South

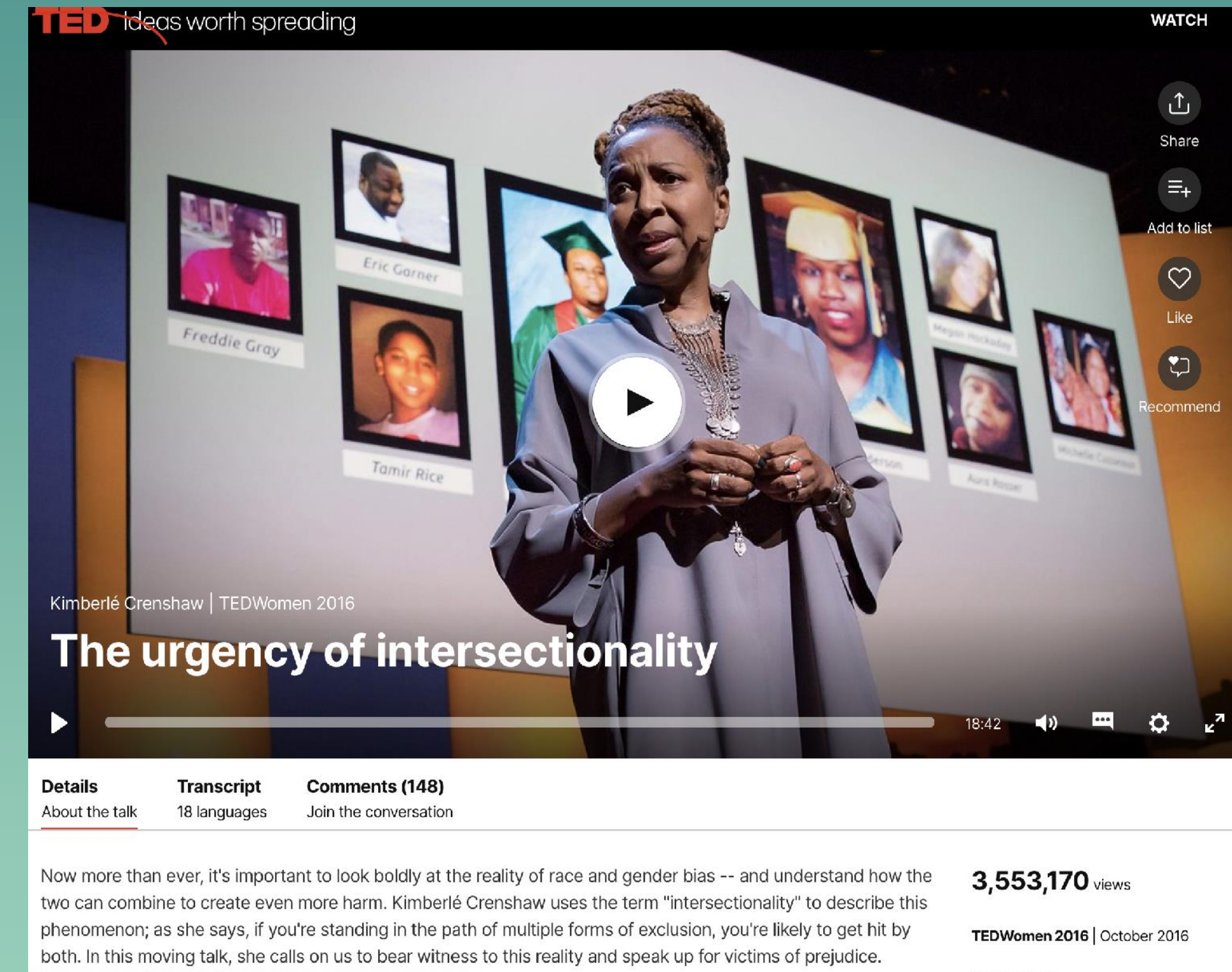
Intersectionality

Kimberlé Crenshaw:

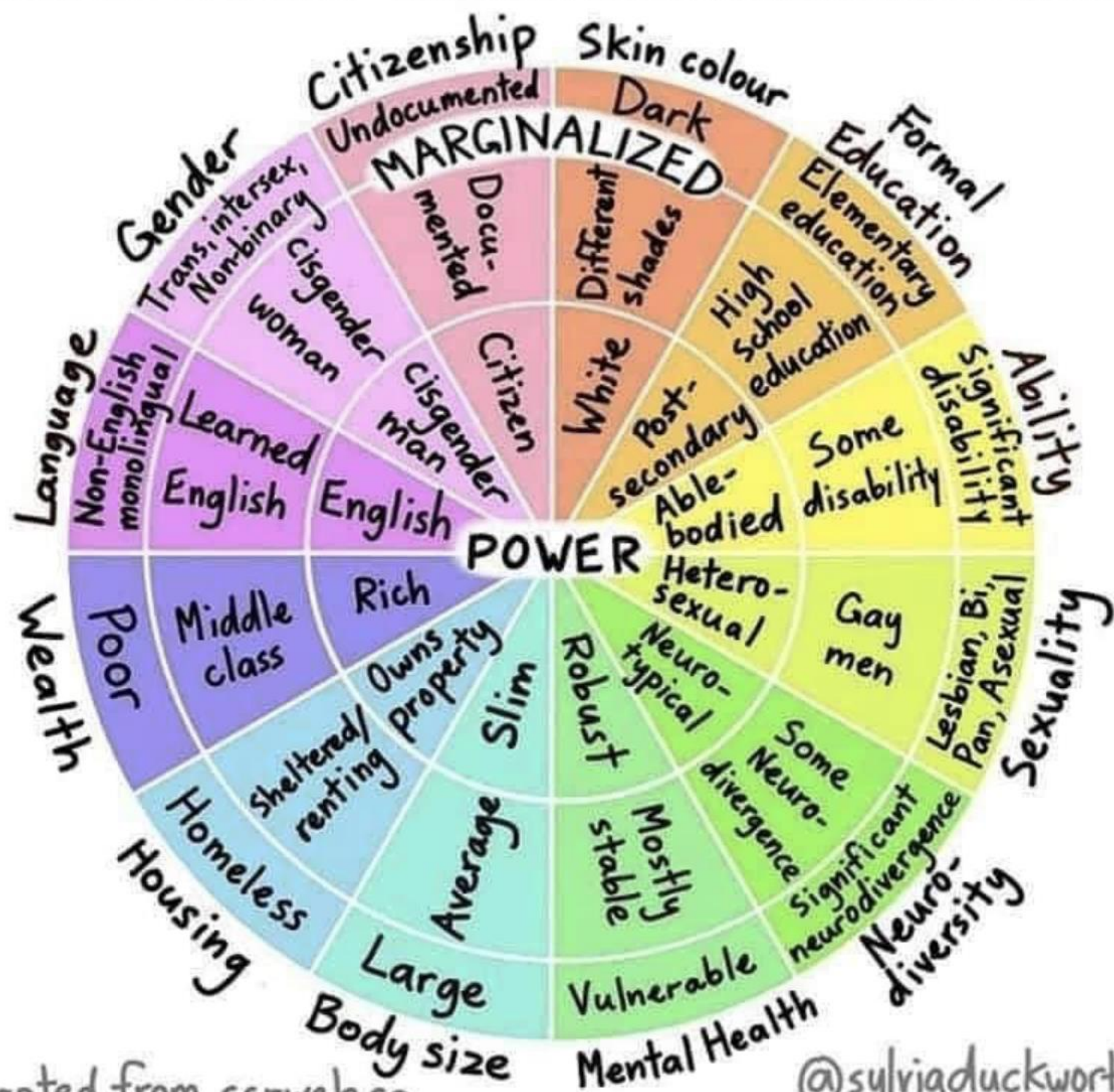
Intersectionality, as a framework, seeks “to dismantle the instantiations of marginalization that operated within institutionalized discourses that legitimized existing power relations (e.g., law); and at the same time, placed into sharp relief how discourses of resistance (e.g., feminism and antiracism) could themselves function as sites that produced and legitimized marginalization.

Rooted in a legacy of Black feminist and womanist thinking, public life, and activism - **in defense of their lives.**

Centered with Critical Race Theory

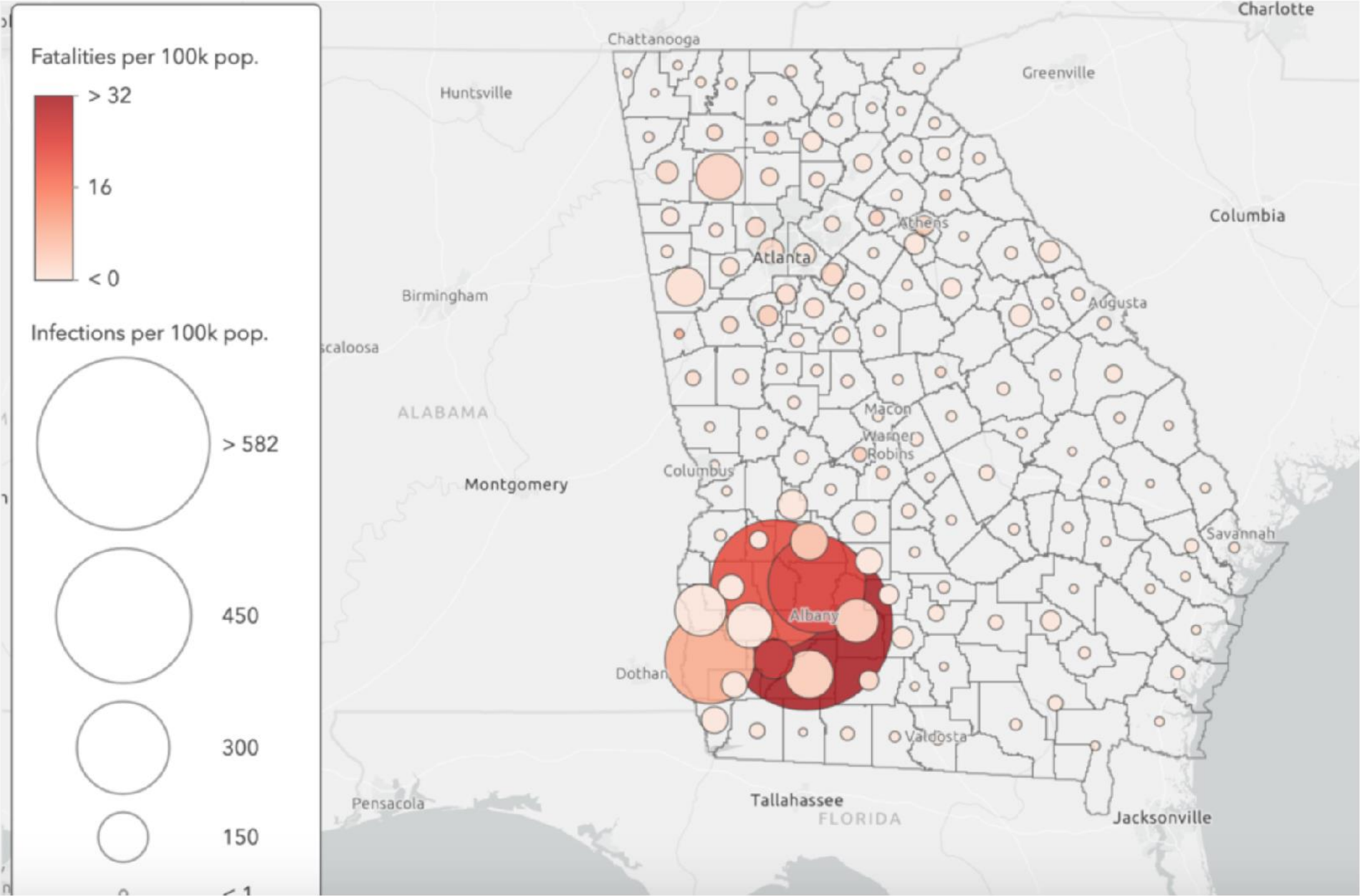


WHEEL OF POWER/PRIVILEGE

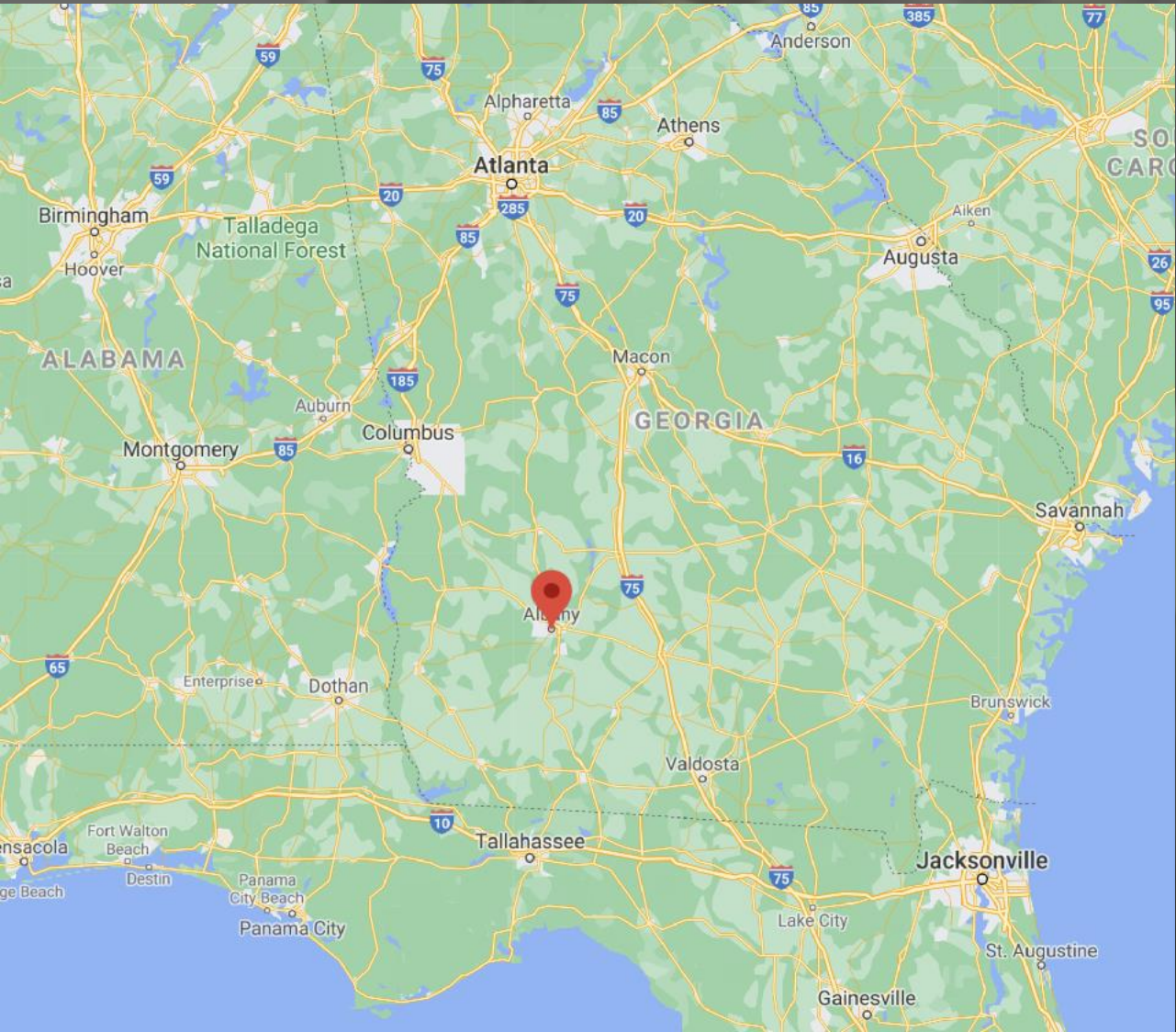


Adapted from ccrweb.ca

@sylvriaduckworth



March 31, 2020 data of per capita coronavirus infections and Covid-19 deaths across Georgia. DATA: Georgia DPH and the U.S. Census Bureau



Using intersectionality, geographers can better understand how structures of oppression are **embedded in places.**



Rethinking Data-Driven and Analytical Approaches

“Disadvantaged”

“Vulnerable”

“Generalizable”

Acknowledging relationships of power within place, space, and landscape and centering those whose lives impacted by long-term impacts of interlocking systems that buttress power suggests we rethink what we mean by generalizable.



For Further Information

Crenshaw K (1991) Mapping the margins: intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of color. *Stanford Law Review* 43(6): 1241-1299.

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