

Identities amidst social categories of ability difference: Voices of self-identified “disabled” post-secondary students

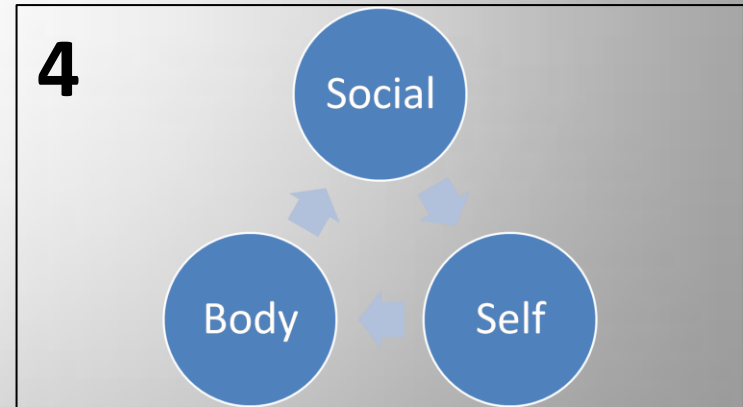
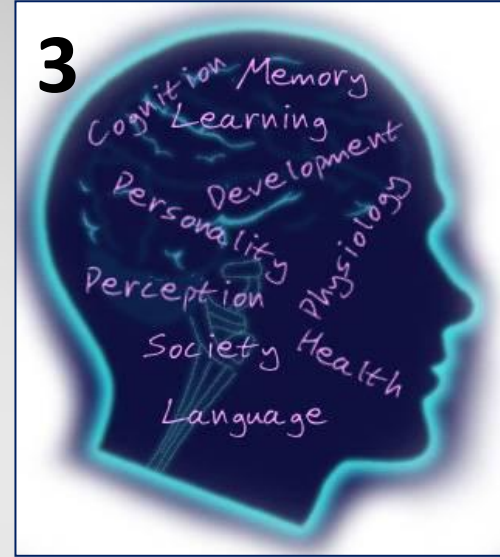
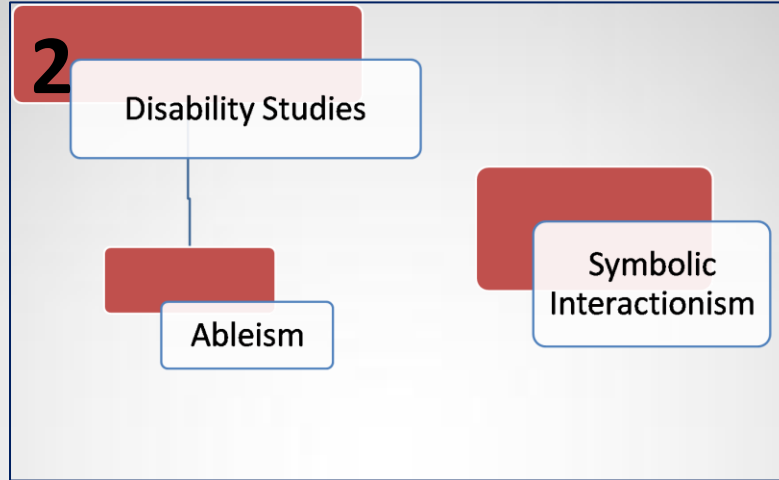
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PRESENTATION MAP



RATIONALE



[13]

Student experience ^[12]

Instances of **vulnerability**
and **empowerment** ^[3,4,6, 9, 11]

Literature gap ^[1, 2, 3, 5,7, 8, 10]

Higher education policy
accommodations-
focused ^[17]

RESEARCH AIMS

The goal is to understand, *from the perspectives of this population...*

1. The relationship between the person's **self** and the social world amidst **social categories** of ability and disability

How has this informed **identity**?

RESEARCH AIMS

2. The role of **post secondary** experiences

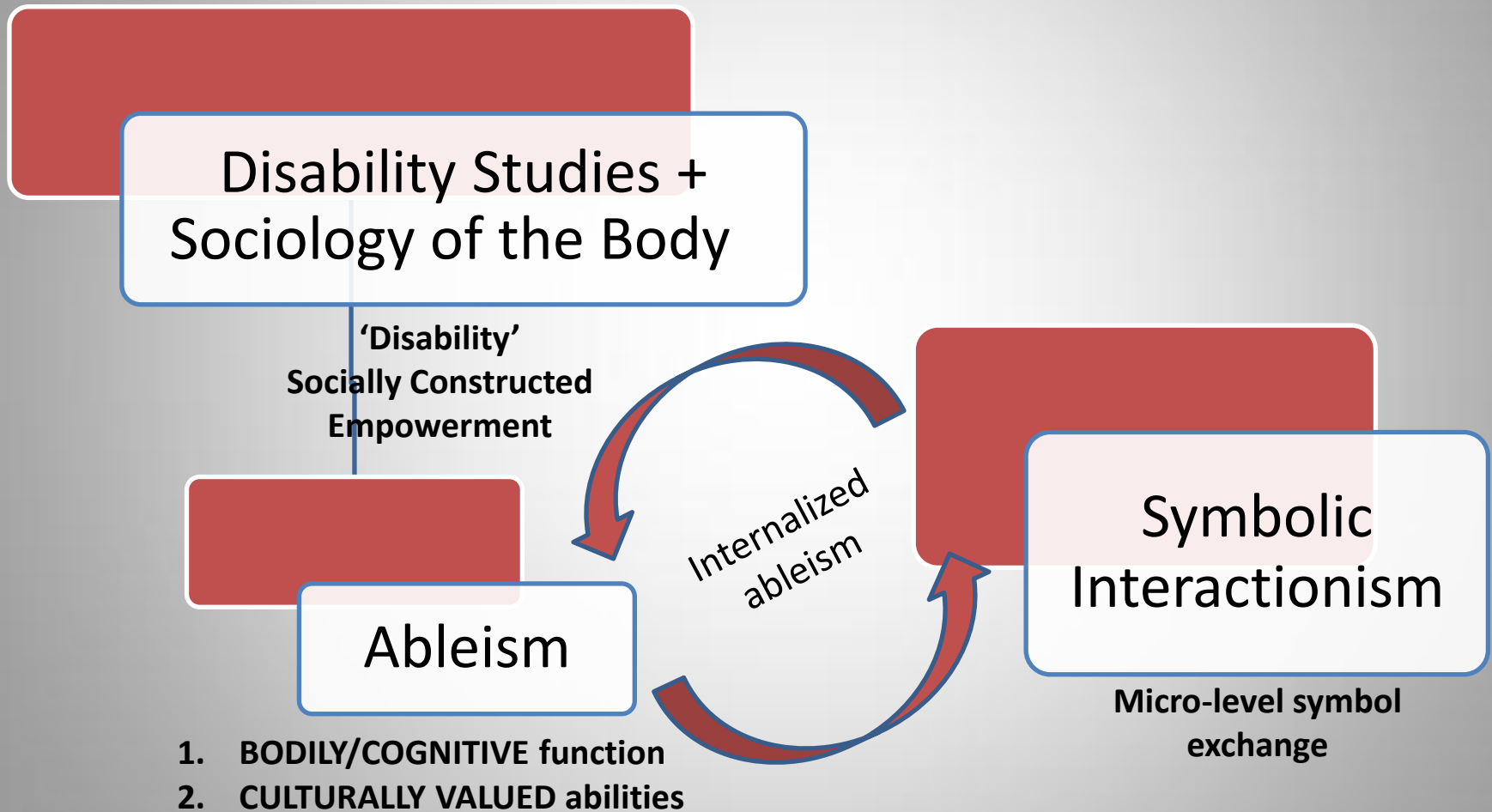


Role of change?

RESEARCH AIMS

3. Provide a medium to freely express experiences of **vulnerability** and **empowerment** within a post-secondary setting

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK



METHODS

Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Recruitment Strategy

Expected N = 10

Actual N = 8

In-depth interview

Transcription

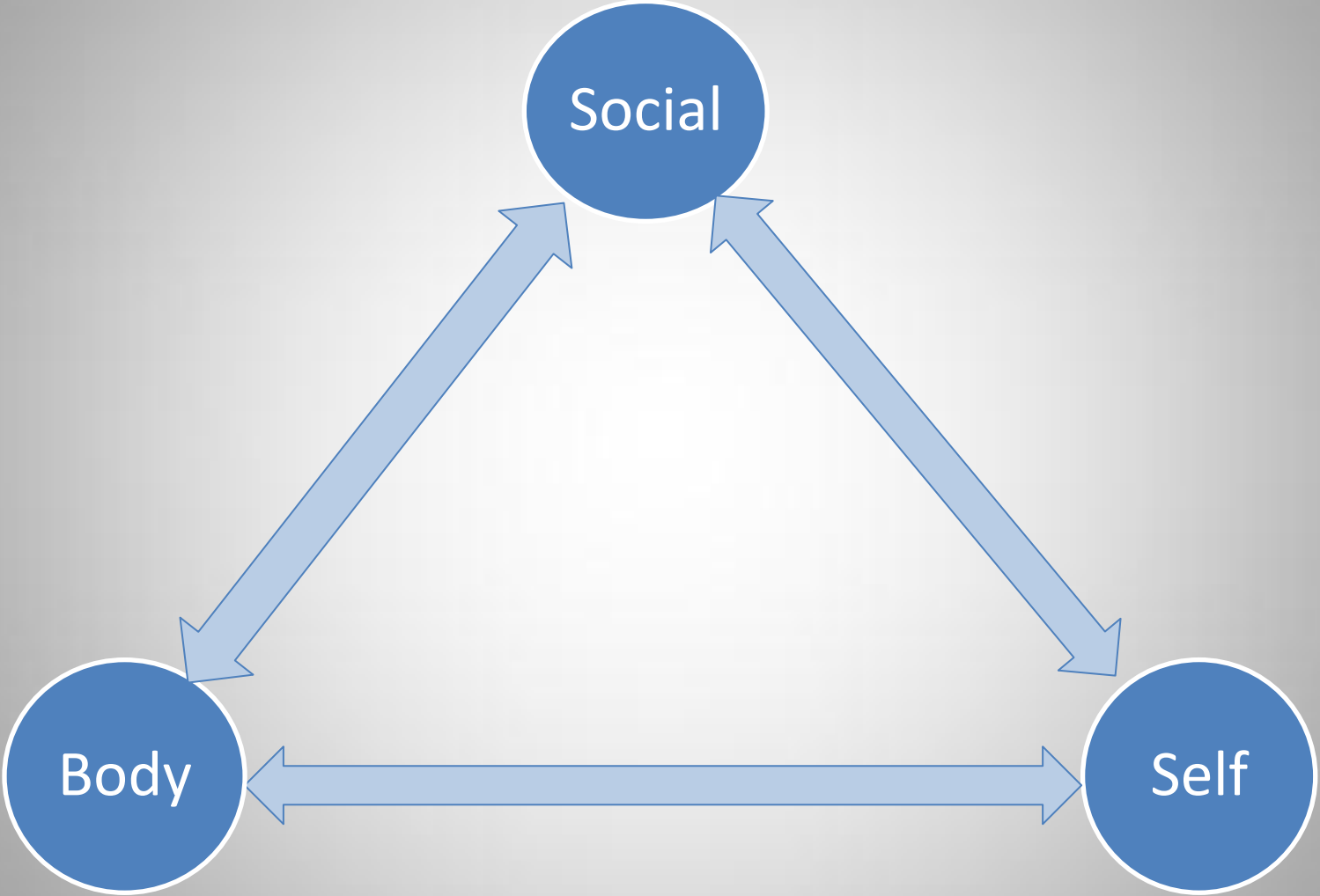


[14]

THEMATIC NETWORK ANALYSIS

- 1. Basic Theme:** lowest-order
[Advocacy (self/others)]
[Saying nothing]
- 2. Organizing Theme:** **organize** basic themes, provide a basis of **assumptions** which underlie global theme
[Response to situations of vulnerability]
- 3. Global Theme:** super-ordinate; produce an **assertion**; reveal **interpretation**.
[Claiming the self: Voice of silence]
[Claiming the self: Voice of assertion]

HEGEMONIC VOICE
Difference \leftrightarrow Ableism
Hegemonic Interaction

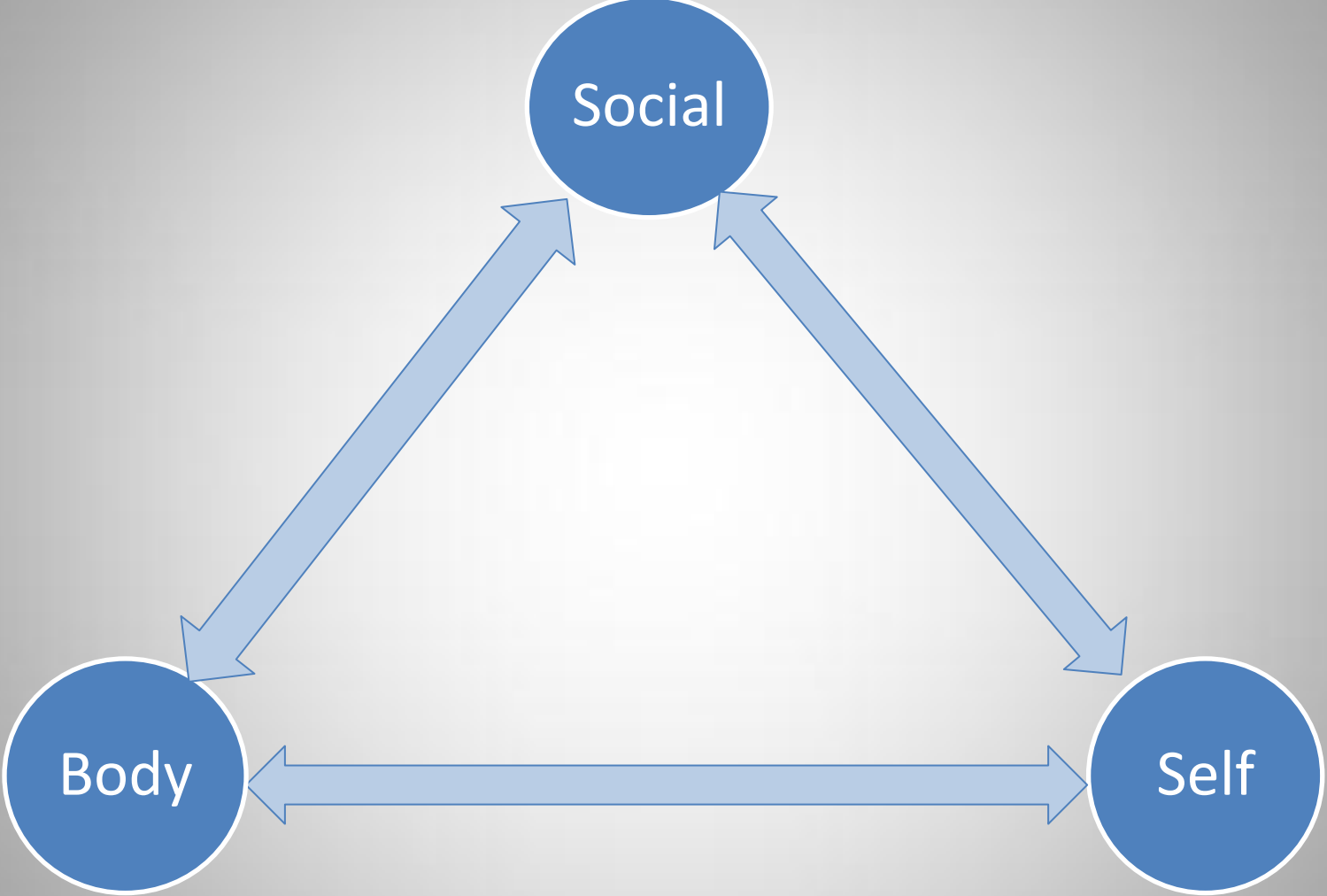


Hegemonic Voice

Difference

“But yeah I think if our society was somehow...**more than willing to help**, and **didn't feel awkward around difference**, and all that stuff...then suddenly, the physical differences that exist between people might **not be perceived as disability and might be perceived as opportunity...**” (P 003)

HEGEMONIC VOICE
Difference \leftrightarrow Ableism
Hegemonic Interaction

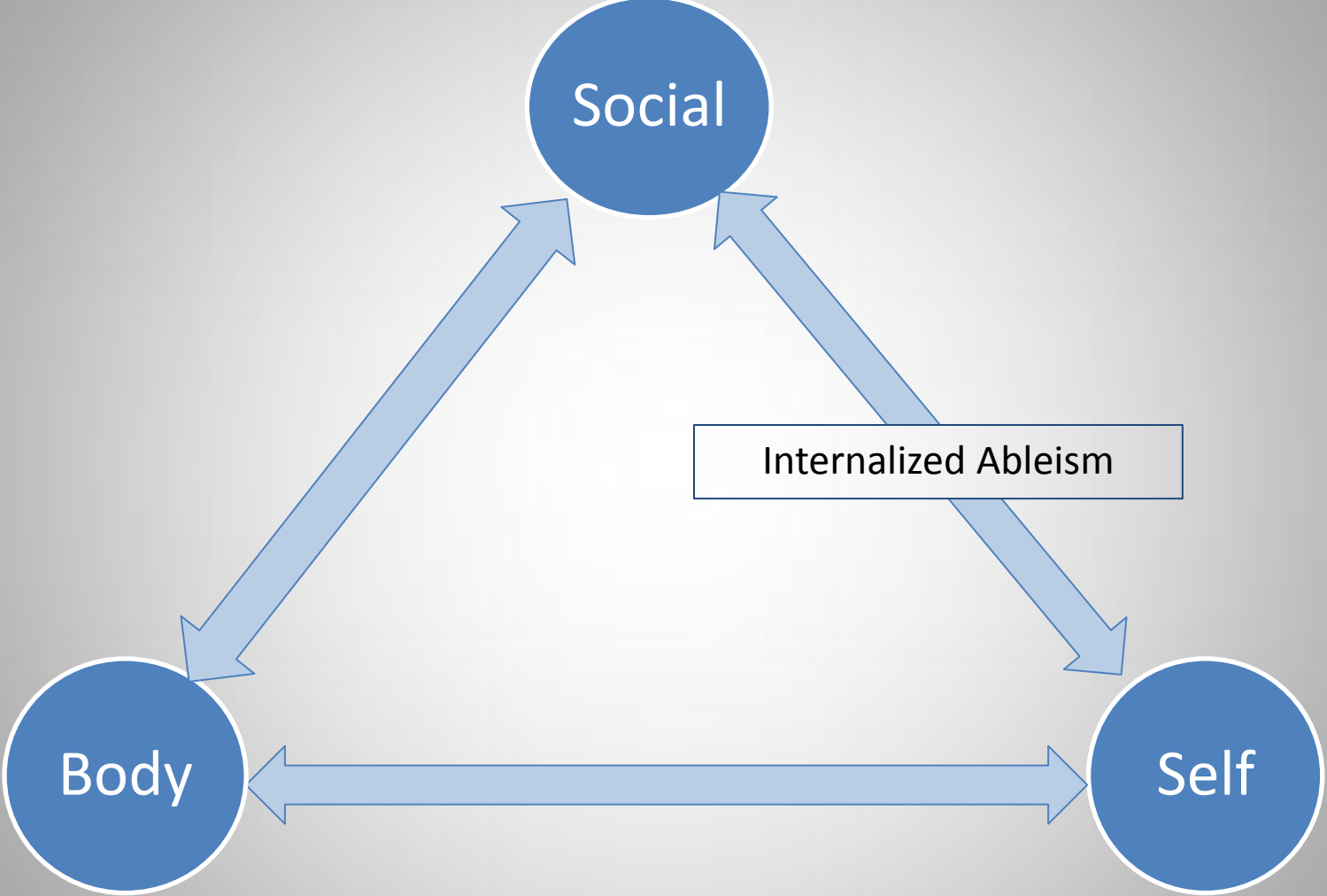


Self \leftrightarrow Self

The fluidity of the Self

“And so you could say, you know, that **made me feel impaired** that...at the time I thought, you know **I’m normal and everyone perceives me as normal**, and then you have an event happen where you realize...maybe **they perceive me** as being impaired. I still feel like I’m normal. But the more it goes on, it shifts. It goes all the way down that **spectrum**. From normal at one point, **to both sides of view...as being impaired**...and like I said...it shifts.” (P 001)

HEGEMONIC VOICE
Difference \leftrightarrow Ableism
Hegemonic Interaction



Self \leftrightarrow Self

Hegemonic Voice

Internalized Ableism

I: What associations do you think it makes? To have that head rest?

R: Hm... Well I think it indicates, one, that the **impairment is even higher than you think.** Um that if you need a headrest, there's some problems with your neck, there's some problems ... so... And for some **reason I associate mental disabilities with that as well.**

I: Oh okay, and you don't want others to make that connection.

R: Nope." (P 006)

HEGEMONIC VOICE
Difference \leftrightarrow Ableism
Hegemonic Interaction

Social

Internalized Ableism

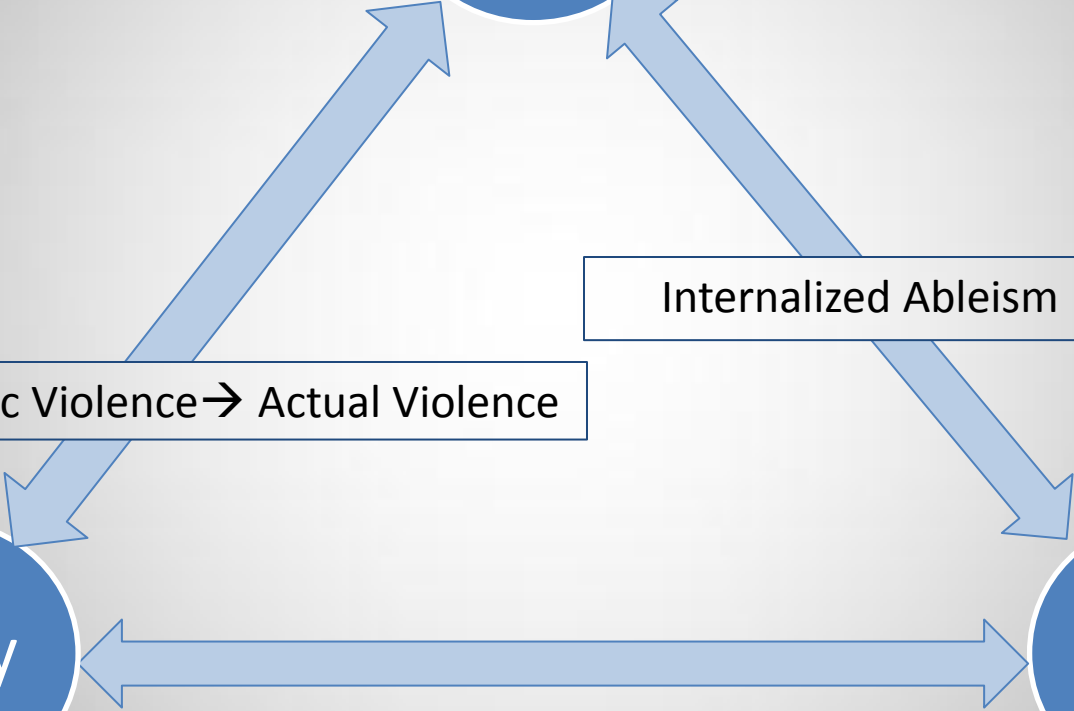
Symbolic Violence \rightarrow Actual Violence

Body

Self

VOICE OF THE BODY

Self \leftrightarrow Self



Hegemonic Voice

Symbolic Violence > Actual Violence

“Yeah, and like... I've been abused in every way a person can be abused... And that sort of shit, you know, the trauma, the whatever... with the **abuse**, that stuff is **actually relatively minor**... What the bitch of it is, is that the people who abuse you are going to make you feel **like you're fucking nothing**, and they're going to make you feel like **everything is your fault.**” (P 008)

HEGEMONIC VOICE
Difference \leftrightarrow Ableism
Hegemonic Interaction

Social

Internalized Ableism

Symbolic Violence \rightarrow Actual Violence

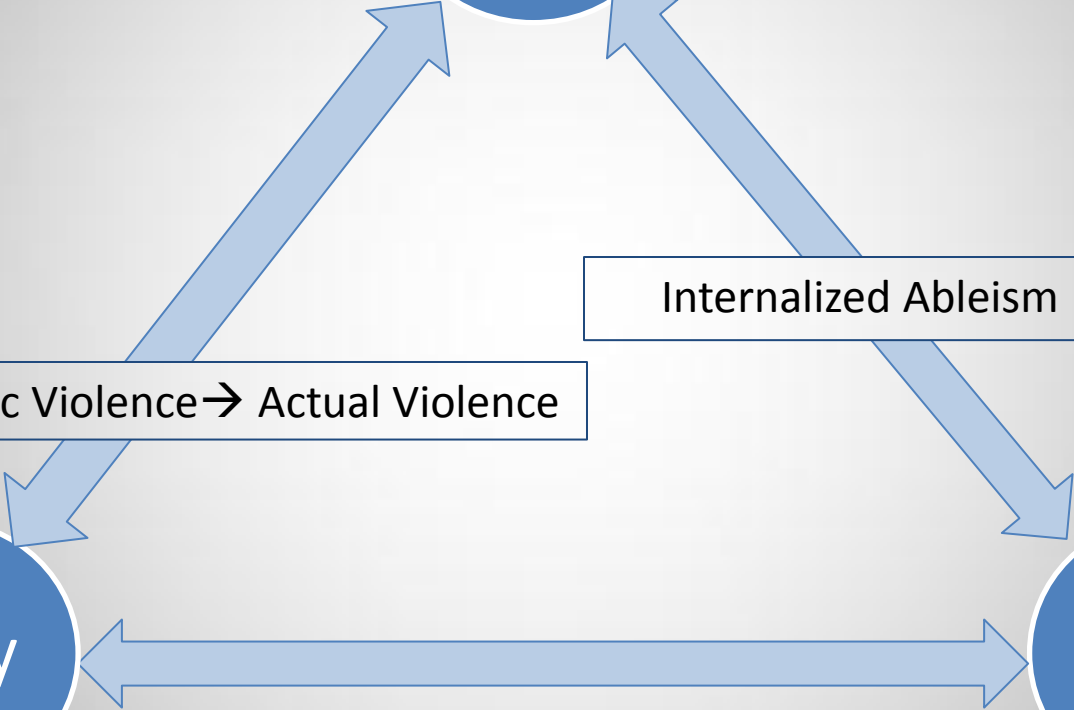
Body

Self

VOICE OF THE BODY

Pain \leftrightarrow Emotion \rightarrow Healing

Self \leftrightarrow Self



Voice of the Body

Emotion > Body

“R: I don’t try to hide **[emotional pain]** or push it aside, I just take it... um yeah. I um...**it’s more a physical feeling....**like I would... remember what hurt me and I would get like **this shooting pain....** it just kind of happens...

I: In your body, somewhere?

R: Yeah, I’m not sure, actually, because it’s not in my...kind of like mmm...a **mental pain**, I’m not sure...” (P 004)

HEGEMONIC VOICE
Difference \leftrightarrow Ableism
Hegemonic Interaction

Social

Internalized Ableism

Symbolic Violence \rightarrow Actual Violence

VOICE OF SILENCE

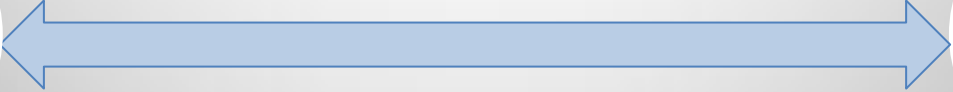
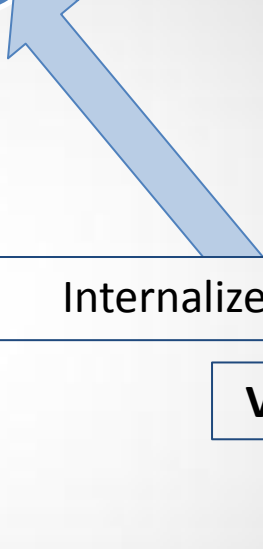
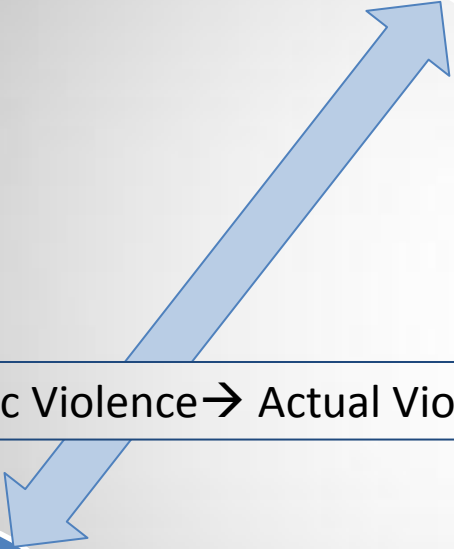
Body

Self

VOICE OF THE BODY

Pain \leftrightarrow Emotion \rightarrow Healing

Self \leftrightarrow Self



Claiming the Self (Voice of Silence)

Doing Nothing

I: So you said that sometimes you can tell when people think of you like that, or they think ... **lesser intelligence.**

R: Yeah. Mhmm. Yeah. Friends will make fun of you in a joking manner...

I: Okay, okay. So in those situations, you... do you feel impaired in those situations when someone ...?

R: Um...yeah.

I: Okay.

R: **Yeah. I laugh it off...** (chuckles)" (P 007)

HEGEMONIC VOICE
Difference \leftrightarrow Ableism
Hegemonic Interaction

Social

VOICE OF ASSERTION

Internalized Ableism

VOICE OF SILENCE

Symbolic Violence \rightarrow Actual Violence

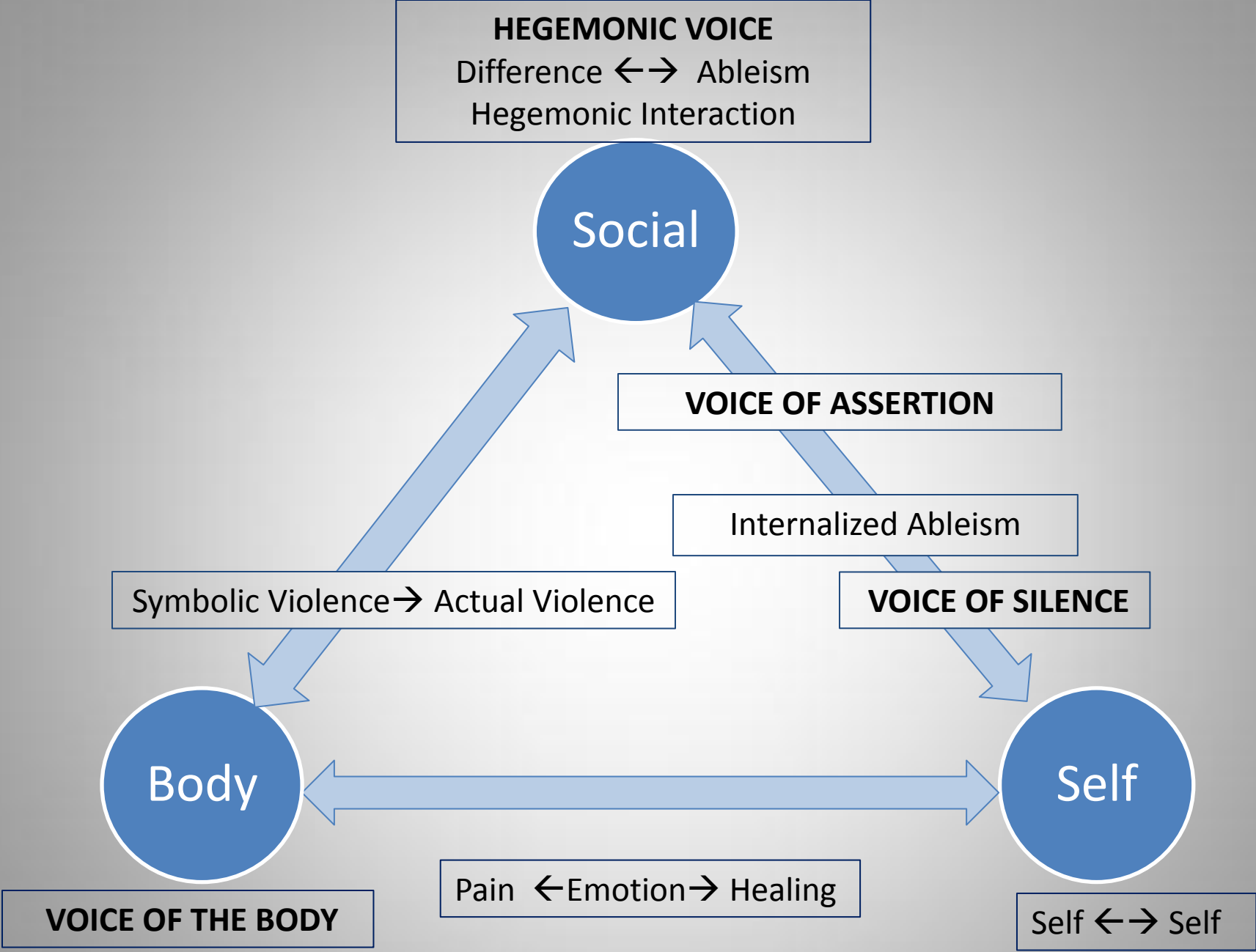
Body

Self

VOICE OF THE BODY

Pain \leftrightarrow Emotion \rightarrow Healing

Self \leftrightarrow Self



Claiming the Self (Voice of Assertion)

Using Ableism

“... If [other disabled people] don't convey the **confidence**, then... are they really going to get hired at the end of the day? Like how would they **present** a job interview situation? So like, I think that **ability to demonstrate value, to demonstrate confidence**, um, you know, just anything that you might have that is **valuable, whether it's academic ability, charm**, whatever, like... the more that you have, the easier it is for your **voice to be heard.**” (P 008)

HEGEMONIC VOICE
Difference \leftrightarrow Ableism
Hegemonic Interaction

Social

VOICE OF ASSERTION

Internalized Ableism

VOICE OF SILENCE

Symbolic Violence \rightarrow Actual Violence

VOICE OF CHANGE

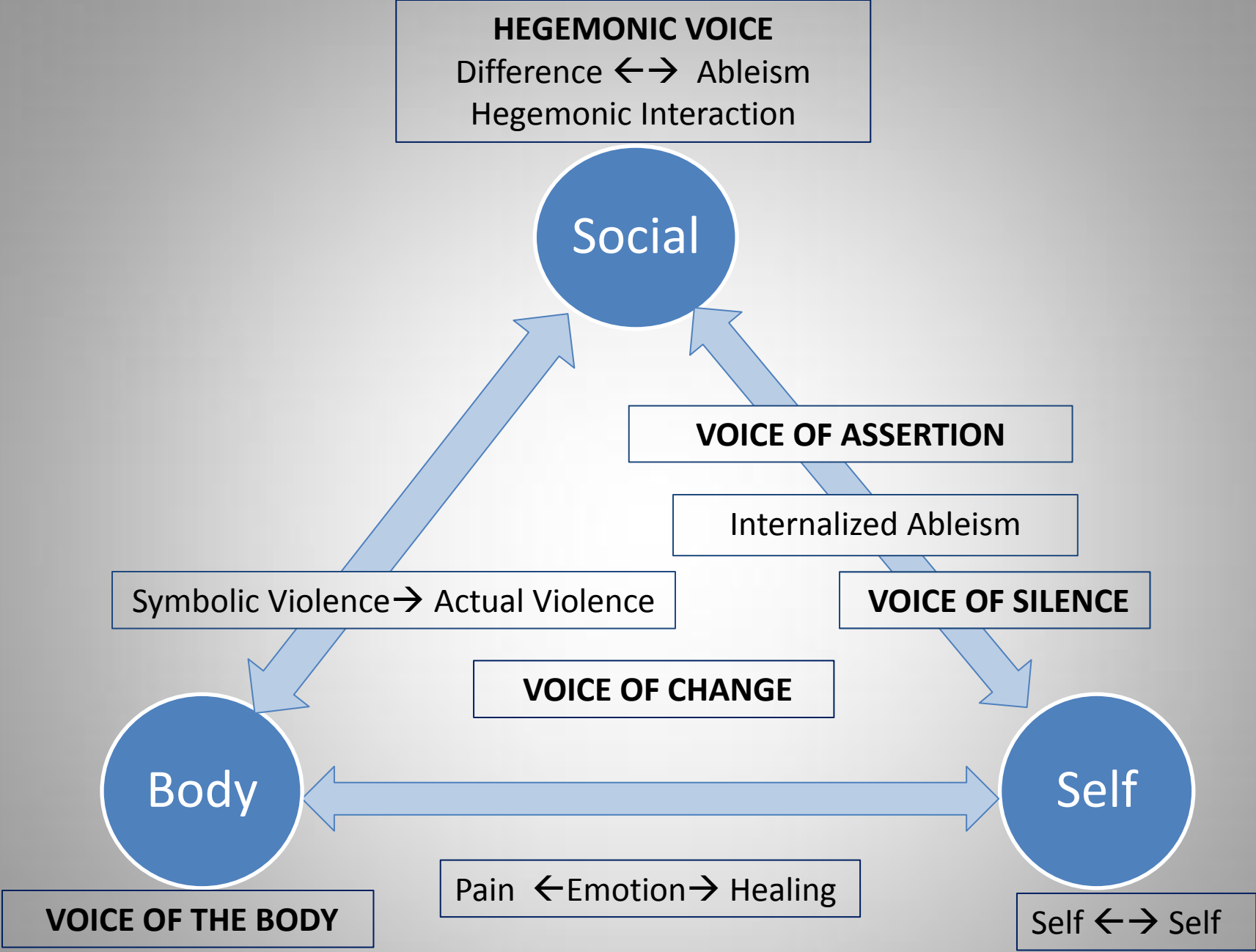
Body

Self

VOICE OF THE BODY

Pain \leftrightarrow Emotion \rightarrow Healing

Self \leftrightarrow Self



Voice of Change

Policy

“So I mean I definitely think that people in general, your **peers, should know more, professors should know more**, but it comes down to who’s going to do it, right? Like... is it your responsibility as someone who’s disabled to make others aware? Or should the school do more to spread...**should we [be spreading awareness] back in high school, elementary, junior high?**” (P 002)

Role of School

I: And so you found that those two programs gave you sort of an **increased self-awareness**? In a sense?

R: Yeah. I would say the education program much more so. ..like **in terms of identity formation** for my disability... where I actually thought about [it], so.

I: Mhmm. And before you hadn't really thought [about it] too much?

R: No, not at all. (P 006)

CONCLUSIONS

For **research participants**

Product dissemination
Therapeutic interview

For **practice/policy**

Importance of participants' voice
Ableism and higher education
policy

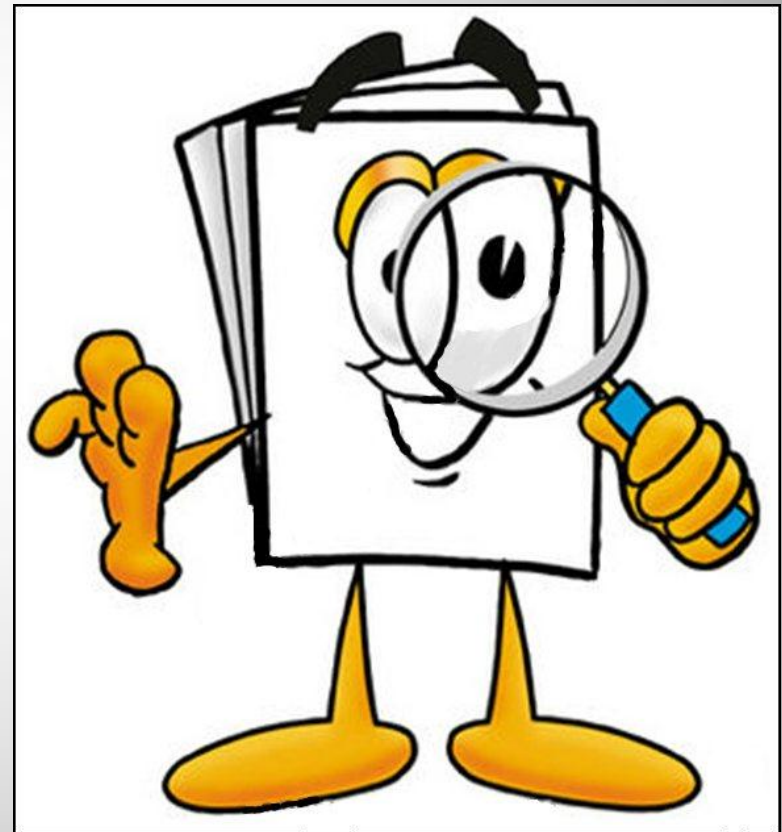


FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Ableist violence

Importance of the **body**

Vulnerability and
empowerment/resilience



PAPER PUBLISHED

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