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Veggie Burgers with Bacon: Challenging Binary Thinking

Huntingford, Stasha

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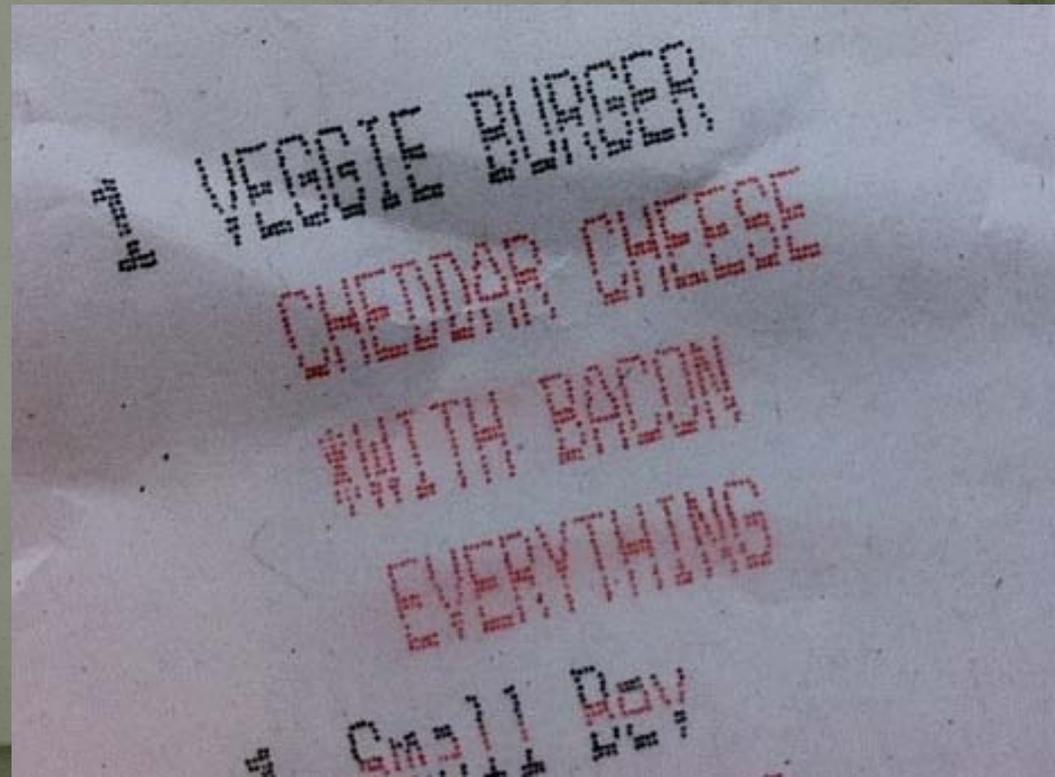
Veggie Burgers with Bacon

Challenging Binary Thinking

Stasha Huntingford MSW RSW 2013

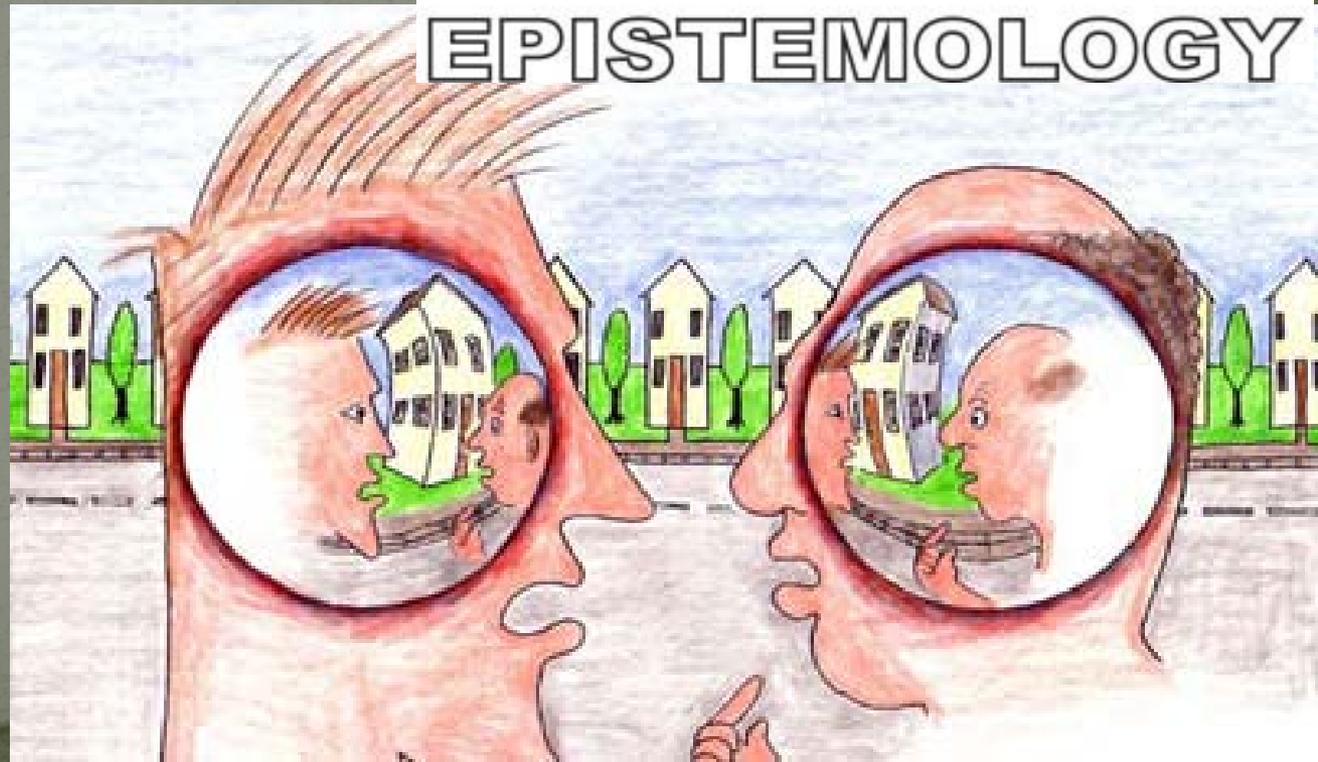
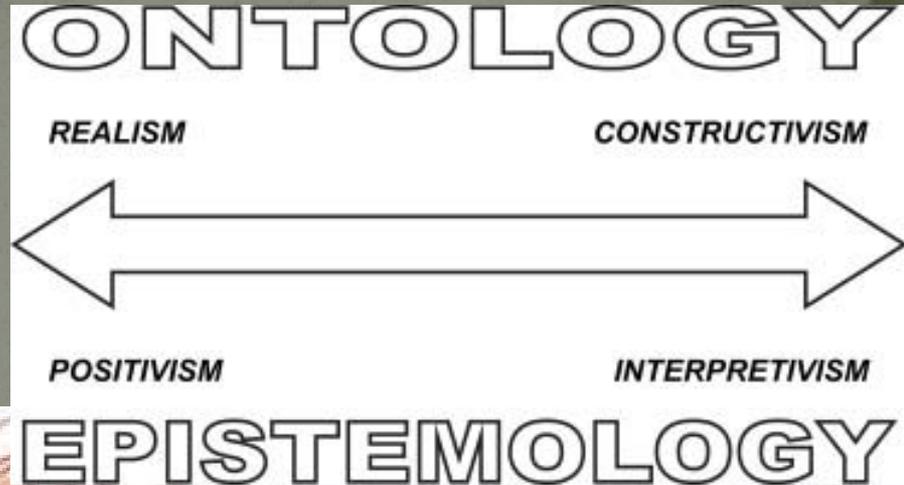
Workshop Outline

- Ontology and epistemology of collaboration
- Examples of veggie burgers with bacon
- Theoretical framework
- Case studies



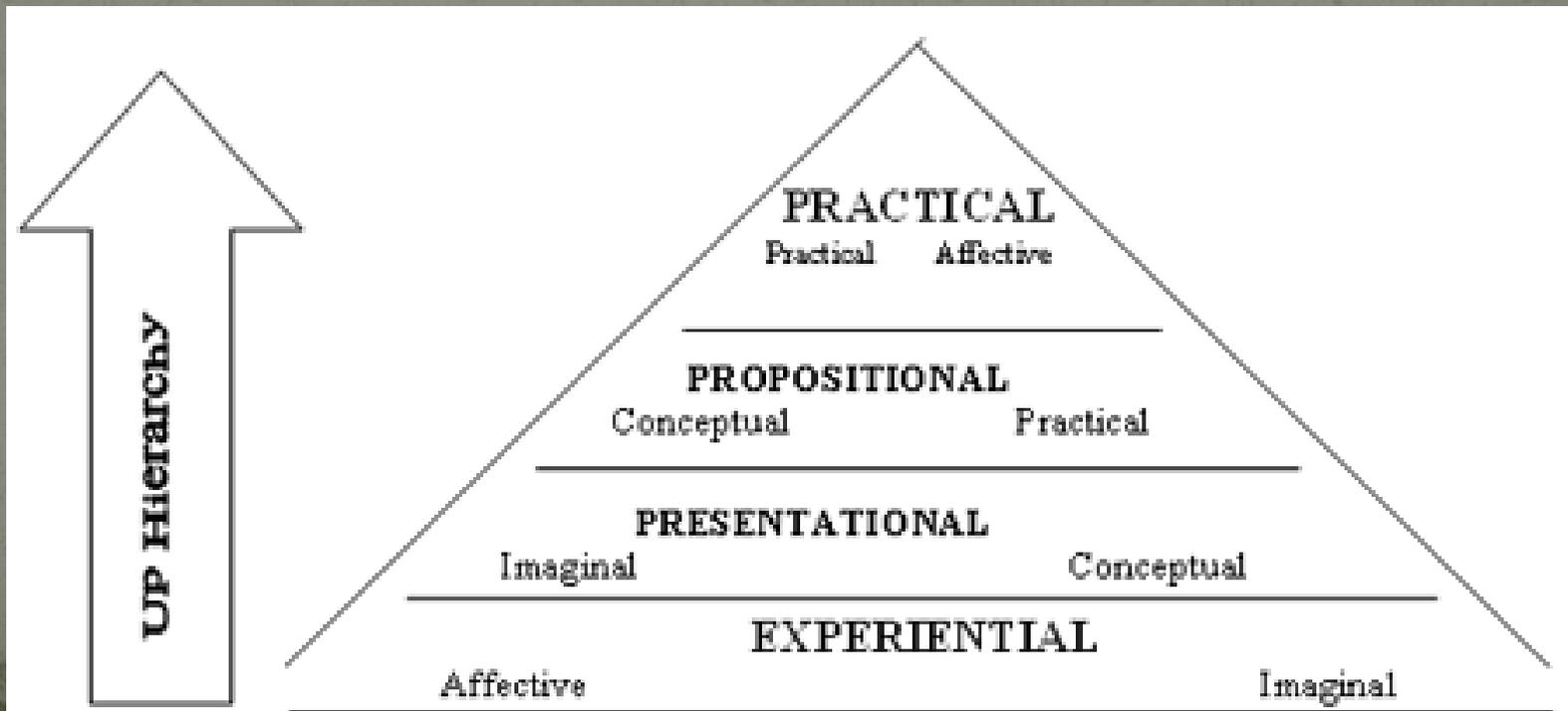
Worldview

- Ontology-how do we tell if something is 'true'?
- What is the ontology of collaboration?



Epistemology

- How do we know what we know in collaboration?
- Heron (2008) does not falsely separate the four ways of knowing from each other, but rather shows that knowing will be more valid if they are congruent with each other: if our knowing is grounded in our experience, expressed through our images and stories, understood through theories which make sense to us, and expressed in worthwhile action in our lives.



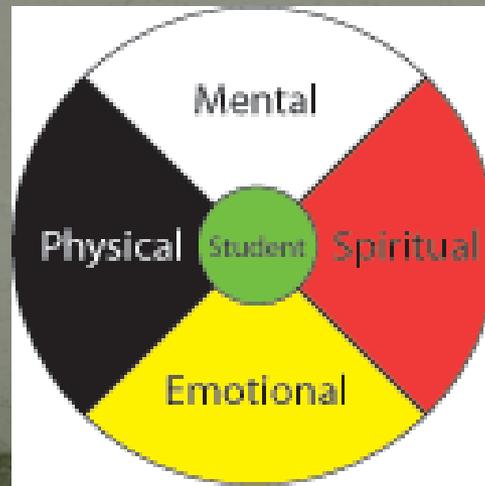
Examples of Veggie Burgers with Bacon

- Pansexual
- Metis
- Lived experience professional
- Praxis



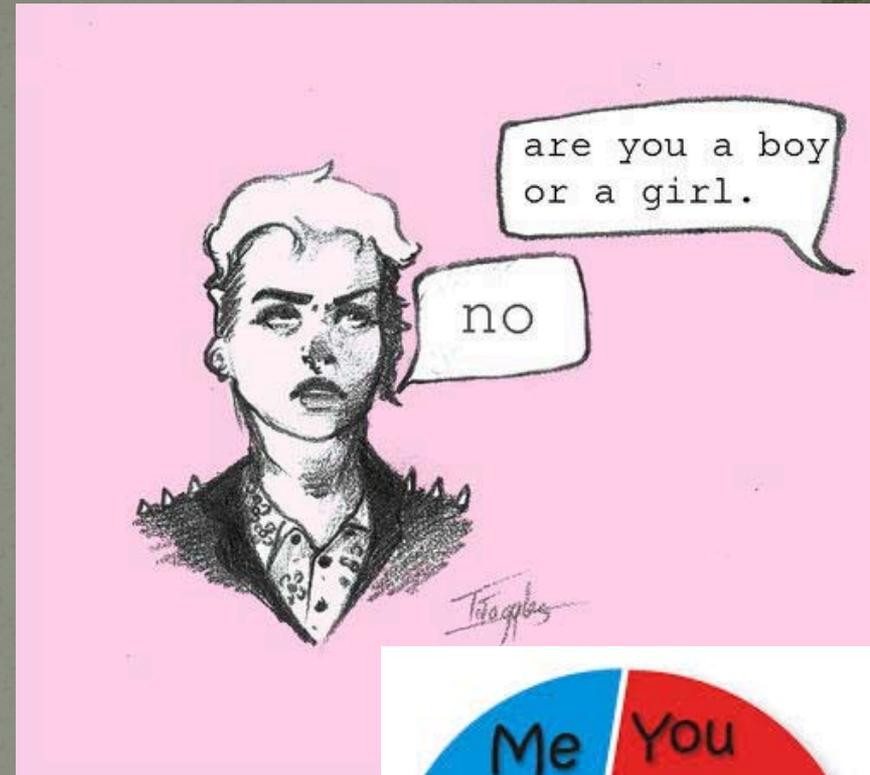
Putting the world back together

- “Instead of thinking that you put pieces together that will add up to a whole, I think you have to start with the premise that they're already together and you try to keep from destroying life by segmenting it, over-organizing it and dehumanizing it. You try to keep things together. The educative process must be organic, and not an assortment of unrelated methods and ideas.”— Myles Horton, *The Long Haul: An Autobiography*
- “For instance in graduate school we discuss ad nauseum the idea of “overlapping oppression” while we ignore the dynamics of sexism, racism, classism, ableism and other layers that shape our experiences in the institution itself. As a result of these unchecked power dynamics between students, researchers, teachers and administrators-the power structure that is a determining factor in academia-much of what comes out of there is so biased and out of touch it lacks real world relevance” - Anna Saini



Binaries to be challenged in collaborative learning

- Teacher/student
- Community/university
- Theory/practice
- Service providers/service users
- Uni-directional knowledge translation
- Qualitative/quantitative



Theory informing Veggie Burger with Bacon

- Feminist
 - Dobscha and Ozanne (2001) define this concept as ‘philosophical dualism’ which is “when differences, such as the differences between masculine and feminine, are treated as a hierarchy and one side of the dualism is valued over the other side” (p. 202).
 - Feminists are interested in challenging dualistic thinking because a causal link exists between dualistic thinking and the exploitation of women and nature (Dobscha & Ozanne, 2001).
- False dichotomies and being defined by your binary ‘opposite’ with an assumed hierarchy is one way that oppression is reinforced through discourse.



Theory informing Veggie Burger with Bacon

- Participatory
 - PAR-frames ways of knowing as complementary rather than hierarchical, challenges positivism
 - PPA sees the need to, “transcend sterile technocratic/democratic dichotomies to hold together the virtues of, and explore the connections, synergies, and mutual influences between, both deliberation and analysis in a mutual learning process” (Chilvers, 2008, p. 434).



Case Studies discussion

- A researcher declares that she will treat the participants like experts.
 1. What does it mean to be treated as an expert?
 2. How would treating someone like an expert change research in terms of research design, methodology, dissemination, etc.
 3. What positive and negative outcomes might result from treating participants like experts?
- A teacher declares that she will seek to provide a balance between action and reflection in her policy class.
 1. Should action in the community be approved by a research ethics board?
 2. What positive and negative outcomes might result from requiring action from students?
- A peer support position is renamed to avoid stigmatizing people with lived experience on their resume.
 1. Does this action reinforce or counter exclusion?
 2. What positive or negative outcomes might result from changing the job title?