

# Modeling Interdependence for Student Researchers

Veronica Arellano Douglas | @arellanover

Natalia Kapacinskas


University of Houston Libraries



CLAPS 2022

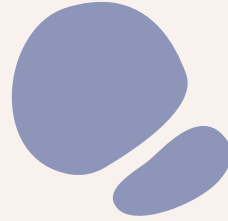
# Land Acknowledgement

The University of Houston MD Anderson Library is located in Houston's Third Ward, a historically and currently predominantly African American community. Our campus borders the city's Second Ward, home to a predominantly Latine population, and it sits on the unceded lands of the Atakapa-Ishak, Tāp Pīlam Coahuiltecan, the Sana band of the Tonkawa tribe, and Karankawa nations.





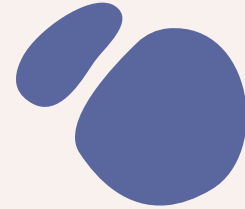
**Independence**



**(Inter)dependence**



**Research**



**Our Role**

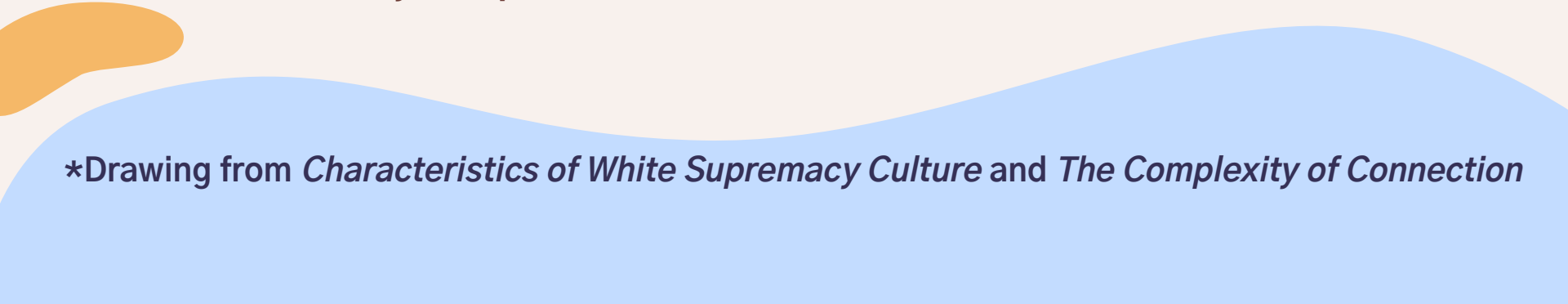


**When you do research,  
do you do so alone or  
with others?**

**If you collaborate, how  
does that look?**

# Individualism\*



- Underlying framework for United States / Western culture, White Supremacy Culture that emphasizes the individual
  - Self-reliance & self-sufficiency and mastery
  - Achievement through competition is more meaningful than achievement through collaboration
  - Individual acknowledgement and honor
  - Hierarchy and power over others
- 

\*Drawing from *Characteristics of White Supremacy Culture* and *The Complexity of Connection*

# The Star Researcher

Image removed for copyright reasons.

Alt text: Screenshot of portion of UH Today email from 9/23/2022 sent to University of Houston subscribers. Under the header “UH NEWS,” a featured article titled “Discovery Unlocks Potential of Special Muscle” is described as follows: “Marc Hamilton, professor of Health and Human Performance, is pioneering the ‘soleus pushup,’ which effectively elevates metabolism for hours, even while sitting. The soleus is a posterior leg muscle that runs from just below the knee to the heel.”

# The Real Team

Image removed for copyright reasons.

Screenshot of featured article cited on previous slide. Featured article at the following link:

<https://stories.uh.edu/2022-soleus-pushup/index.html>

Alt text for screenshot: A photograph of three people is displayed in the middle of two portions of article text. The caption reads “Study authors pictured left to right: Deborah Hamilton, senior research manager; Marc Hamilton, professor; and Theodor Zderic, research assistant professor”



**Individualism,  
Independence, &  
Teaching About Research**



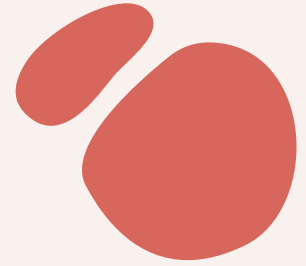
# Intentional

- “Try it on your own now.”
- “Use your own judgment.”
- Independent search time



# Unintentional

- The information literate individual / learner
- “When you’re working on your own”
- Workforce prep



**(Inter)dependence**

# Dependency

“A process of counting on other people to provide help in coping physically and emotionally with the experiences and tasks encountered in the world when one has not sufficient skill, confidence, energy, and/or time. . . .”

– Irene Stiver (*Women’s Growth and Connection*, p. 160)

**When working with students,  
when & how do you  
emphasize independence &  
interdependence? Why?**



# Harm of Individualism in Research



Inaccurate



May discourage  
help seeking



Disconnection from  
existing community



Shame-inducing



Privileges certain  
students



Furtheres stigma

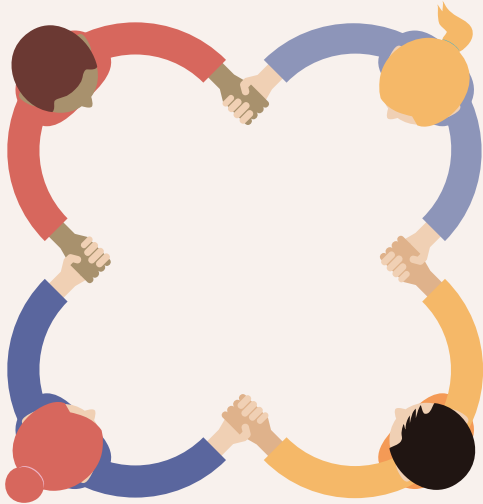


# Models of Interdependence

What does having interdependence as a scholarly value mean?



# Critical Disability Studies



## Accommodation as a practice of care

Schomberg & Highby, *Beyond Accommodation: Creating an Inclusive Workplace for Disabled Library Workers*

**Disability Justice: “we work to meet each other’s needs as we build toward liberation.”**

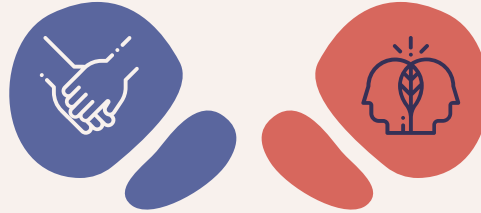
Patty Berne and Sins Invalid, “10 Principles of Disability Justice”

**Access Intimacy: “interdependence in action”**

Mia Mingus, “Access Intimacy, Interdependence and Disability Justice.”

# Relational-Cultural Theory

**Connection  
at the core**



**Mutuality is  
key**

**Dependency  
is a process**



**Fiction of true  
autonomy**



# Indigenous Information Literacy

## Relationality

Defined roles in how we are related to each other

## Reciprocity

Who we are accountable to/ responsible for



Loyer, J. (2018). "Indigenous Information Literacy: Nêhiyaw Kinship Enabling Self-Care in Research." *The Politics of Theory and the Practice of Critical Librarianship*, ed. Maura Seale & Karen P. Nicholson. Library Juice Press.

# Cite Black Women Movement



**Citation as  
praxis**



**Cite & engage with  
Black women's  
intellectual  
contributions**



**Collective  
authorship  
practices**




**What does interdependence  
look like in your community?**

# Scenario 1


You're prepping for a workshop for an Honors Intro to Biology class. Students are working on a short literature review for a research proposal on a macromolecule of their choice. They have to generate a research question and review 3 other students' proposals.

How would you promote interdependence (as an idea, but also in practice) in this session? What challenges do you anticipate in doing so?


# Thanks!



Natalia Kapacinskas  
[nckapacinskas@uh.edu](mailto:nckapacinskas@uh.edu)



Veronica Arellano Douglas  
[vadouglas@uh.edu](mailto:vadouglas@uh.edu)



**CREDITS:** This presentation template was created by [Slidesgo](#), including icons from [Flaticon](#), infographics & images by [Freepik](#).

# References

- Adams, K. and Gloor, E. (2022). “Making Space: DIY Punk Strategies for Critical Information Literacy.” Connecticut Information Literacy Conference.
- Berne, P. and Sins Invalid (2015). “10 Principles of Disability Justice.” *Sins Invalid*, <https://www.sinsinvalid.org/blog/10-principles-of-disability-justice>.
- hooks, b. (1994). *Teaching to Transgress*. New York: Routledge.
- Loyer, J. (2018). “Indigenous Information Literacy: Nêhiyaw Kinship Enabling Self-Care in Research.” *The Politics of Theory and the Practice of Critical Librarianship*, ed. Maura Seale & Karen P. Nicholson. Library Juice Press.
- Jordan, J. V., Hartling, L.M. & Walker, M. (2004). *The Complexity of Connection: Writings from the Stone Center’s Jean Baker Miller Training Institute*. New York: Guilford Press.
- Jordan, J. V., Kaplan, A. G., Miller, J. B., Stiver, I. P., & Surrey, J. L. (1991). *Women’s growth in connection: Writings from the Stone Center*. New York: Guilford Press.
- Mingus, M. (2017). “Access Intimacy, Interdependence and Disability Justice.” *Leaving Evidence*. <https://leavingevidence.wordpress.com/2017/04/12/access-intimacy-interdependence-and-disability-justice/>

# References

- Okun, T. (2021). “White Supremacy Culture – Still Here.” *White Supremacy Culture*. <https://www.whitesupremacyculture.info/>
- Schomberg, J. and Highby, W. (2019). *Beyond Accommodation: Creating an Inclusive Workplace for Disabled Library Workers*. Litwin Books, LLC.
- Smith, C.A., Williams, E.L., Wadud, I.A., Pirtle, W.N.L. and The Cite Black Women Collective (2021), “Cite Black Women: A Critical Praxis (A Statement).” *Feminist Anthropology*, 2: 10–17. <https://doi.org/10.1002/fea2.12040>.
- Stiver, I. (1991). “The Meanings of ‘Dependency’ in Female–Male Relationships.” *Women’s Growth in Connection: Writings from the Stone Center*, ed. Judith V. Jordan, Alexandra Kaplan, Jean Baker Miller, Irene P. Stiver, Janet L. Surrey. New York: Guilford Press.