OUTCOMES OF DECOLONIZATION IN THE CLASSROOM

By Hannah Conner, M.A.

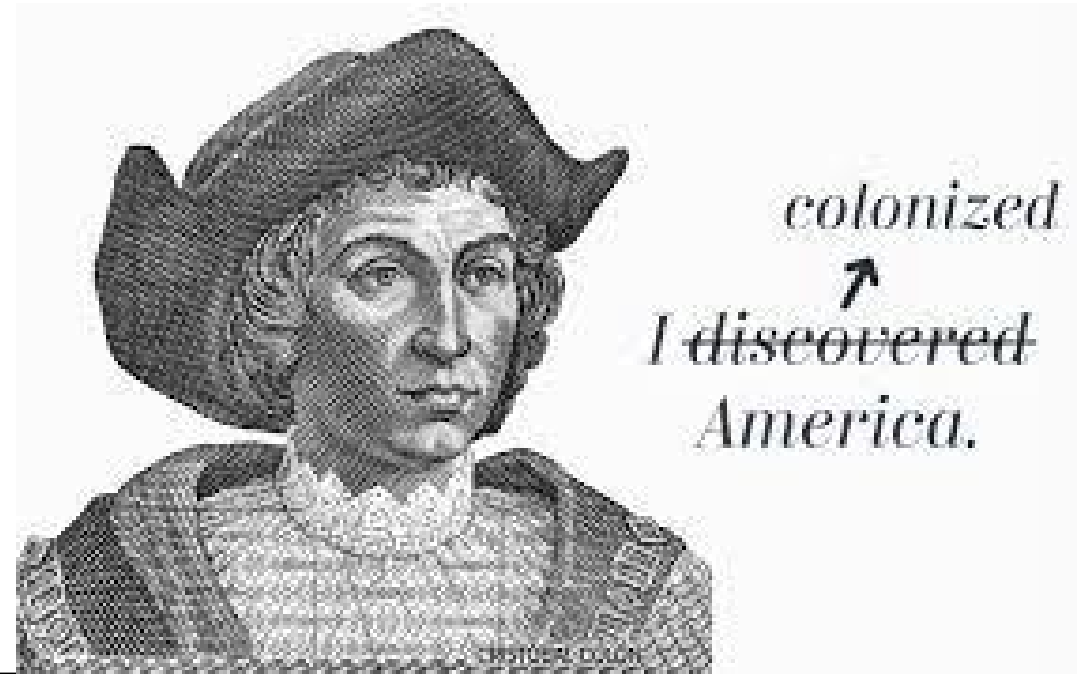In partnership with UNC's DEI 2022-2023 Fellowship

ROADMAP

- What is the current concern?
  - Literature overview
- Classroom Creation
  - Course creation
  - Equity Policy
- Course Framework
  - Course objectives
- Next steps
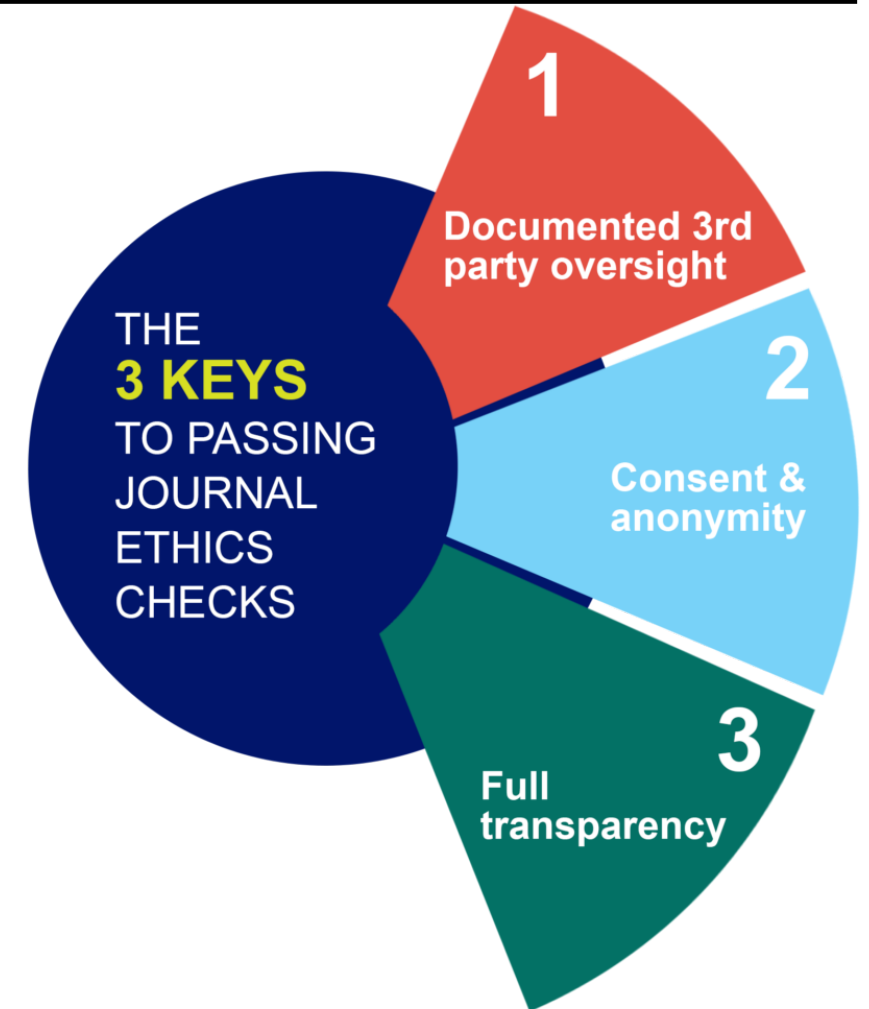 - Resources to use

COLONIALIZATION AND EDUCATION

- Settler Colonialism
    - Involves the acquisition of land
    - And the replacement of indigenous people by settlers
    - This is an ongoing structure, not just an event of the past
    - Is perpetuated by our societal structures today, including higher education
        - What storied do we exclude from our classroom?

colonized
↗
I discovered
America.

THE CURRENT CONCERN

- For Research Courses
  - Historically, the field of research has been held by people in society with privileged identities (Remedios 2022, Seaton 2022).
  - Most commonly, theorists and academics that developed what is still used as "best research practices" were predominately white, affluent, and educated men (Embrick and Moore 2020).
  - Concerns around research methodology and the perpetuation of the hegemonic structure (Seaton 2022)

THE **3 KEYS** TO PASSING JOURNAL ETHICS CHECKS

1 Documented 3rd party oversight

2 Consent & anonymity

3 Full transparency

What's missing from this graphic?

THE CURRENT CONCERN

- Lack of comprehension around white supremacy and research practices have created an unsavory timeline of the history of research (Emrick and Moore 2020).

- Although policies have been put into place, it is important to note ethical violations that are still occurring (Resnik 2022).

Table 1: Timeline of Ethics Violations in Research

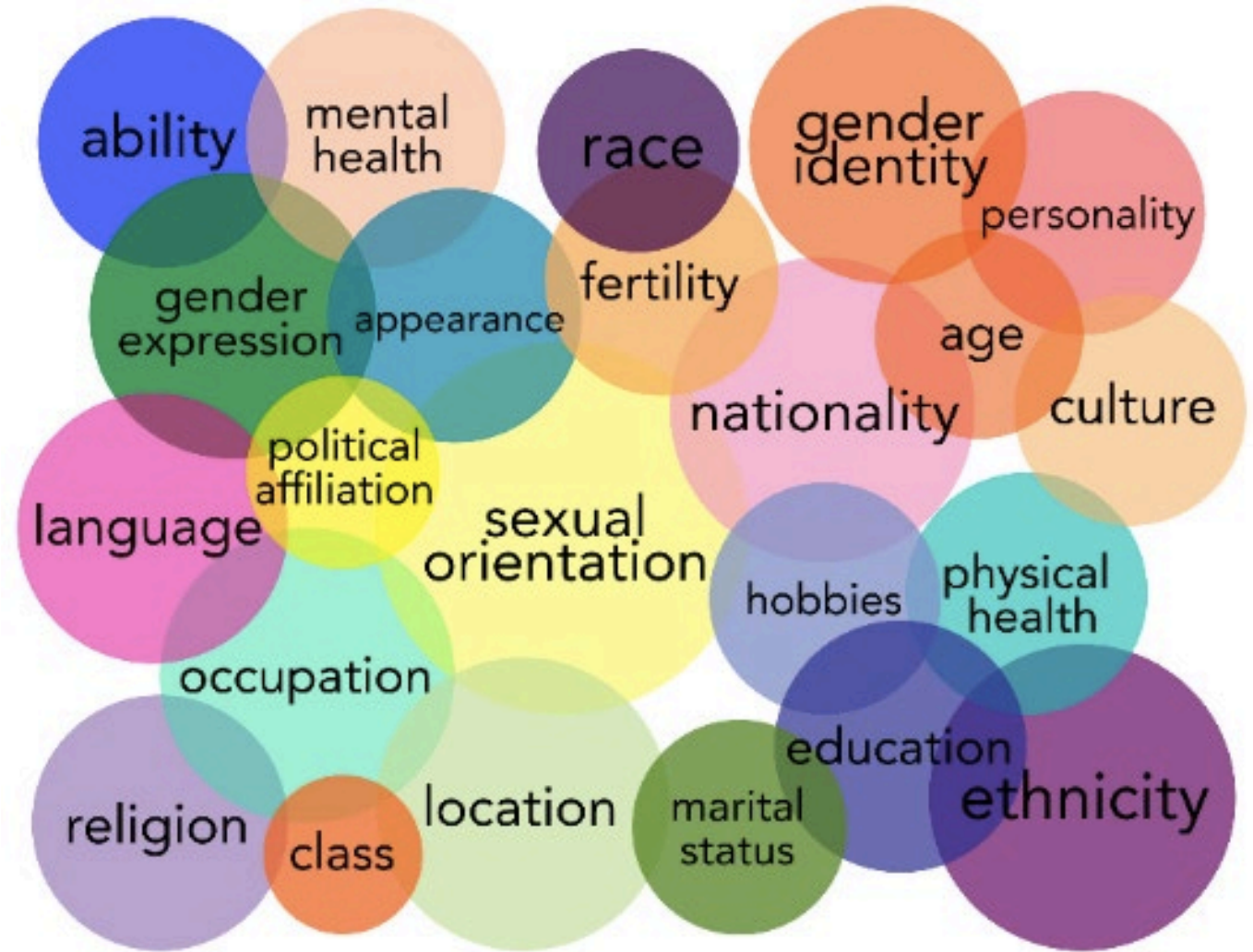| Year	Event
1932-1972	The Tuskegee Syphilis Study
1939-45	Abhorrent research conducted on concentration camp prisoners and Chinese prisoners of war
1944-1980s	U.S. government sponsors secret research on effects of radiation, participants were unaware of experiment
1948	Alfred Kinsey publishes controversial report on sexual behavior based off of Gender
1953	James Watson and Francis Crick discover structure of DNA, win Nobel Prize. Secretly obtained data from Rosalind Franklin without permission
1956-1980	Sual Krugman, Joan Giles, and other researchers conduct hepatitis experiments on mentally disabled children.
1950s-1963	The CIA begin a mind control research program and administer LSD to unwitting subjects
1974	Congress passes the National Research Act, which authorizes federal agencies to develop human research regulations
1979	The National Commission releases The Belmont Report, principles of ethical research on human subjects.
1981	John Darsee, a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard, is accused of fabricating data.
1982	William Broad and Nicholas Wade publishes Betrayers of Truth, claiming that there is more misconduct in science than researchers are admitting.
1989	The NIH requires that all graduate students on training grants receive education in responsible conduct of research
1994	Roger Poisson admits to fabricating and falsifying patient data in breast cancer clinical trials.
1994	Two Scientists testify before congress about the secret research on additive properties of nicotine, which could have changed the restrictions of nicotine if public.
1995-2003	Dozens of studies publish the conflicting relationship between funders and researchers and research outcomes
1999	Jessi Gelsinger dies in a human gene therapy experiment at the University of Pennsylvania
2002	Scientists publish several papers in prominent journals with direct implications of bioterrorism.
2010	Lancet retracts a fraudulent paper, published in 1998 by Andrew Wakefield, linking autism to the measles vaccine

DISRUPTING THE STATUS QUO

- How do you deconstruct popular beliefs, backed up with hundreds of years of proven techniques, for research practice?
    - Focusing on an indigenous centered framework (Brendix et al. 2020, Quinless 2022).

- Raza, also known as "the community," is described as a way to incorporate existing institutional structures like "the family" while also providing space for healing, recovery, and development (Zavala 2013).
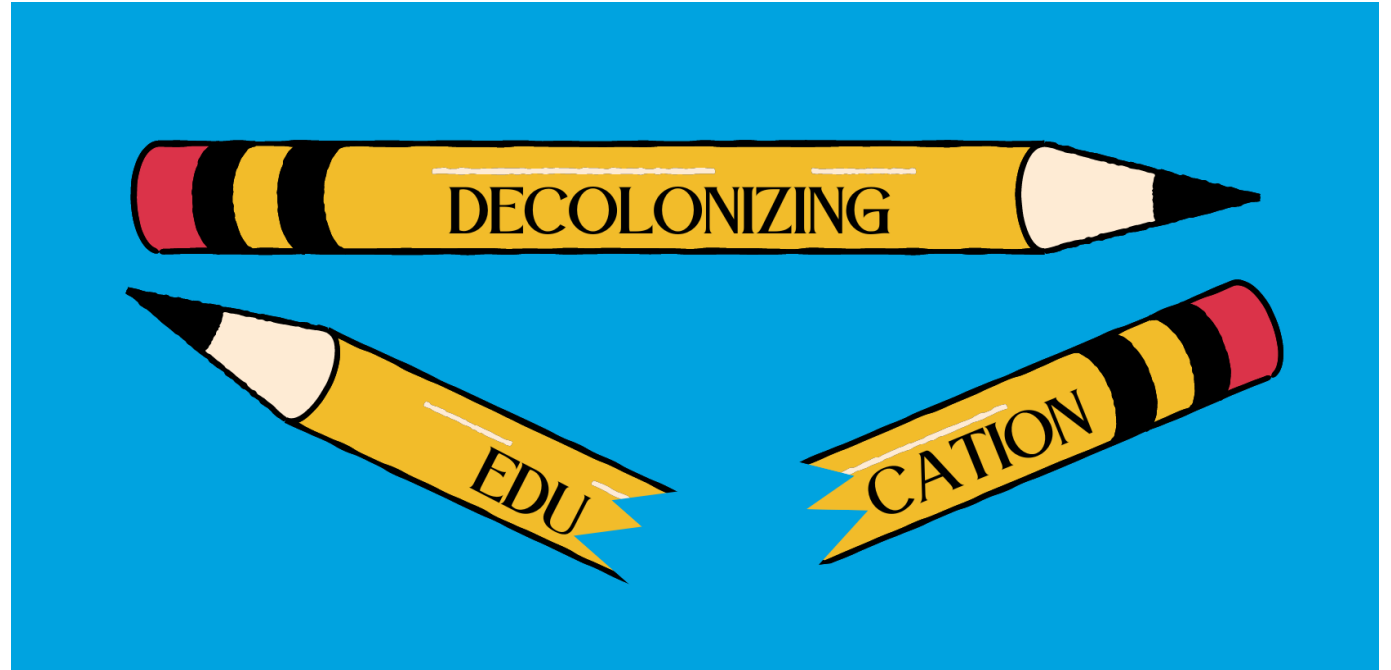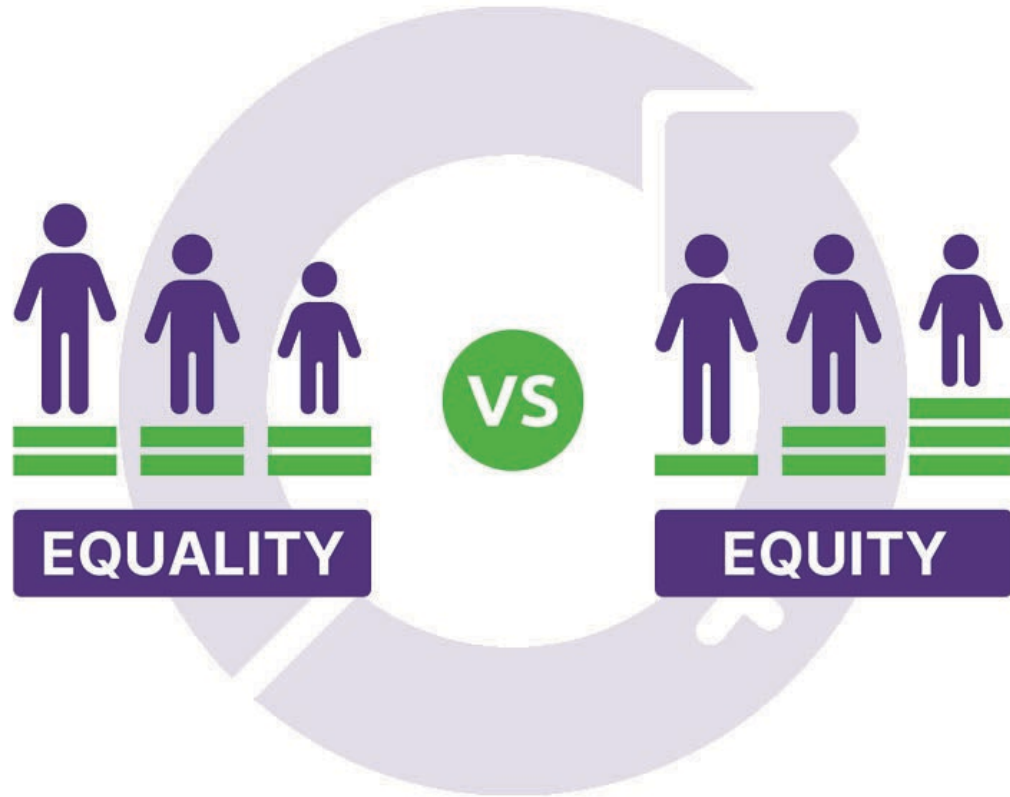
DISRUPTING THE STATUS QUO

- Understanding our Identities
  - Our philosophical understanding of the world and society are heavily influenced by our identities and belief systems we have adapted over time (Held 2019).
  - Decolonizing research should not be an afterthought, but rather a process that should be "developed, from scratch, conjointly between indigenous and western researchers" (Held 2019).

DISRUPTING THE STATUS QUO

- By disrupting colonization in the classroom, we can:
  - Help students form their identities, rather than forcing an identity on them
  - Value cultural heritage
  - Focus on positive nondeficit-based approaches
  - Educate the whole person, not just the intellect

HOW TO CREATE A DECOLONIZED COURSE?

- A Systematic Review of other institutions indigenous centered research courses
  - Review: course title, instructor name, course objective, reading materials, and course level
- Equity Policy Review
  - Identifies project origin, creation, goals, accountability, discrepancies, and measurability
  - Defined main objectives: Awareness of colonization of research, research perpetuating the current hegemonic structure, ways to decolonize research, comfortability creating a research project, recommendations for course improvement.
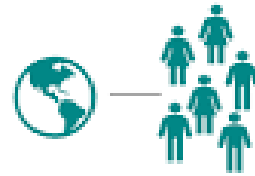
CURRENT COURSE FRAMEWORK

- Course Title: SOC 395 "Applied Research for Careers"

- Student Capacity: 20 undergraduate students

- Prerequisites: None

- Course Description: The purpose of the course is to practice applied research relevant to different workforce industries with a foundation in diversity, equity, and inclusion. Through this course, we will learn how to create research processes from beginning to end on an applicable and relevant research project. We will define key elements of research theory and methodology, focusing on indigenous centered research.
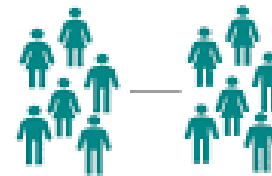
NEXT STEPS: DATA ANALYSIS

- Course assessment

- Pre- and Post- Anonymous survey

- Unstructured Interviews (post course)

- Data analysis
  - Paired Sample T-Testing
  - Crosstabulations
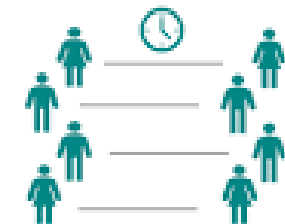 - Coding for Qualitative Themes (NVivo)

One sample t-test

Is there a **difference** between a **group** and the **population**
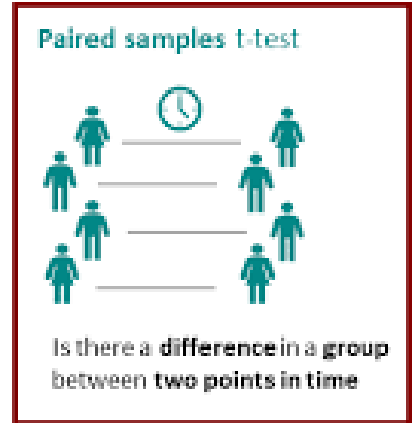
Independent samples t-test

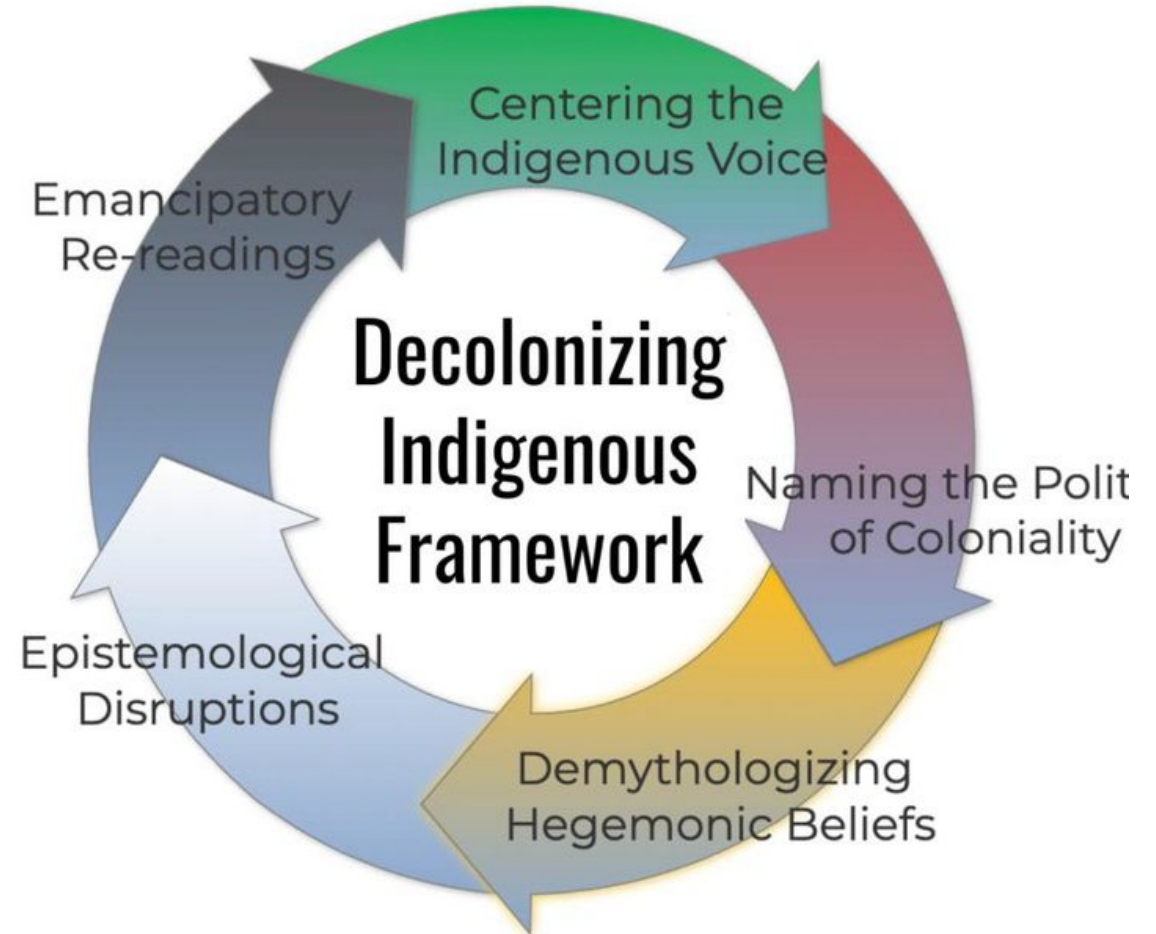Is there a **difference** between **two groups**

Paired samples t-test

Is there a **difference** in a group between **two points in time**

NEXT STEPS: COURSE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TOOL KIT

- Student data will guide course restructure
  - Reading material, theory, research project, etc.
- Student data will guide tool kit creation
  - A guide for other instructors to incorporate an indigenous centered practice

RESOURCES TO USE NOW

Start with the Colorado's Department
of Higher Education Self Inquiry Toolkit:

Resources for Syllabus:
Center for Urban Education (CUE) toolkit:

THANK YOU TO…

- Center for the Enhancement of Teaching & Learning

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Thank you to all the researchers that have come before and dared to question research methodology and the hegemonic structure. Thank you to the indigenous researchers and activists that have always fought for an indigenous centered lens for communities.

CITATIONS

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