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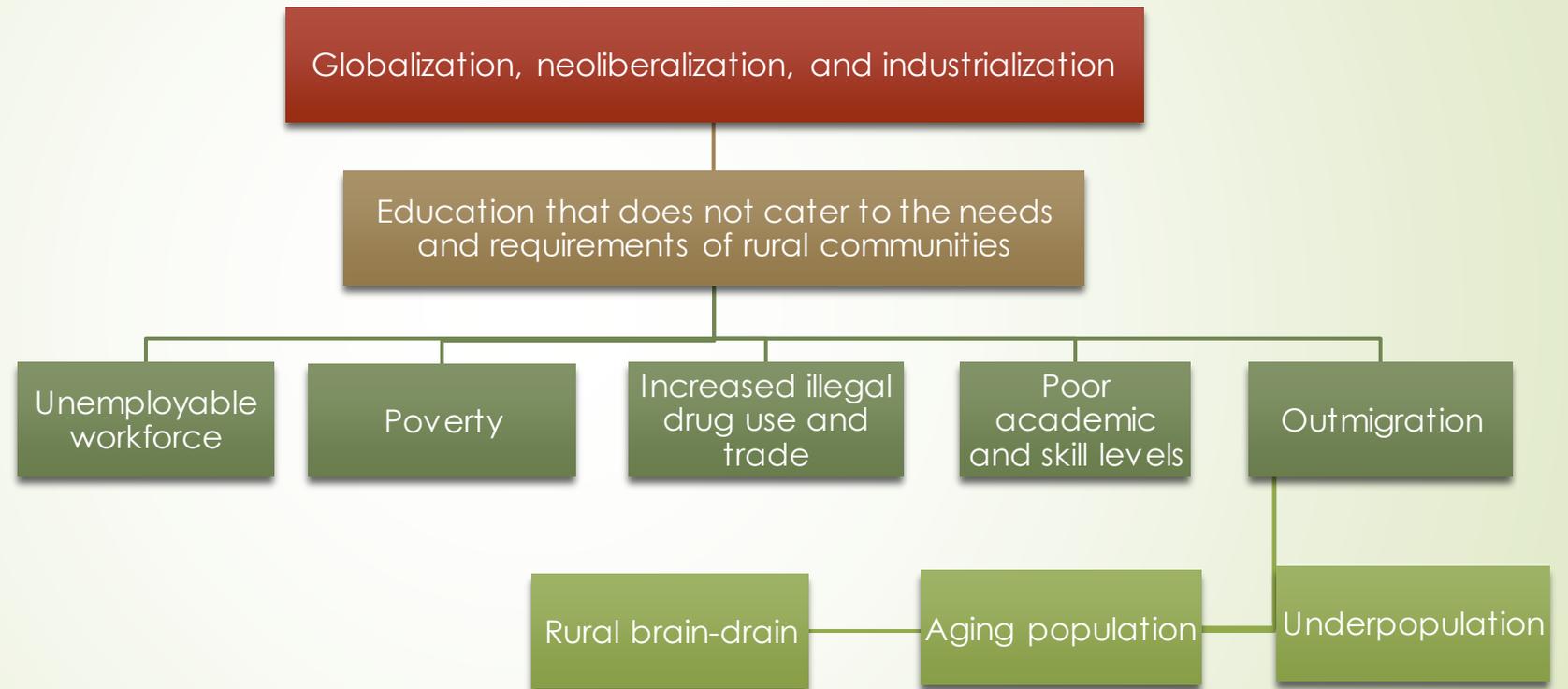
**Atlantic Education Graduate Student Conference 2020**

# **When Rural Dilemmas Intersect: A Methodological Approach to Exploring Rural Education in Trinidad and Tobago**

Supervisor: Dr Elizabeth Sloat



# Problems Facing Rural Communities



# School-Community Partnership

A catalyst to rural community development.

*Transformative Leaders*



Freire, 2002, 2014; Shields, 2003, 2011, 2018.



**What are the perceptions of T&T's rural educators, students, and community members, about school-community partnerships in promoting communities' economic development?**





# Qualitative Case Study

## **Embedded Units**

educators, students, and community members.

## **Methods**

Questionnaires

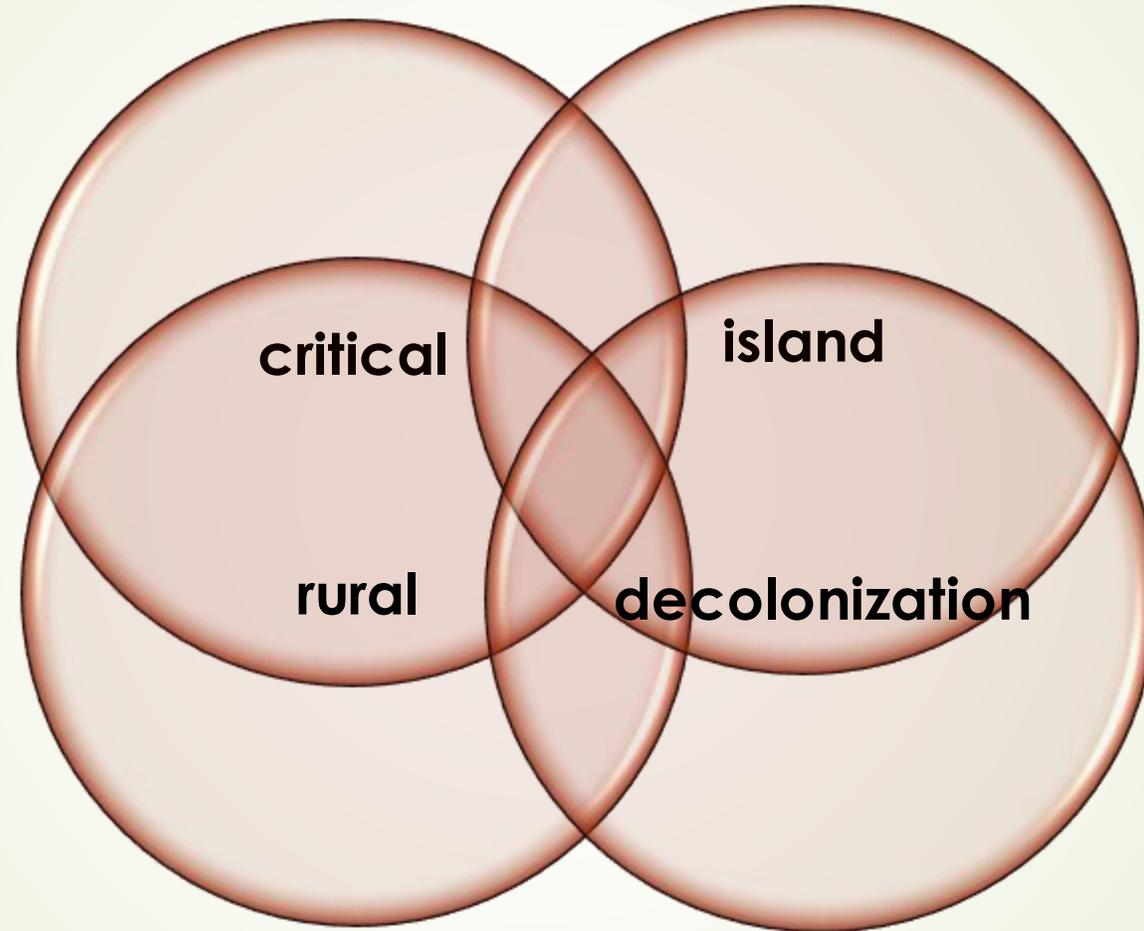
Interviews

Field observation

Journal

Cellfilming

# Theoretical Lens: Intersectionality





## Critical Theory

- Urban power plays an integral role in determining national educational curriculum, policies, and recommended pedagogies (Schafft, 2016).

## Island Theory

- Rural communities within islands experience exacerbated challenges (Cookie & Peterson, 2019).

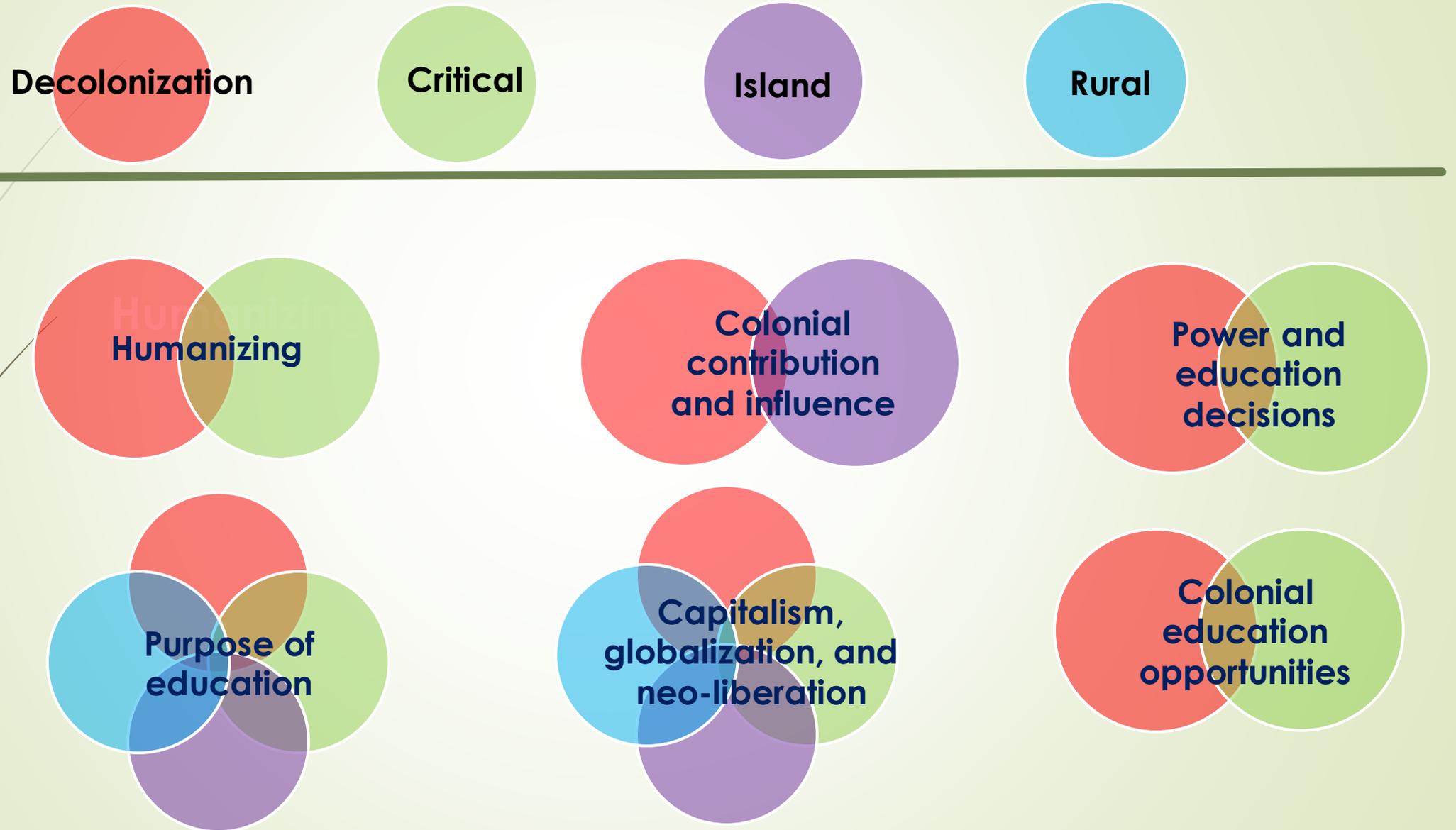
## Critical Theory

- Both internal and external interactions create a complex situation for rural communities (Corbett, 2016; Shields, 2017).

## Critical Theory

- T&T continues along a path of rural education neglect attributed to a historical colonial system that was never intended to provide equal and equitable education opportunities (De Lisle, Seecharan, & Aydi, 2010).

# Intersections



# Intersections cont.

Decolonization

Critical

Island

Rural

Highstakes  
exams

Vocational  
subjects

Attachment  
to place

Unique  
characteristics  
of islanders

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