



# POWER IN GLOBAL HEALTH

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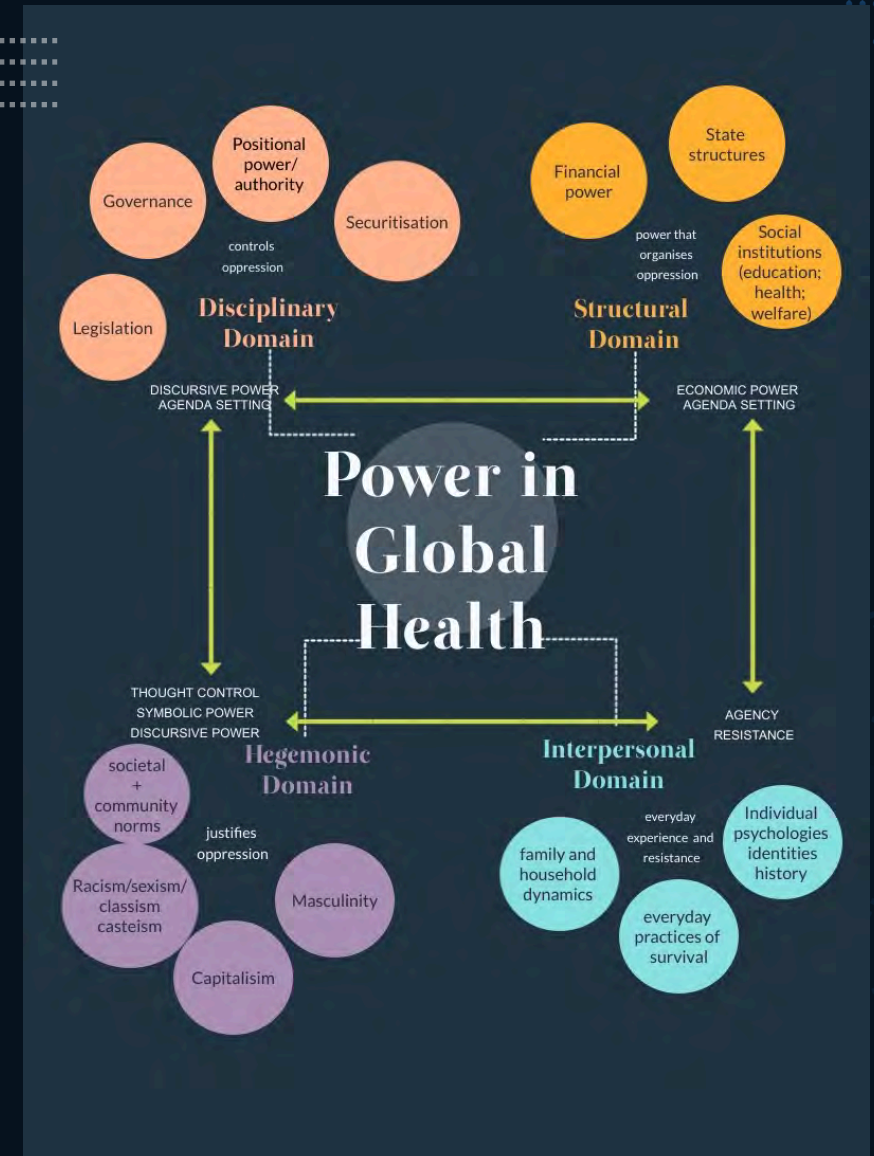




# Rethinking the field of power relations in Global Health: Matrix of domination in Global Health (Burgess, 2023)

# Structural Domain:

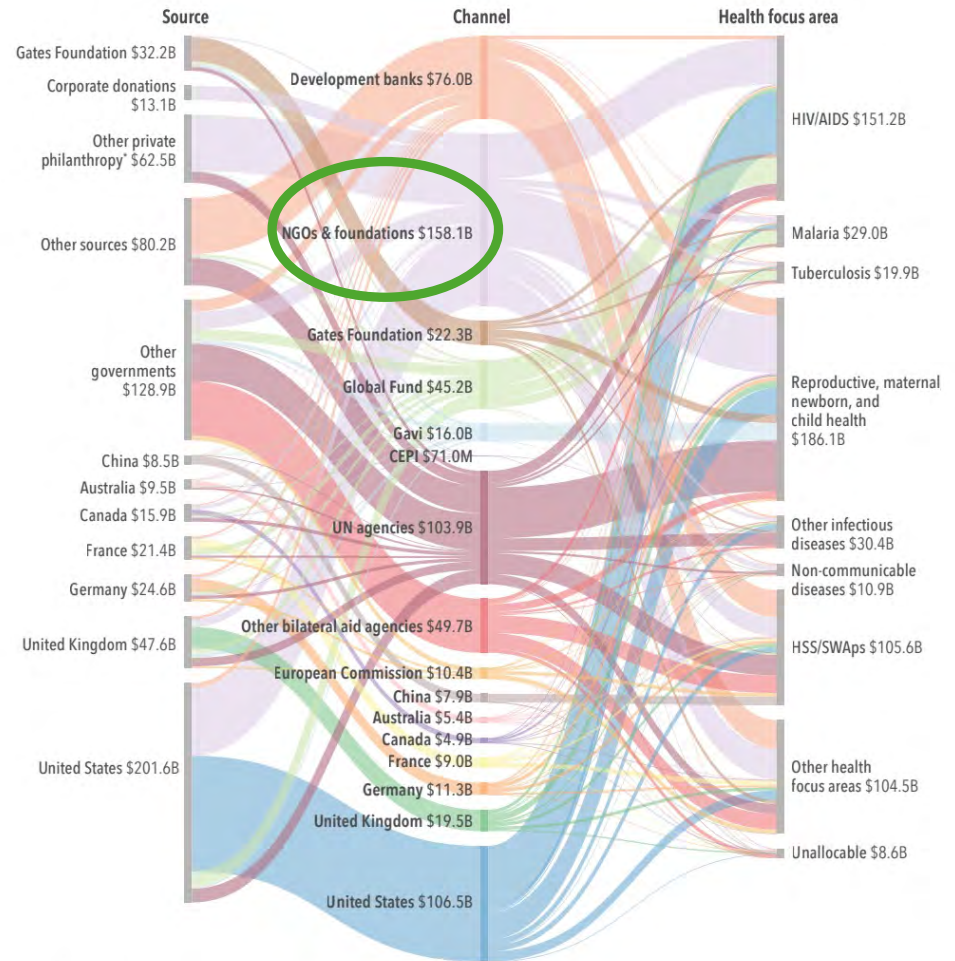
- Organising oppression through macro-level social structures
- Material forms of power here are critical to operation of civil society
- i.e. – where do NGOs get their money?



Follow the money:  
 How much money  
 flows through NGOs?  
 And where does it  
 go?

FIGURE 12

Flows of development assistance for health from source to channel to health focus area, 1990–2018



\*Excluding the Gates Foundation and corporate donations. 2018 estimates are preliminary

"Other health focus areas" captures development assistance for health for which we have health focus area information but which is not identified as being allocated to any of the health focus areas listed. Health assistance for which we have no health focus area information is designated as "Unallocable." "Other sources" captures development assistance for health for which we have source information but which is not identified as originating within any of the sources listed.

HSS/swaps = Health systems strengthening and sector-wide approaches

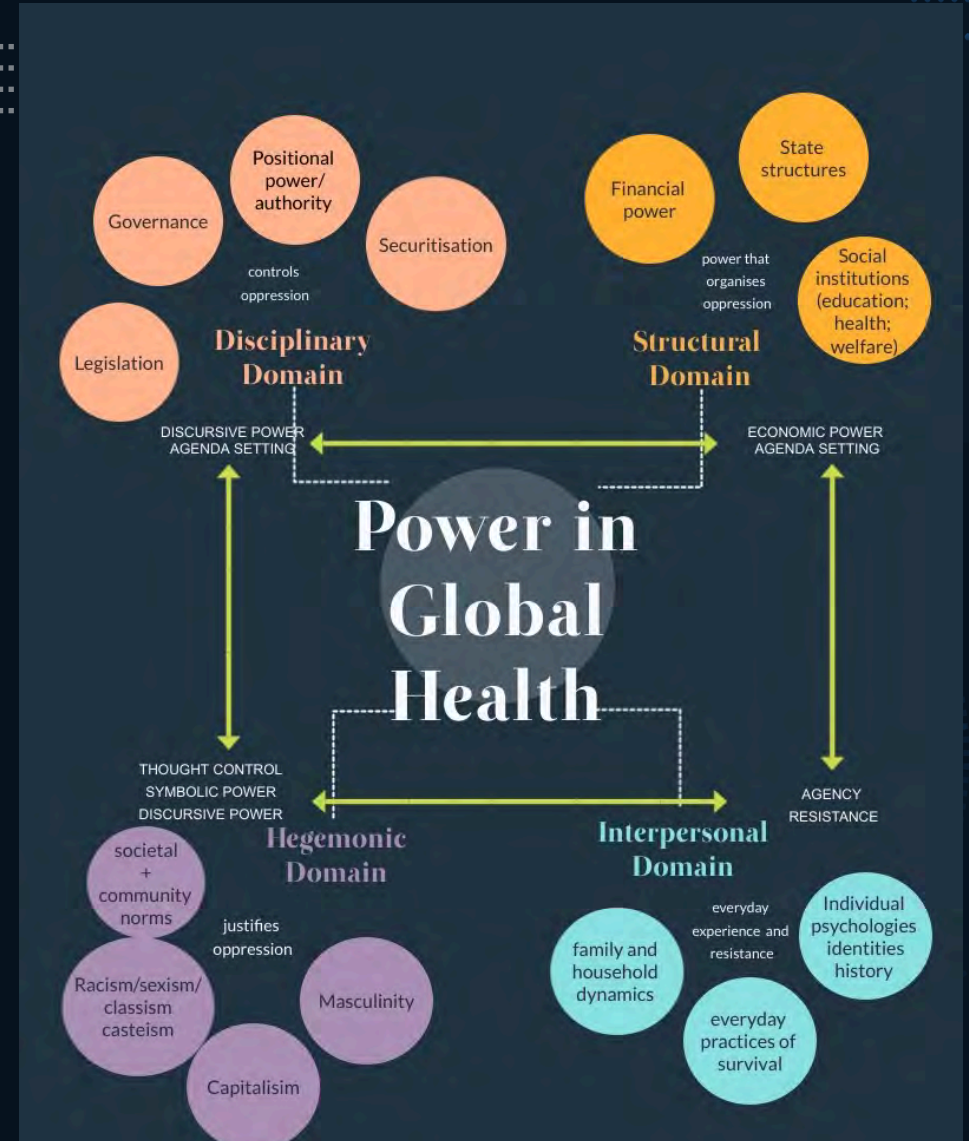
Source: Financing Global Health Database 2018

# Disciplinary domain

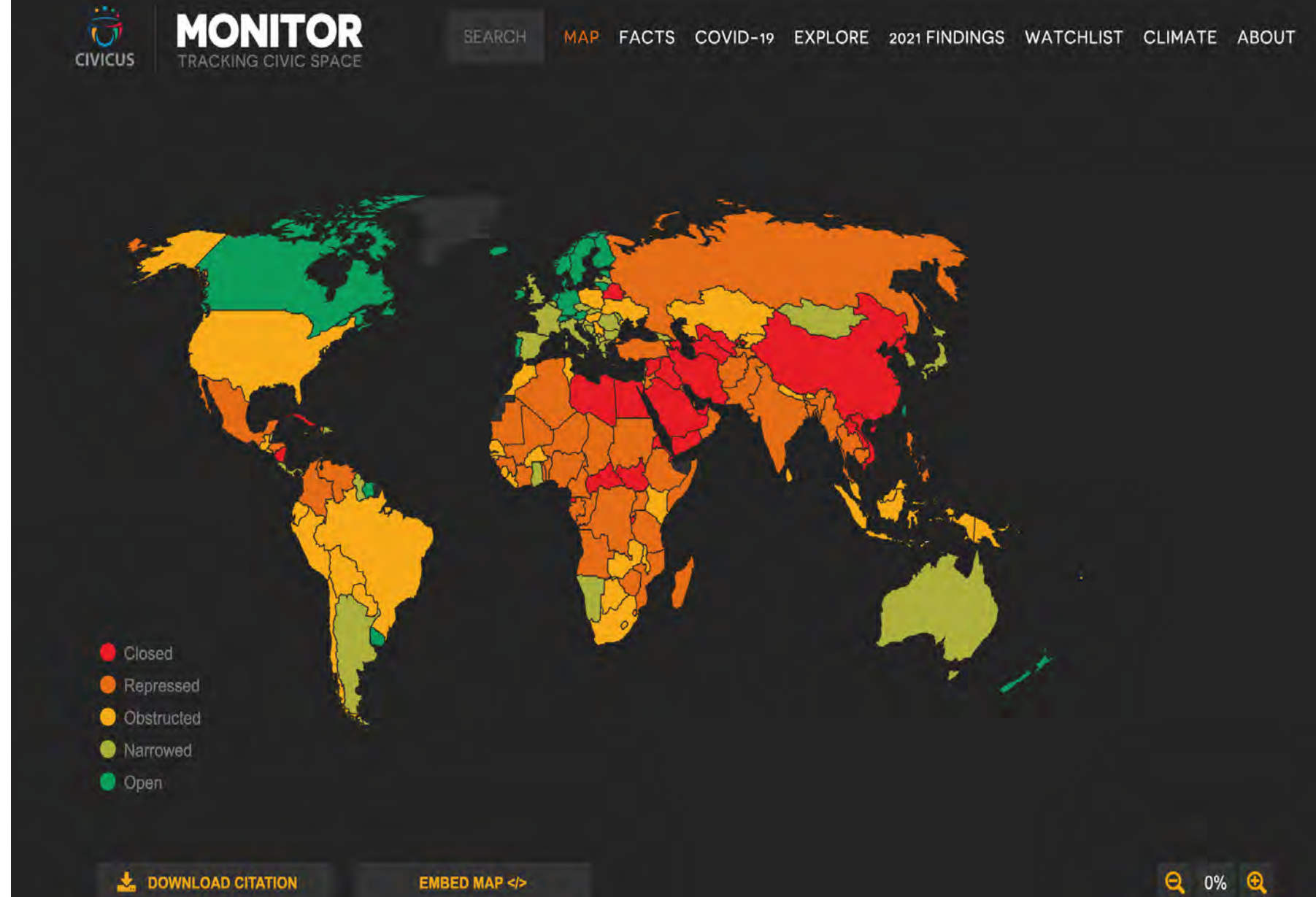
What is possible in the realm of action of various actors is pre-determined by these structures in society and the public sphere

Managing operations, practices and possibilities for action

- Foucault (Disciplinarity)
- Legislative power
- Securitisation



# How much can civil society truly participate? CIVICUS, 2021



• Source: <https://civicus.org/state-of-civil-society-report-2021/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CIVICUS-State-of-Civil-Society-Report-ENG-OVERVIEW.pdf>

# Hegemonic domain: maintains oppression through shaping consciousness

How do you control action? The establishment of normative ideals which legitimize ways of thinking about others, each other, yourself.

Discursive power (Hall)

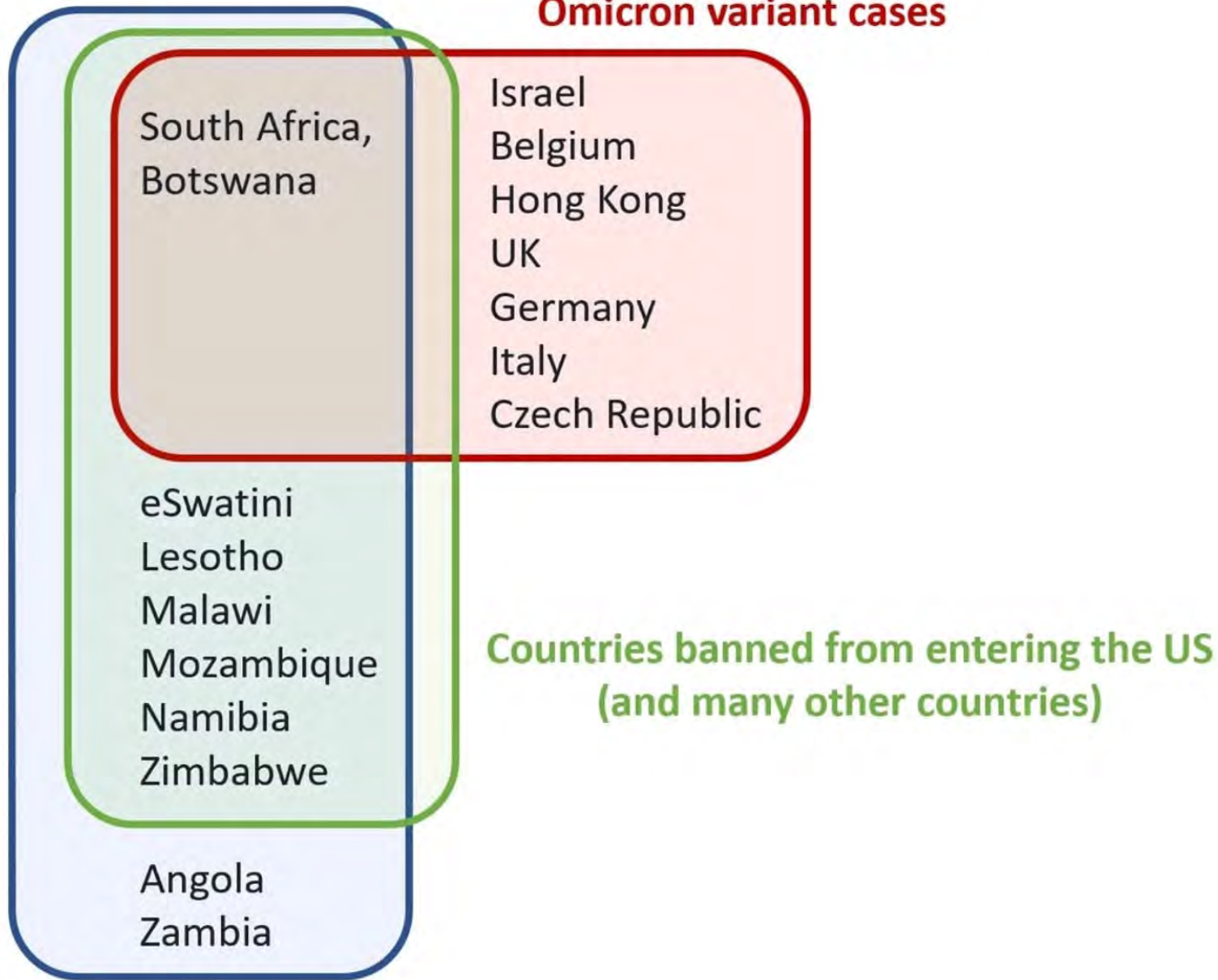
Symbolic power

Thought control



## Countries in Southern Africa

## Countries with confirmed Omicron variant cases



**Ngozi**  
@udnore

Nothing to see here  
These are a complete  
evidenced based p

12:53 PM · Nov 28, 2021 · T

**3,586** Retweets **219** Qu

**12.3K** Likes



Tweet your re



**Eric Reinhart** @\_E  
Replying to @udno  
Existing US+Europ  
“biosecurity” are b  
—ie, principles & p  
segregation—couc  
This is both racist

Genuine biosecurit  
building care syste  
& militaristic fantas

140

3.8K

12.3K



# Interpersonal domain:

everyday micro-practices that maintain oppression; or *enable survival*





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# Working with and through power in GH: Transformative Global Health (Burgess, 2024)

**TABLE 6.1 TOWARDS A TRANSFORMATIVE GLOBAL HEALTH PARADIGM**

<i>Locations of assumptions and key practices</i>	<i>Traditional global health approaches</i>	<i>A transformative global health</i>
Defining the 'problem'	Dominance of individualist philosophies (can result in victim blaming, separation of groups with shared adversities)	<b>Problems reframed in terms of socio-political context and diversity</b>
Focus of intervention or research	Dominance of deficits and problems – health challenges; resource deficits and gaps	<b>Competence and strengths as the orientation to support programming: there is no such thing as a tabula rasa</b>
Goals of intervention or research	Reduction of behaviours deemed 'maladaptive': reducing risky behaviours, promoting healthy behaviour	<b>Promotion of competence and wellness; illuminating structural barriers to healthy actions; establishing platforms for social action and new possibilities</b>
Role of 'client' or participant	Compliance with treatment regimens; compliance with interventions	<b>Active participant who exercises choice and self-direction; dictates the involvement of external actors on their own terms</b>
Types of research	Applied research based on binary assumptions research embedded within paradigms that contribute to interpretive marginalisation and silencing	<b>Participatory research &amp; methods that highlight influence of context and complexity, and resist silencing, and co-produce outcomes along a trajectory of short and long term action for social change</b>

# Importance of quiet activism (Gumbonzvanda, Gumbonzvanda & Burgess, 2021)

The Nhangas as a methodology reminds us that:

1. Solidarity is built in small and large ways
2. Alliances with people across divides are critical to success and change
3. Value systems can find points of intersection – and these are the sites where we can work for change
4. Exclusion of ‘opposing’ groups can also lead to silencing that reduces our capacities for change



## Where to from here: Power and privilege

“Oppression is filled with such contradictions because these approaches fail to recognize that a matrix of dominations contains few pure victims or oppressors.... ***Each individual derives varying amounts of penalty and privilege*** from the multiple systems that frame everyone’s lives” Collins, p.306

