

Columbia • Ecuador • Egypt • Ghana • India • Indonesia • Morocco • Romania • Senegal • South Africa • Tanzania • Vietnam

YOUNG PEOPLE AND RELATIONAL WELLBEING The academic project

Prof Sharlene Swartz
Human Sciences Research Council



fondation
BOTNAR



7 – 9
October

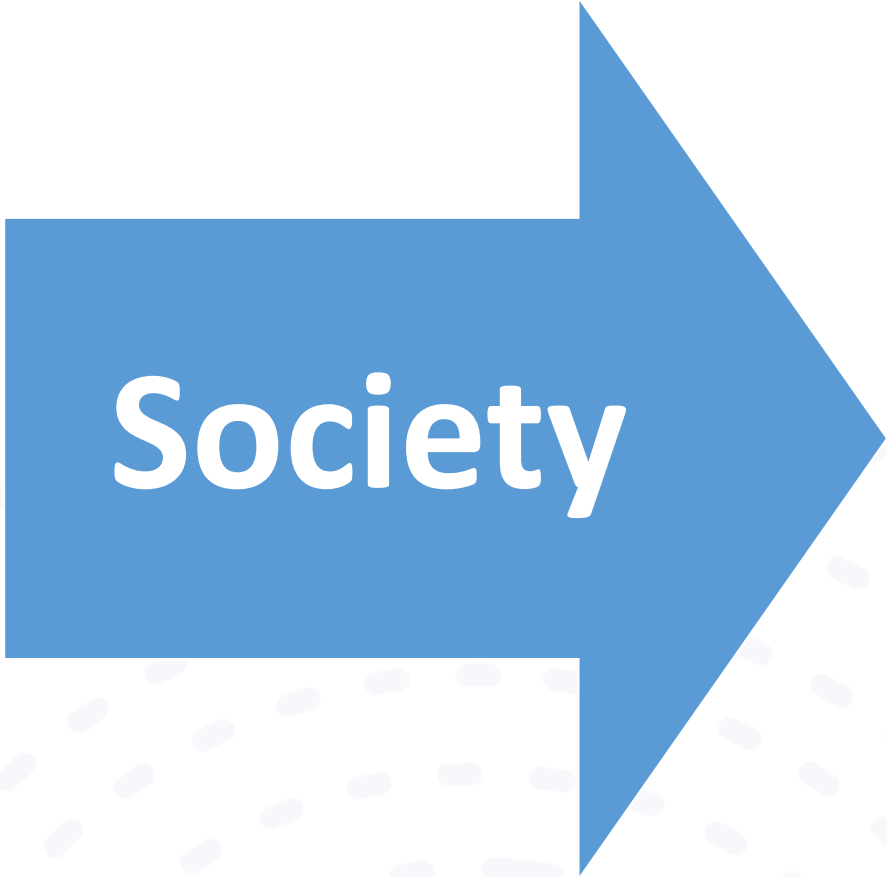
2025



Who is in the room?



Youth



Society

Who is in the room?

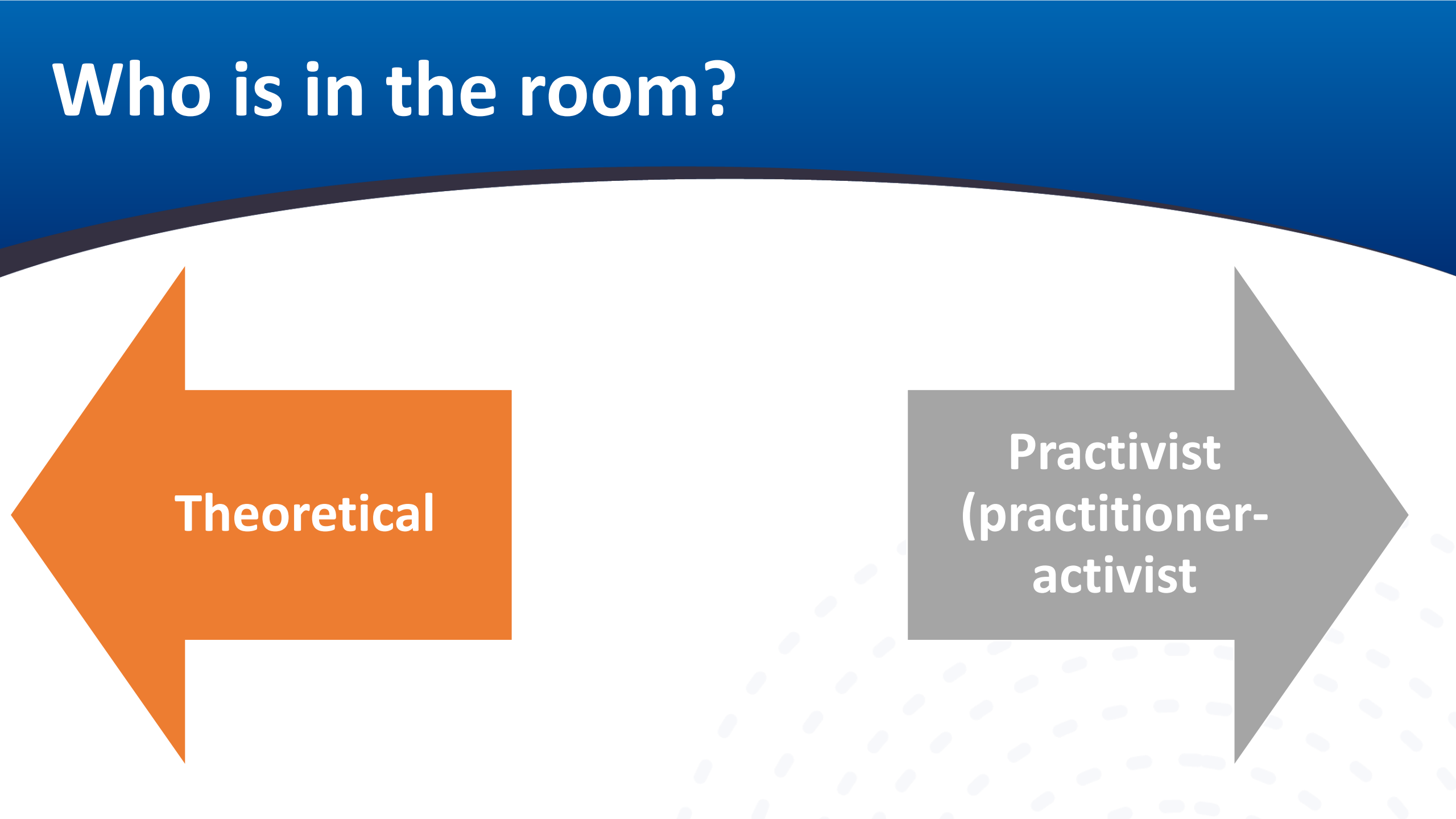


Emerging
researcher



Seasoned
researcher

Who is in the room?



Theoretical

**Practivist
(practitioner-
activist)**

A programme of research on relational wellbeing

1. Test, refine develop the concept of “relational wellbeing” as a vehicle to understanding, assessing, and advancing the wellbeing of young people, both conceptually and methodologically
2. Use the RWB approach to generate empirical insights into the challenges to wellbeing among young people in urban environments
3. Build a community of practice around relational wellbeing - researchers, practitioners, academics, civil society (including youth and youth NGOs), government and private sector decision-makers

Focus on relational wellbeing

Centering Young people

Five-year research programme:
preparatory and main phase

12 target countries

Livelihoods

Climate change

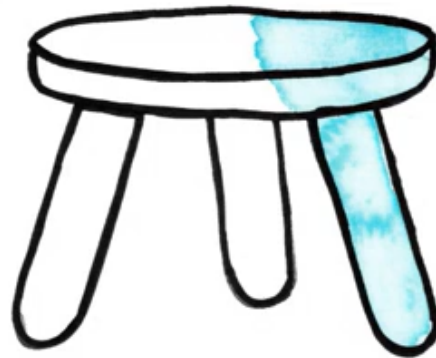
Digitisation

Mental health

What is relational wellbeing?

NotebookLM

Relational Wellbeing



Relational concepts from the Global South: collective wellbeing, mutual aid, shared humanity

Ubuntu

Ujamaa

Harambee

Kapwa

Mink'a

Biakoye

Bien Común

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Gotong Royong

Tình Làng Nghĩa Xóm

Omenie

Sumak Kawsay

Buen Vivir

Cor Chee

What is the academic project?

1. Evidence
2. Theory building
3. Theory testing
4. Case studies
5. A measurement tool
6. Interventions
7. With some anchors ...
8. A research study or a programme of research?



How to build a theory?

