Reclaiming Ethics, Decolonizing Libraries

Exploring a New Intersectional Framework for Allyship and Ethical Practice

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> "We cannot know permanently what is right and what is true and so we must never give in to the temptation to suppress what we don't believe in or agree with or find painful to hear.
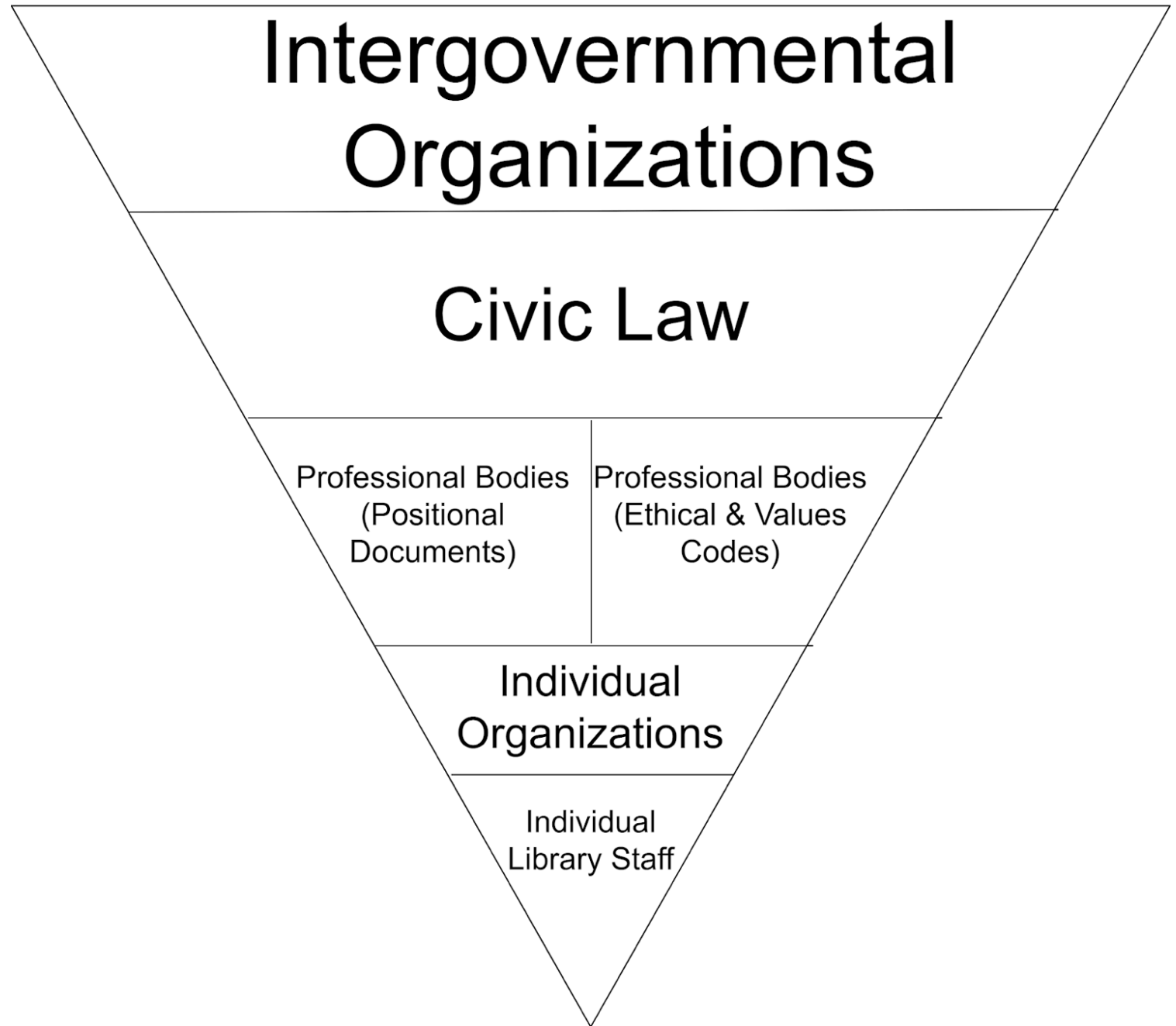
The Right of Every Individual

To Both Seek and Receive Information

From All Points of View without Restriction

A Critical Perspective

A New Framework

Ethics In Context

Intergovernmental Organizations

Civic Law

Professional Bodies (Positional Documents)

Professional Bodies (Ethical & Values Codes)

Individual Organizations

Individual Library Staff

Intellectual Freedom

- Consistent
- Explicit
- *Pars pro toto*

Year	Document
1789	First Amendment to the US Constitution
1939	ALA Code of Ethics Library Bill of Rights
1945	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
1974	CLA/CFLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom and Libraries
1987	Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (§319-1, §319-2)
1999	IFLA Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom
2004	ALA Core Values of Librarianship

1763	Royal Proclamation
1876	The Indian Act
1982	Constitution Act (§35)
1987	Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (§1-2)
2007	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
2010	ALA Statement on Librarianship & Traditional Cultural Expressions
2012	IFLA Code of Ethics
2015	TRC and report
2016	Canadian government acknowledges UNDRIP
2017	CFLA TRC Recommendations
2019	Bill C-262 Second Senate Reading

Indigenous Allyship

- Paradoxical
- Implicit
- Contentious

The issue of missing harmonization processes for the integration of Indigenous rights in Canadian legislation is reflected precisely in the intersection between allyship and intellectual freedom.

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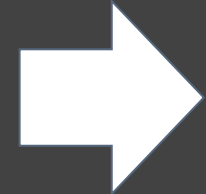
Case Study

Xwi7xwa Library @ UBC

The Challenge

The organization of indigenous cultural expressions.

The Solution

Establish Indigenous knowledge center.

The Outcome

Indigenous world view integrated from ground-up.

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There is a clear need to resist a recursive debate that frames progressive thought as the enemy of progress.

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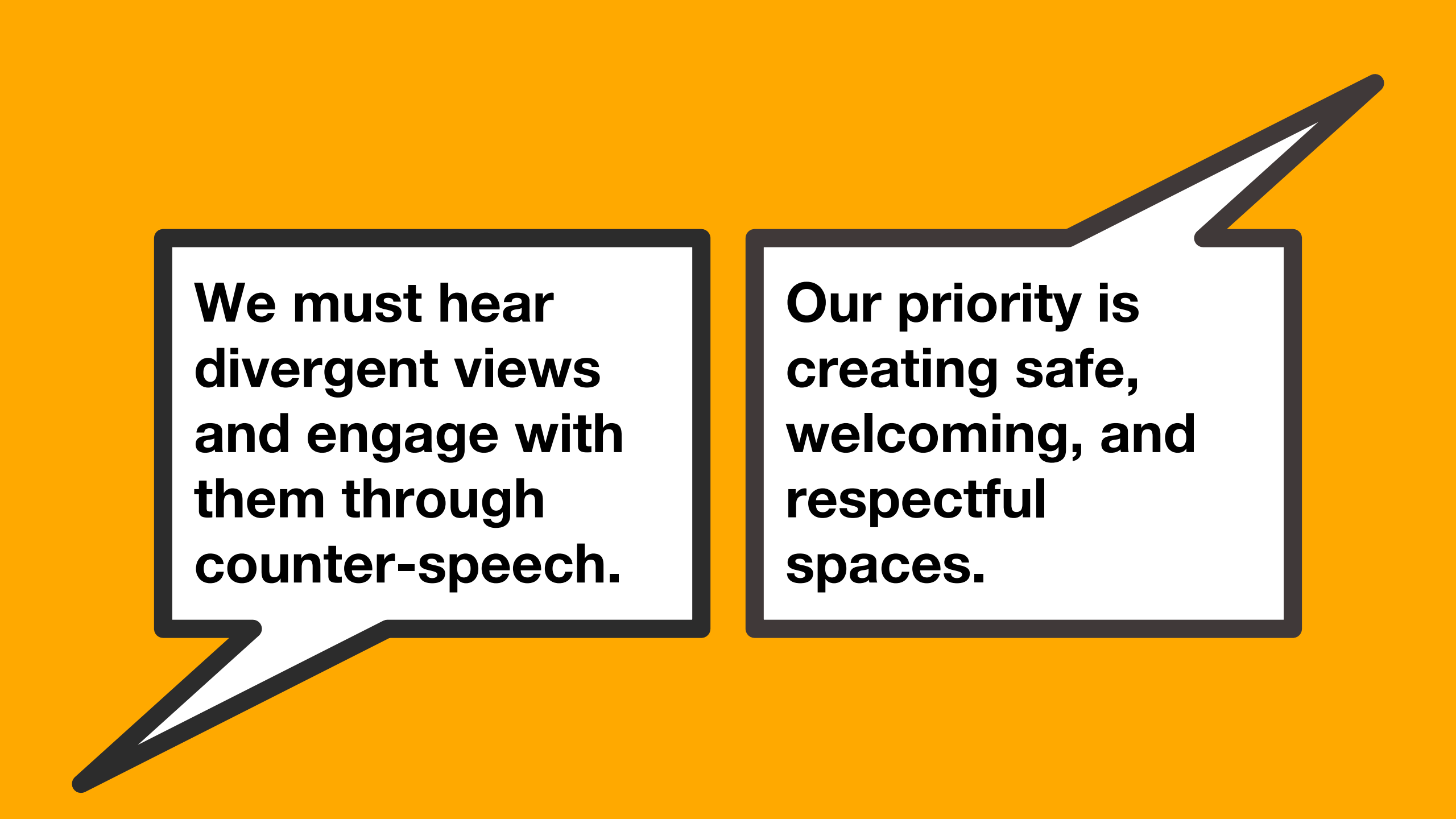
THE
ETHICAL
Between philosophy
and practice.
GAP

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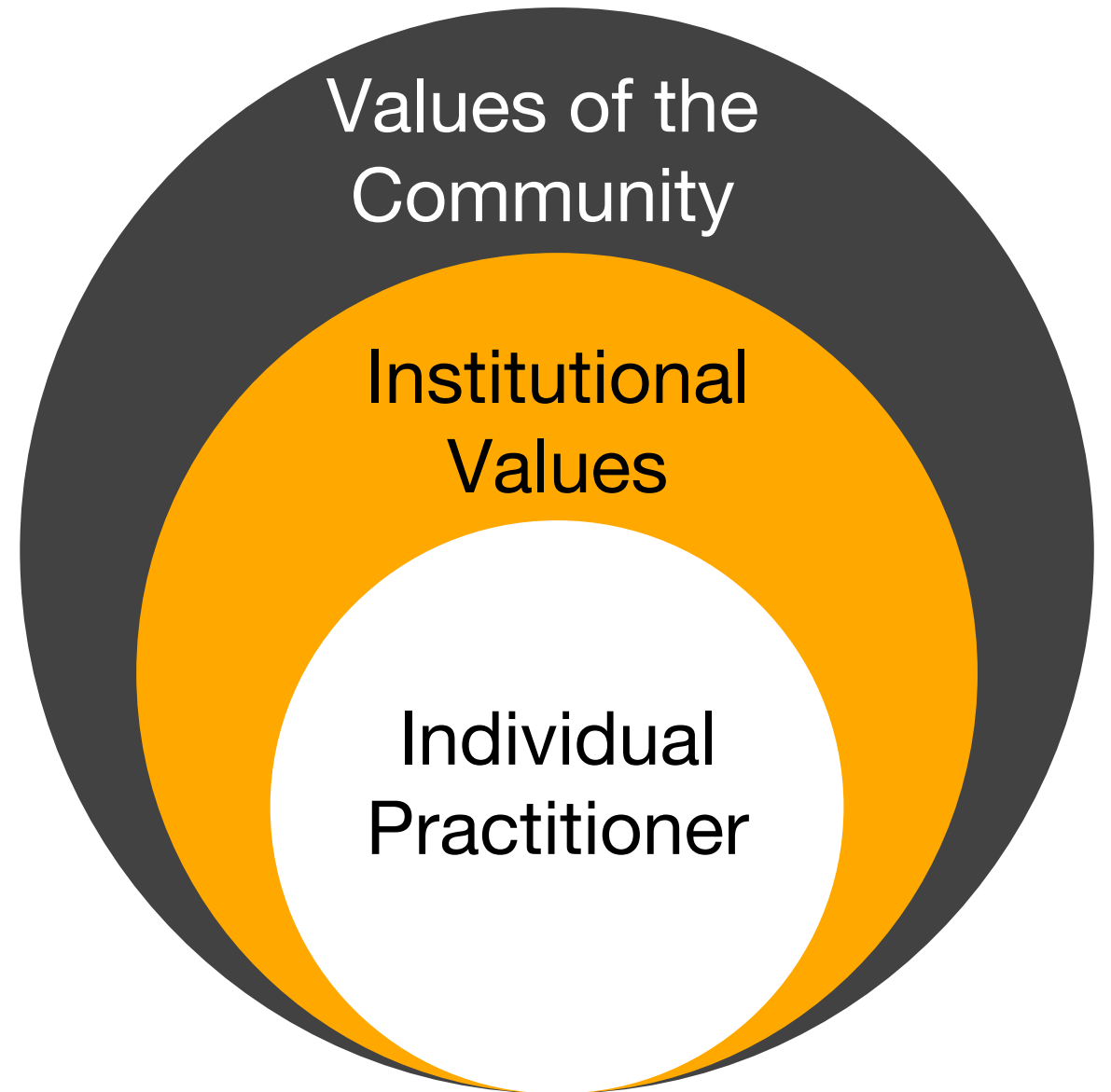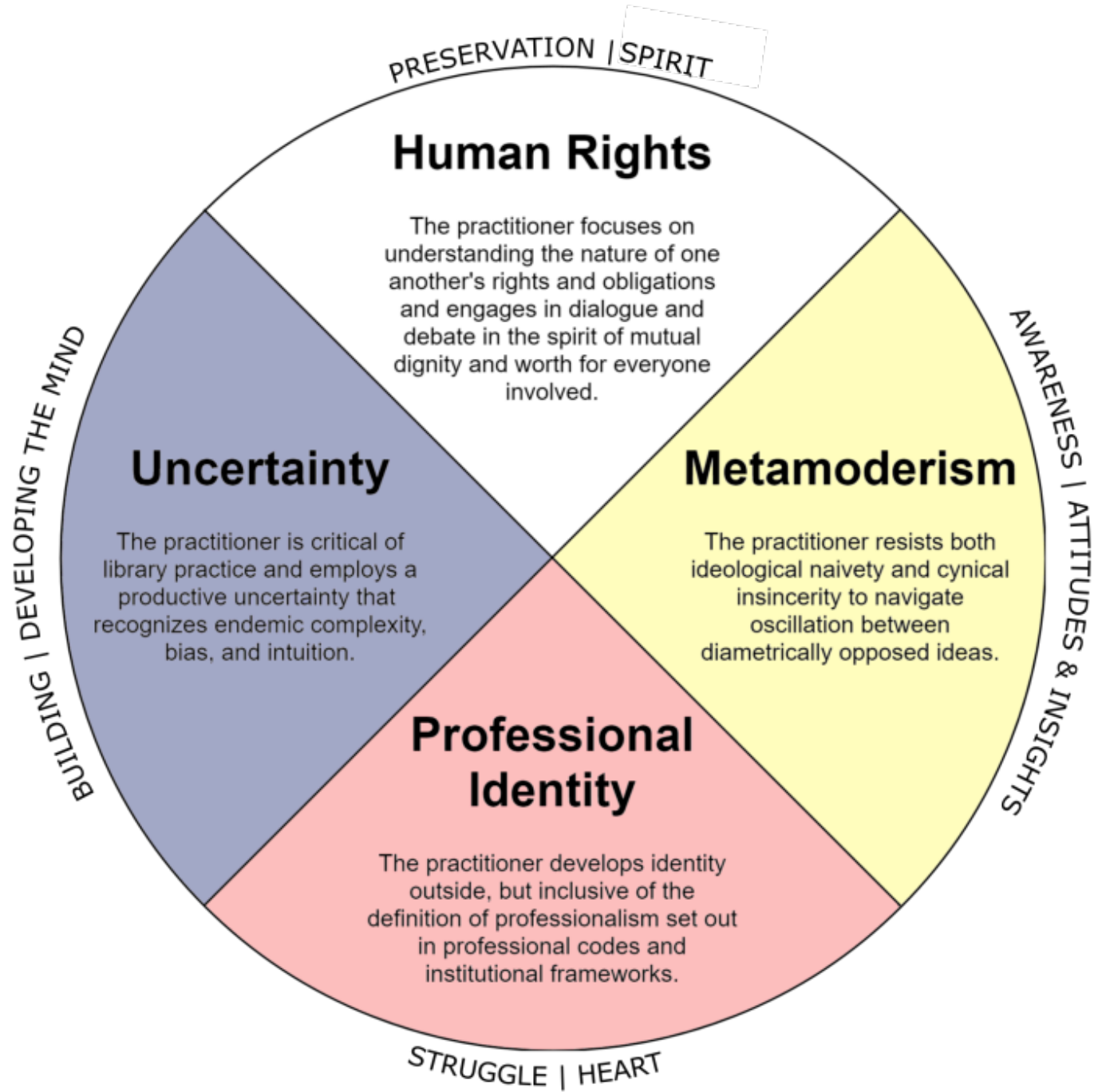
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~~Methods~~

How do we collectivize individual transformation?

- Holistic framework approach
- Based in personal understandings
- A conversation, not a solution

PRESERVATION | SPIRIT

Human Rights

The practitioner focuses on understanding the nature of one another's rights and obligations and engages in dialogue and debate in the spirit of mutual dignity and worth for everyone involved.

Uncertainty

The practitioner is critical of library practice and employs a productive uncertainty that recognizes endemic complexity, bias, and intuition.

Metamoderism

The practitioner resists both ideological naivety and cynical insincerity to navigate oscillation between diametrically opposed ideas.

Professional Identity

The practitioner develops identity outside, but inclusive of the definition of professionalism set out in professional codes and institutional frameworks.

BUILDING | DEVELOPING THE MIND

AWARENESS | ATTITUDES & INSIGHTS

STRUGGLE | HEART

Human Rights

Meta
modernism
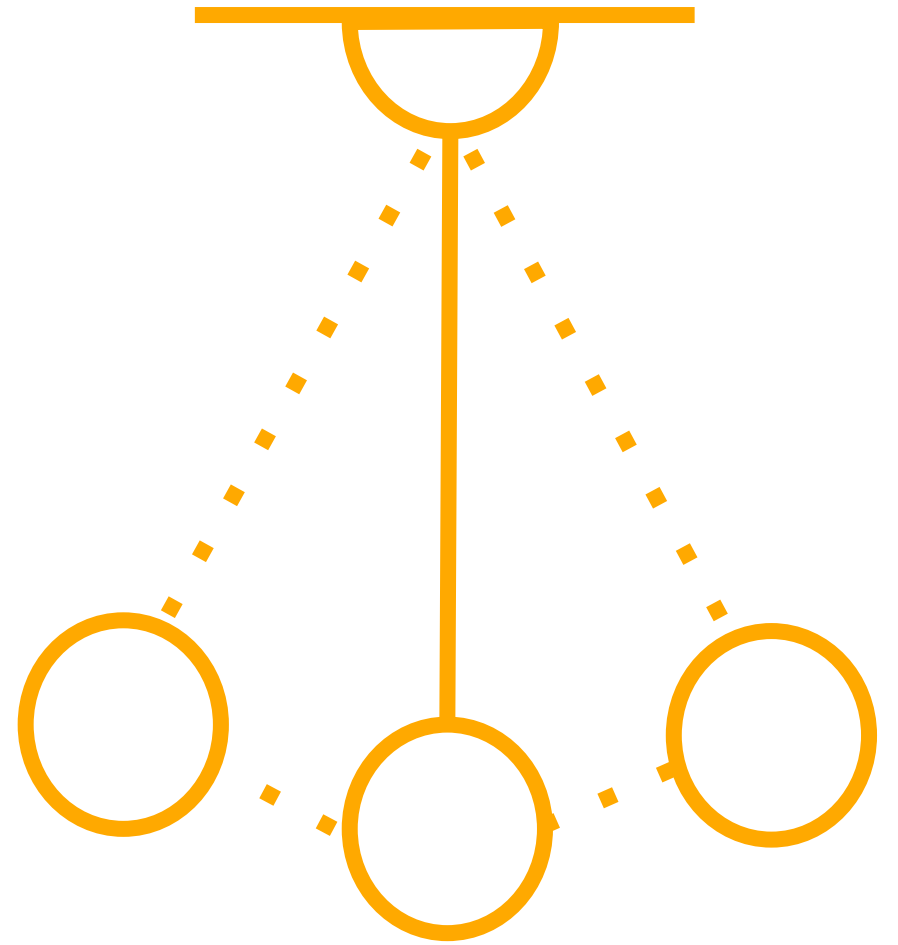
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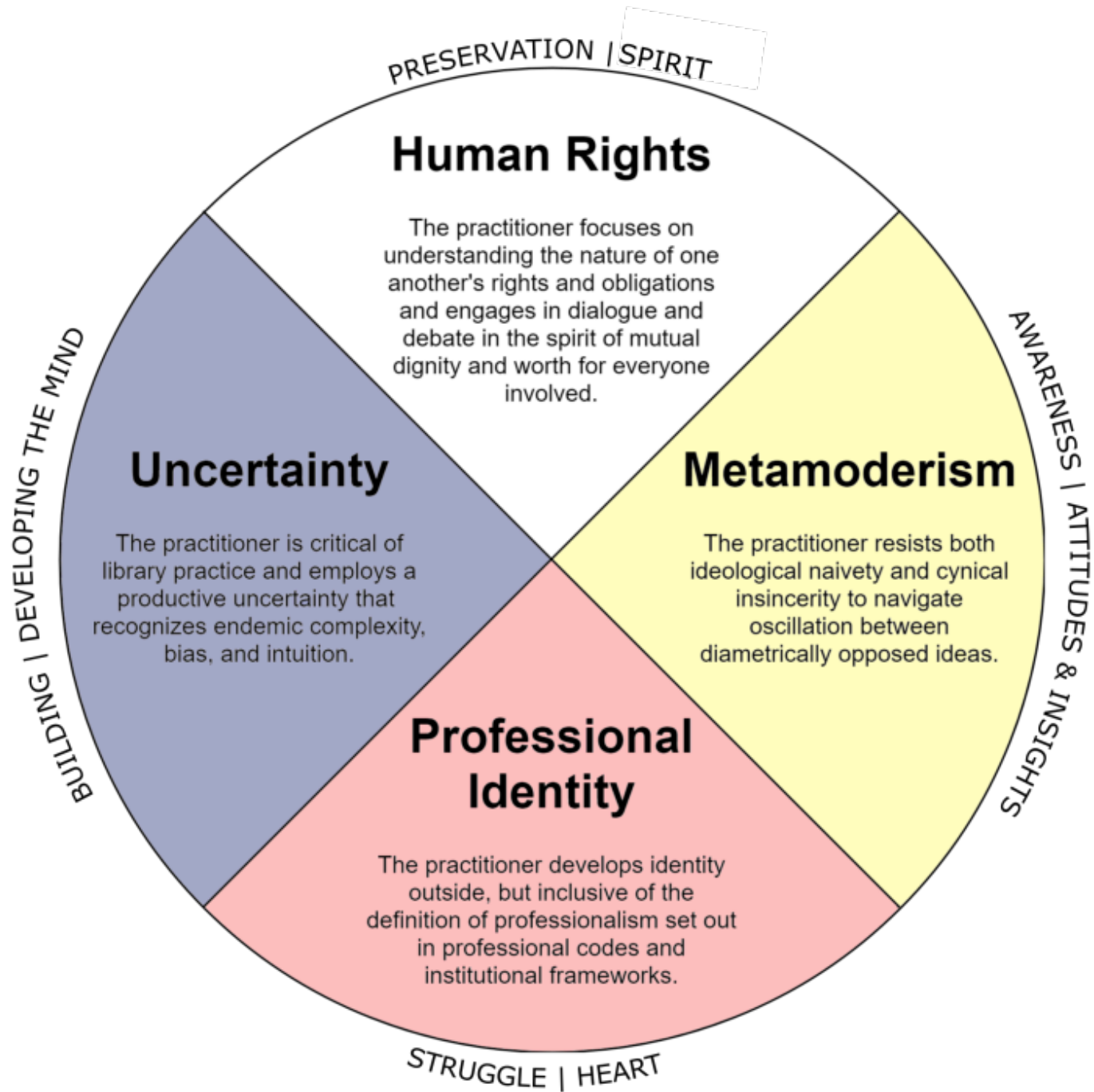
Key Takeaways

1

It's productive and necessary to challenge the basis of ethics in the LIS field.

2

Without reframing conversations about ethics, intellectual freedom and Indigenous allyship will remain irresolvable.

3

Ask yourself: What does a decolonized ethical framework for LIS practice look like for you?

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