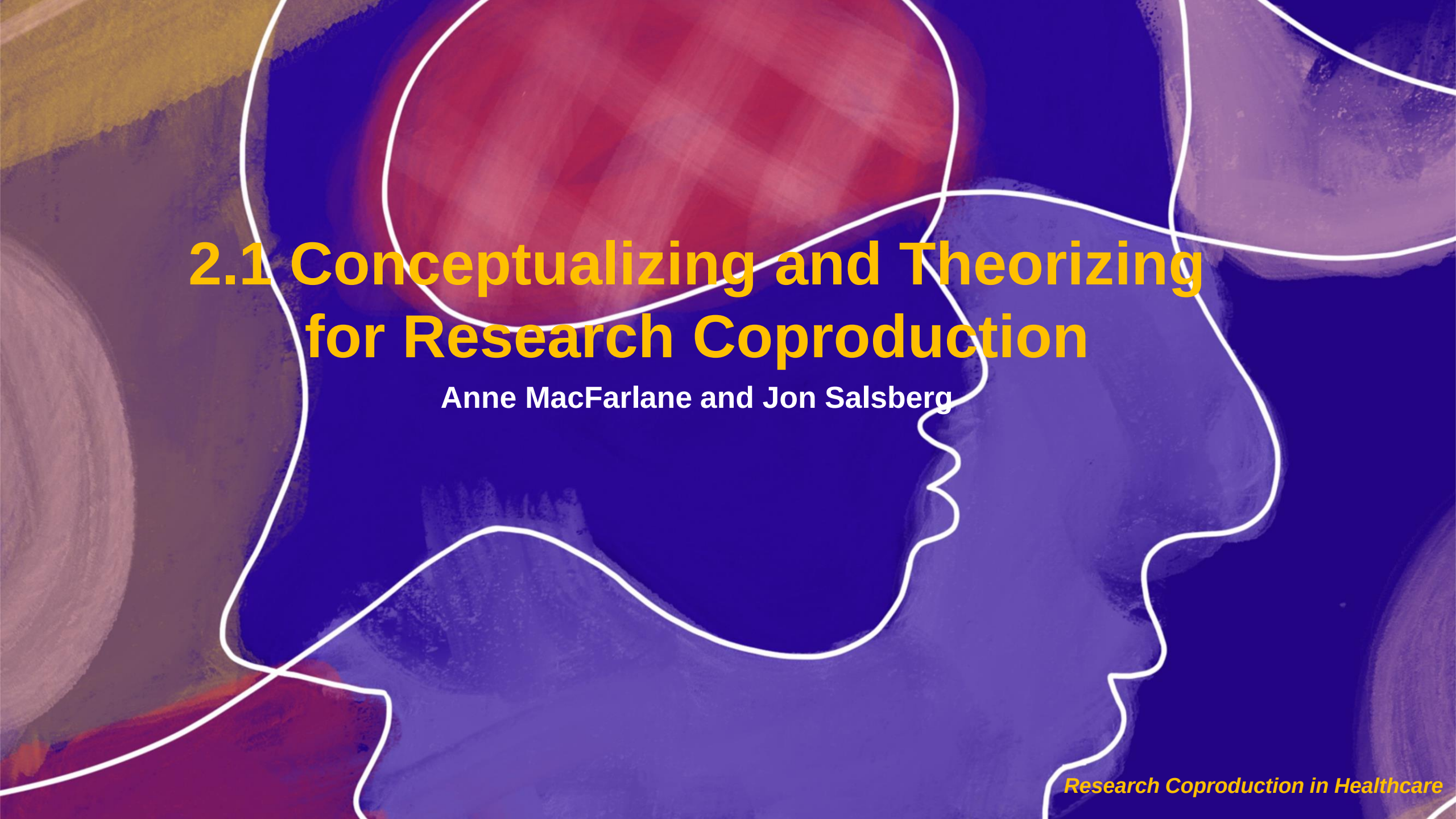




2.1 Conceptualizing and Theorizing for Research Coproduction

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Overview

- Research coproduction is generally under-theorized and there is no overarching theory of research coproduction.
- The foundations of research coproduction are based on concepts and theories about power, ethics, equity, context, and sustainability from a variety of disciplines.
- We can seek guidance from these concepts and theories to do research coproduction but we can also contribute further to their refinement, relevance, and impact. This has potential to inform the development of an overarching theory of research coproduction.

What is theory?

- A *theory* is a set of ideas that are linked together to explain and predict a phenomenon. Theories can be used to provide a picture of how things 'fit together' and be tested empirically to see if that is accurate or not in real world settings.
- The iterative process of thinking theoretically or building theory is known as *theorizing*.
- Theorizing can be used to enhance the clarity of concepts, build explanatory models, and critically apply existing concepts in new ways.

Key learning points

- Having an overarching theory of research coproduction will improve our conceptual understanding about the practices and processes of meaningful partnerships that underpin research co-production.
- Theorising about research coproduction is underway and is essential for clarifying concepts about what research coproduction is and for understanding relationships and mechanisms between its core concepts

Key learning points

- Scholars from the field of research coproduction and implementation science have similar goals—to create actionable knowledge—but research coproduction is not usually guided by knowledge from implementation theory and many existing implementation theories do not attend to coproduction processes.
- Combining knowledge about the theory and concepts of research coproduction with implementation theories will enhance work to generate a grand theory of research coproduction.