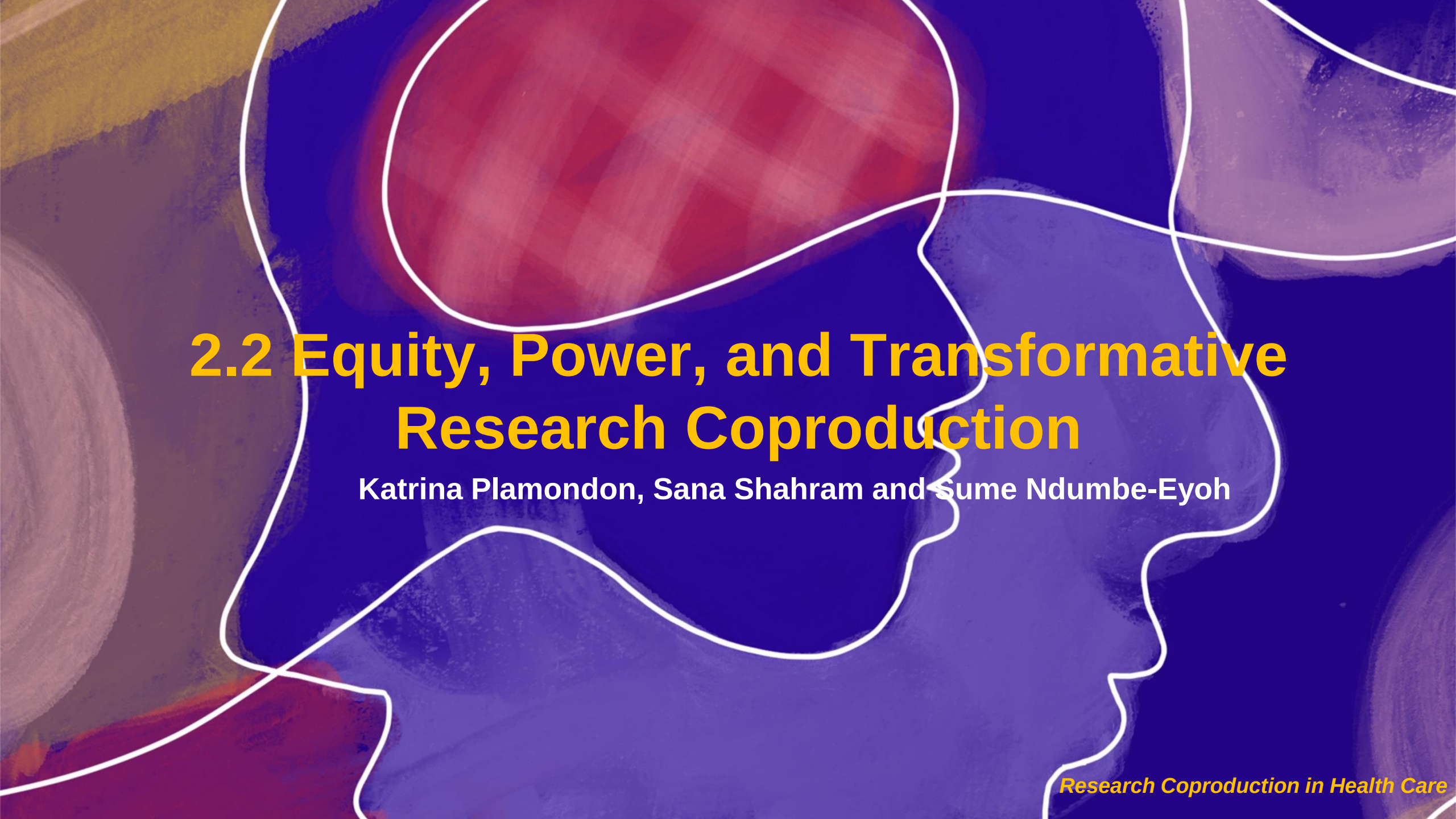




2.2 Equity, Power, and Transformative Research Coproduction

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Overview

- Equity is foundational to the concepts, strategies, and practice of ethical research coproduction.
 - As a *concept*, equity in research coproduction requires attention to colonial legacies, coloniality, and power and its distribution.
 - As a *strategy*, equity in research coproduction processes and content centres attention to power, analysis of its distribution, and power re-distribution.
 - As a *practice*, equity in research coproduction embraces inclusive, de-colonizing, anti-racist, and reflexive practices.
- Research coproduction can serve as a mechanism for transformative social change when equity is at its centre.

Why equity?

- Health equity is an aspirational idea, wherein people are able to reach their full potential without disadvantage by social, economic or environmental conditions (NCCDH, 2015) and requires removing obstacles to health.
- Health inequities are systematic differences in *virtually all* health indicators or outcomes; they are caused by the unfair distribution of power, resources, and wealth within and between countries.
- Given their ubiquitous impacts, advancing equity and reducing inequities is the among the most impactful ways to improve the quality of life, living and health; and therefore *ought* to be considered in *any* kind of health research.

Key Learning Points

- Any interaction between people involves power. Because social systems and structures are created, upheld, and involve people, they are also shaped by power and its distribution.
- Coproduction involves interactions between people, and is situated within social systems and structures, making it also inherently shaped by issues of coloniality and power.
- Colonization, and its enduring legacies, actively shape social systems and structures, and the current distribution of power (and wealth) within and between countries.

Key Learning Points

- Power works to amplify some perspectives over others, re-producing inequitable representation, voice, and benefits.
- Specific strategies and practices can support teams to examine power, identify equity implications, and act in more equity-informed ways:
 - Peer review processes, seeking inclusivity and representation;
 - Amplifying the voices of those who are more often excluded;
 - Building long-term partnerships and relationships, with a commitment to building capacity to advance equity;
 - Adopting a position of curiosity, learning, and leaning on the wisdom of Indigenous leaders (among others); and
 - Challenging normative assumptions about 'knowledge' and the purpose or goals of research (and coproduction).