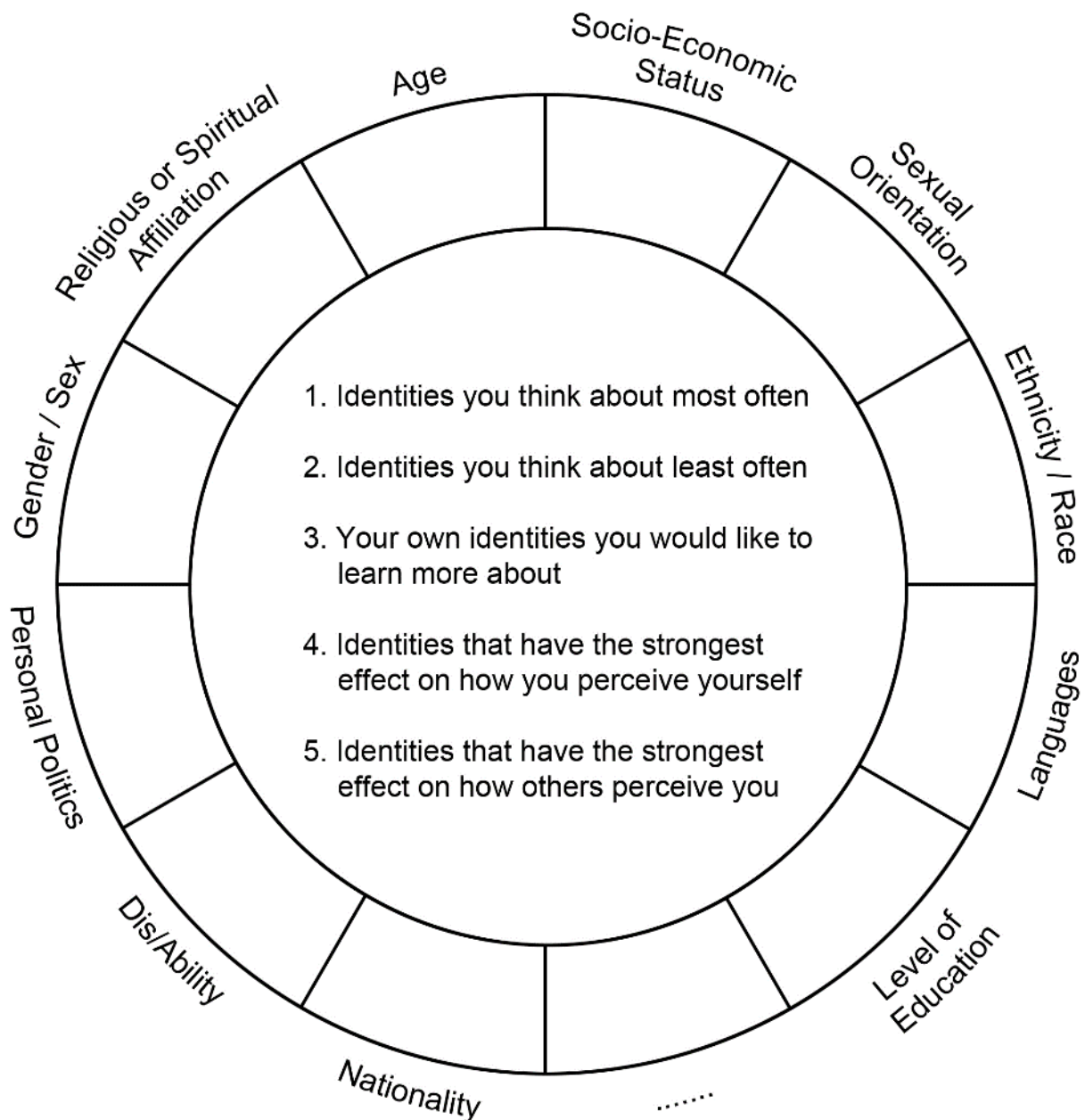


Exercise 1: Social identity wheel (45-65 min.)

This wheel is meant to think about and reflect upon what social identities can shape you as a person, when these become explicitly visible and/or sensible, and how these identities take shape in relation to others. It concerns both marginalized social identities/backgrounds as well as social privileges that can be connected with identities, and the possible combination of these.





1a) Individual exercise (10-15 min.)

First fill out the wheel individually: think about the statements in the middle and place the numbers that correspond to these statements in the for you corresponding identity boxes. If, for example, you do not think so much about your age as an aspect of your identity, you write the number 2 in the box that corresponds to "age." Boxes can contain multiple numbers and not all boxes need to be filled with a number. There is space to add another category that is relevant according to you, yet missing in the wheel.

This part can also be filled out by students in preparation of the seminar.

1b) group discussion (15-30 min.)

Form groups of 2 to 3 persons and discuss your wheels with each other. Pay attention to which numbers have been assigned to which boxes and why, but also to the process: what was it like to fill this out?

Possible questions to discuss amongst each other:

- What questions were easy to answer; which ones were harder? Why do you think some were easier/harder?
- When comparing the wheels, what differences stand out? How can you understand these?
- What aspects of each others' identities did you find out about that you did not know before?
- What identities are connected for you, and how? Did you add an identity?
- What feelings did filling out the wheel bring about for you?
- Did you learn something new by filling out the wheel?
- What parts of your social identity would you like to explore more, and why?
- (How) are your social identities of influence to your affinity with certain themes in the course, or to your interpretation of the literature?

1c) Plenary discussion/recap (+- 20 min.)

Some of the groups can share what they have discussed. The purpose of the recap is to place experiences and identities in wider social and societal power relations that are coupled to social identities.

For example: some identities can possibly feel of less importance for some of us. What would the underlying reason for this be? This can mean that some aspects of our identity are normalized. In other words, they are the norm, so we are less likely to be confronted with those aspects of our identity than with those aspects that diverge from that norm. That is what we understand by privilege, or how certain social identities can operate as privilege and therefore reside in a position of power.



However: this does not mean that a person has to be privileged “on all boxes”, it is quite likely that a person in relation to a certain identity aspects is part of a privileged identity, whereas not on other aspects. The point is not to make certain people in the seminar feel bad about their (non)privileges, but to all become aware of the different social identities that shape us, including those identities that we hardly ever think about or are confronted with.

Concluding question: Did you have a particular context in mind when you filled out the wheel? How can another context influence your social identities and how others perceive you? Consider, for example, these different contexts: the seminar, a family reunion, the sports-club, or your fieldwork location. The next exercise is about how identity is constructed in relations and encounters and how some aspects of your identity can manifest themselves in different contexts and research locations.