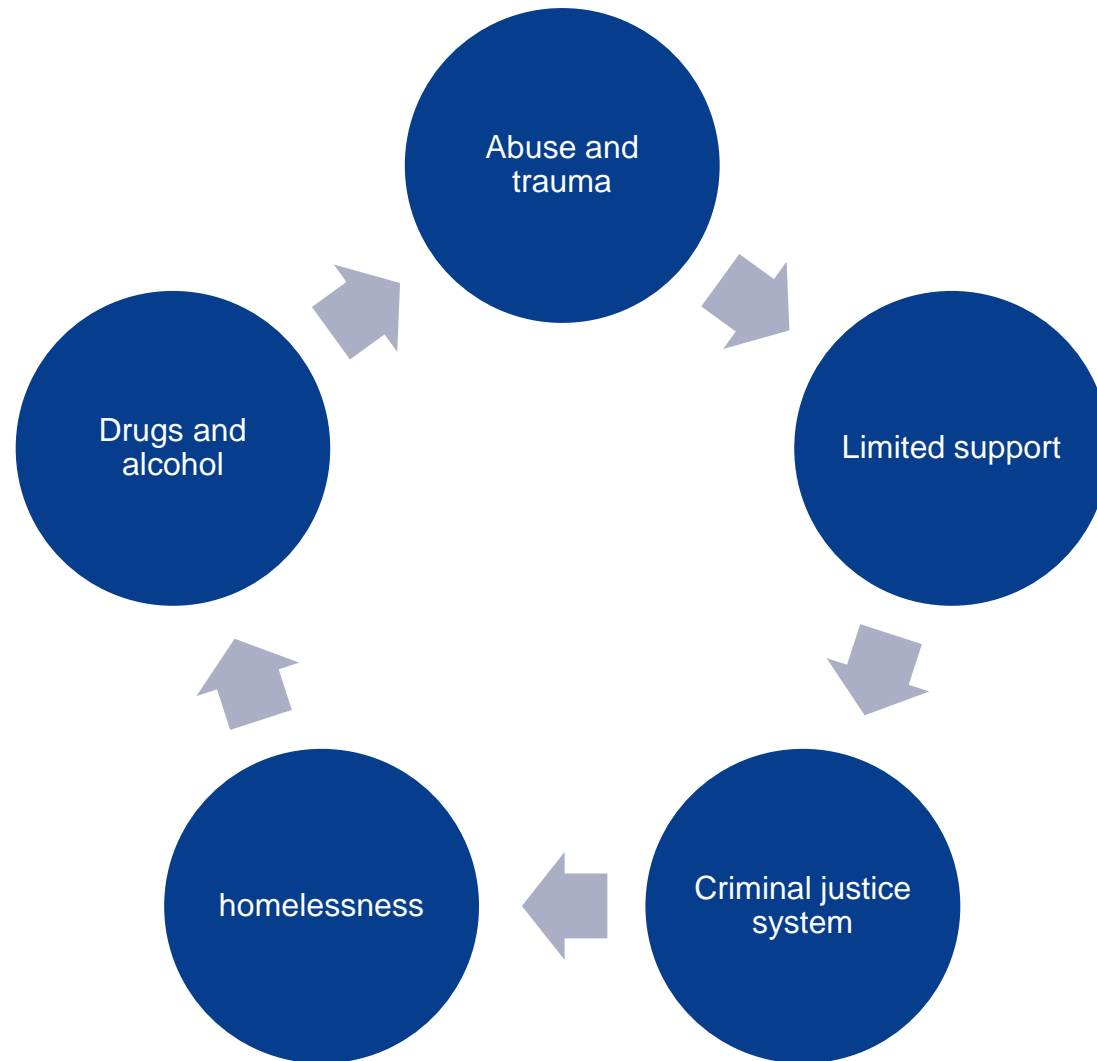


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Belonging and people with intellectual disability and complex needs



Complex needs and intellectual disability



Intellectual Disability and complex needs

A man in his 30's was arrested for a minor offense. He was remanded in custody for 7 months in the general prison population. He was physically assaulted and received substantial injuries on 3 occasions.

Disability service providers did not want to provide him with supported accommodation due to self-reported history of drug use. The government department of housing refused to house him as they decided he was incapable of living independently in the community, so demanded that he demonstrate his capacity to live independently in private rental before being considered for public housing.

After 7 months in prison, his advocate finally managed to find him housing with a disability provider, so he was released on bail till his court date. His matter was heard, and the charges were dismissed, and he was issued with \$100 infringement notice. He had served 7 months in prison without being found guilty of a criminal offence that carried a custodial sentence. He had a diagnosis of intellectual disability.

What I have done

Scoping review

- Identified 4 core articles dealing directly with the perspective of people with intellectual disability on belonging and not belonging and developing frameworks of belonging
- 3 additional articles whose population was people with intellectual disability and complex needs (though this was not the focus of the articles)
- An additional 10 empirical studies with people with intellectual disability which had a finding of belonging or not belonging

Key concepts

Belonging- what makes us feel included and connected

Community- the different places and spaces that we live our lives in

Participation- how involved people with intellectual disability are in 'mainstream' activities

Access- is about whether people with intellectual disability have the resources to access 'mainstream' spaces and places

Inclusion- programs and policies designed to 'include' people with disabilities

Exclusion- the things which make us feel like we are not part of the community

Intersectionality: means all the different things that can make belonging difficult: like abuse, culture, gender, and having a disability



What have we learnt from social inclusion?

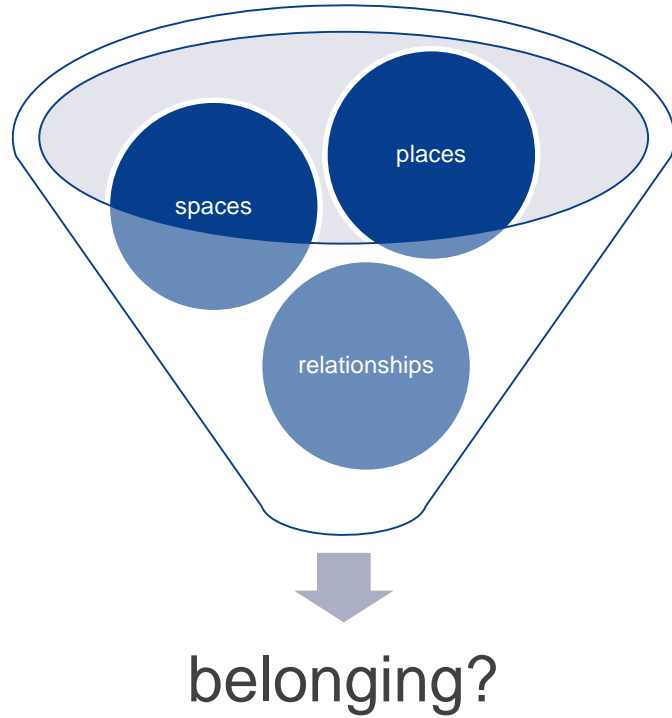
“the concepts underpinning institutionalisation- such as care and control- have been posited as radically different to those underpinning the concept of community living- such as human rights and social inclusion. Yet in each group of stories the language, images, and conceptualisation of segregation remain hauntingly the same”.

(Johannes et al., 2017; p, 45-46)

“It did not bring me the freedom I had dreamed about” Self Advocate in

(Johannes et al., 2017; p, 45-46)

What does belonging mean?

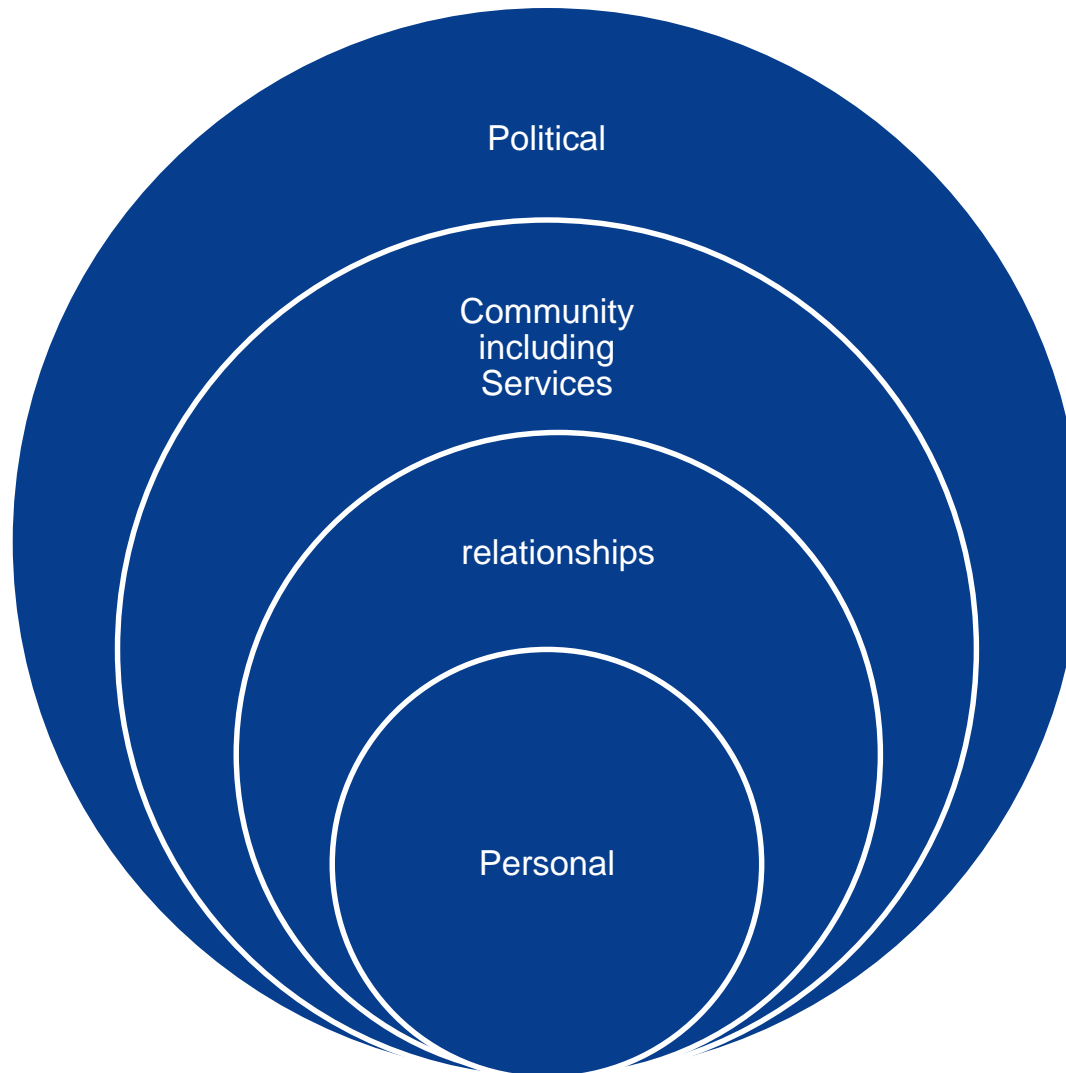


Disability studies and belonging



- ✓ Belonging is a human need
- ✓ Belonging is made up of different parts
- ✓ People with disability say belonging is a good thing
- ✓ People experience belonging in very personal ways
- ✓ There has not been much research about belonging in disability studies
- ✓ Researchers agree that we should study belonging more

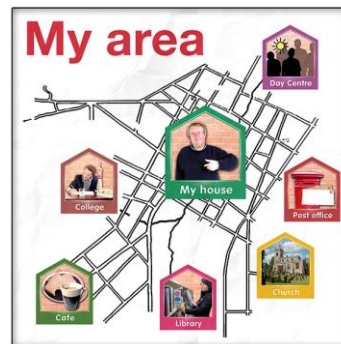
Levels of belonging



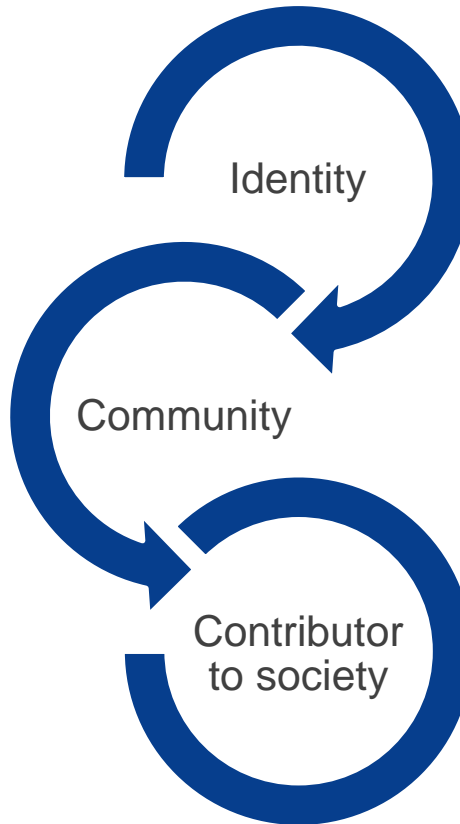
Dimensions of belonging

- Belonging is about feeling safe
- Belonging is a process and is transient
- Belonging is connected to spaces, places and people
- Belonging is about relationships
- Belonging is about giving not just receiving (reciprocity and mutuality)
- Belonging is important to our sense of identity

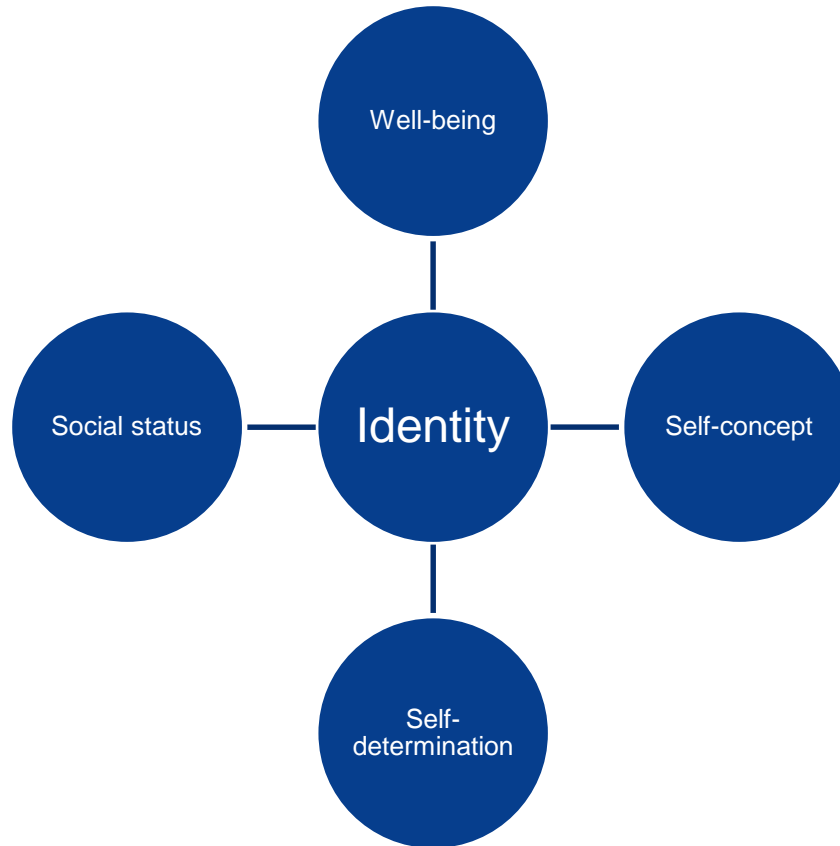
From (Strnadová, et al., 2018; Robinson et al., 2018 & Renwick et al., 2019)



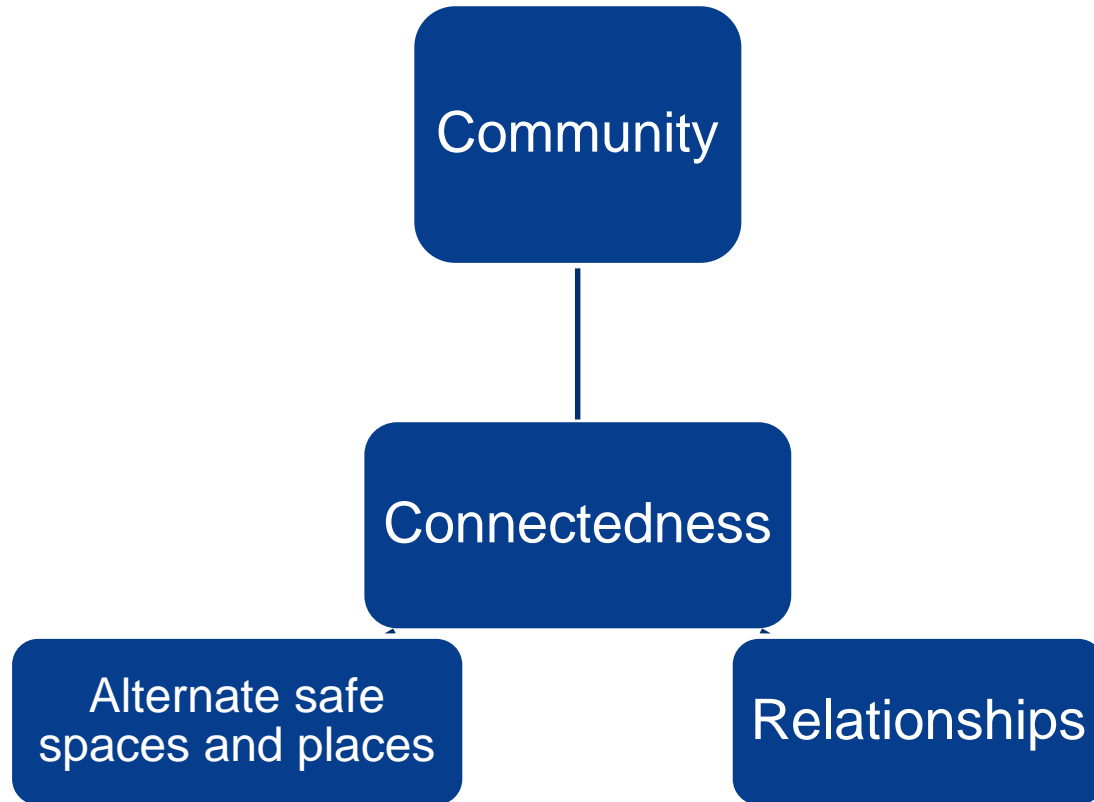
Core themes of belonging



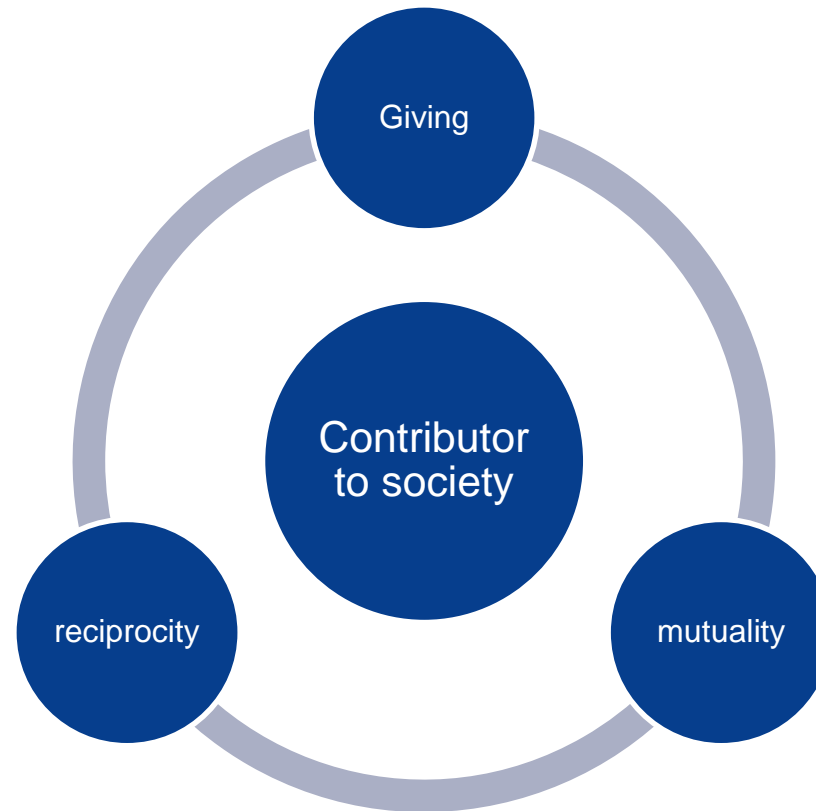
Identity



Community



Contributor to society



Barriers to belonging

- Stigma
- Self-exclusion
- Exclusion and not-belonging

