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## Interdisciplinary Lens on Indigenous Health Iniquities: Planning, Nursing, Anthropology, Geography, Education

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# Interdisciplinary Lens on Indigenous Health Inequities: Planning, Nursing, Anthropology, Geography, Education



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## Introduction

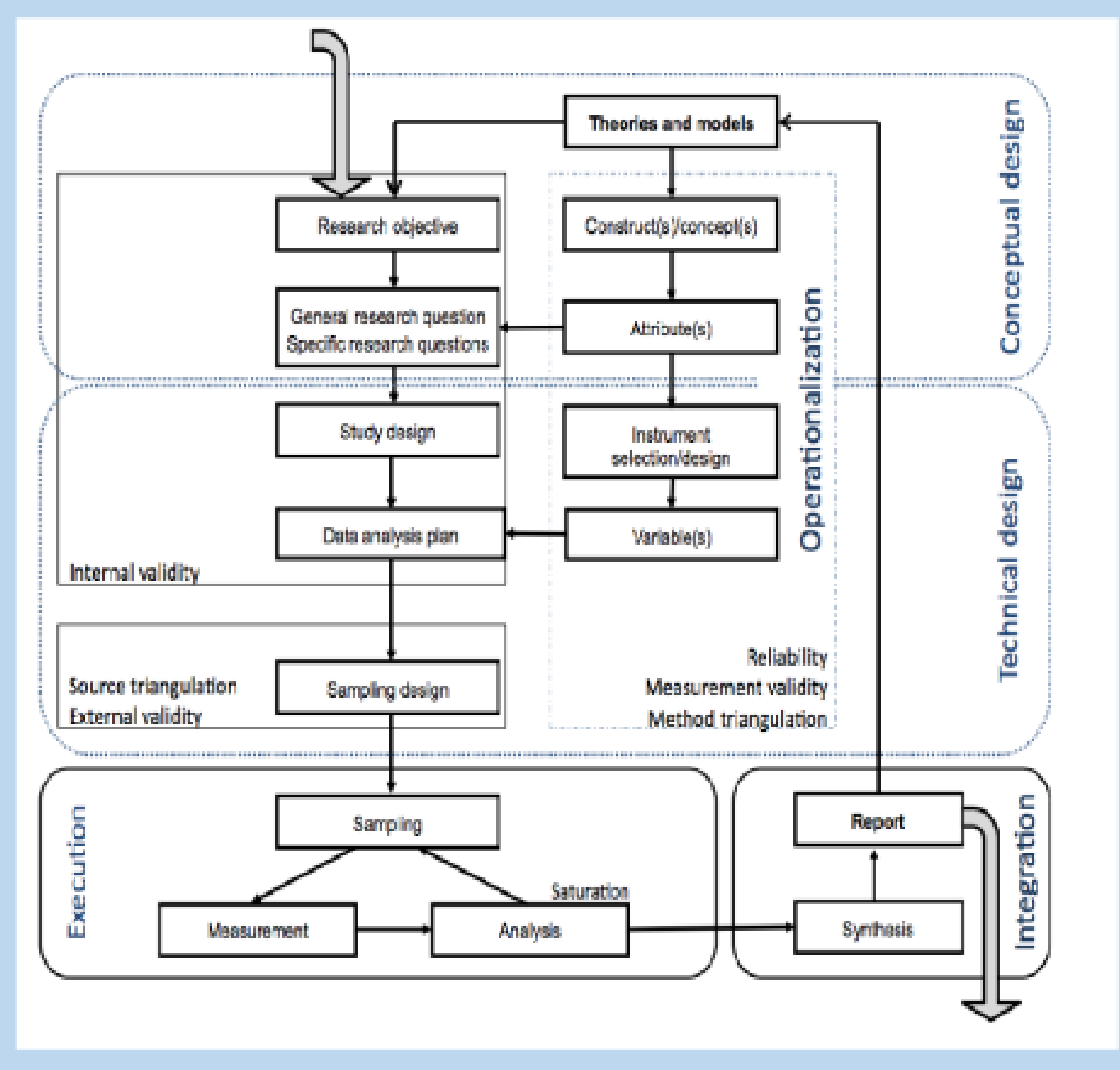
Indigenous peoples experience poorer health outcomes on almost every measure of health and wellbeing, when compared to the rest of Canada. For decades researchers have been working independently on addressing health inequalities, yet little progress has been made on closing the gap. This Discipline-specific way of thinking is too narrow and neglects indigenous ideologies of holistic approaches to health. An interdisciplinary approach to indigenous health research provides a more collaborative and integrated opportunity to address the multidimensional aspects of health. This paper has the goals to contribute to the limited research on interdisciplinary indigenous health research.

## Acknowledgements

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## Interdisciplinary Framework

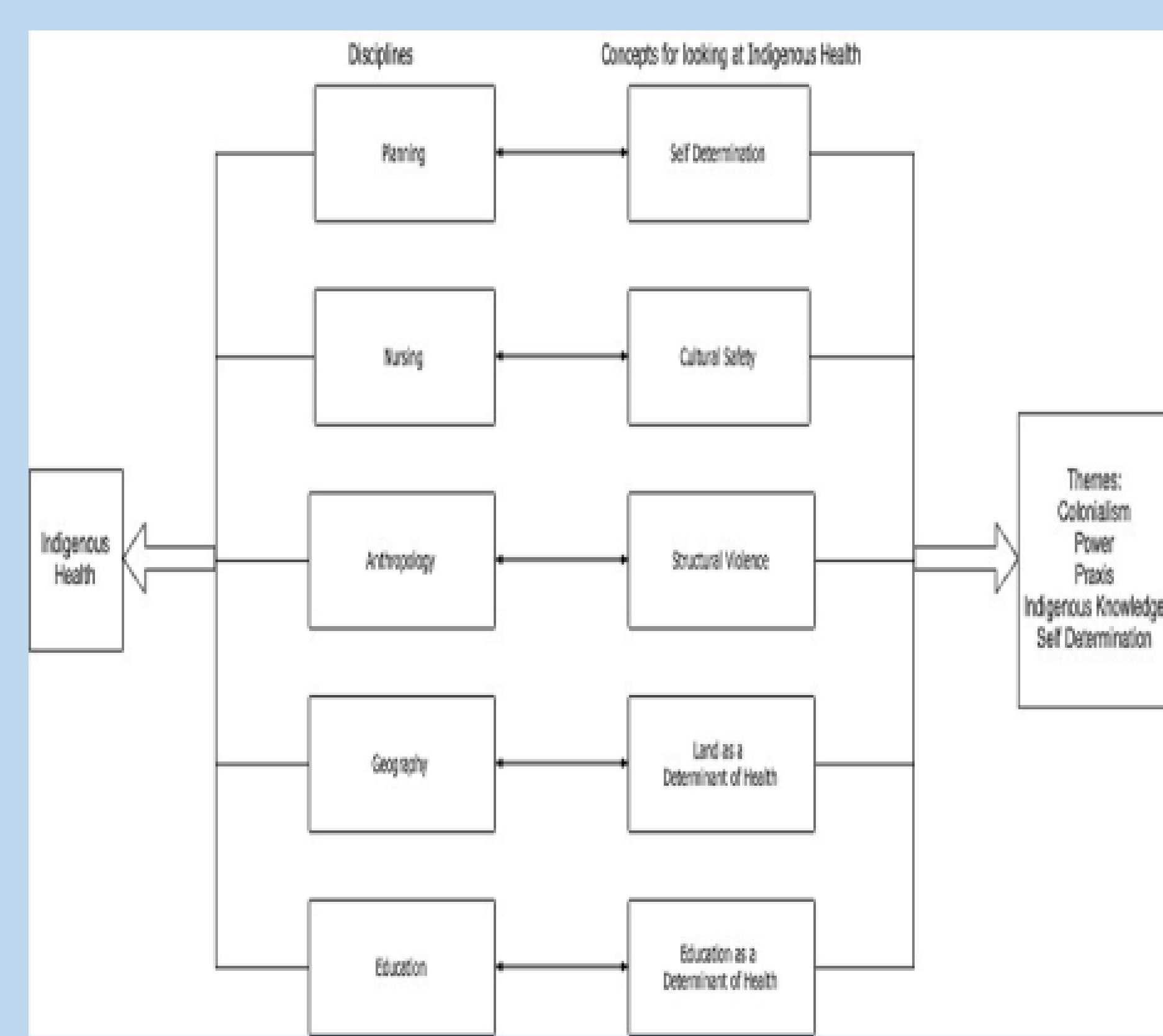
This paper uses the Methodology of Interdisciplinary Research Framework (MIR) created by Tobi & Kampen (2017). The MIR framework assumes that interdisciplinary research is a process, that requires the research question and goal to be at the heart of research. The conceptual design of the framework allows for collaborators to think and exchange their interdisciplinary knowledge to create the technical design of the study. To benefit optimally from the monodisciplinary research, the information has to be integrated and examined by an intradisciplinary team for proper data synthesis.



## Methodology

The MIR framework was intended to be used in both a monodisciplinary and an interdisciplinary basis. Individual research was conducted by performing literature reviews to understand how their own disciplines addressed Indigenous Health. Data derived from individual disciplinary specific research was then analyzed for key concepts. After saturation was achieved all of the disciplines and their key concepts are brought together for interdisciplinary integration to perform a thematic analysis. As a group, a consensus of the most salient themes related to Indigenous Health was created.

## Conclusion



Through the interdisciplinary thematic analysis, the five salient themes identified were: Colonialism, power, praxis, indigenous knowledge, and self-determinism. This work identified a need for a shift in how scholars work with indigenous communities, from monodisciplinary to taking a cross-discipline approach. This paper shows the importance of indigenous voices and involvement in health agencies. Creating professional spaces that are more inclusive of indigenous knowledge, perspectives, practices, and lived realities can help diminish indigenous health disparities.

## References

Chantal Francoeur, Alana Kehoe, Ivy Tran, Steven Vanloffeld, Lillian Woroniuk (2018). Interdisciplinary Lens on Indigenous Health Inequities: Planning, Nursing, Anthropology, Geography, Education. Western University.  
Tobi, H., & Kampen, J. K. (2018). Research design: The methodology for interdisciplinary research framework. *Quality & Quantity*, 52(3), 1209-1225.