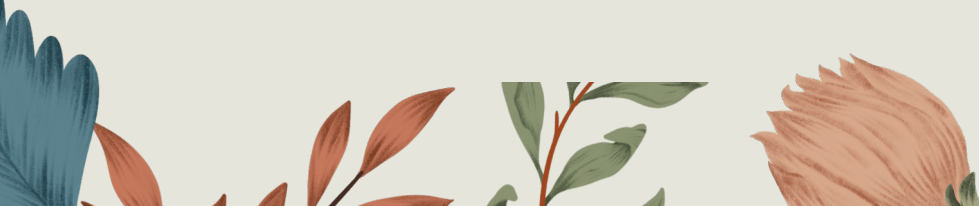
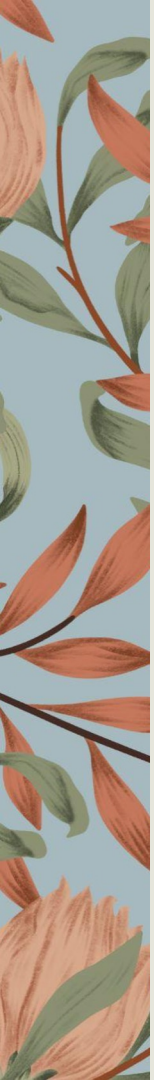


# Cracks in the foundation: Intersectional ageism & discrimination towards older people experiencing homelessness

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Despite their growing numbers, homeless older adults remain largely invisible in society and there has been a pervasive lack of public focus on elder homelessness.

—Gonyea et al., 2010



# The Aging in the Right Place (AIRP) Partnership

## Project Director:

Sarah Canham (Utah/SFU)

## City Leads:

Atiya Mahmood (SFU, Vancouver);  
Christine Walsh (U Calgary); Tamara  
Sussman (McGill, Montreal)



Building Capacity for Promising Practices that Support Older People  
Experiencing Homelessness in Montreal, Calgary, and Vancouver

### Our Overall Goal is...

to improve the shelter/housing options to meet the unique and complex health and social needs of older persons with experiences of homelessness (OPEH) across Canada.

### PARTNERSHIP

One Project Director,  
13 co-applicants,  
15 collaborators,  
40 partner organizations,  
and 9 older adult advisors



**3** city-specific Local Advisory Committees in **Montréal**, **Calgary**, and **Vancouver** will offer partners an opportunity to make contributions to the project.



# Lived Expertise Advisors (LEAs)

- Across all three project cities
- Diverse life experiences, trajectories into and out of homelessness
- **One key experience in common:  
discrimination based on age  
AND homelessness**



# What we know.

Homelessness, aging, and discrimination.

01

Homelessness is increasing among older persons

Estimates vary across locations & surveys, but trending upwards

02

Older persons experience varied risk factors

Revolutions, age *un*-friendly housing, insufficient income supports

03

Homeism is a barrier to exiting homelessness

Homeism: discrimination based on homelessness/housing status (Canham et al., 2022)



# What we don't know.

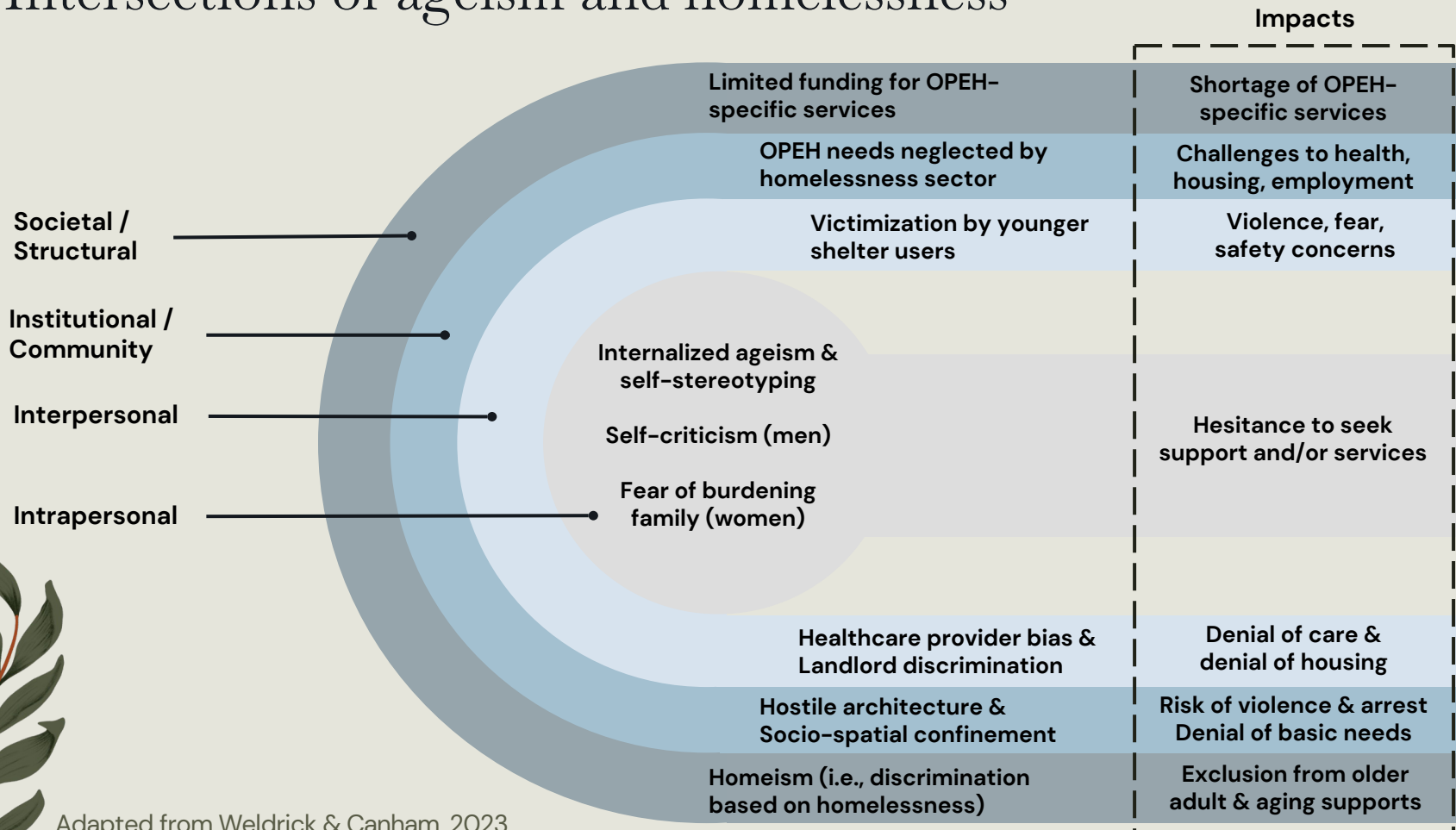
How does intersectional and multi-faceted ageism affect OPEH?

Limited evidence to date (see Gonyea et al., 2010; Burns et al., 2018; Crane & Warnes, 1997; Canham et al., 2020; Grenier et al., 2016, etc.)

How do experiences of ageism AND homeism intersect for OPEH?

To what extent do they compound / contribute to multiple exclusions? (Fitzpatrick et al., 2011; Scharf et al., 2005)


# Intersections of ageism and homelessness





# Implications:

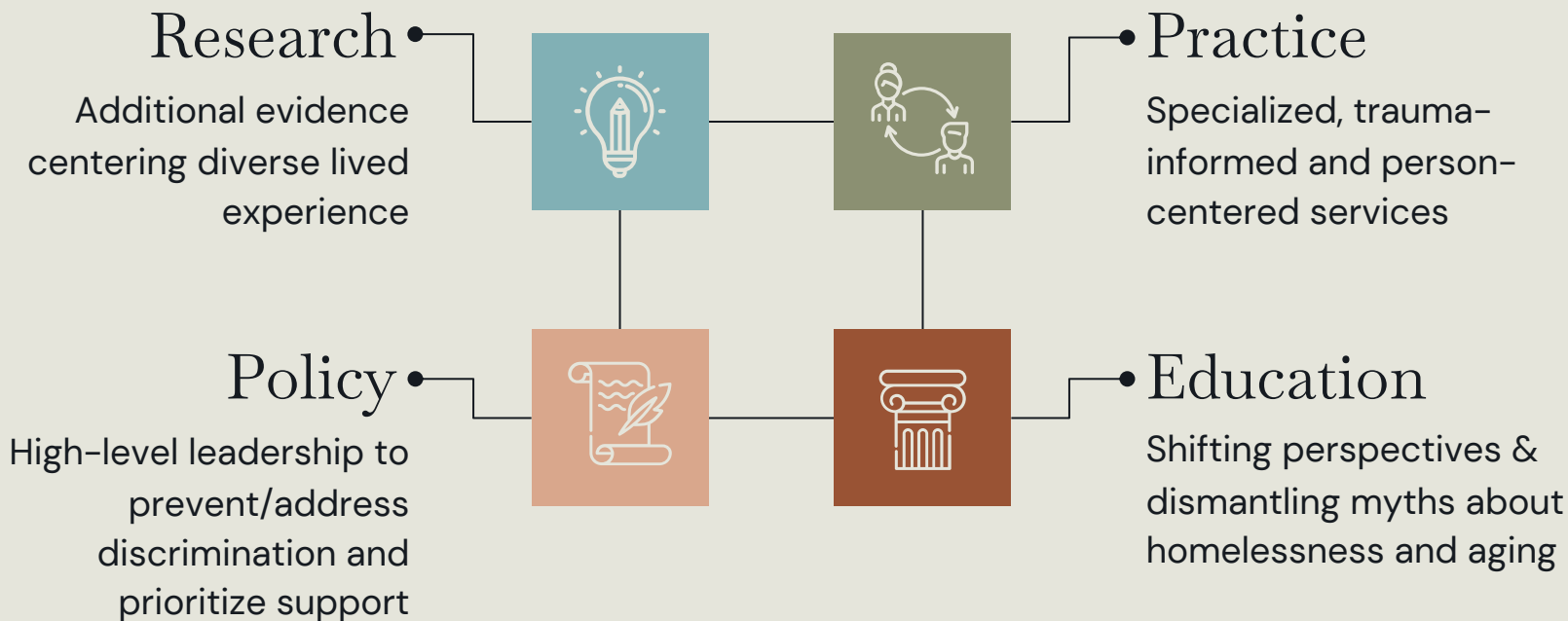
Intersectional discrimination (inc. ageism and homeism) excludes OPEH from needed services and hinders opportunities to exit homelessness.





# What's next?

## Addressing intersectional ageism + homeism for OPEH



# Thank you

Read the full article in  
The Gerontologist here:



Weldrick, R., & Canham, S.L. (2023). Intersections of ageism and homelessness among older adults: Implications for policy, practice, and research. *The Gerontologist*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnad088>

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