

# Implementation Research in Indigenous Contexts: Creating Culturally Safe Spaces

Field, M., Supino, T., Messer, M., D'souza, N., Kehoe, M., Kirmayer, L. J., and LTOA Team Members



## INTRODUCTION

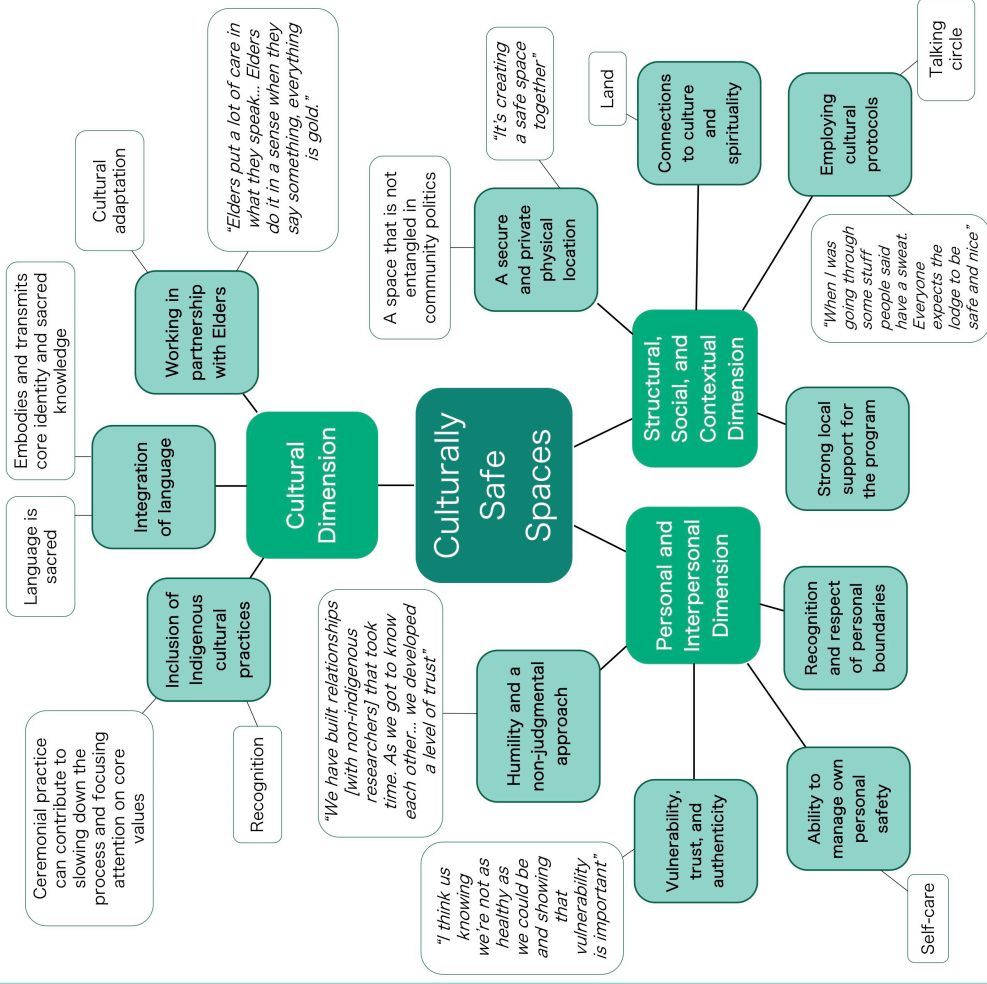
- A gap exists between the ways in which implementation research is conducted in general population settings and the ethical and practical concerns of Indigenous communities.
- One strategy to address this gap is to implement **cultural safety**, a concept originally developed by Maori nurses in New Zealand.<sup>1</sup>
- In partnership with community-based LTOA facilitators, coordinators, and staff, the *Listening to One Another to Grow Strong* (LTOA) research unit held a workshop (LTOA) supported by SSHRC, to discuss the importance of creating a culturally safe space when implementing programs and research in Indigenous communities.
- This poster describes findings from the workshop to clarify the meaning and practical dimensions of creating a culturally safe space in relation to an ongoing mental health promotion project.

## METHODOLOGY

- A three-day workshop was held in Winnipeg, MB between the LTOA research unit (n=6) and community partners (n= 1) from across Canada.
- 4 questions guided the discussion about creating culturally safe spaces and proceedings were recorded, coded, and analyzed.
- The research team engaged in a **reflective iterative process of analysis** with community partners to identify central dimensions of cultural safety in implementation research.

## FINDINGS

3 major dimensions were considered central to achieving culturally safe spaces in implementation research:



## IMPLICATIONS

- Attention to the cultural assumptions of intervention programs and of the process of research itself can open a space for dialogue with Indigenous worldviews, knowledge, values, and ways of knowing.
- This workshop has highlighted ways in which creating a culturally safe space can:
  - Directly address the epistemic injustice of the suppression of Indigenous languages and cultures.
  - Increase the likelihood that the research process itself will have **beneficial effects**.
  - Strengthen collective creativity** both within and between communities.

Examples of cultural elements that are used in program training and implementation:



Sweetgrass on a LTOA manual



A rug used during LTOA sessions in Shawa, BC

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**References:**  
Papps, E., & Ramsden, I. (1986). Cultural safety in nursing: the New Zealand Experience. *International Journal of Qualitative Health Care*, 8(5), 491-497.

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