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BRAIDING THE DISCOURSE OF COLONIZATION, STRUCTURAL RACISM AND INEQUALITY: HOW IT IMPACTS INDIGENOUS LIVES IN CANADA, FINLAND AND NORWAY

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Structural racism is defined as the macro-level systems, social forces, institutions, ideologies, and processes that interact with one another to generate and reinforce inequities among racial and ethnic groups. Health inequalities among Indigenous peoples worldwide have been well documented. How do experiences of oppression in the past have an impact on the present day health and wellbeing of Indigenous peoples? Studies suggest that present day social forces driving racial inequalities in health are conceptualized as being the result of historical legacies of social oppression, with racism as the link between race and health. Furthermore, studies of disparities should more seriously consider the multiple dimensions of racism as fundamental causes of health disparities, particularly structural racism. By investigating forms of structural racism from an Indigenous perspective we can build on the discourse about oppression and its link to the present health inequalities experienced by Indigenous peoples. This poster presentation outlines the papers that support this article-based dissertation and ethical processes for working with Indigenous communities in Canada, Finland and Norway.