

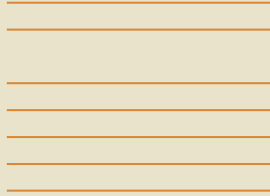
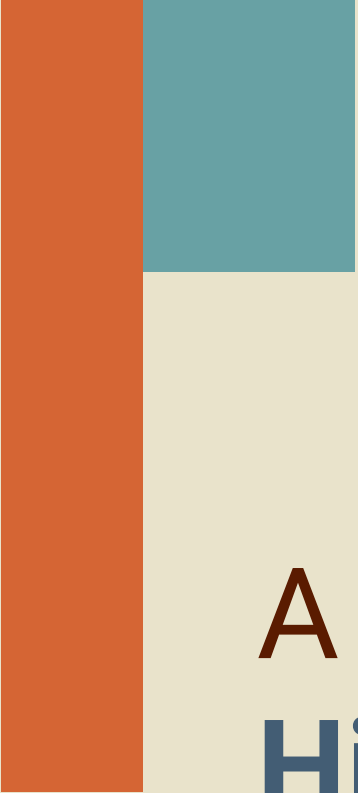


NAEIF CONFERENCE 2026

Representation, Power and the Republic

The Promise and Limitations of Representative Government

Camila Sierra Ordóñez
McGill University - Honours Anthropology
Expected graduation: 2028



Situating My Perspective

A critical anthropology lens:

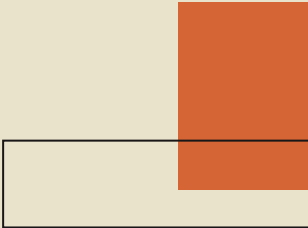
Historical context

Colonial legacies and political institutions.

Social context

Power, inequality and belonging.

Who is represented, and whose interests are prioritized?



The Promise and Limitations of Representation

PROS

Collective decision-making

Delegated participation and deliberation.

Accountability

Elections and institutional oversight.

Continuity

Stable, organized governance.

CONS

Unequal representation

Structural barriers to political participation.

Concentration of power

Distance between representatives and communities.

Colonial legacies

Exclusion of alternative political traditions.

Representation is not synonymous with justice.

From Representation to Transformation

Calls to Action & Parting Thoughts

01. Decolonize political thinking

Challenge inherited assumptions. Recognize colonial histories and alternative political traditions.

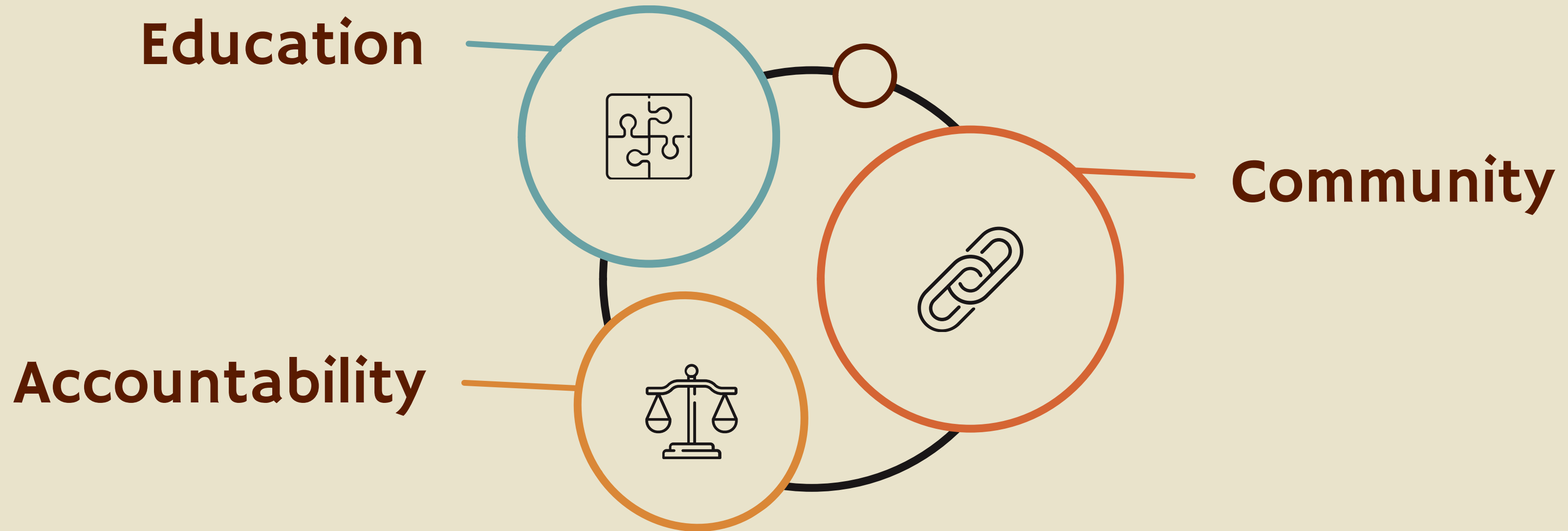
02. Redistribute political power

Address structural inequalities. Strengthen institutional accountability and community-led initiatives.

03. Centre community participation

Listen to communities. Establish meaningful dialogue, collaboration and shared decision-making.

Conclusion & Parting Thoughts



Representation must extend beyond the ballot box.

