Patient Identity, Social Disparities and Harm Reduction: Towards an Intersectional Approach to Ethical Health Service Delivery

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Health services research studies indicate increasing accounts of institutional discrimination against racialized individuals, especially immigrants and those of Aboriginal descent, a trend that creates psychosocial barriers to accessing health services. Through the framework of intersectionality—a concept that underscores the ways in which multiple identities, including race, class and gender, can intersect to create distinct forms of oppression, this presentation explores how attention to the complex and intersecting structures of inequality and social disparities can help inform an ethical approach to health service delivery founded on equity and social justice.

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