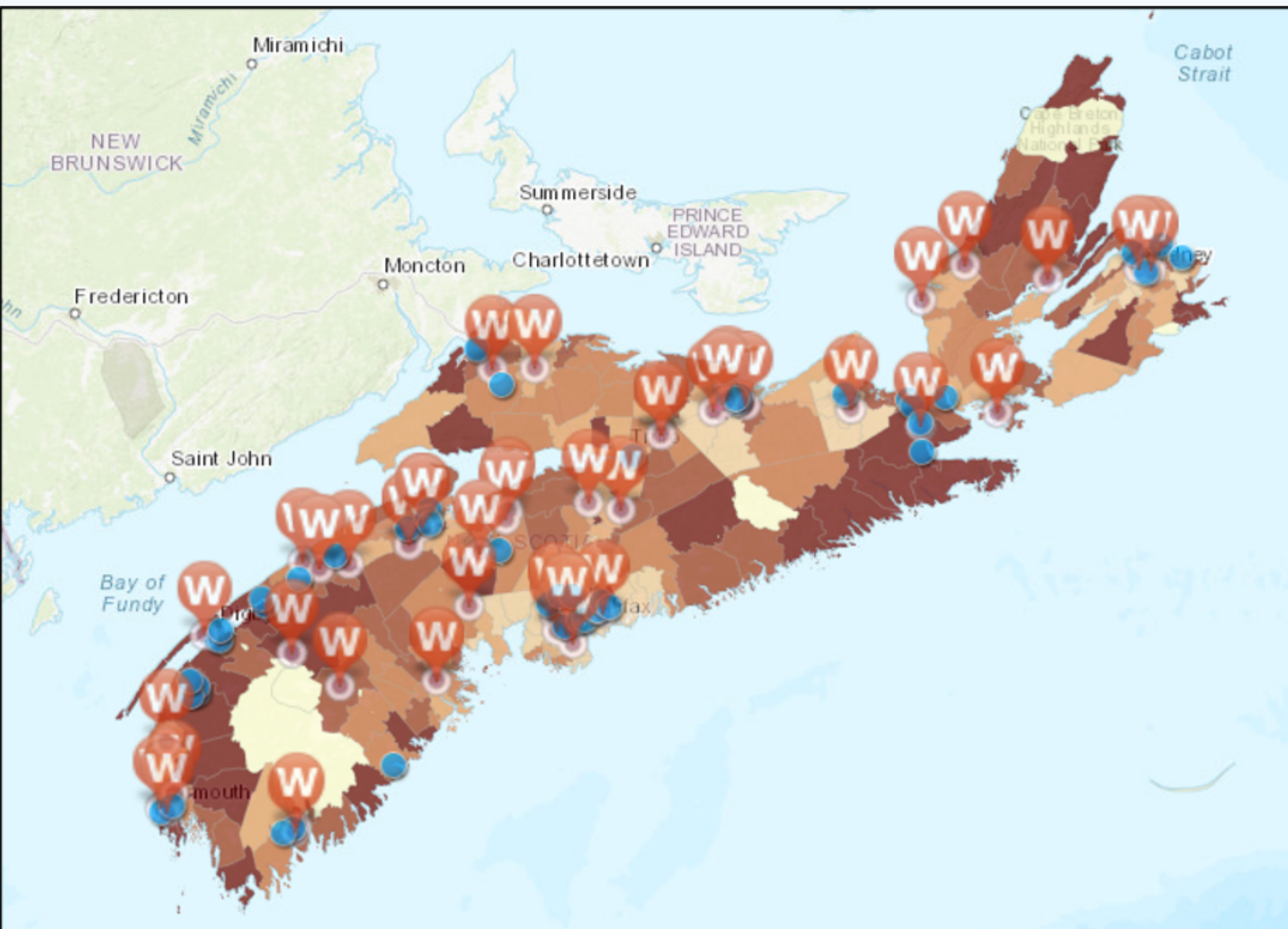


A Tradition of Environmental Racism: A Case Analysis of Lincolnville in Relation to White Supremacy, Racial Capitalism, and Settler Colonialism

Sarah Ceci | Supervisor: Nicole Laliberte, PhD

INTRODUCTION

- Canada lacks an environmental justice movement that is distinct from the U.S. which indicates there is a narrow scope of research and literature on the subject (Haluza-Delay, 2007).
- Provincial & municipal governing bodies place environmental hazards, like landfills, within African and Indigenous communities in Nova Scotia (NS) because they do not have the resources, political clout, and representation to oppose said placement decisions (Fryzuk, 1996).
- Lincolnville, NS has experienced a history of environmental racism from settlement of this community to the placement of two landfills near their community.



(The ENRICH Project, n.d.)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study seeks to answer the following research questions:

- Environmental racism in Lincolnville extends far beyond landfill placement; however, this paper seeks to answer the question of how the siting of the first- and second-generation landfills in Lincolnville perpetuates the ongoing environmental racism that has plagued this community today and throughout history?
- Do the frameworks of white supremacy, racial capitalism, and settler colonialism reveal insights into the structural determinants of health of the Lincolnville case study and how has the community been impacted as a result?
- Given the interconnections and complexities of the ongoing environmental racism that has led to the siting of two generations of landfills near the community of Lincolnville, what place-based approaches to justice can provide relief for this community across geographical, procedural, and social equity justice components?

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

Settler Colonialism

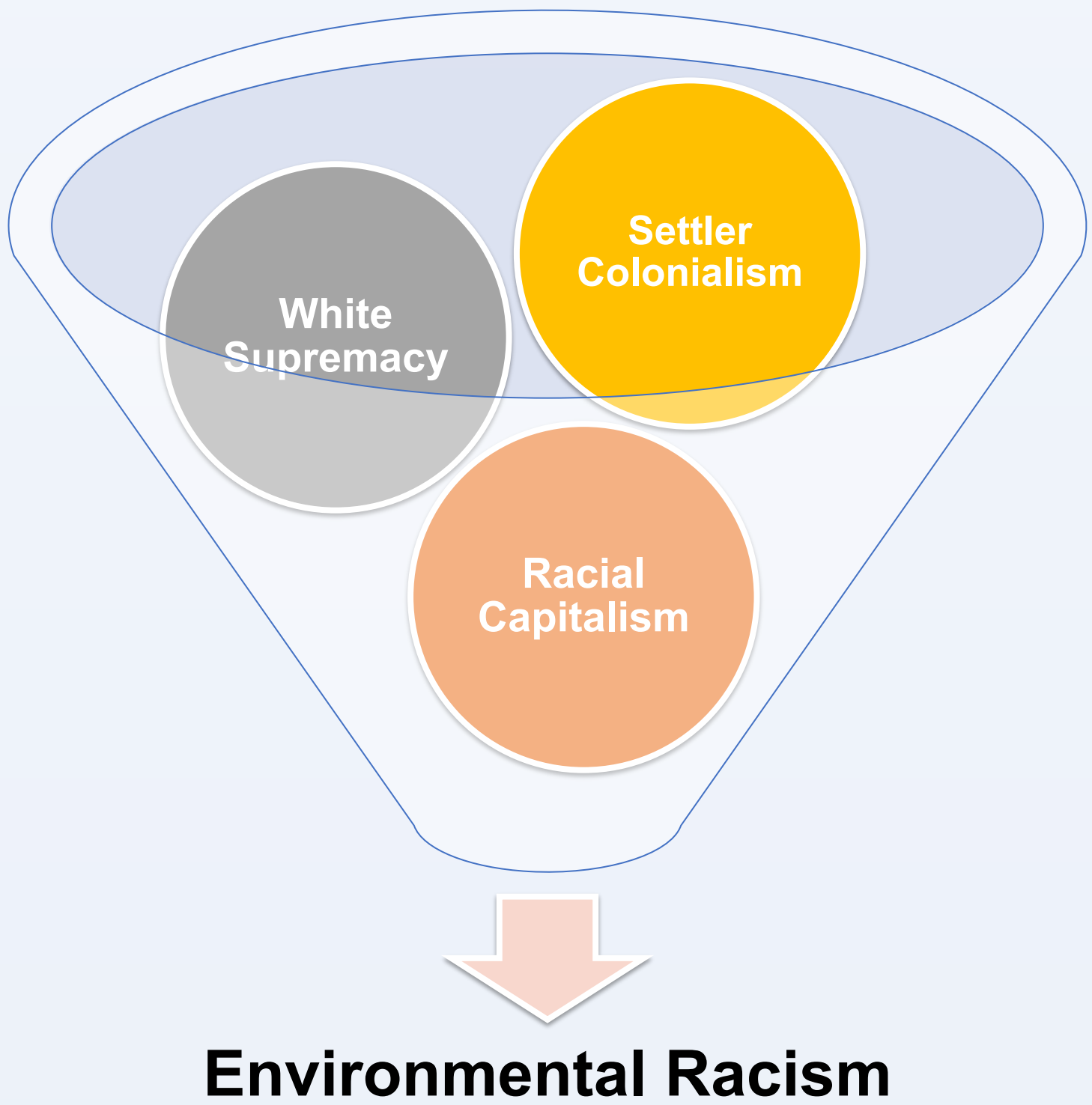
- Settlers are interested in taking of land from and replacing native populations whilst reframing the narrative, so these actions are more acceptable for future generations to uphold (Pulido, 2018).
- Settler colonialism ultimately creates the ideal foundation for governments and industry to take advantage of the land and those that live on it.
- Waste colonialism also dictates the spatial violence imposed on African Nova Scotian communities given the placement of environmental hazards, including landfills, waste treatment facilities, and toxic industries.

Racial Capitalism

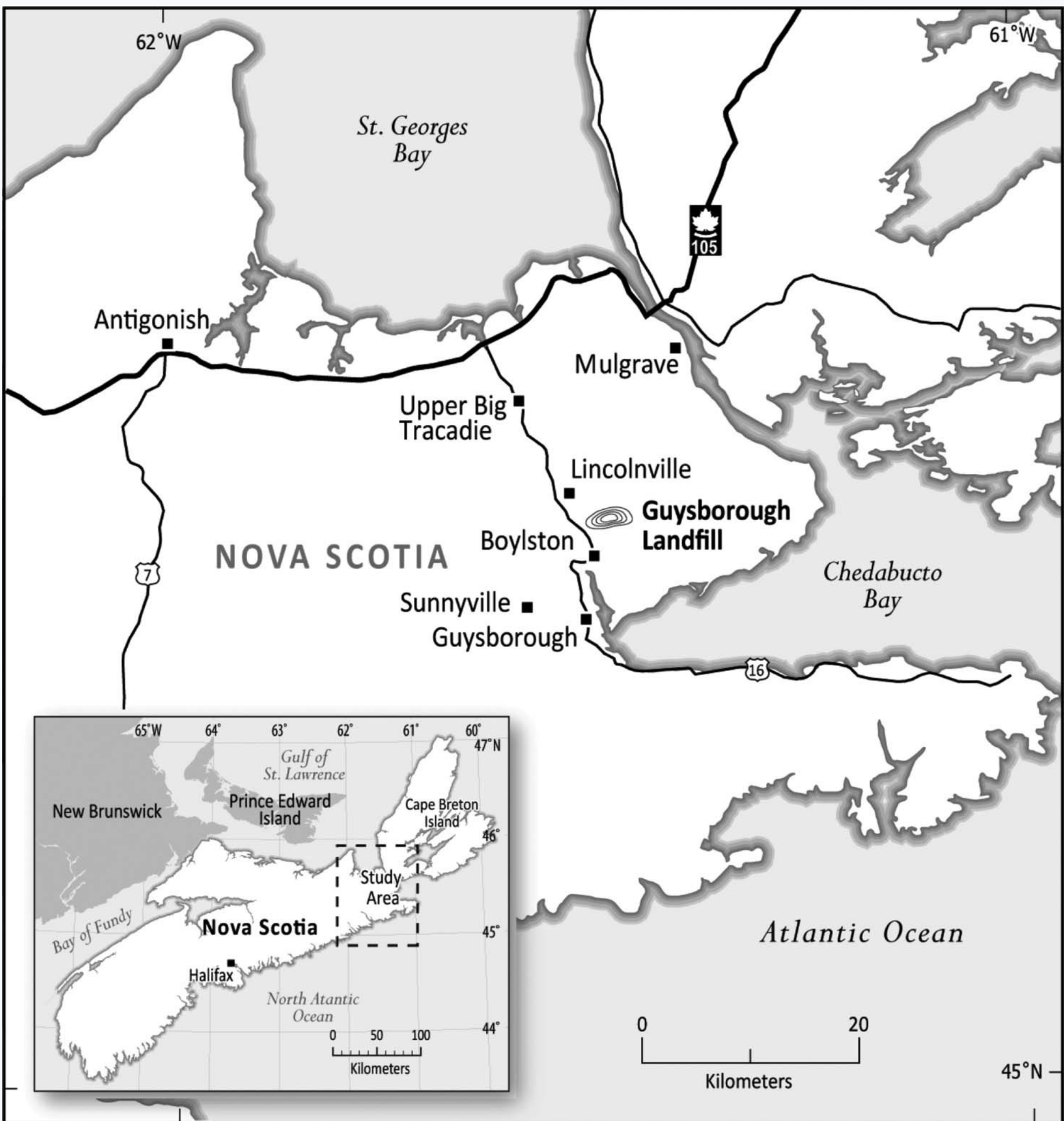
- Describes the social differentiation racism provides which is associated with value differentiation required to accumulate capital of which is institutionalized through various mechanisms (E.g., Pollution sinks) (Pulido, 2017).
- Environmental racism experienced by African Nova Scotian communities is a manifestation of racial capitalism as it signals the lack of perceived value of racialized communities which ultimately acts as a cost savings and in turn allows white elites to accumulate capital.

White Supremacy

- A racist legacy is maintained by white supremacy wherein whiteness is assigned greater value and as a result more deserving of protection from environmental hazards through policies, laws, and decisions (Lipsitz, 2007).
- The NS decision-making process surrounding facility siting embodies a colourblind philosophy that ignores racism as a factor in the placement of environmental hazards.



CASE STUDY: LINCOLNVILLE



(Deacon & Baxter, 2013)

Settlement & Displacement: 1784

- Revocation of a land grant led to displacement of Black Loyalists to less fertile land (Beaton, 2018; Hibbert et al., 2006-2007).
- Disproportionate consequences of an unequal economic and environmental base.

First-Generation Landfill: 1974

- Placed 1km from Lincolnville (Waldron, 2016).
- Dumping of hazardous waste, flawed construction, and open-pit burning resulted in high cancer rates and other diseases, higher health costs, and environmental contamination (Bonner et al., 2016; Waldron, 2015).

Second-Generation Landfill: 2006

- Guysborough Landfill replaced the first-generation landfill (Bonner et al., 2016).
- Public consultation process was intimidating, non-inclusive, and inaccessible to community members (Deacon & Baxter, 2013).
- Impacts the community through social, psychological, and economic stressors.

Placed-Based Activism

- Place-based narratives recognize local narratives are informed by larger scales outside of the local scale's time and place boundary (Massey, 2005).
- Lincolnville's activism is a place-based approach.
- The municipality's approach is place-bound which ignores structural determinants of health and systemic racism.

CONCLUSIONS

- Lincolnville's history with environmental racism has continued from settlement to the placement of the first- and second-generation landfills which has impacted the community's social, economic, and environmental health.
- White supremacy, racial capitalism, and settler colonialism give rise to institutionalized environmental racism in NS.
- Lincolnville's place-based activism can be scaled-up to the provincial and national levels to work towards achieving geographical, procedural, and social equity justice.
- Bill C-230 (the *National Strategy to Redress Environmental Racism Act*) provides Canada the opportunity to speak out against environmental racism and work towards environmental justice.

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UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO



CONTACT

Sarah Ceci, Bcomm, MScSM
University of Toronto, Mississauga
sarah.ceci@mail.utoronto.ca