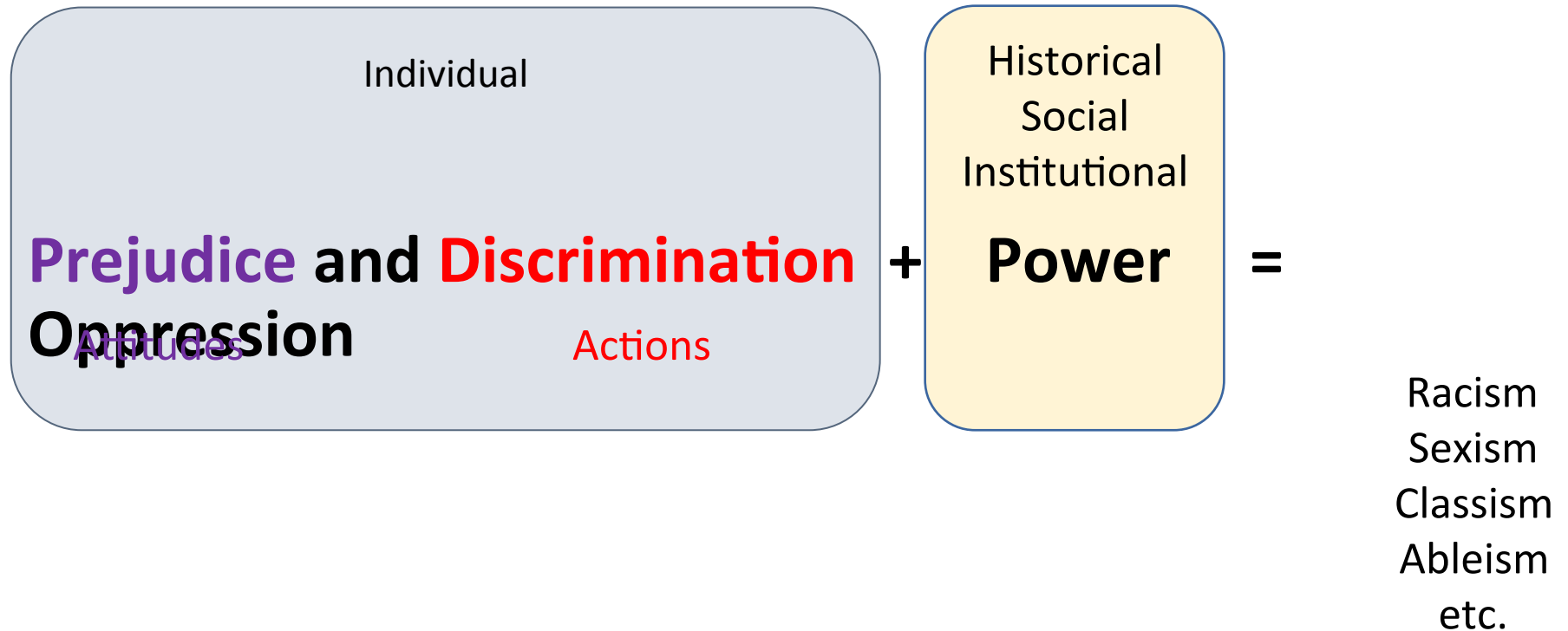


What is Oppression?

“Oppression describes the set of **policies, practices, traditions, norms, definitions, and explanations** (discourses), which function to **systematically exploit one social group to the benefit of another** social group. The group that benefits from this exploitation is called the *dominant* (or agent) group and the group that is exploited is called the *minoritized* (or target) group.”

--Sensoy and DiAngelo, *Is Everyone Really Equal*, p. 39

What is Oppression?



What about reverse racism?

- Discrimination (individual actions) and the “isms” are not the same thing
 - Everyone has prejudice and discriminates, but only the dominant group has the social, historical, and institutional power to back that prejudice and infuse it throughout the entire society.
- There is no such thing as reverse racism (or reverse sexism, etc.).
 - Women can be just as prejudiced as men, but women cannot be “just as sexist as men” because women do not have the political, economic, and institutional power to enforce those attitudes. Reverse oppression of any kind is a false equivalence.