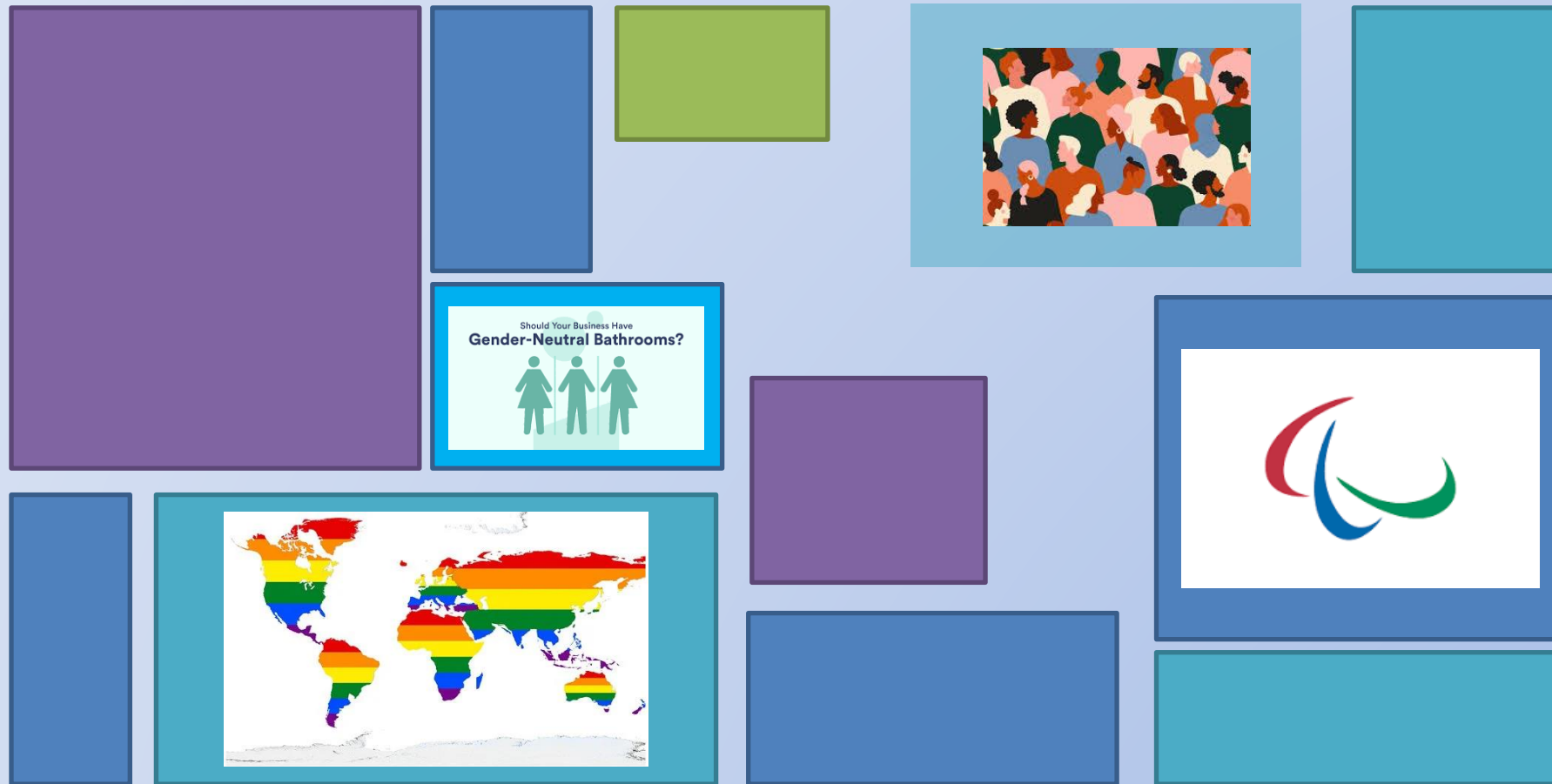




ECSO5001: Diversity & Difference in a Modern World

Theme 2 : An Introduction to The Politics of Recognition and Theories of Intersectionality

Politics of Recognition

- This phrase was coined by Charles Taylor in 1992
- It describes the struggles of different groups of individuals to have their ‘identity’ recognised by society
- Charles Taylor argues that it is the **demand** for recognition on behalf of

‘Minority or “subaltern groups” [...]in what is today called the politics of “multiculturalism.”’

Politics of Recognition

- Relates to the political struggles of any minority or oppressed groups to have their identity recognised
- Always refers to an asymmetrical relationship (i.e. where there is a power imbalance)
- Usually relates to groups trying to break the cycle of the reproduction of inequality
- Involves the challenging of stereotypes, labelling and othering, which has also been called 'misrepresentation'

Politics of Recognition



Can you think of contemporary examples of this?



The Politics of Recognition

Close Reading Exercise



Guided Study Activity: The Politics of Recognition

Look at the two academic articles on the 'Politics of Recognition'

(N.B. Both are available on Moodle)

You should identify the key elements of the concept on your Guided Study Sheet and be prepared to discuss them in our next session

What is intersectionality?



Is this a concept that you have come across before?

If so, in what context?

What do you understand it to mean?

What is intersectionality?

- The term is thought to have been coined by radical feminist Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989) in her article 'Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics'
- In essence, the term is used to describe the lived experience of individuals who may experience inequality, discrimination or marginalisation because they exist as part of a number of groups with society

What is intersectionality?

- Effectively, it is a reminder to those studying this area that we should not 'pigeon hole' people into one category or another but should accept that each individual is exactly that
- In this sense it can be seen to continue our discussion on the fluidity and uncertainty of terms and categories that are used in the current discourse

People on the Margins?



As a group list characteristics which might mean that an individual could be marginalised in society.



What is intersectionality?

A current illustration – The Equality Act 2010



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