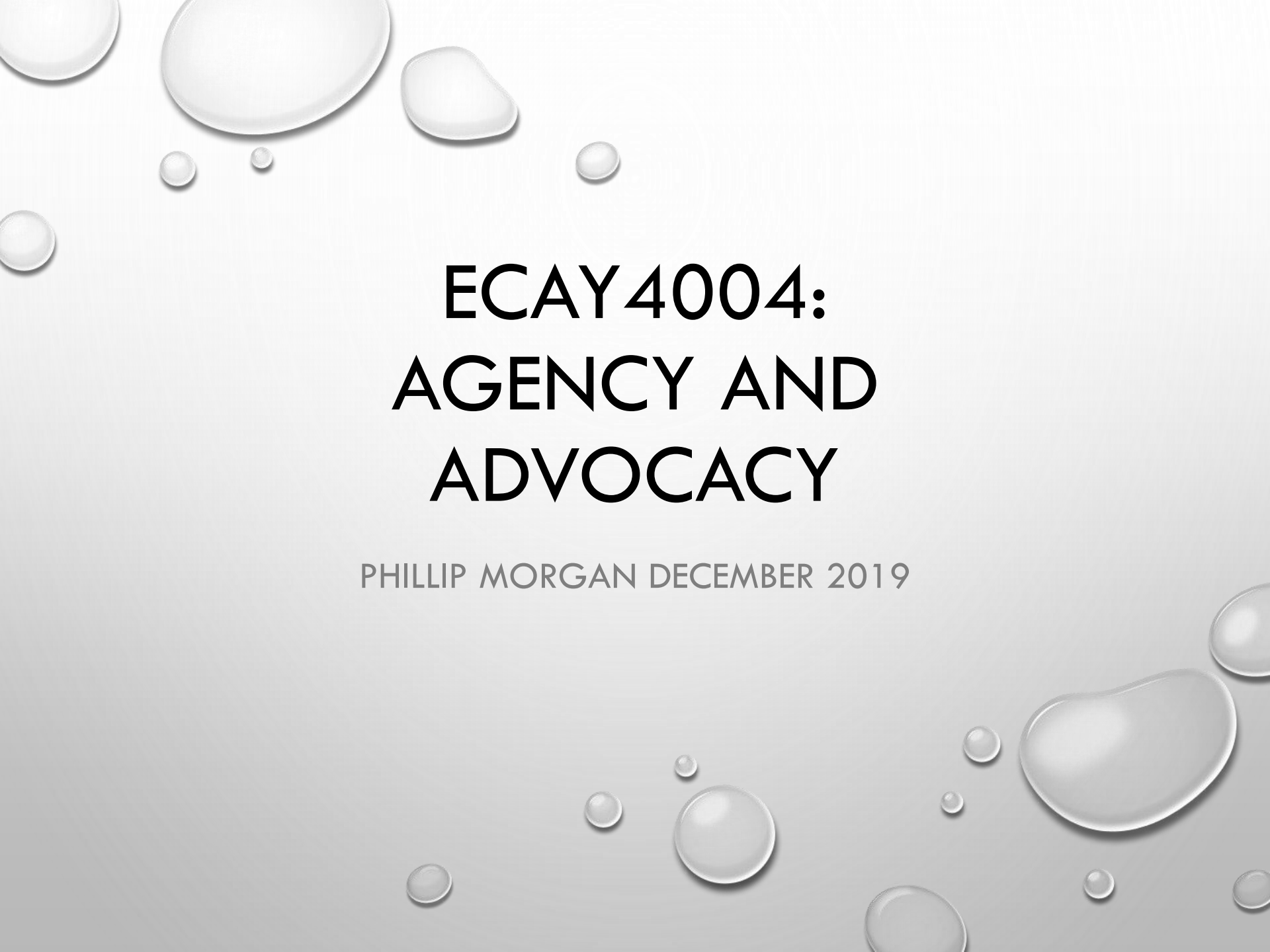


The background of the slide is a light gray gradient, decorated with numerous realistic water droplets of various sizes. Some droplets are large and prominent, while others are small and subtle. They are scattered across the slide, with a higher concentration in the top-left and bottom-right corners, creating a clean, fresh, and professional aesthetic.

ECAY4004: AGENCY AND ADVOCACY

PHILLIP MORGAN DECEMBER 2019

WHAT DOES AGENCY MEAN?

“Greater freedom enhances the ability of people to help themselves, and also to help the world, and these matters are central to the process of development”

(SEN, 1999 P.152)

Acting freely and being able to
choose... are conducive to well-
being

(SEN, 1992 P.51)

The ability to affect events outside one's
immediate sphere of influence (ling and dale,
2014)

STRUCTURE V AGENCY DEBATE

- DOES AGENCY COME FROM INDIVIDUAL CHOICE OR FROM THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY?

MICRO

MACRO

Agency

Structure

Individual Choice
"Free Will"

Social
Forces

Solidarity

Social Control

- Agency as a concept, has been closely linked to the contradictory views of individual freedom for people to make their own and a stable social order. This is defined as the agency v structure debate (dépelteau, 2008).

- Structure refers to the factors that promote or hinder a person's ability to act with agency. These are not limited to institutions or laws, but are also characteristic structures in society, such as social class, age, gender, ethnicity, genetics etc.

(Barker, 2005; see also Giddens, 1979; Elder-Vass, 2010; Bandura, 1999; Durkheim, 2001).

EMPOWERMENT...

- Is the expansion of agency (Ibrahim and Alkire, 2007)

The extent to which some categories of people are able to control their own destinies, even when those interests are opposed by those of the other people whom they interact

(Mason and Smith, 2003 p.1)

AGENCY AND EMPOWERMENT: THE CLOSE LINK

- Alsop *et al.* (2006) suggests two components to empowerment:
- 1. The ability to act on behalf of what you value and have reason to value (agency)
- 2. Institutional environment which may or may not offer opportunity to exert agency

There can be no agency without power

(Dietz and Burns, 1992)

ADVOCATES BALANCE THESE TWO COMPONENTS



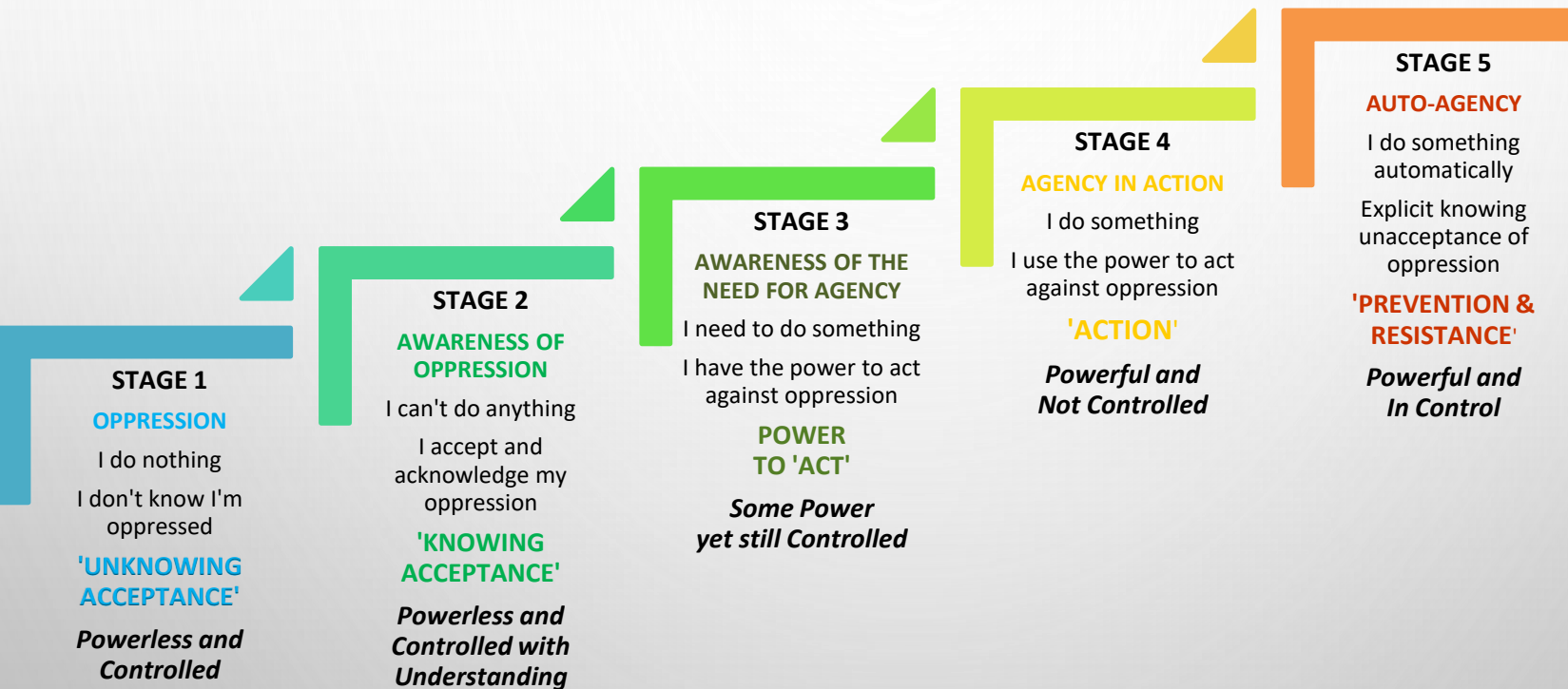
HOW CAN PEOPLE EFFECT THEIR OWN AGENCY?

- By having the skills, time, will and self –efficacy (Dale and Sparkes; bandura, 1998)
- To enable them to identify problems, find solutions and enable change (Ling and Dale, 2014)

HOW DO ADVOCATES HELP ENABLE AGENCY?

- Through empowerment!
- Understanding the person and the structures around them influence their agency
- Breaking down these barriers

PUPIL ENGAGEMENT MODEL



(Welton, Lohmann-Hancock & Morgan, 2014)

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