

An Integrated Approach to Reduce the Rate of Poverty among African Americans in Alachua County

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“...a brutal tactic to accuse wrongfully accused, mostly men, sometimes women of sexual violence against a white woman. That was often the accusation, but to accuse them and then hang them publicly, a public event with thousands of people showing up whites, even children like a picnic. And then taking a photograph, and selling the photograph in the downtown stores, terrorizing the black community, terrorizing the family of this man, oftentimes where the wife would flee, flee the community, had fear for life and for her children's life.” (Interviewee)

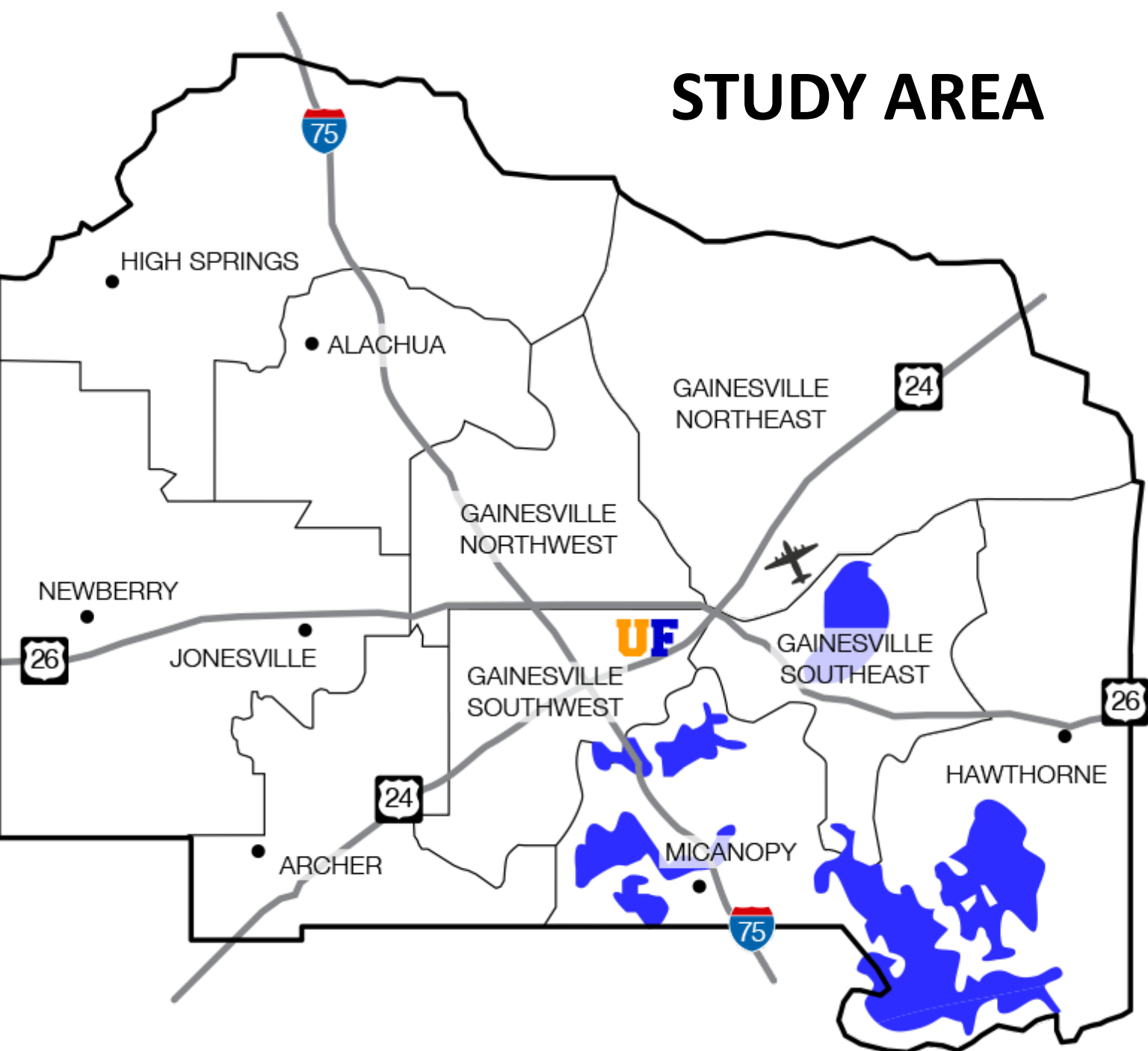
INTRODUCTION

Alachua County had the **highest per capita lynching in the US South**. Between 1868 to 1874, at least 8 African Americans were lynched in Gainesville. Racial violence during and after Reconstruction has been one of the key contributors to disparities in the US.

In Alachua County, **the racial disparities reflect in the quality of education, access to affordable housing, interaction with the justice system, wages, parent’s involvements in children’s education, participation in decision-making.**

This narrative study explores ways to understand how racial violence and other historical **legacies continue to shape subjectivities** and contribute to maintain racial inequities and the prevalence of poverty among African Americans in Alachua County.

This is a timely study that reveals the spaces and elements that need to be fixed in order to obtain a long-lasting societal change.



“I told you my story, the story of my blackness, my black story, because if you don't know my story, you don't know American history. My story is American history.” (Interviewee)

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- Q.1 How does gender help to understand American history and the historical legacy of social, economic, and political inequalities in Alachua County?
- Q.2 How does history influence intersectionality?
- Q.3 What is the depth of the relationship between intersectionality and poverty?

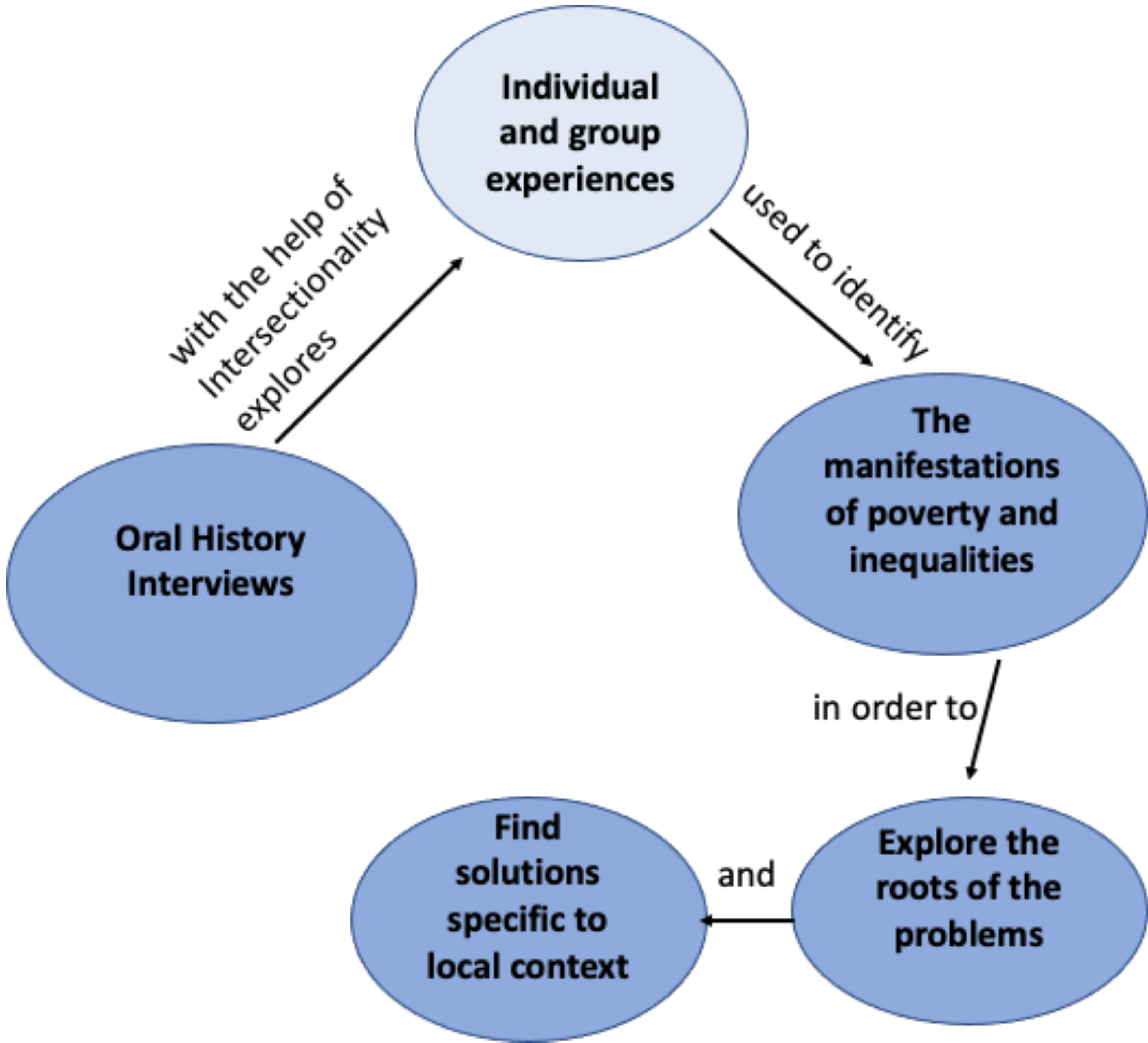
METHODOLOGY

Qualitative Research Design

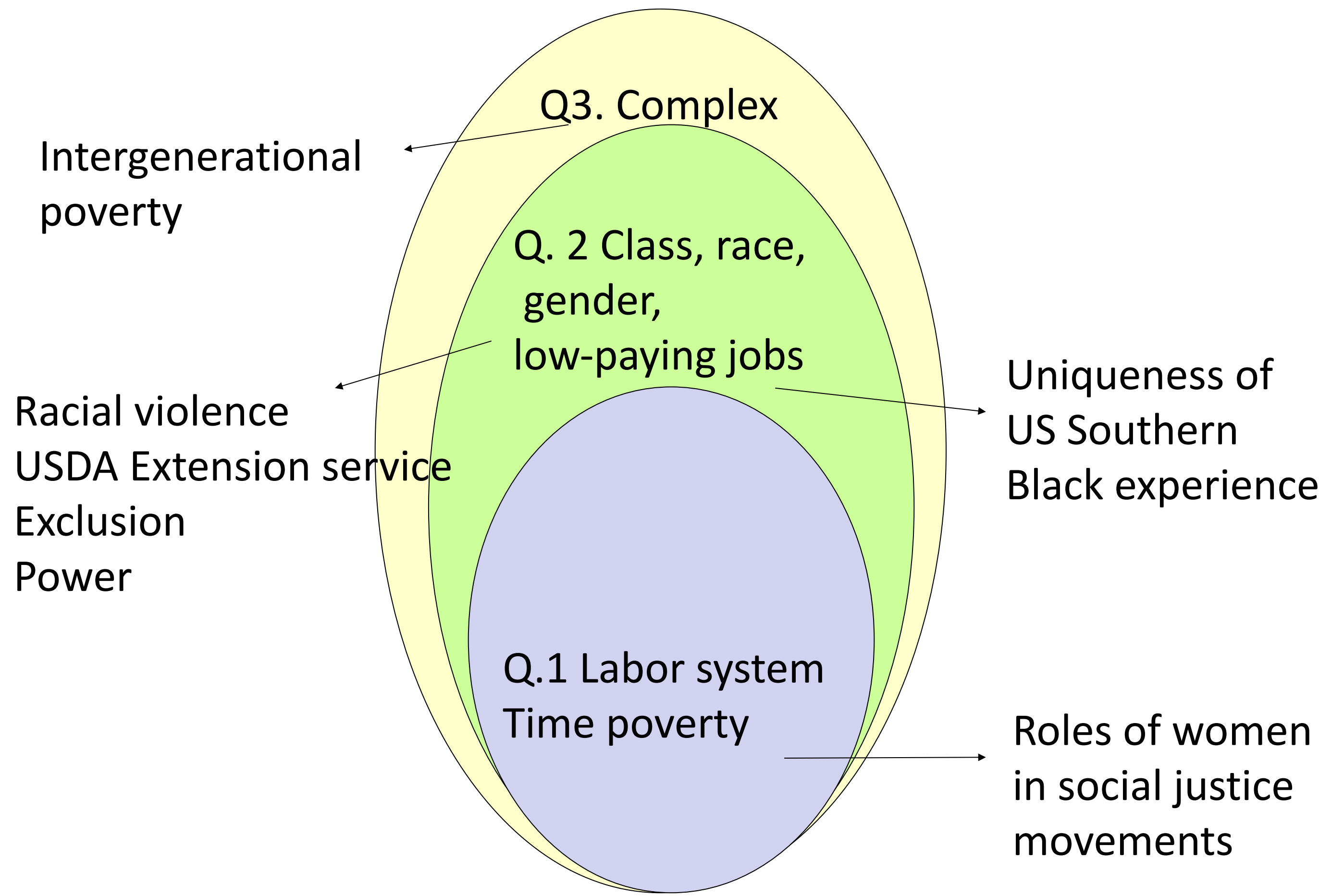
12 In-depth Semi- Structured Oral History Interviews



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



RESULTS



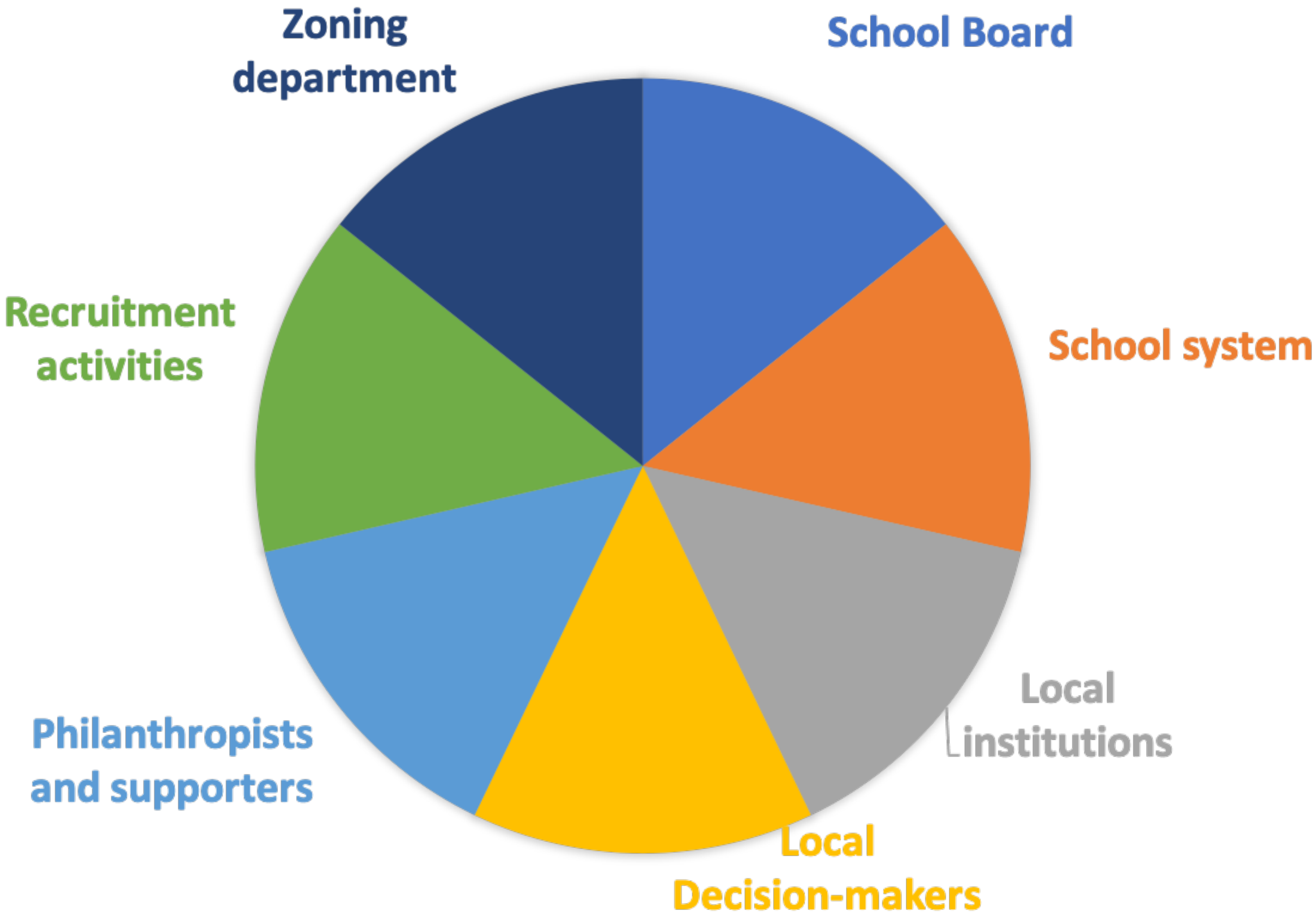
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CONCLUSION

“And I said, let me tell you something long ago, some great white fathers sitting in the seats that you're sitting in now, wrote this rule. Now you are the great white fathers who are listening to this, you can change this rule.” (Interviewee)

Who and what needs to be fixed?



RECOMMENDATIONS

To create and maintain societal change development actors in Alachua County should tackle poverty by:

- Acknowledging legacies** of racism and racial violence as a system of oppression
- Investing in public institutions and services where African Americans are disproportionately affected.
- Increasing **collaboration** between academics and policy makers by encouraging **the transfer of knowledge and skills**
- Creating **enabling environments for community engagement** where solutions to fix the system are discussed
- Designing public programs that would **create awareness and sensitize Alachua County citizens** to its racial legacy and current reality.