Beyond the Catch: Examining the Gendered and Migrant Workforce in Scotland's Fish Processing Industry

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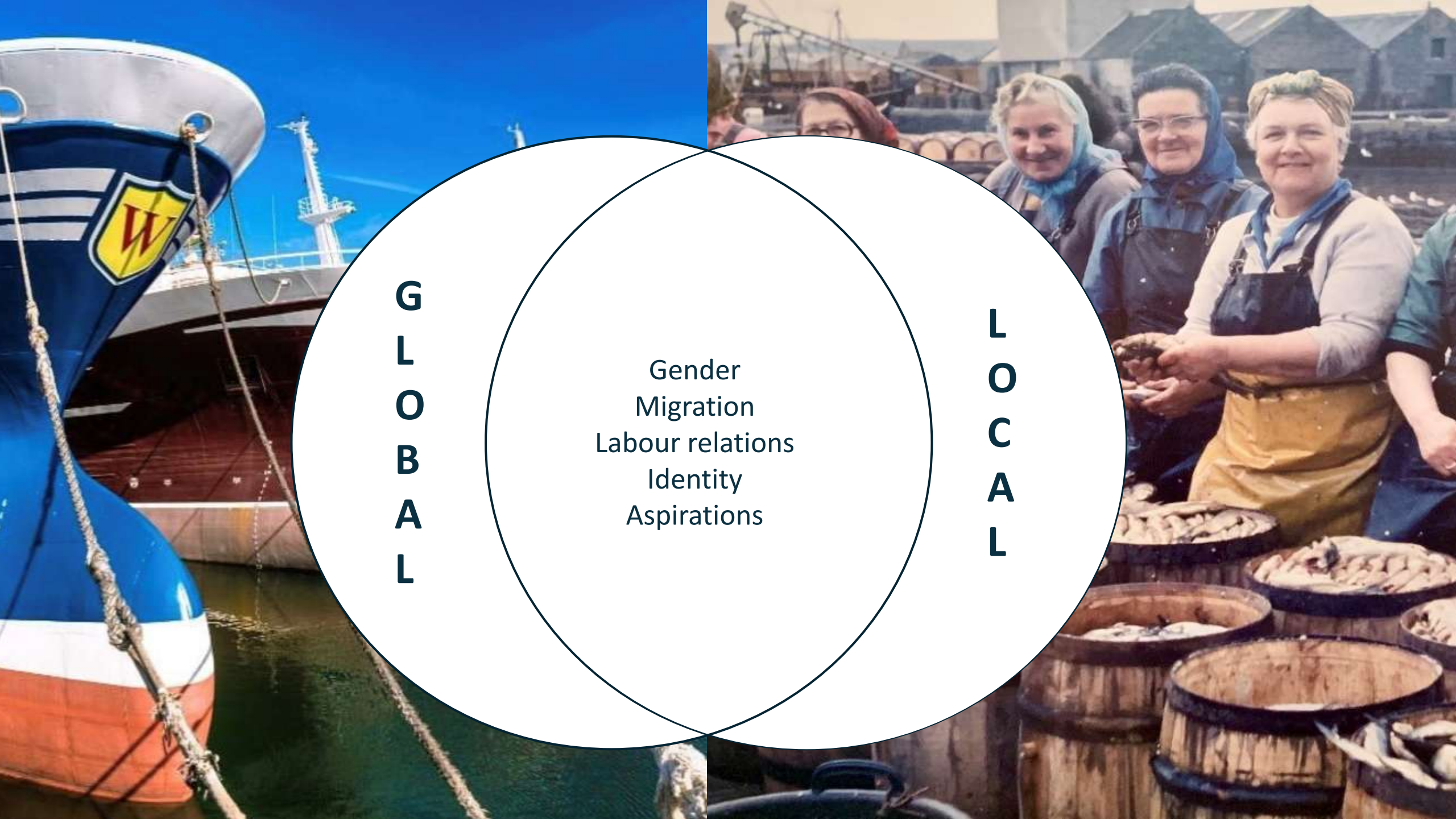
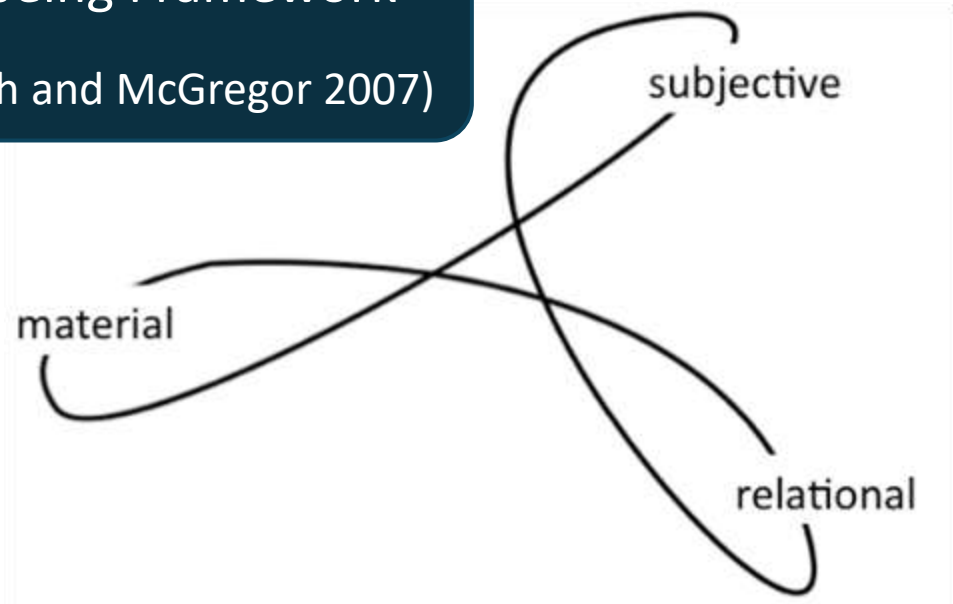

GLOBAL
Gender
Migration
Labour relations
Identity
Aspirations
LOCAL

Feminist Methodology

Wellbeing Framework

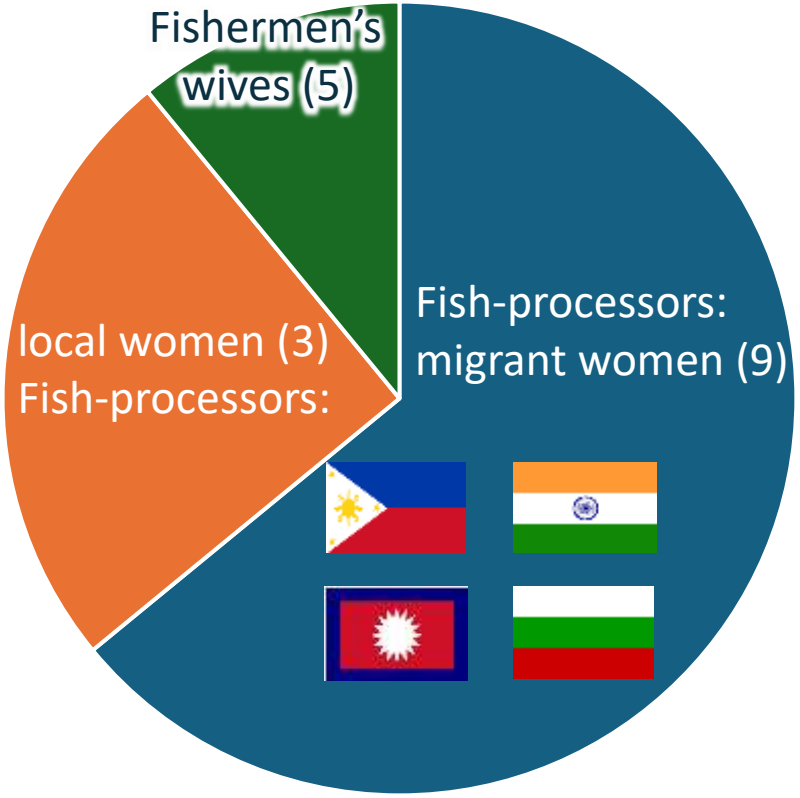
(Gough and McGregor 2007)



Intersectional lens highlights the different priorities across age and life-cycle, race, caregiving responsibilities, and socio-economic status

(Crenshaw 1989)

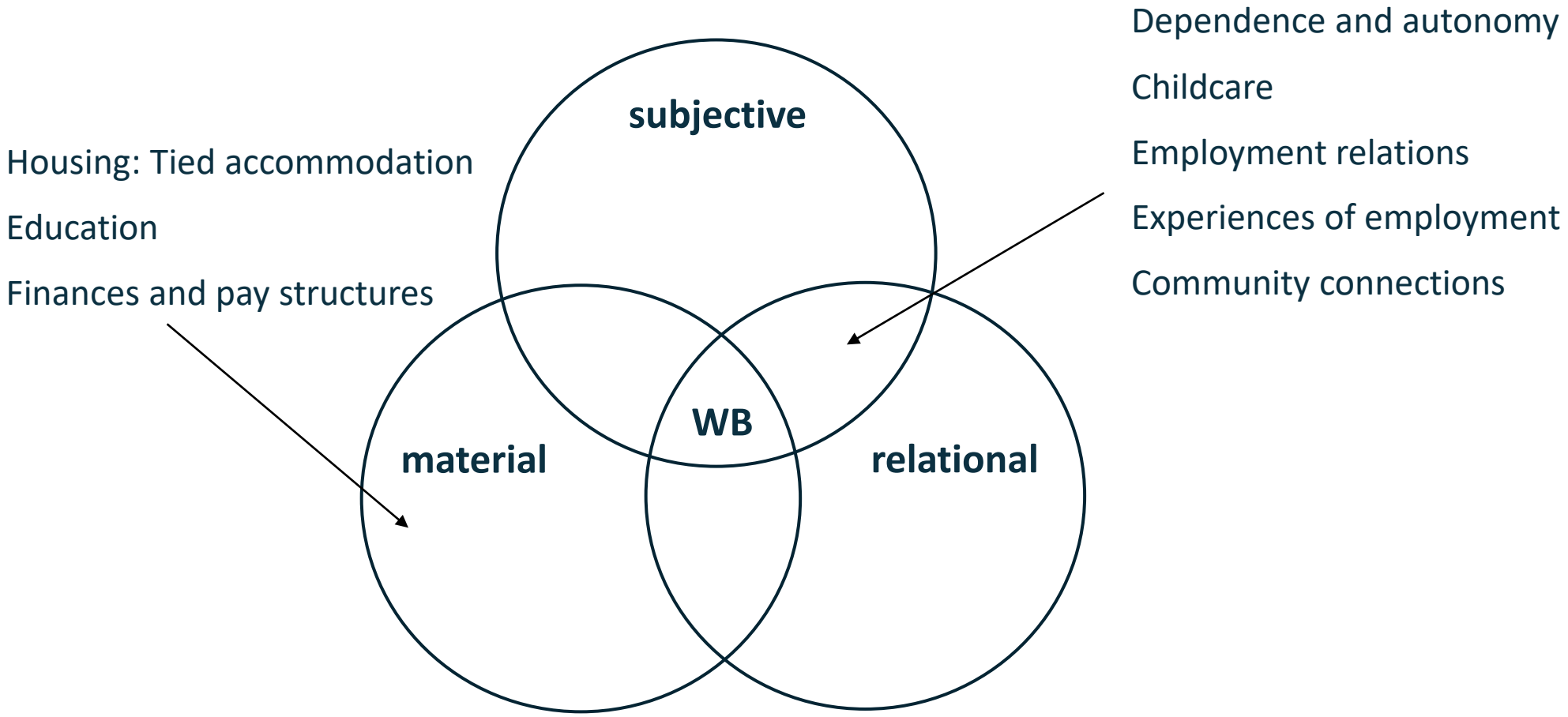
Women participants



Research methods	Participants
Semi structured interviews (Bryman 2016)	All women (17)
Photovoice (Wang and Burris 1997)	Migrant women (6)

Key Findings

Thematic distribution of collected data

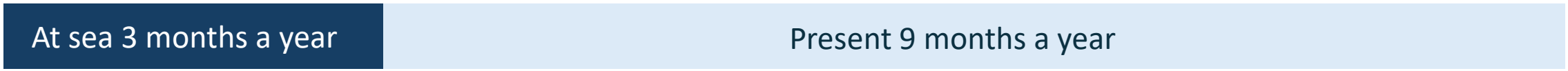


Policy Impacts on Family Dynamics

Fishermen's wives experience was largely shaped by fishing quotas which determined husbands' absence or presence in the household and material relations

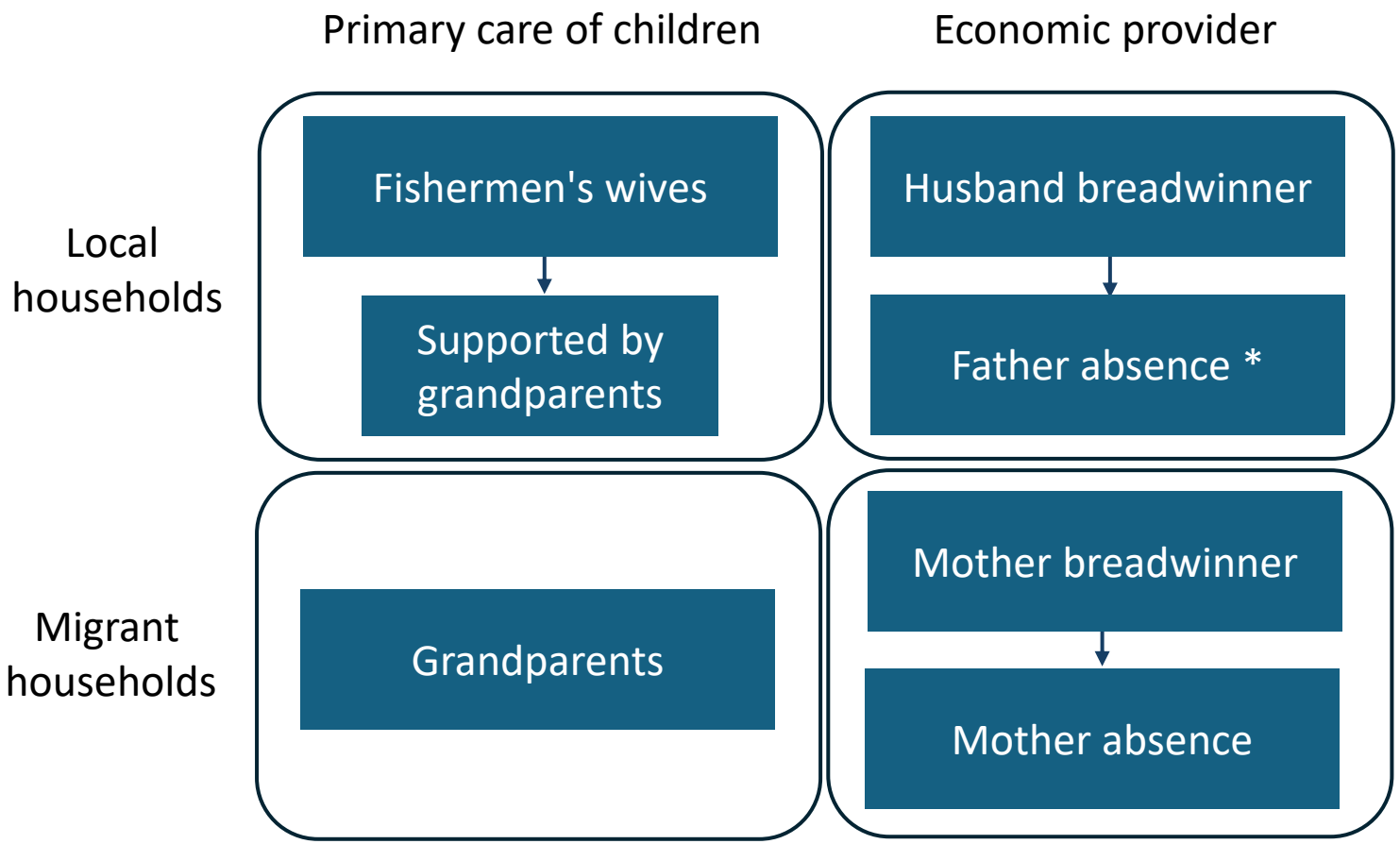
Demersal fishermen: reliant on crew systems, full crew rotation (1) and skipper only rotations (2)

Pelagic fishermen:



Household & Care Responsibilities

Reproductive labour and breadwinner comparison



- Both households experience absence
- Both adapt with the support of grandparents, although to different degrees

* Varying degrees of absence/ presence

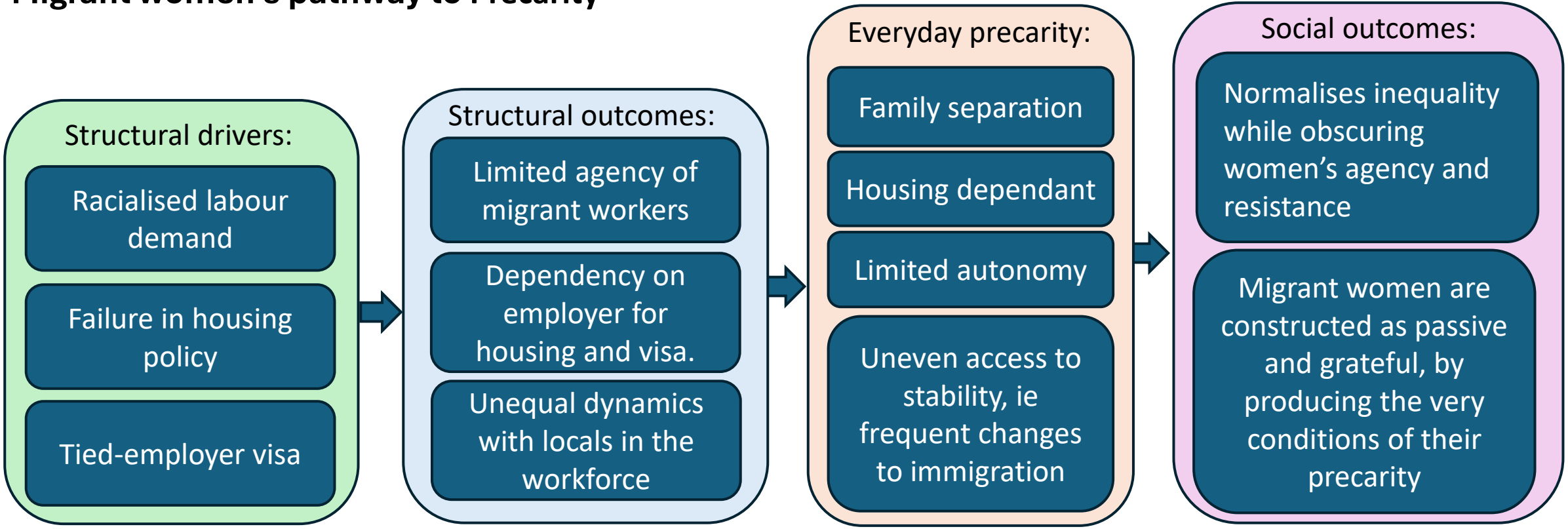
Employment Policies & Gendered Labour

Local and migrant fish processors experiences of policy

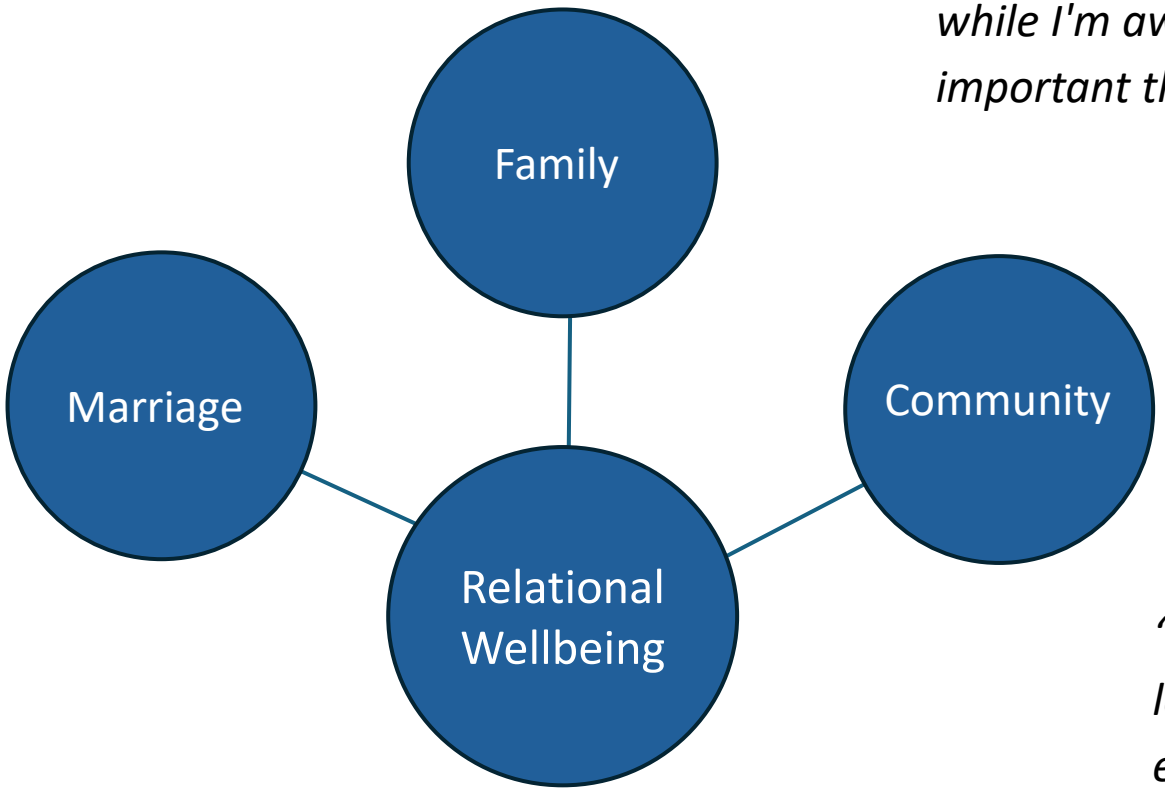
	Livelihood strategy	Similar experiences	Contrasting experiences	Sacrifice	Power dynamics
Local	Survival-oriented, tied to place/family; - not aspirational work	Physically and mentally demanding work Secure employment, stable livelihood	Private housing Citizenship	Limited economic mobility	Low-status work; not linked to future opportunities
Migrant	Long term improvement in circumstance for themselves and families - aspirational	Physically and mentally demanding work Secure employment, stable livelihood	Employer owned tied-housing Immigration: skilled worker visa	Family separation Cultural displacement	Structurally position migrants as compliant labour, and grateful workers

Inequality & Precarity

Migrant women's pathway to Precarity



Relational Wellbeing & Identity



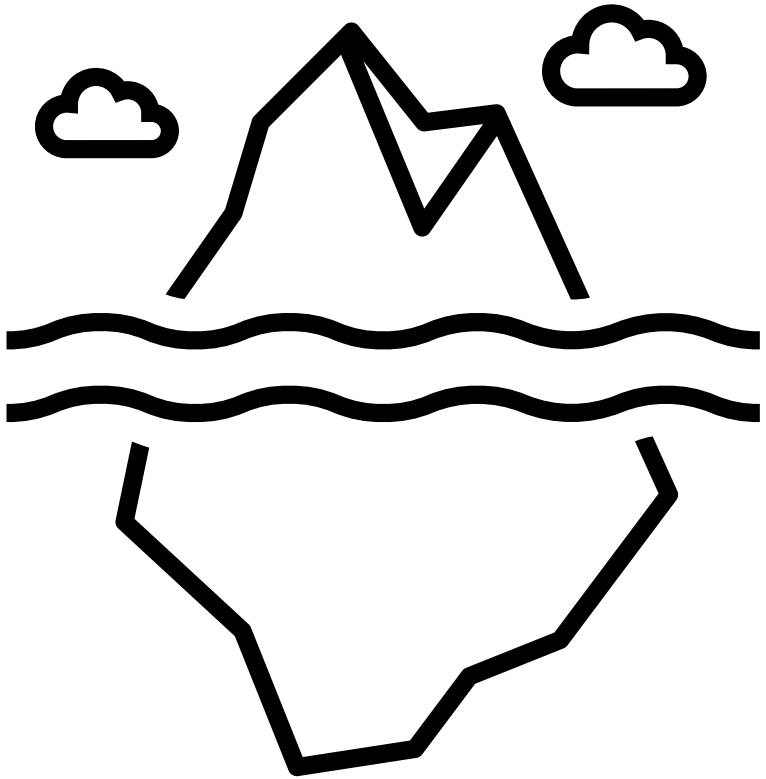
"My friends represent my home here in Scotland, away from my home in the Philippines. So having them here while I'm away from my children is a big and very important thing for me here" (Maya)

"This one flight has changed our lives. Yet, we are getting adjusted to it and almost getting used to it. This is now like a family for us" (Asha)

"Regardless of our race or colours, I always feel the support, love, and strong relationships we share with each other every day" (Maya)

Conclusion & Policy Recommendations

Policy Iceberg: What policies overlook



Visible effects: employment, income

Unseen: family dynamics, caring responsibilities, identity, community

Thank you for your time

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