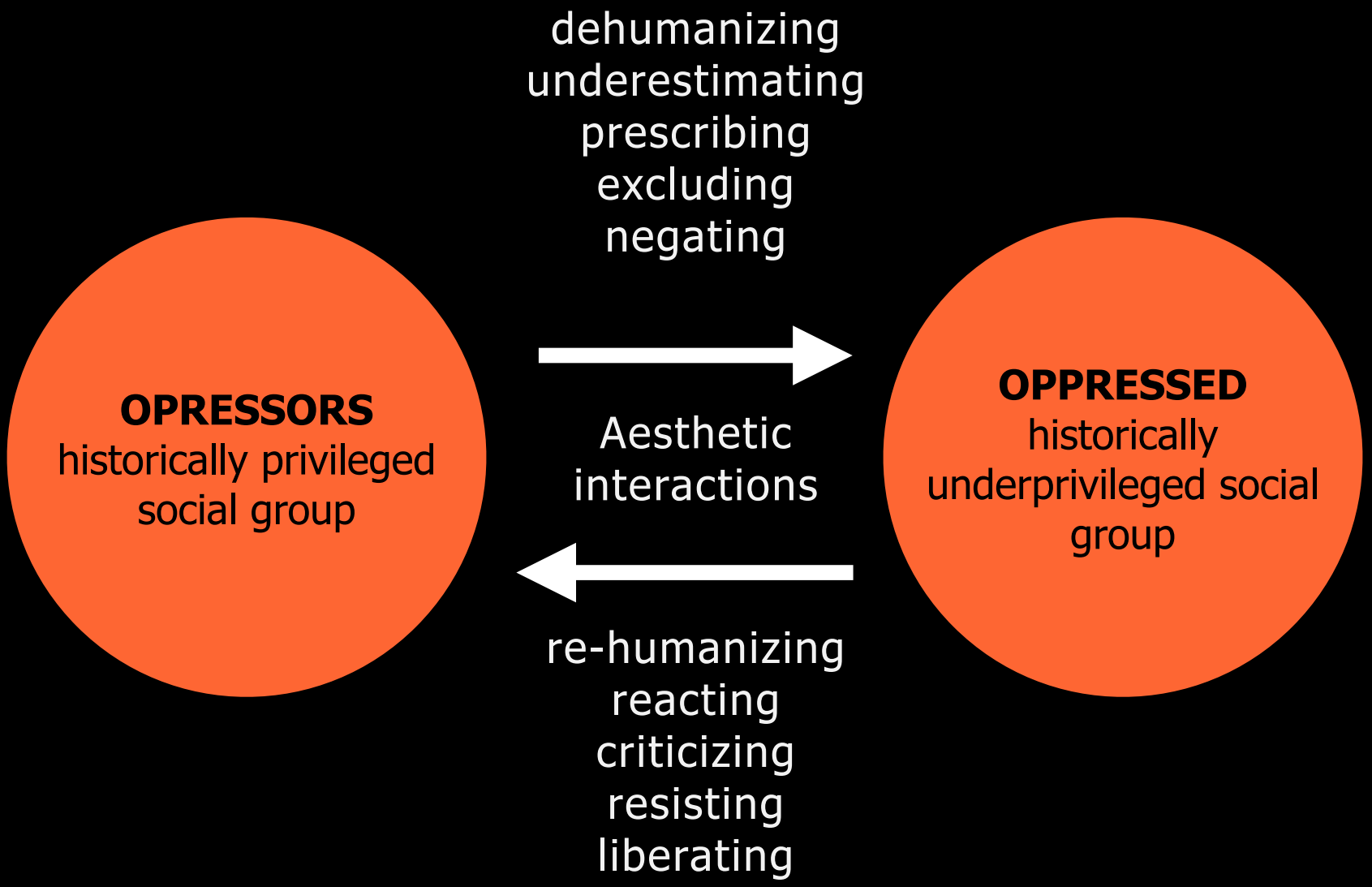
Systemic oppression and *systemic* design

Frederick van Amstel @fredvanamstel
Laboratory of Design against Oppression (LADO), UTFPR
www.fredvanamstel.com

Álvaro Vieira Pinto, Paulo Freire, and Augusto Boal developed a systemic perspective on oppression based on Frantz Fanon.

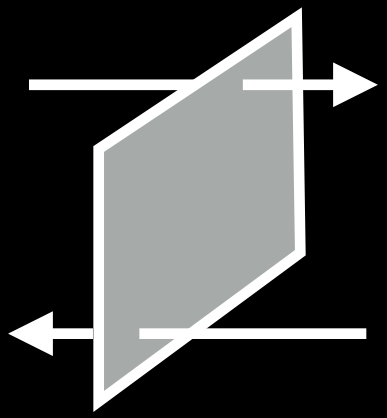
Contradiction of oppression



User oppression

dehumanizing
underestimating
prescribing
excluding
negating

DESIGNERS
historically privileged social group



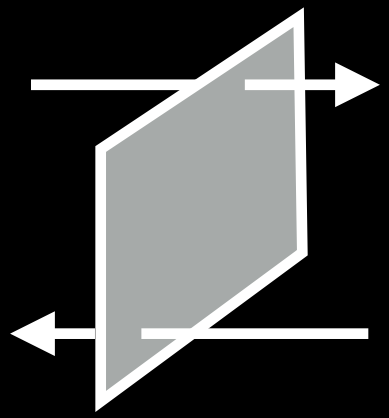
USERS
historically underprivileged social group

re-humanizing
reacting
criticizing
resisting
liberating

Systemic user oppression

dehumanizing
underestimating
prescribing
excluding
negating

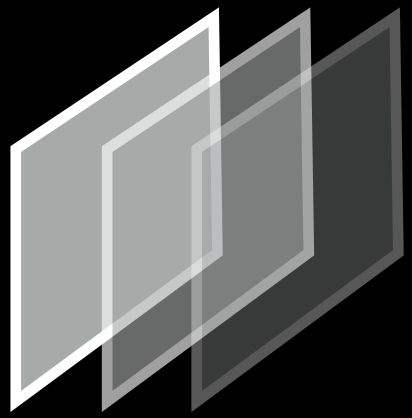
OPPRESSOR USER
historically privileged
social group



OPPRESSED USER
historically
underprivileged social
group

re-humanizing
reacting
criticizing
resisting
liberating

This is not systemic design



Systemic design can only contribute to dismantling systemic oppression by holding accountable the oppressors while supporting the oppressed.

The system is not the oppressor.

There is always someone behind the system taking the most benefit from it.

Thank you!

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