

The background features a complex network of blue lines and arrows. Some lines are solid and straight, while others are dashed and curved. The arrows point in various directions, creating a sense of movement and interconnectedness. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on geometric patterns.

UB CAPABLE GIRLS:

A Capabilities Approach to the Sexual Rights & Resources of Young Women in Buffalo

Project Framework

- Philosopher Martha Nussbaum developed the **Capabilities Approach** as a way to pursue social justice.
- She argued that justice is not a matter of having “rights on paper,” but of ensuring that all individuals are equally able to actually access and exercise those rights (i.e., they are true **capabilities**).
- Using a Capabilities Approach means asking the general question:
What are people actually able to do and to be?
- The current project specifically asks:

What are girls in Buffalo actually able to do and to be when it comes to their sexual lives?

Project Objectives

Using the *Capabilities Approach* as a framework, our project aims to:

1. Examine the sexual rights and resources to which girls in Buffalo are technically entitled;

the policies and
services that exist
on paper

2. Assess the extent to which those rights and resources are actually accessible and to whom;

the policies and
services that girls see
on the ground

3. Relay information to Buffalo providers and policymakers about the gap between girls' sexual rights and resources **on paper** and those **on the ground**.

Project Phases & Timeline

- Policy maps
- Service maps
- Interviews with providers

Phase 1:

Fall 2019

What sexual rights & resources do girls have **on paper?**

Phase 2:

Summer/Fall 2020

What sexual rights & resources do girls have **on the ground?**

- Video comments from girls

- *Private Matters* [policy brief]
- *Between Rights on Paper & Capabilities on the Ground* [journal article]
- Community presentations

Phase 3:

Spring 2021

Information Relay

Project Team



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