Navigating the **brakes** and **accelerators** during the development phases of a research project on Inuit sexuality in the Arctic **helps cultivate collaborative partnerships**, enhancing the coproduction of knowledge.



Pleasure activism and transformative research: navigating challenges and opportunities in the coproduction of knowledge about Inuit sexuality

## **Lydia Risi**

lydia.risi@inrs.ca Institut national de la recherche scientifique (Montréal, Canada)

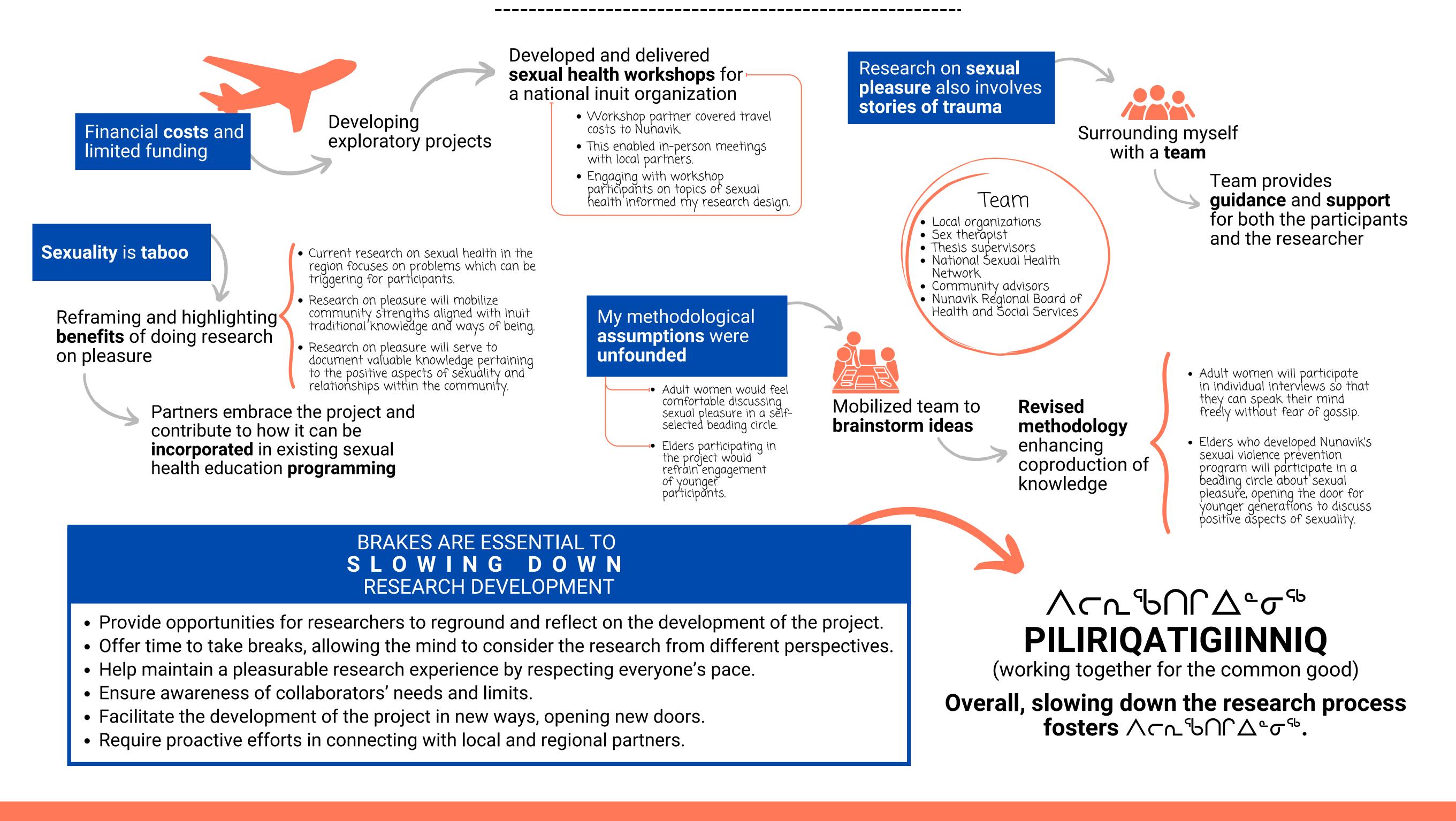
#### CONTEXT

Studies on Inuit sexuality typically fall within a depoliticized framework, perpetuating a deficit-oriented research tradition that emphasizes harms and dysfunctions (Walter 2016). In the context of Nunavik, Canada, discussions on sexuality and pleasure traditionally took place within *ilagiit* (extended families), offering a privileged space for knowledge sharing (Healey 2014). However, Canadian colonial interventions have recoded the Inuit relationship with sexuality, shaping new ideologies and practices, particularly through a Western health and education lens (Kleist 2008).

#### **THE PROJECT**

In my doctoral project, I advocate for a paradigm shift in Inuit sexuality research, moving from deficit-oriented research to pleasure activism. My approach emphasizes intentional engagement and knowledge co-production with Inuit, proposing a framework to explore how pleasure can be both a transformative subject for Inuit sexual health and how it can be embodied in the process of coproducing knowledge. **Pleasure activism** serves as my theoretical framework in exploring the **transformative power of women's narratives of pleasure**. Pleasure activism involves recognizing and celebrating pleasure as a vital and revolutionary force for social changes (brown 2019).

# BRAKES, ADAPTATION STRATEGIES AND ACCELERATORS



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