# Identity and Recognition

Questions of Recognition

Findings

Interviews

Questions

The Concept of Identity

The Concept of Recognition

Questions of Identity and Recognition

Kristin Küter

# Questions of Identity

Who are you?

Where are you from?

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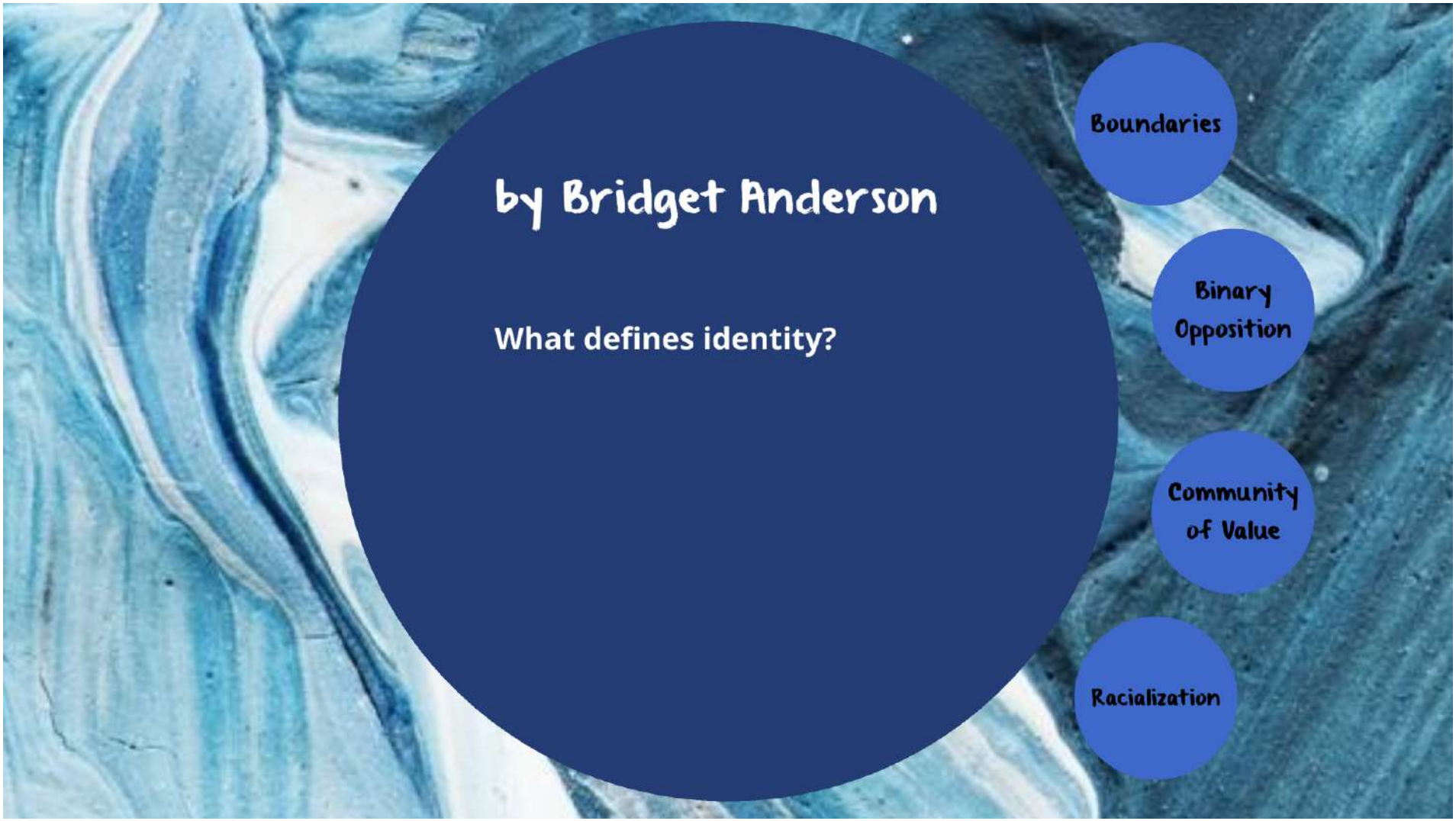
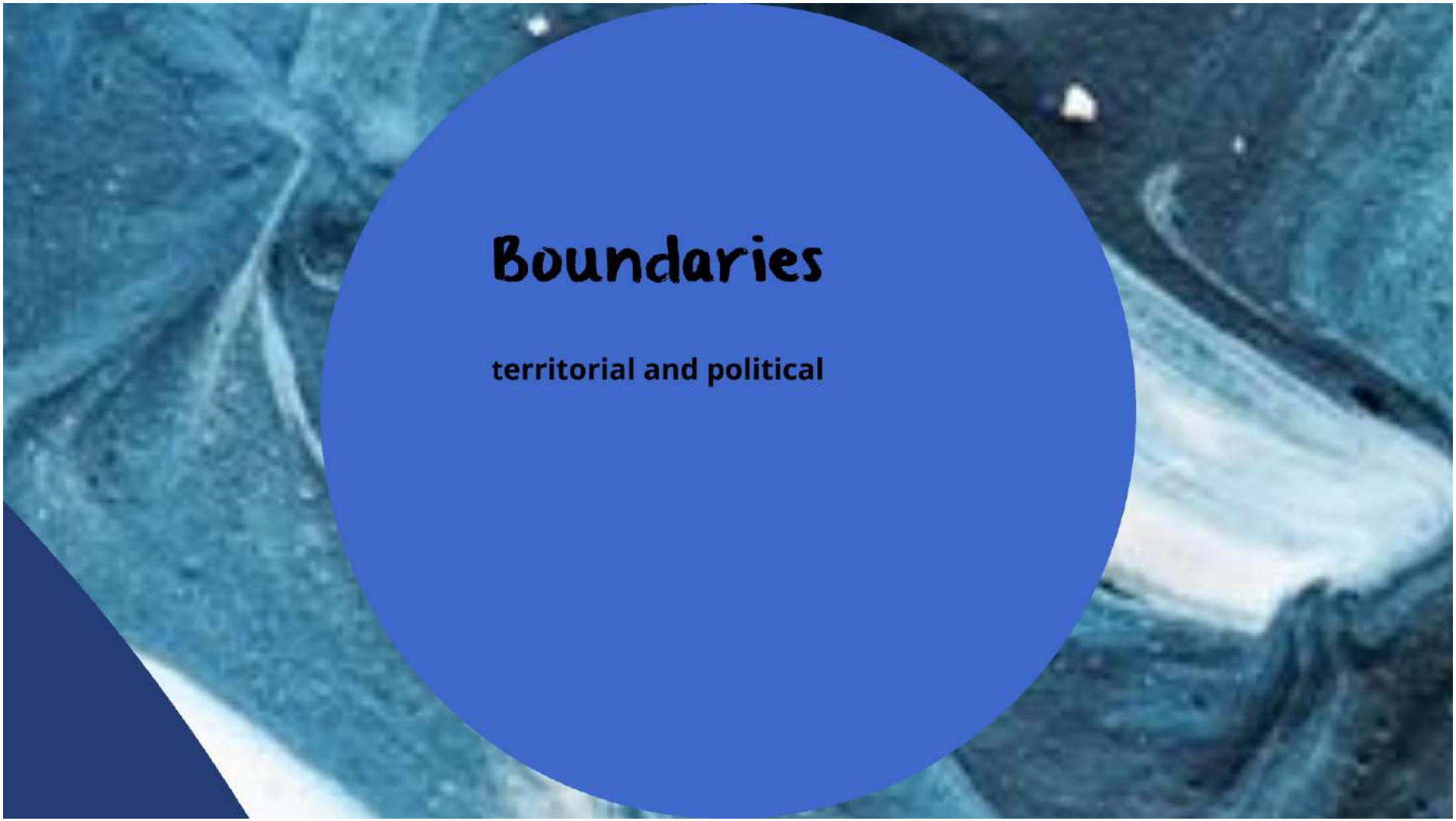

by Bridget Anderson
What defines identity?
Boundaries
Binary Opposition
Community of Value
Racialization


Boundaries
territorial and political

# Binary Opposition

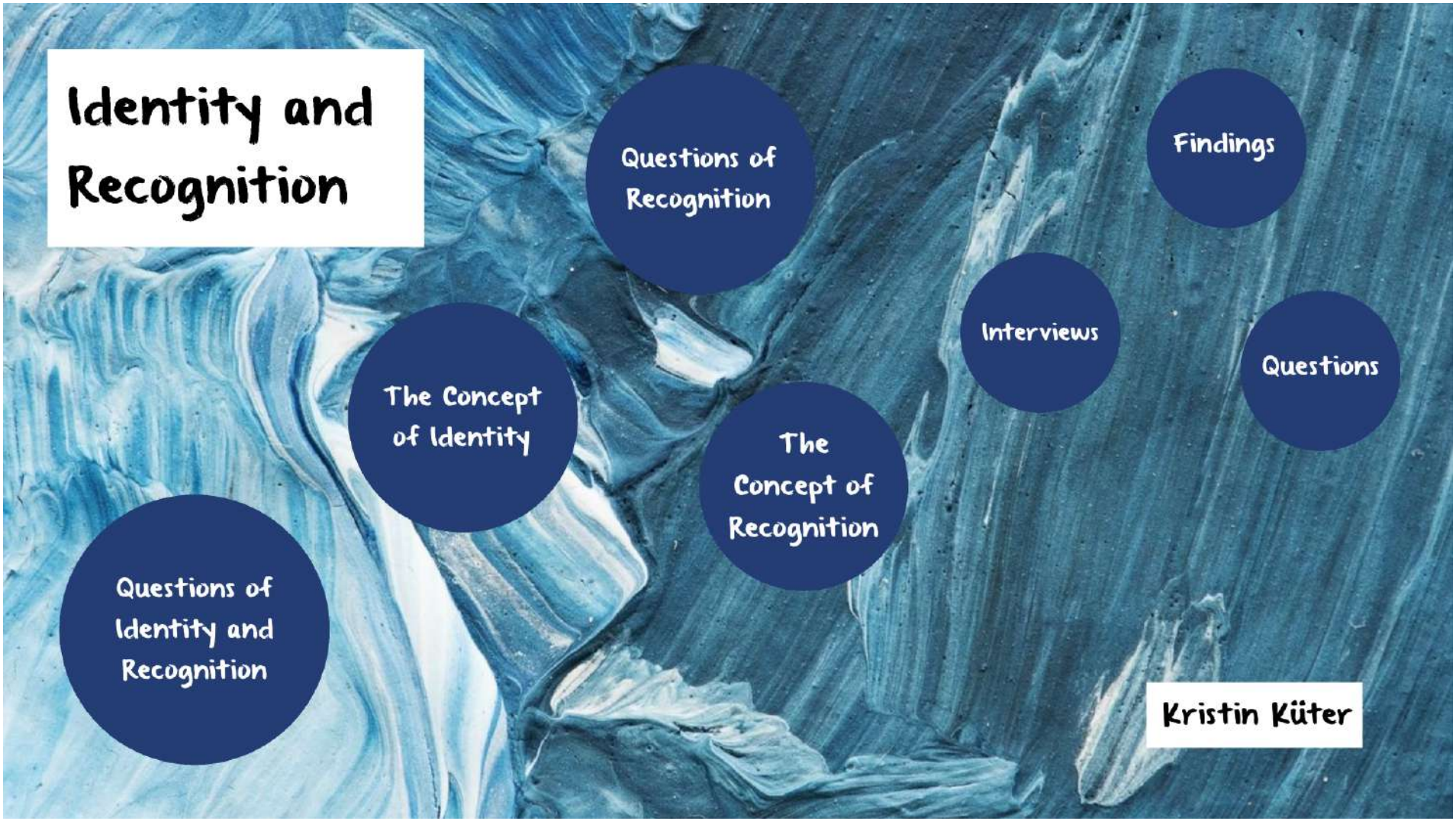
'citizens' versus 'non-citizens'

# Community of Value

**essential for acceptance**

**law-abiding, hard-working, stable and respectable families**

...because that's
their culture"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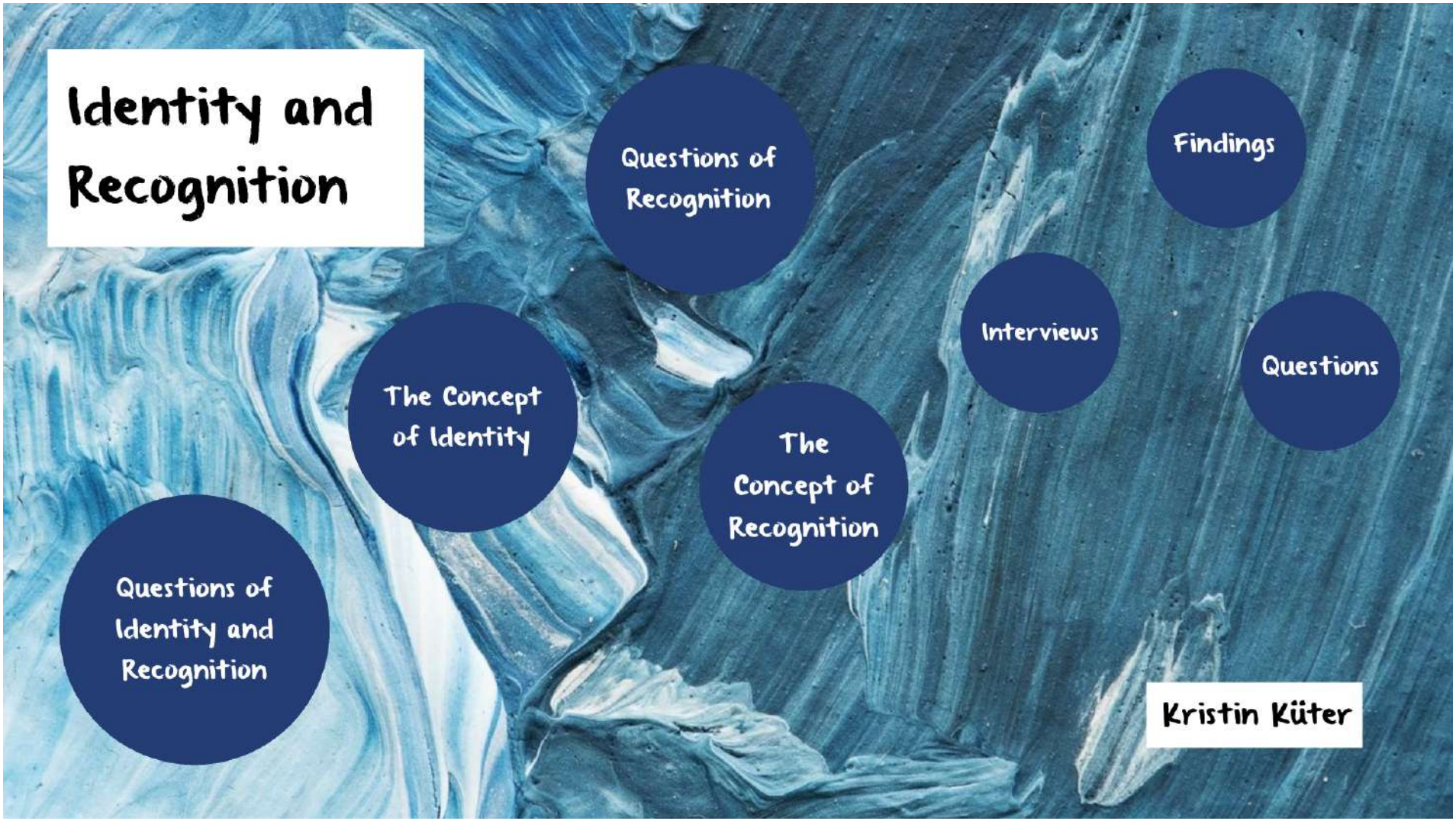
What do you feel recognized for?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# by Charles Taylor

**political recognition as a new form of multiculturalism**

- Denial of Recognition
- New Developments
- Dialogic Character
- Evaluation of Society

# Denial of Recognition

**can be form of oppression as it is a basic human need**

# New Developments

1. erosion of social hierarchies

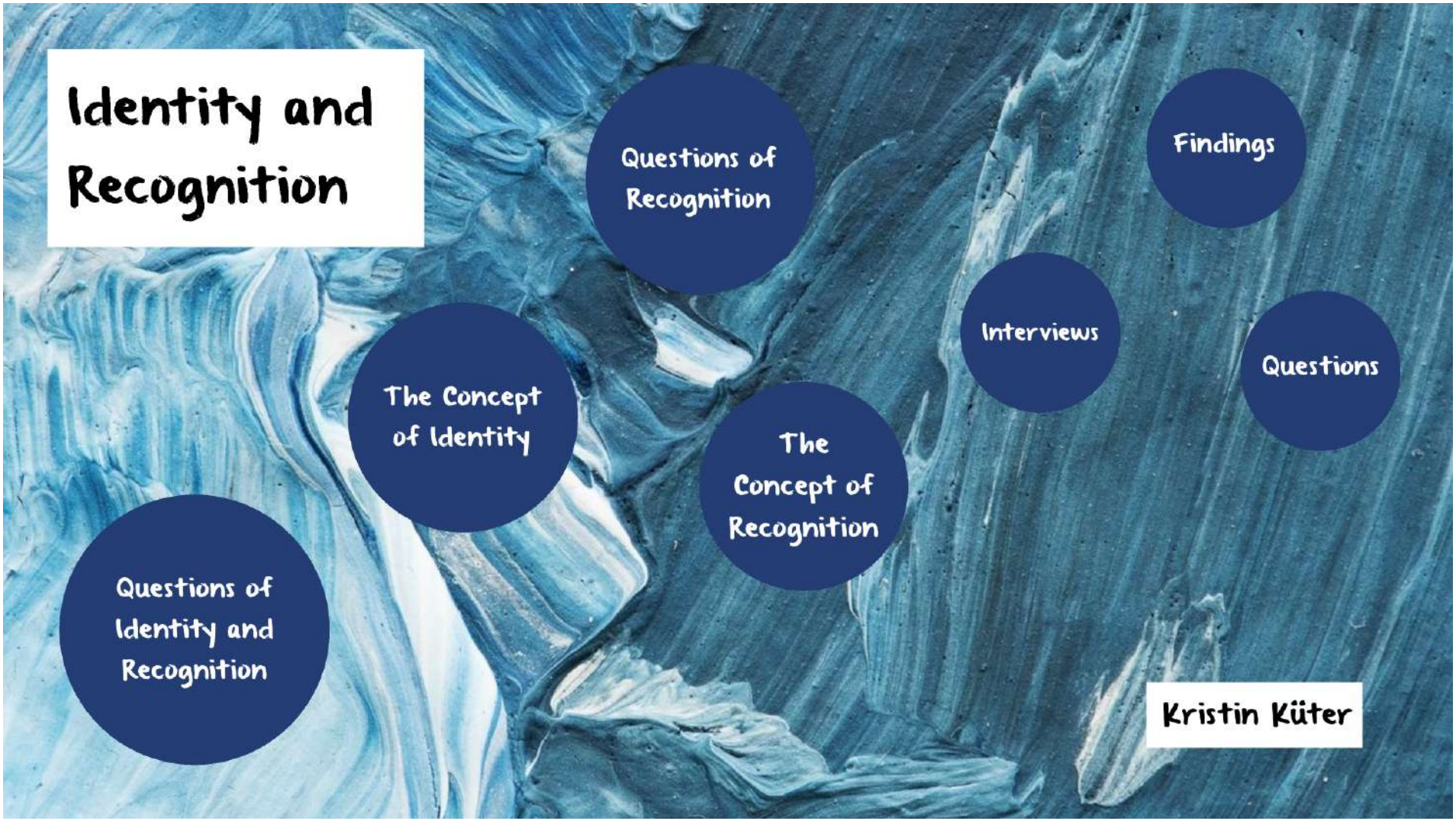
2. development of democratic systems

# Dialogic Character

**shaped by social relationships and interaction**

# Evaluation of Society

**treatment of minorities/people outside of the community of value**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# Interviews in Berlin

6 interviews in total

with Syrians living in Berlin

Identity

Recognition

# Questions of Identity

Justification through work, achievement and performance

Being a member of the community of value

**"Like, for me I tell him..."**

**"We share the same problems..."**

**"But I feel that the German society..."**

"Like, for me I tell him like, two years for me in Germany, I learn English, I learn German, I start my business and I do a lot of stuff [...]" (Berat)

"We share the same problems and we share the same fear [...] And if someone racists wants to hurt someone in the street how he can realize if I am or my husband Muslims or not. So we are the same. So I look at Islamophobia right now, it's more about racism than it's about sectarism or something. It's about we are, we have another color." (Djamila)

"But I feel that the German society is pushing [...] all the people with migration background, to, [...] separated themselves from the community. And to create a lot of questions about their identities." (Djamila)

# Questions of Recognition

Often unequal recognition is criticized

Experiences of discrimination and racism

Recognition through speaking the language

"But as soon as I..."

"I also don't appreciate..."

"You don't have to be a copy..."

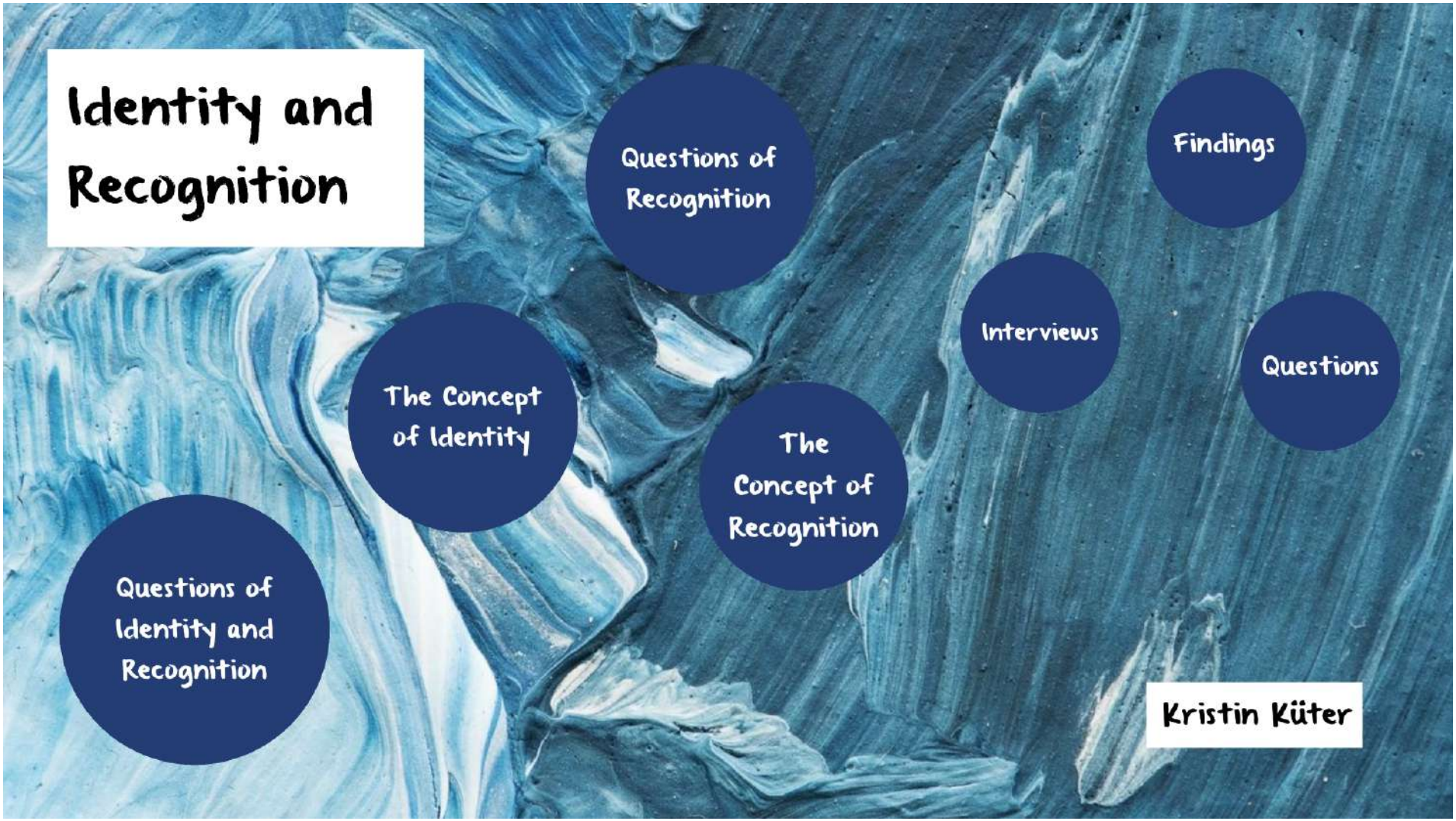
"They don't really take..."

"But as soon as I expressed my opinion, people look at me weirdly, which they shouldn't like, after all, you shouldn't look as me as, as Syrian guy. You should look at me as someone who have opinion the same as you. But asking me that very specific question, they just do that because I am Syrian, you know." (Berat)

"I also don't appreciate [...] some activism scene, which is always viewing you as ‚Ah you're awesome you're wonderful' just because you're a Syrian refugee. [...] I'm very happy with this refugee thing, because it, it states rights and for me it's a political state, statement [...] But I don't want to be [...] less [...] taking you seriously just because you are a refugee." (Samia)

"You don't have to be a copy from anyone. [...] No, I will, will stay the same. Have my own personality, my own way of life." (Djamila)

"They don't really take [...] it seriously when you tell them that I am atheist. So, don't count like this, don't categorize me. So, like, no this is why I always say that it's a race issue." (Djamila)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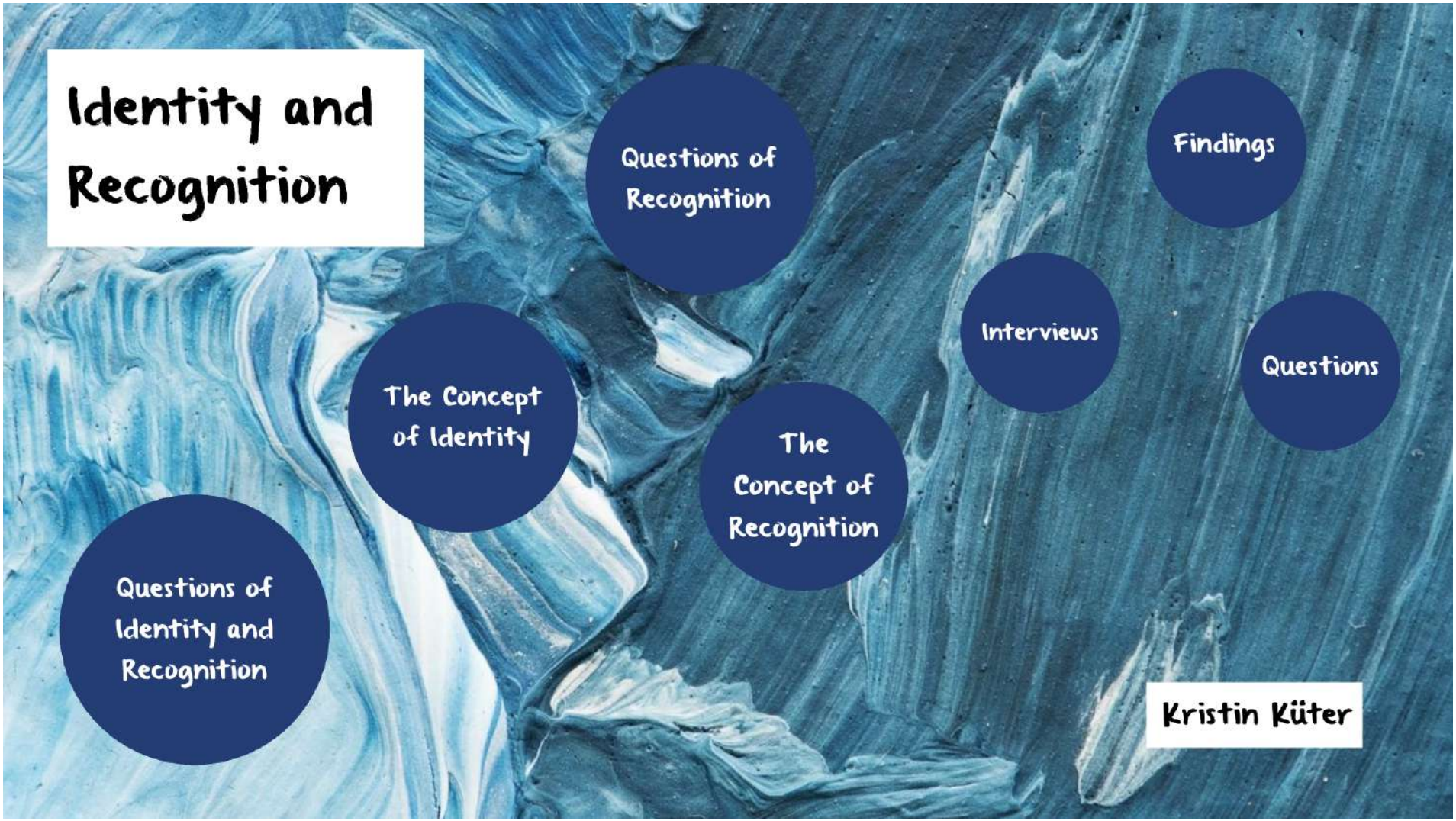
# Other Findings

Emphasize on language but integration through work

Being part of society because of work and achievement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# Questions and Discussion

Do you have any questions?

What are your thought on these findings?

And again:

For what do you feel recognized?
- in society
- personally

What do you identify with?

Any changes?

End

Bibliography

Thank you for listening and participating!

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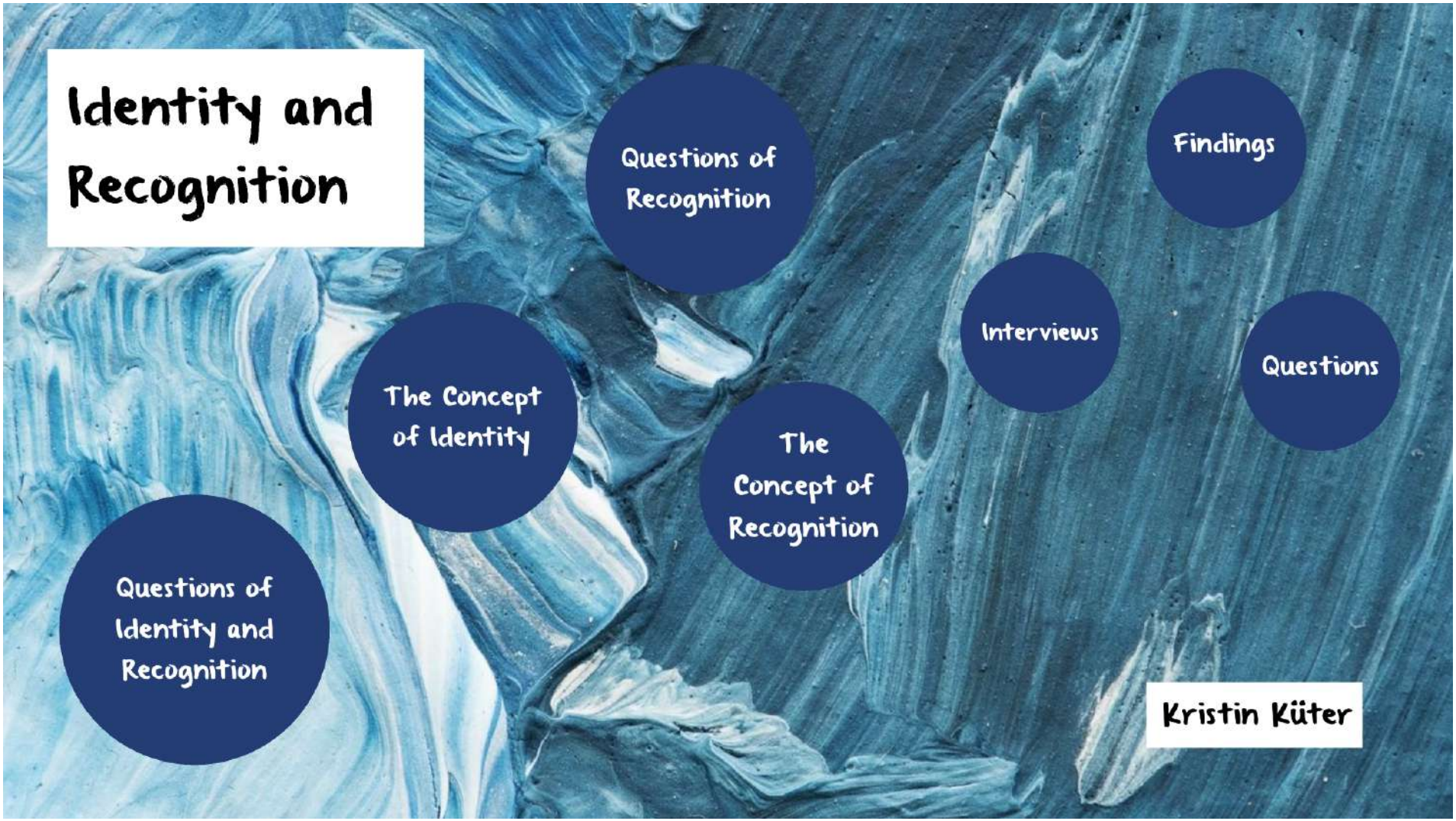
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