

University-Industry Collaborations (UICs) for Innovation: A Matter of Proximity Dimensions?

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BACKGROUND

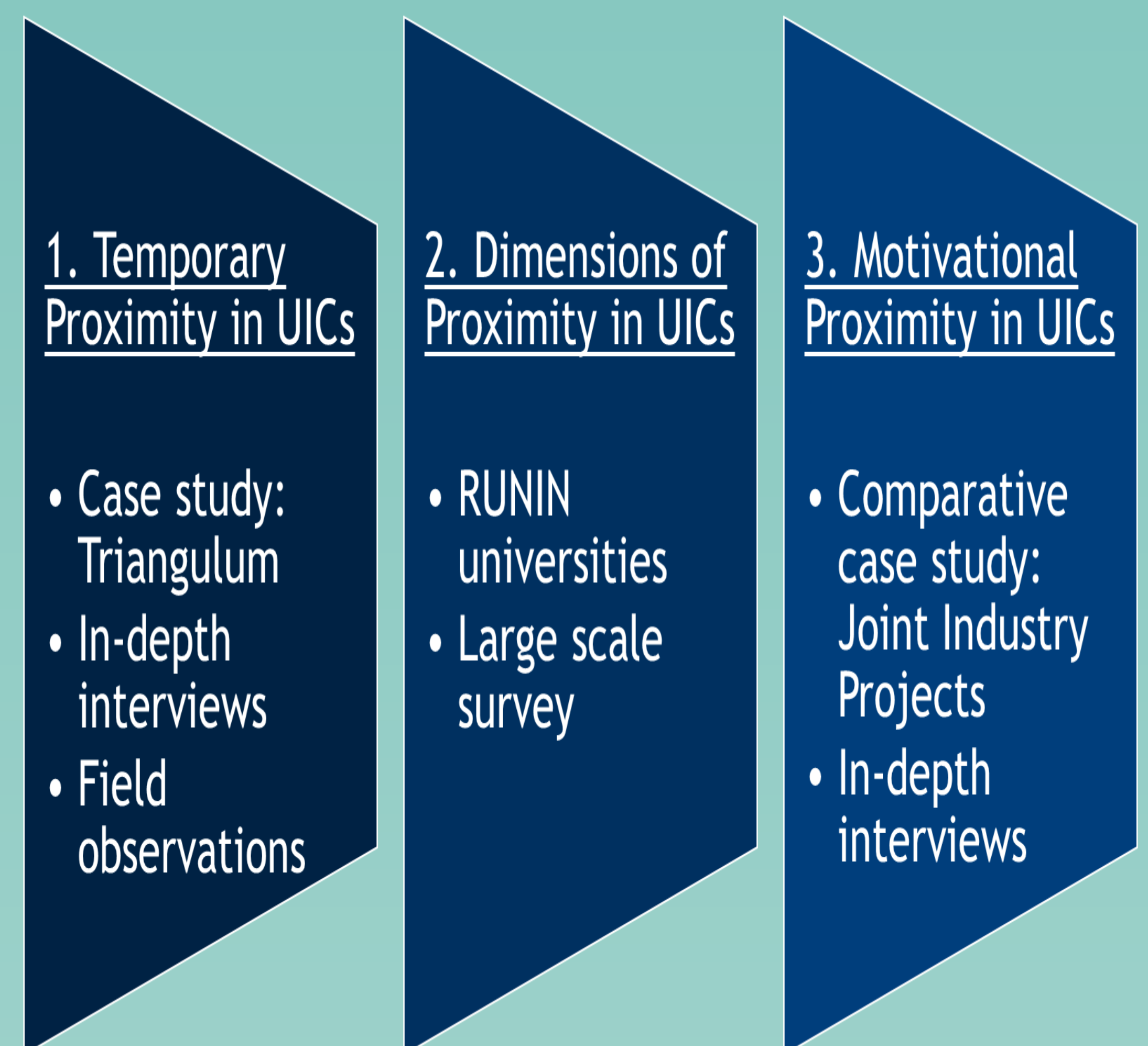
Firms collaborate with a number of actors in their pursuit of external knowledge for innovation purposes, but universities emerge as key partners.

However, belonging to very different institutional settings and having somehow contradictory characteristics, universities and industry actors face several barriers in the exchange of knowledge and collaboration with each other. Therefore, in order for the effective knowledge exchange between universities and firms to take place, there should be some facilitating mechanisms that ease the process of coordination and collaboration.

The concept of proximity, which refers to “closeness of actors and is often assessed by the similarity between the actors”, may help in identifying such underlying conditions. His PhD research is dedicated to analyze how proximity dimensions affect UICs with a special focus on the temporary and motivational aspects of proximity.

RESEARCH STRUCTURE AND METHODOLOGY

The research is divided into 3 components. It will be mainly conducted through a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, such as case studies with in-depth interviews and a large scale survey.



Research Questions

RQ: How do different dimensions of proximity affect university-industry collaborations?

SQ1: How does **temporary proximity** influence the success of UICs by developing other proximity dimensions?

SQ2: How does **motivational proximity** influence the success of UICs?

Expected Output / Impact

- Increased understanding of proximity dimensions in UICs

- Influence of temporary proximity on other dimensions

- Validity of motivational proximity

- Development of policy implications