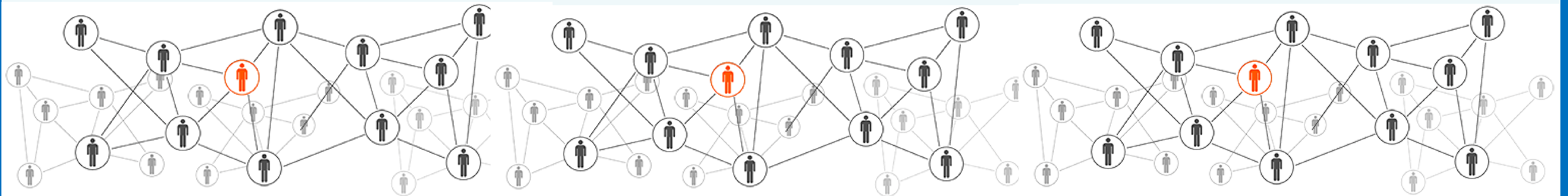


The Role of Academics' Networks in Regional Development

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INTRODUCTION:

- Universities play an important role in their regions and in the development of a **knowledge-based** economy
 - delivering on their third mission
- Research on knowledge exchange tends to emphasise the linkages between organisations
 - Linkages should focus on **actions of individuals**.

RESEARCH QUESTION:

How do individual contacts (of Academics) shape the geography of knowledge exchange networks?

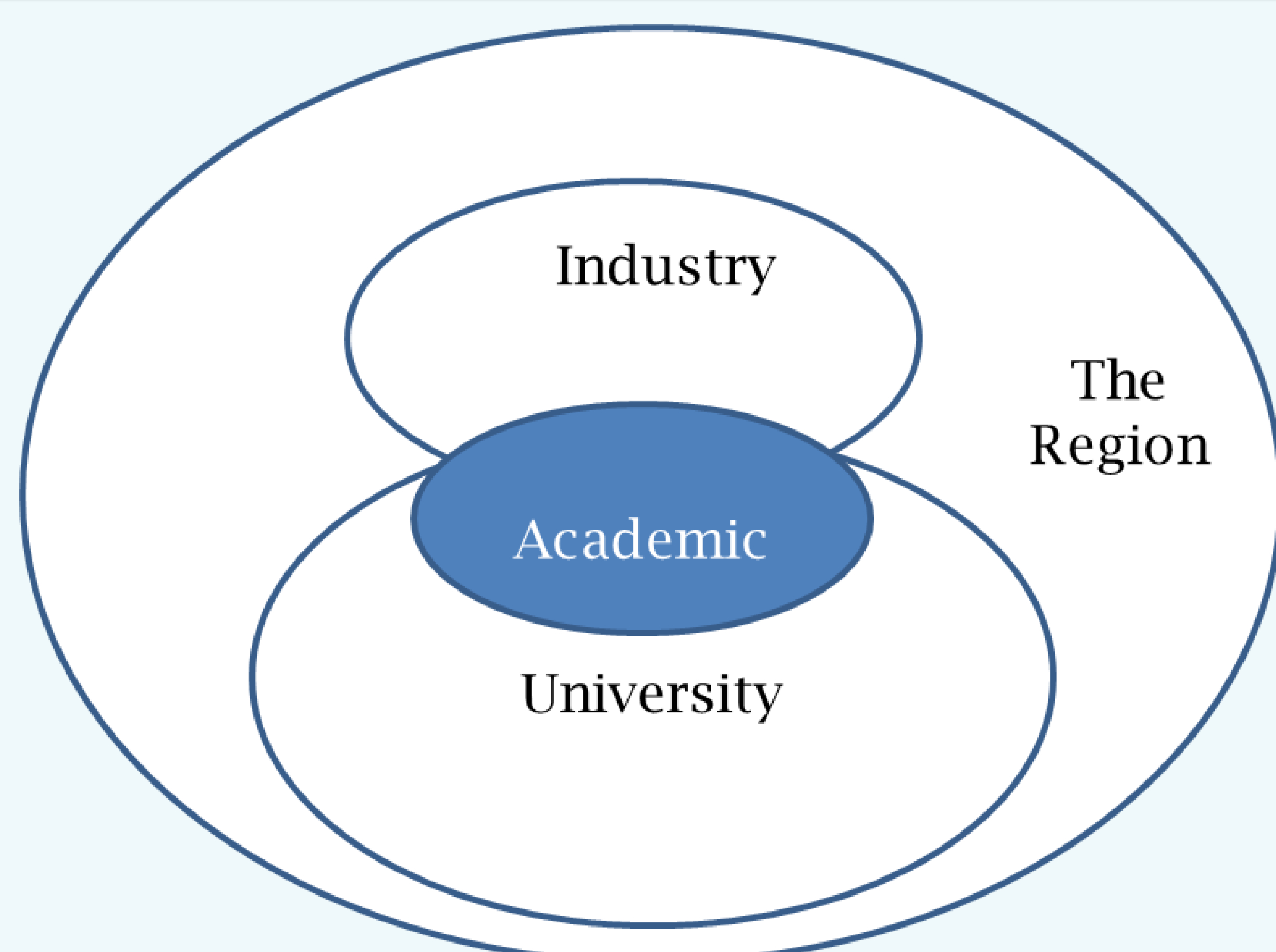


Figure 1: The place of the 'academic' in regional development

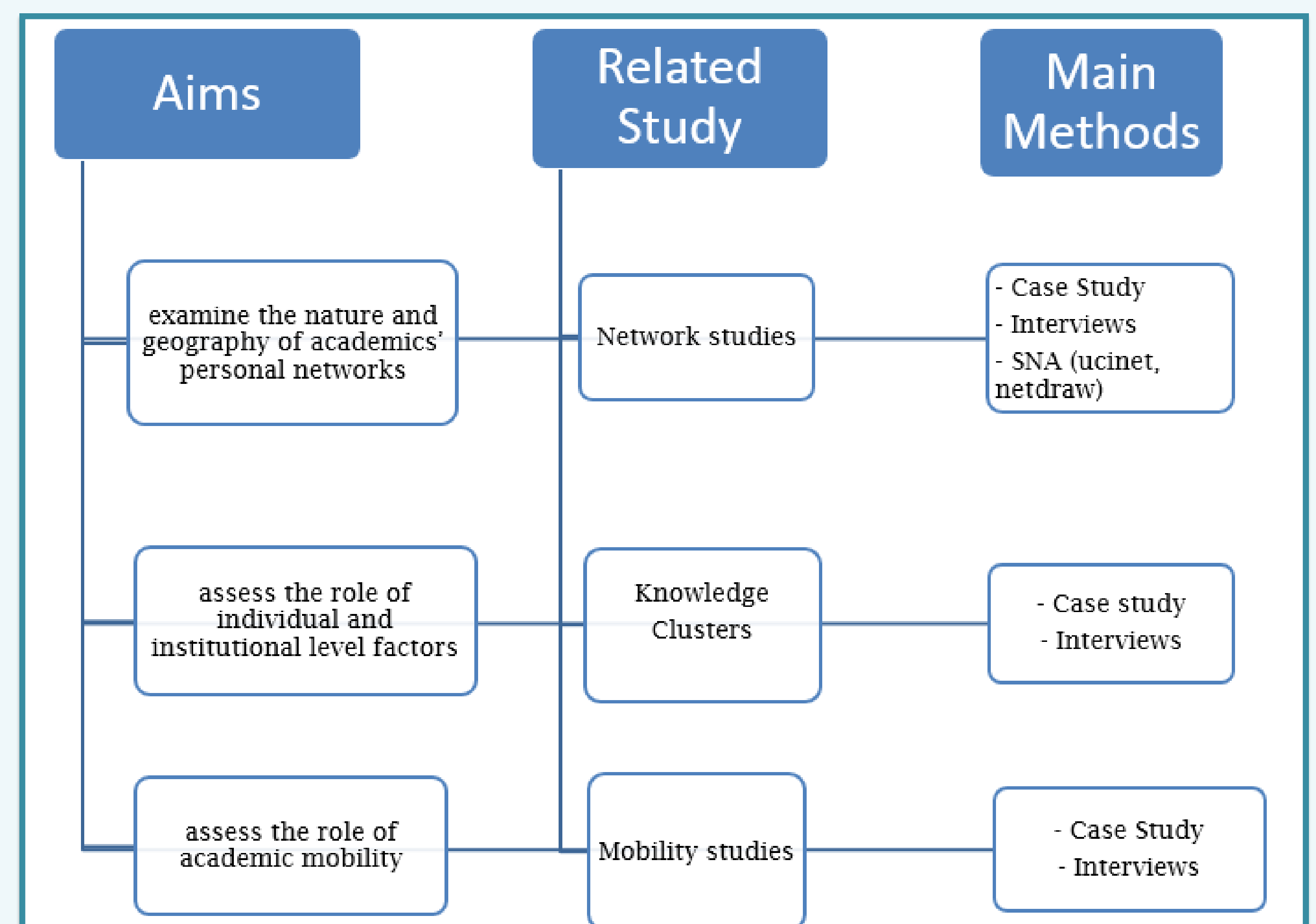


Figure 2: Research Strategy

PROJECT RELEVANCE :

- Adds to the wealth of knowledge *on* regional development from a *fresh* perspective
- Better understanding of individual academics' attitudes and underlying personal ties is key to boosting university -industry collaborations
- Universities stand to benefit
 - **new policy** initiatives (as impacts different subsets of researchers)
 - effect on university governance

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The Role of Universities in Innovation and Regional Development



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