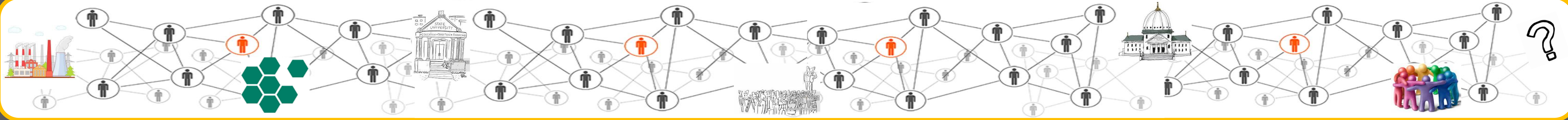


Networks of Individuals in University-Industry Relationships



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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
* Focus on actions of individuals.

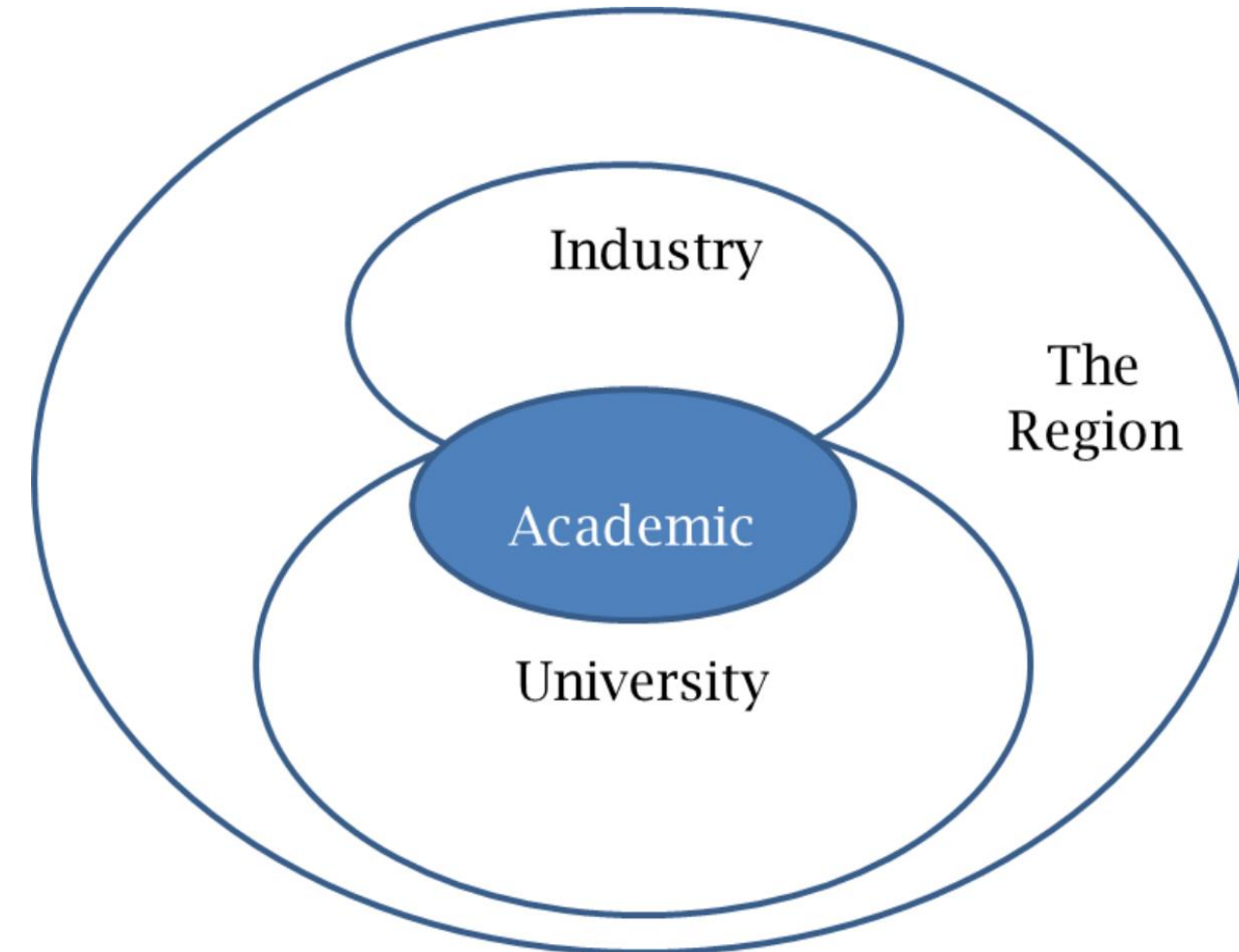


Fig. 1: The place of the individual academic in regional innovation

Preliminary Results

1.

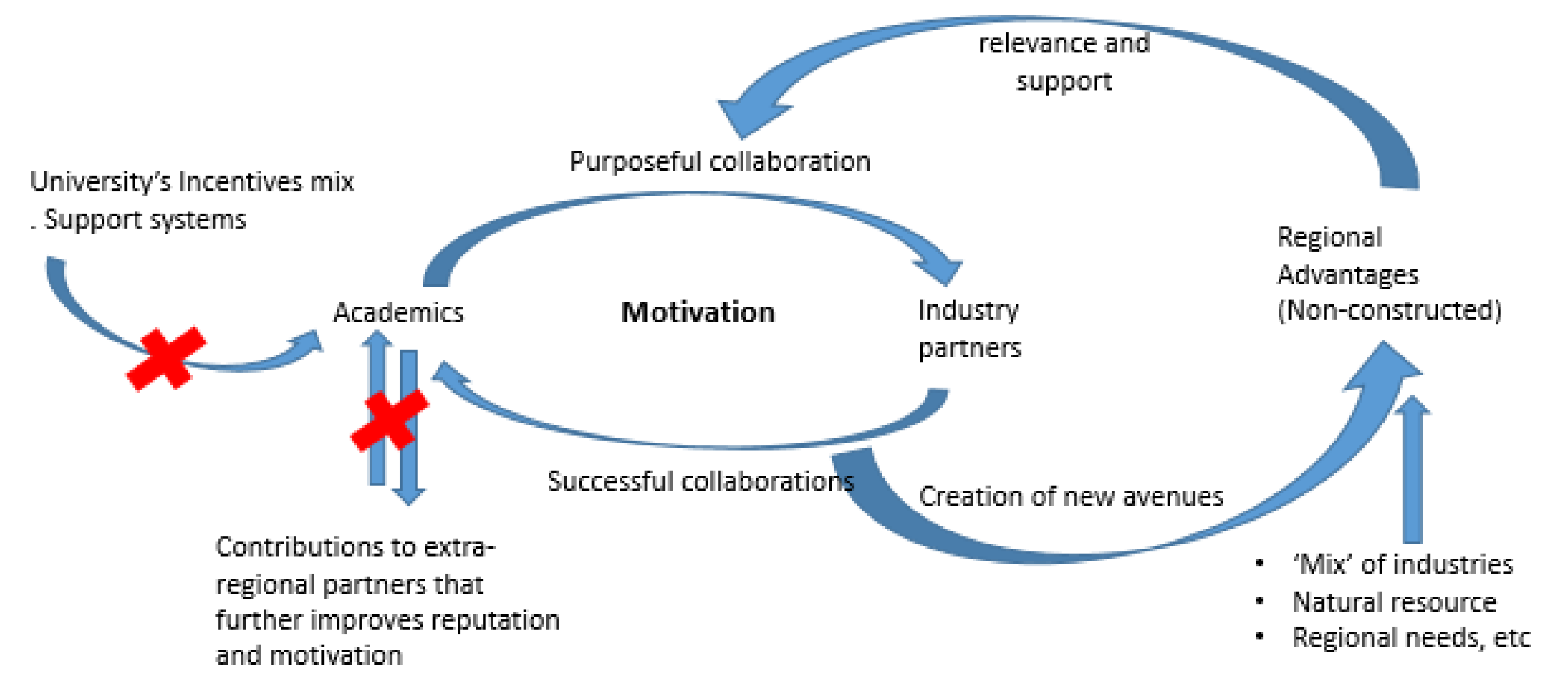


Fig 5: A motivation cycle for academic engagement

Both regionally 'constructed' and 'non-constructed' advantages influence academics' motivations to engage locally. The value from third mission activities for instance, lends well with constructed advantages, whereas the presence of a 'natural resource' is an example of a non-constructed advantage...

Objectives

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

What is the nature and geography of academics' personal networks?
• Development of networks and influence on patterns of University-Industry linkages (UILs)
• Motivations to collaborate regionally or outside
• Measures required to foster more localised networks

How do personal and institutional factors affect the development of networks?
• The effect of university-level factors on academics' networks
• Influence of individual-level factors
• How do individual contacts get institutionalised?

What is the role of academic mobility in the development of networks?
• The effect of mobility on networks
• industry links move with academic partners
• factors that promote academic mobility and how these influence the resulting networks or collaborations

Fig. 2: Research Objectives

Theoretical Framework

- Focused on the intersection between the Regional Innovation Systems (RIS) theory and the Network theory: 'inter-relatedness, interconnections,....'

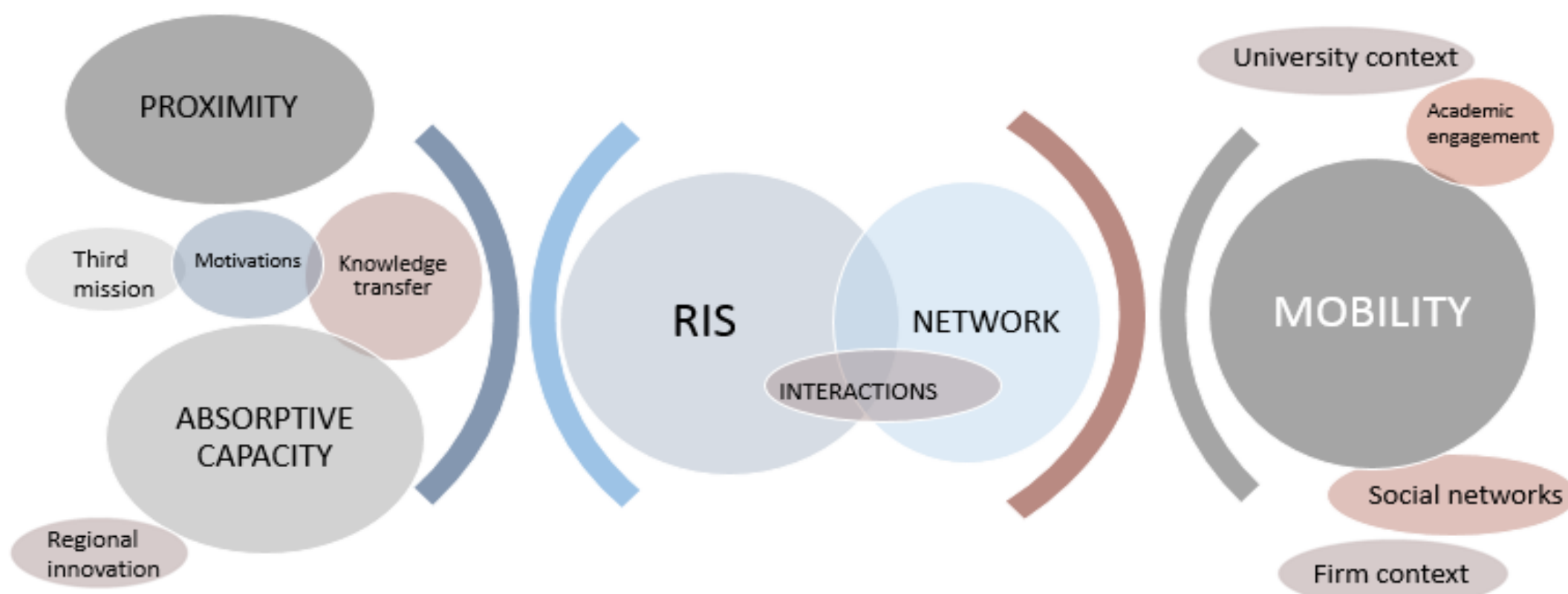


Fig. 3: Theoretical Framework

2.

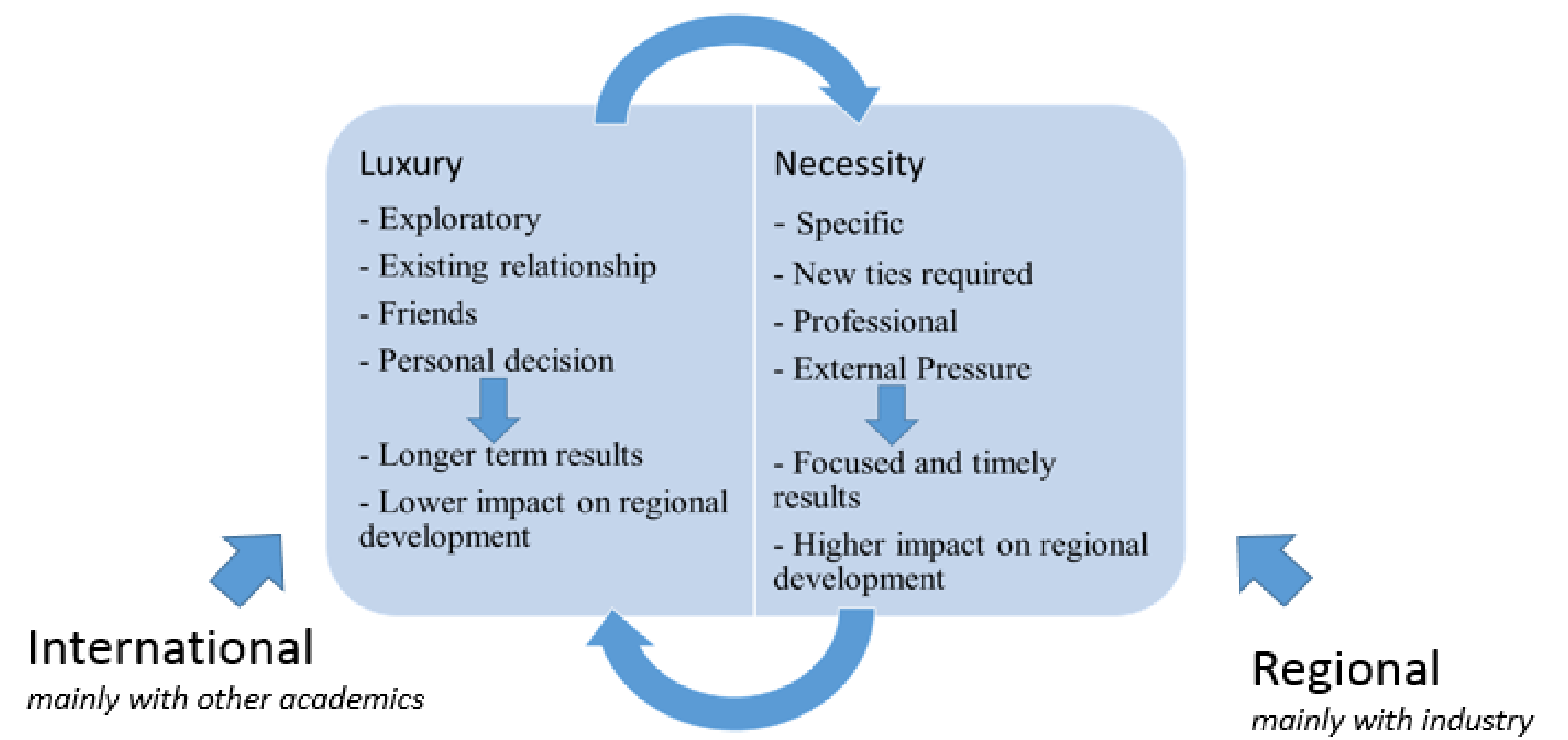


Fig 6: University-Industry collaborations: A question of luxury or necessity?

University-industry collaborations may be a question of luxury or necessity from the perspective of certain academics. These are also explained by the theories on 'weak-strong ties' and entrepreneurial decision-making; effectuation & causality...

3.



Fig 7: On sustaining regional innovation: local versus international networks?

International networks of academics are usually for the purpose of acquiring knowledge whereas the localized are usually for the dissemination of knowledge. These network types are inter-dependent...

Methodology & Scope

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Qualitative - Multiple case study - embedded units (Yin 1984) - Semi-structured interviews - Individual Academics - Industry contacts 	<p>Social Network Analysis (Borgatti et al., 2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generation of Names (alters) - Interpretation of Names (definition of relationships) - Interrelation of names (linkages) 	<p>UK - University of Lincoln, Loughborough University, Imperial College</p> <p>Sweden- Linköping University, Chalmers Technology University</p> <p>Norway- University of Stavanger</p>
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Fig. 4: Research Design

Project Relevance

- Add to the wealth of knowledge on regional innovation: renewed 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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