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# Knowledge Brokering: What's in a label?

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Each speaker will talk about:

- Their experience working at the interface between policy, practice and social science
- Has there been a shift in recent years in practice around the interface between research, policy and practice?
- Is 'knowledge broker' a helpful label?



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# Janet Lewis

## Independent Researcher



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# John Young Overseas Development Institute



# Overseas Development Institute

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*Britain's leading development think tank*

- 50 years in operation
- Based in London, just south of Parliament
- Staff numbers over 150 professionals
- Annual budget of over \$20 million

*The RAPID Programme*

- *Work on interface between research and policy since 2002*
  - *Research / Advice / Capacity Development / Public Affairs*
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# Policy processes are not linear

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Identify the problem



Commission research



Analyse the results



Choose the best option



Establish the policy



Implement the policy

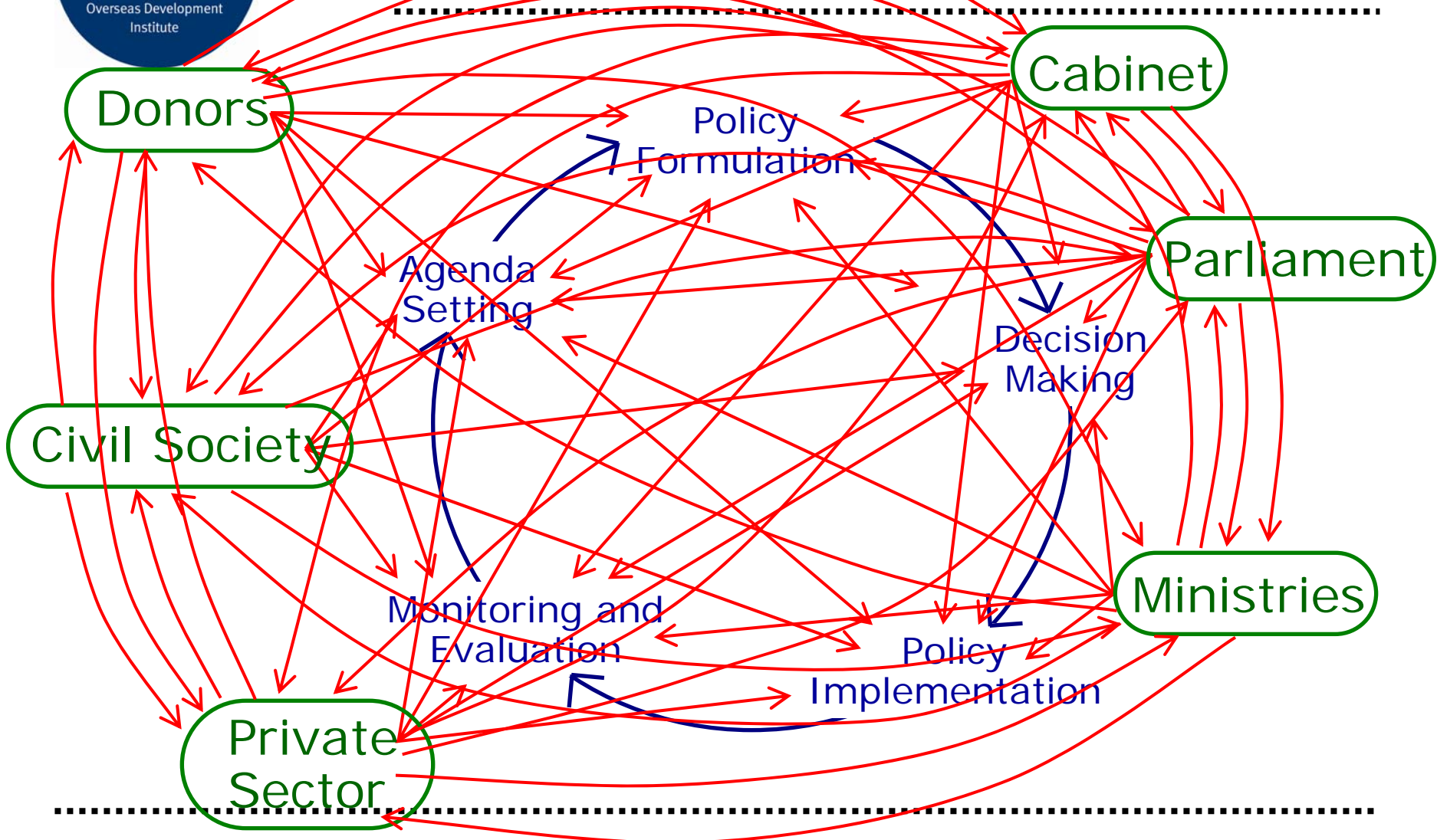


Evaluate the policy

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# Policy Processes are





# The Cynefn Framework

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## COMPLEX

Cause and effect are only coherent in retrospect and do not repeat

Pattern management

Perspective filters

Complex adaptive systems

Probe-Sense-Respond

## KNOWABLE

Cause and effect separated over time and space

Analytical/Reductionist

Scenario planning

Systems thinking

Sense-Analyze-Respond

## CHAOS

No cause and effect relationships perceivable

Stability-focused intervention

Enactment tools

Crisis management

Act-Sense-Respond

## KNOWN

Cause and effect relations repeatable, perceivable and predictable

Legitimate best practice

Standard operating procedures

Process reengineering

Sense-Categorize-Respond

**Source:** Kurtz and Snowden (2003, p. 468)

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# RAPID Outcome Mapping Approach

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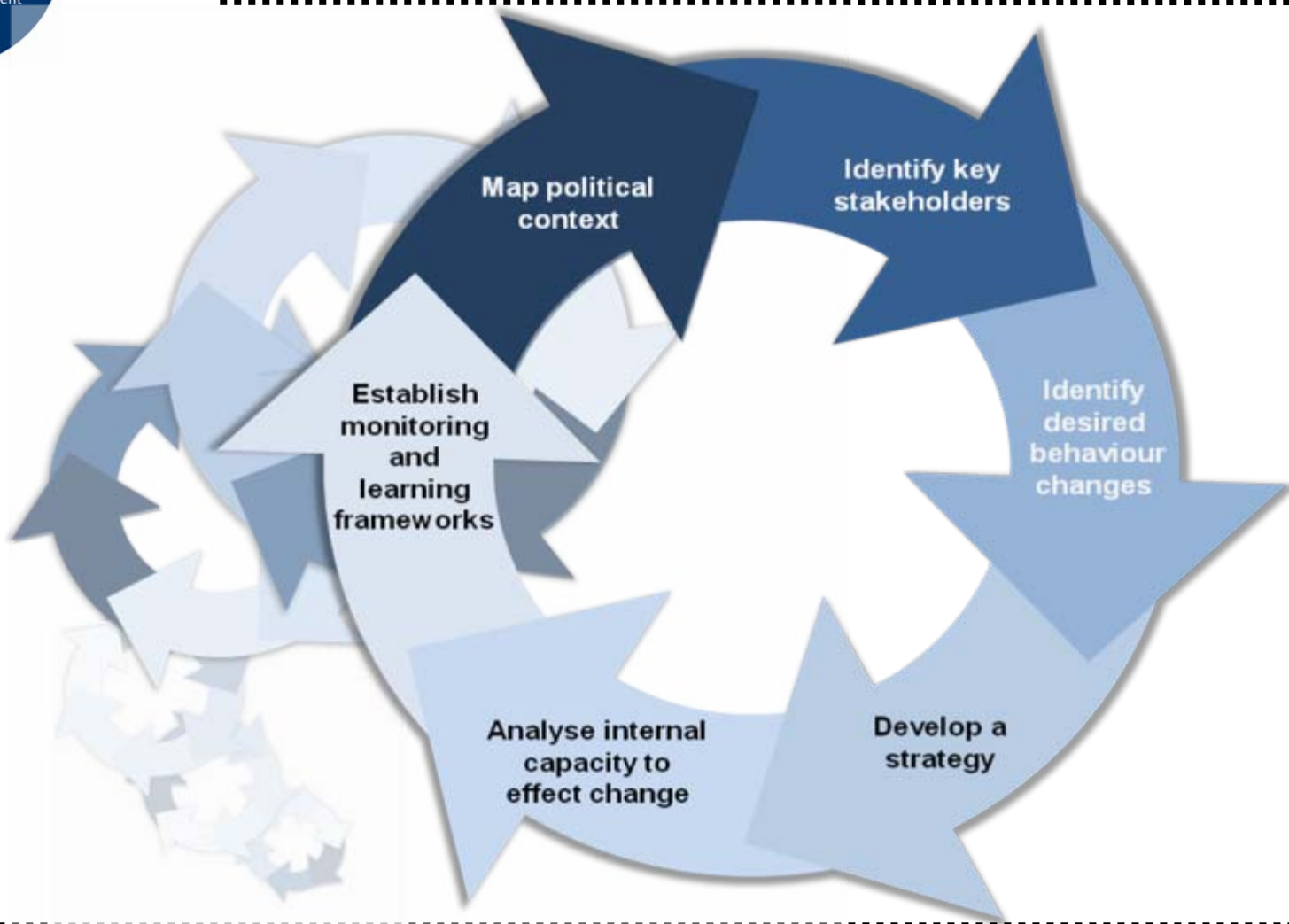
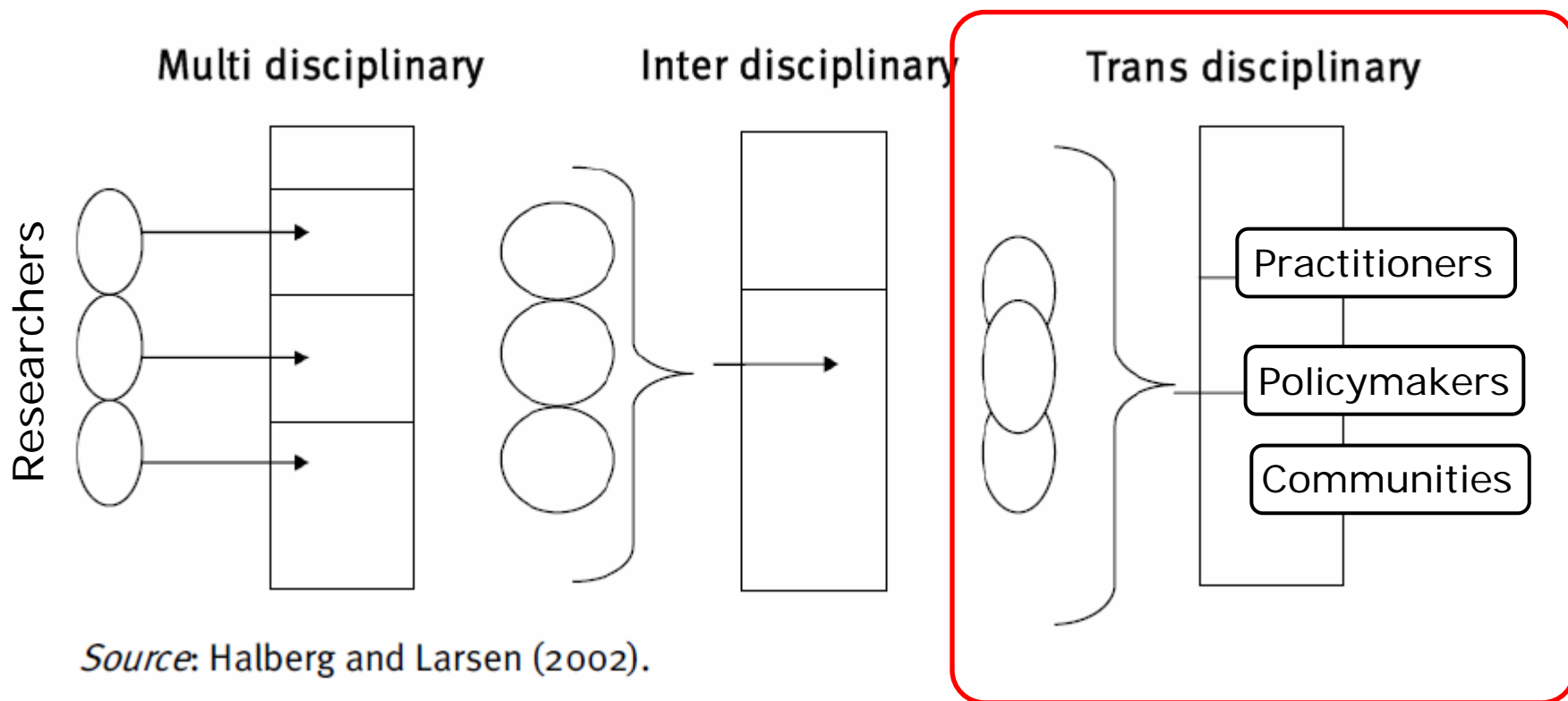


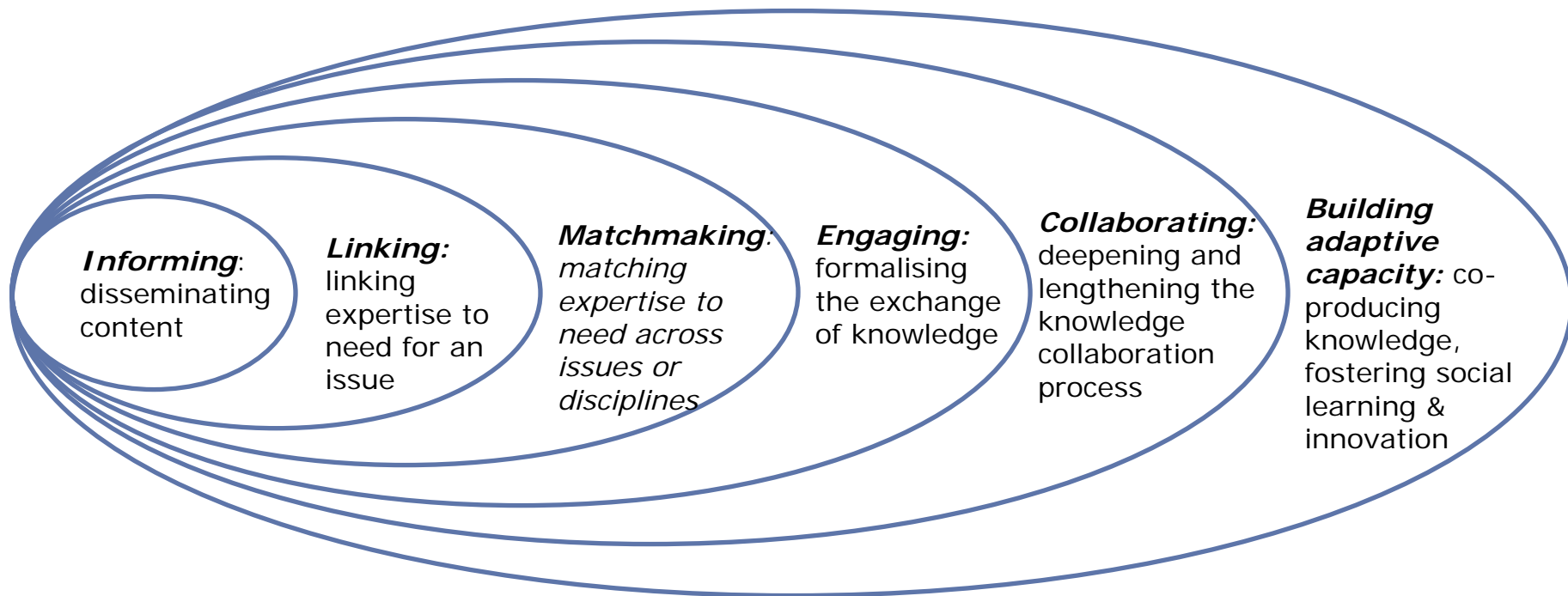
Figure 5: Level of integration in cross-disciplinary work





# A spectrum of knowledge brokering

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Increasing intensity of relationship between knowledge producer and knowledge user



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Source: Jones H, N Jones, L Shaxson & D Walker (forthcoming, 2012) *Knowledge, policy and power in international development: a practical guide*. Bristol: The Policy Press

# Policy entrepreneurs

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Storytellers



Networkers



Engineers



Fixers





## Conclusions

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- Shift in practice around the research-policy interface?

Yes

- Is the knowledge broker label a useful term?

No

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# George Julian

## Research in Practice for Adults