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Knowledge brokering in developing countries

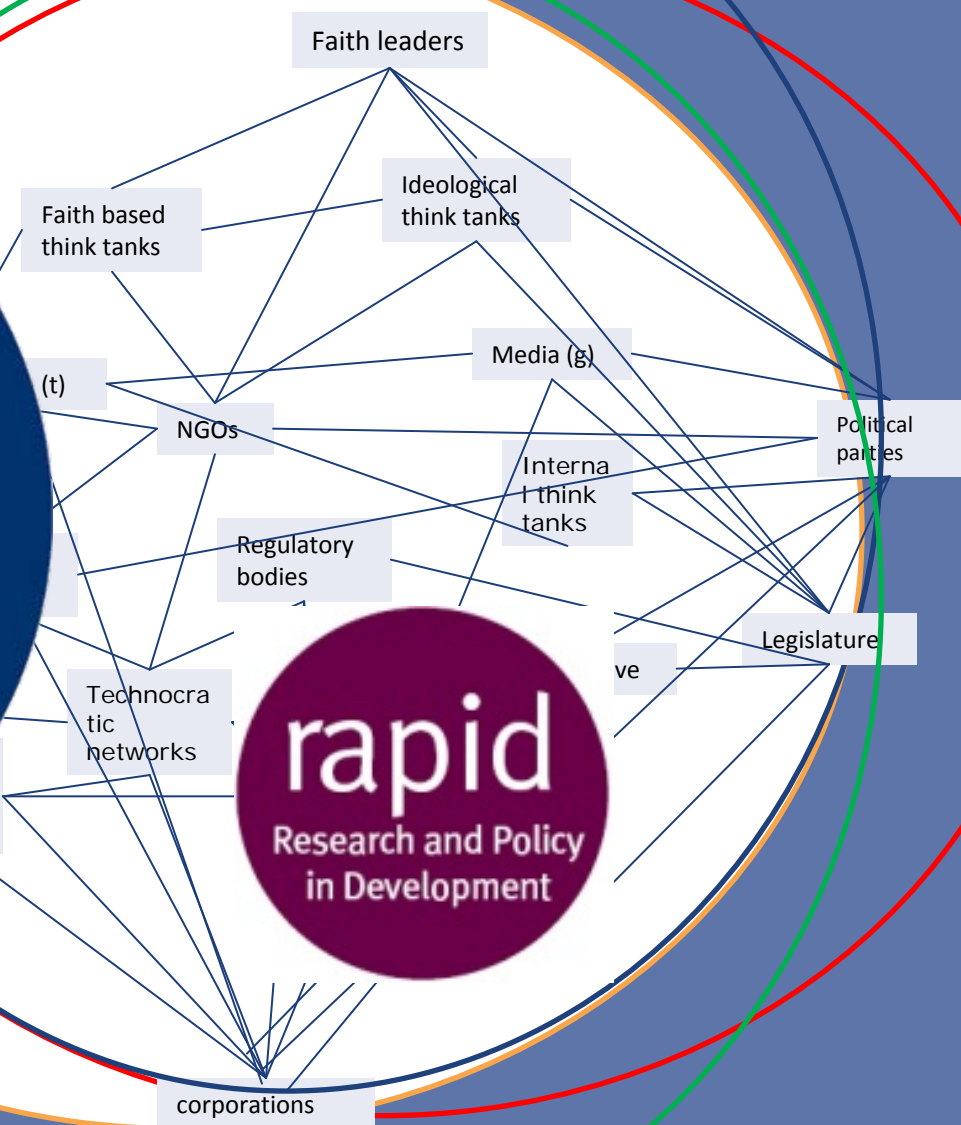
The merits of studying the role of knowledge in policy

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Values/ ideologies



Politics

Economic interests



RAPID's work

Thematic strands	Delivery methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making sense of complexity• Political context and research uptake• Evaluation methodologies• Outcome Mapping• Policy engagement• Research Communications• Knowledge management• Network management• M&E of research uptake• Capacity development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research and systematic learning• Publications and public events• Production of toolkits and how-to guides• Meetings, seminars and workshops• Coaching and mentoring• Communities of practice and networking

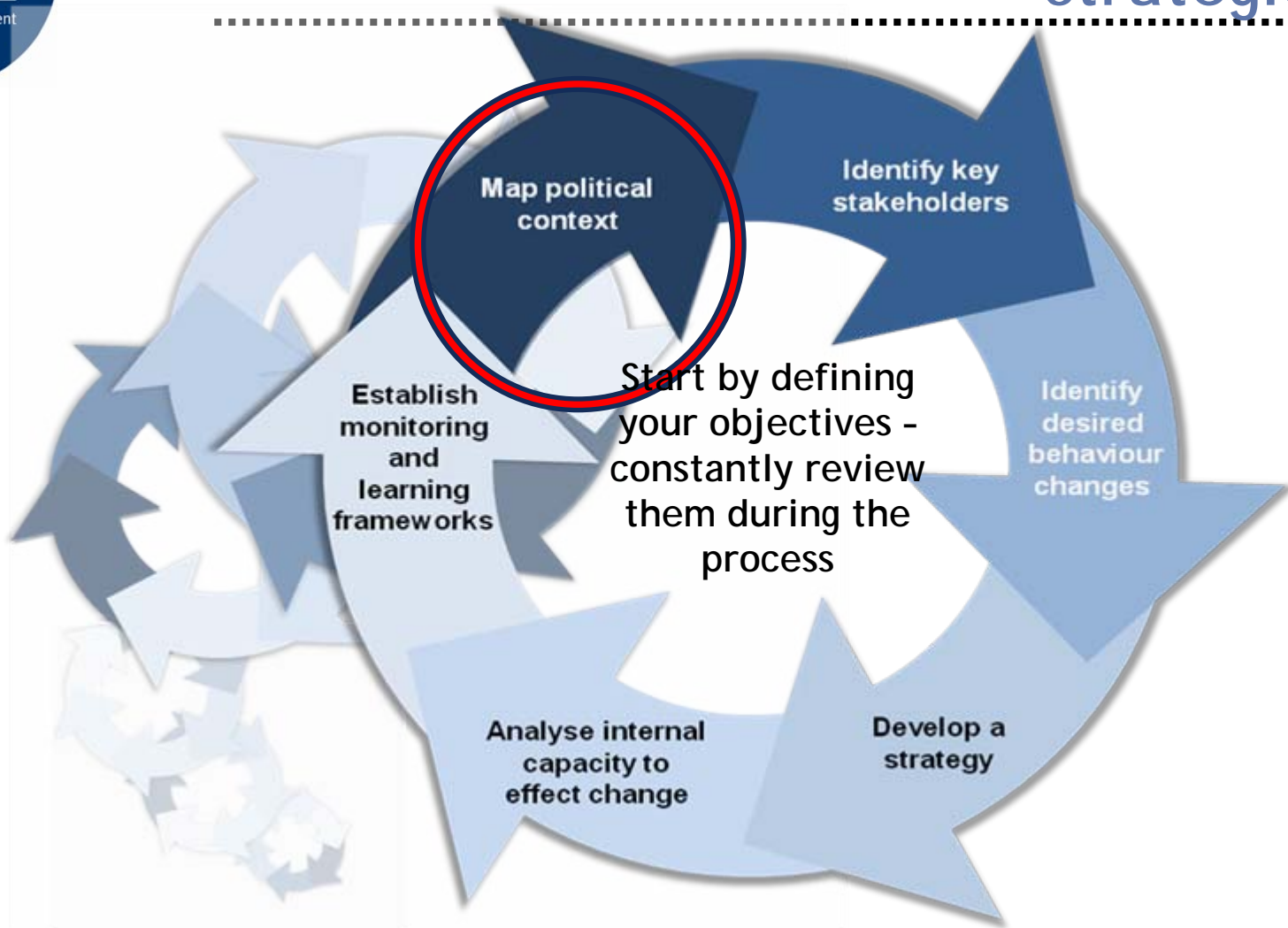


What I'm going to talk about

- Developing knowledge brokering strategies
- Importance of understanding the context
- Examples of recent studies and their use
 - The politics of research uptake in Africa
 - The political economy of research uptake in Indonesia



Developing knowledge brokering strategies





The RAPID Framework

External Influences

Socio-economic and cultural influences, donor policies etc

The political context –

political and economic structures and processes, culture, institutional pressures, incremental vs radical change etc.

The links between policy and research communities – networks, relationships, power, competing discourses, trust, knowledge etc.

The evidence – credibility, the degree it challenges received wisdom, research approaches and methodology, simplicity of the message, how it is packaged etc



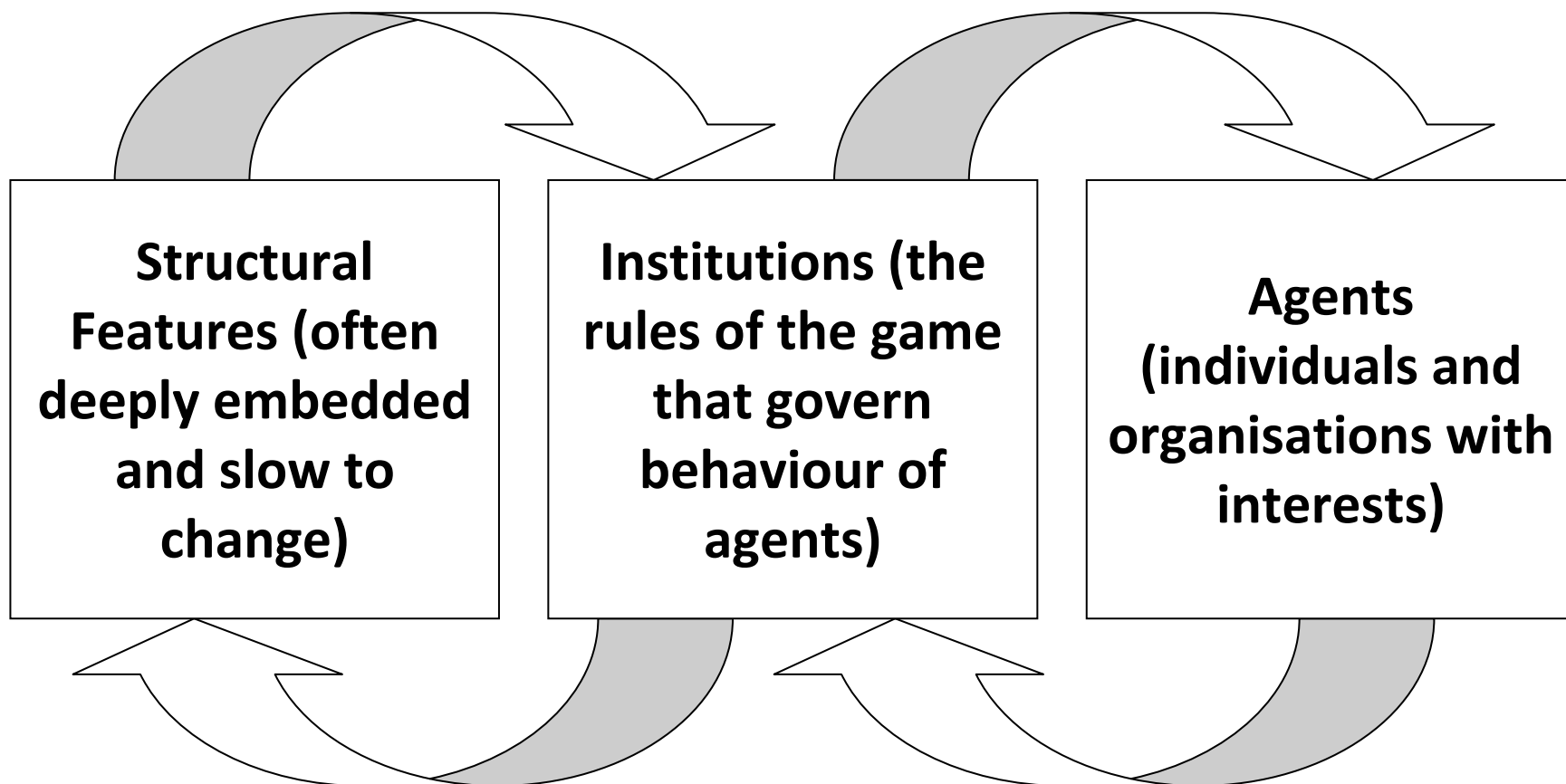
Research uptake in Africa

Factors affecting research use in policy debates

- Understanding of evidence
 - Influence of foreign discourse and actors
 - Perception of existence of a policy debate
 - Policy issue
 - Demand for evidence & like for like arguments
 - Locus of debate
-



Taking a political economy approach





Policymakers' incentives in demanding knowledge

- Respond to the president or those with a presidential mandate
- Seek economic/financial benefits
- Seek favourable perceptions with the media/public
- Seek favourable perceptions amongst key international actors
- Exercise authority over others/exert pressure on others
- Prevent/mitigate effect of crises and acute social disorder
- Deflect oneself from criticism
- Bolster arguments or legitimise policy positions/approaches
- Prove one's legitimacy
- Strengthen relationships
- Establish credibility/advance one's career
- Act in accordance with one's own ethics



Some implications for KB strategies

- knowledge use is bound up with the political economy of policy itself
- Interpolating between knowledge producers and users must be a political act
- policymakers incentivised by several 'rules' simultaneously
- Knowledge-policy link is non-linear unless faced by crisis or extreme time pressure
- Studying the role of knowledge wont necessarily make life easier but can provide greater insights



What I said

- Brokering knowledge can improve the quality of policymaking processes
- BUT to do so well, you need to understand the role that knowledge plays in policy
- You can use the RAPID framework
- And to help you go 'with the grain', take a political economy approach focussing on incentives
- But doing this doesn't brokering easier but it does provide greater insights



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