



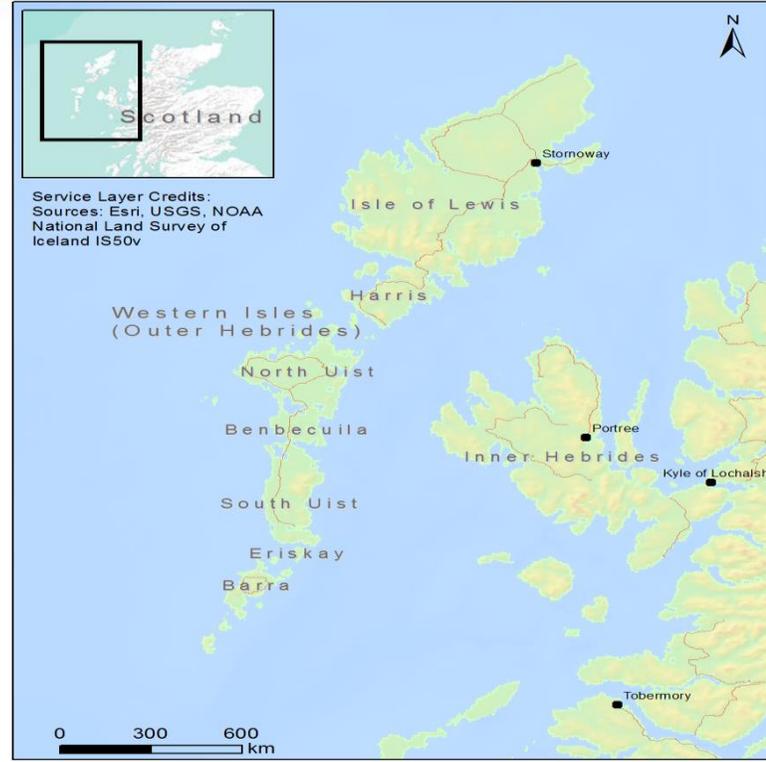
The interaction of the knowledge society and rural development

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East Iceland

Western Isles



Westfjords





Rural development plans

Iceland

Scotland – Western Isles

- **From 1998**

- Distance and life long learning at university level
- Universities linked with industry
- Development of university centres and research institutions
- Universities and research institutions linked to innovation
- Integration interdisciplinary studies – local emphasis
- Clusters – Triple helix model
- Diversity in university studies

- **From 1998**

- Establishment of University of the Highlands and Islands
- Became an independent university in 2012
- Blended – distant – face-to-face and life-long learning
- Diversity in university studies
- UHI linked to areas speciality and strength
- UHI has a role in rural development
- Clusters – Triple helix model – Quatruple/quintuple helix modles

Population issues in foreground

Creation of resilient and sustainable communities in foreground

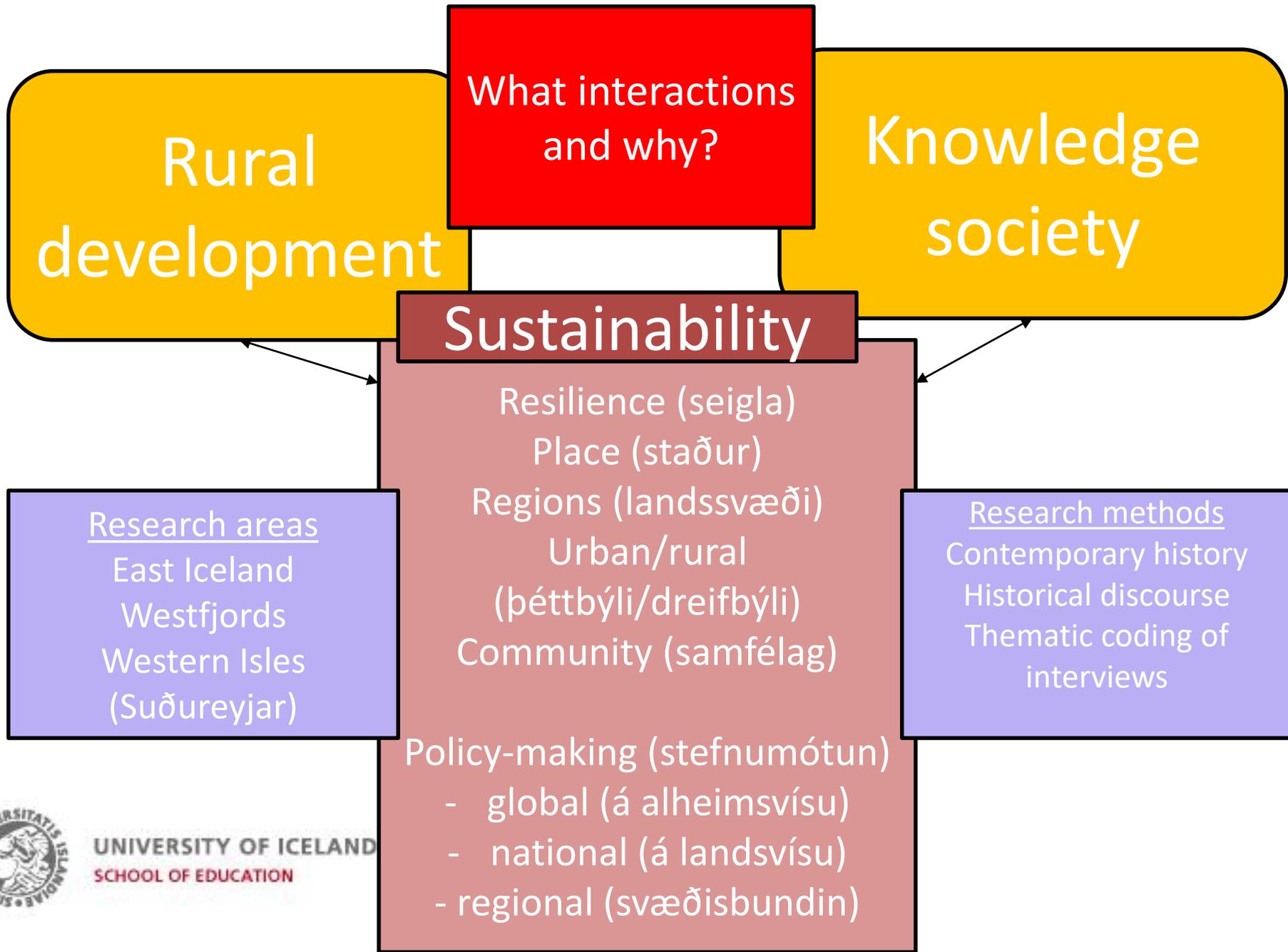




The research questions

- **How do aspects of the knowledge society interact with rural development in Iceland and Scotland?**
 - **What characterises the knowledge society and rural development systems in rural communities in Iceland and Scotland?**
 - **What are the key features of the educational, social and political discourses in rural communities in Iceland and in Scotland?**
 - **Does the rural discourse in Iceland differ from that of Scotland with regards to higher educational activities and rural development, and if so, how?**





What interactions and why?

Rural development

Knowledge society

Sustainability

Research areas
 East Iceland
 Westfjords
 Western Isles (Suðureyjar)

Resilience (seigla)
 Place (staður)
 Regions (landssvæði)
 Urban/rural (þéttbýli/dreifbýli)
 Community (samfélag)
 Policy-making (stefnumótun)
 - global (á alheimsvísu)
 - national (á landsvísu)
 - regional (svæðisbundin)

Research methods
 Contemporary history
 Historical discourse
 Thematic coding of interviews





The theoretical framework

System thinking

- Resilience theory
 - Vulnerability
 - Adaptability
 - Transformability
 - Resourcefulness

in order to create sustainable and resilient communities

People as place-makers

- Place-based approach
 - The ecological, sociological and political dimension of place
 - Place-based education
 - Triple-loop learning
 - Eco-feminism
 - The good life

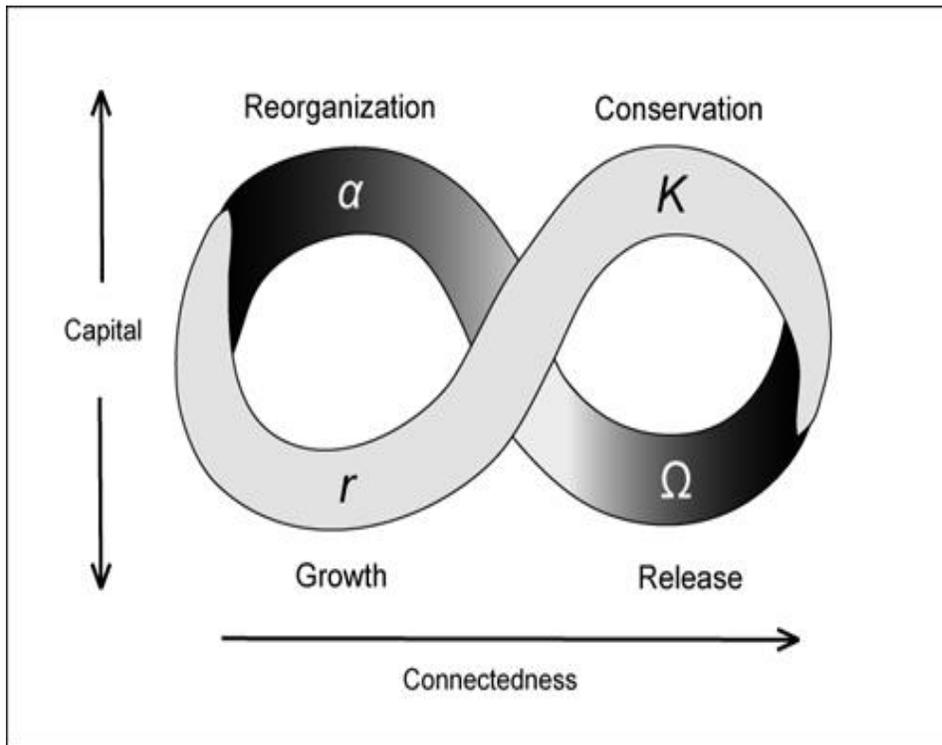
when exploring people's place-making





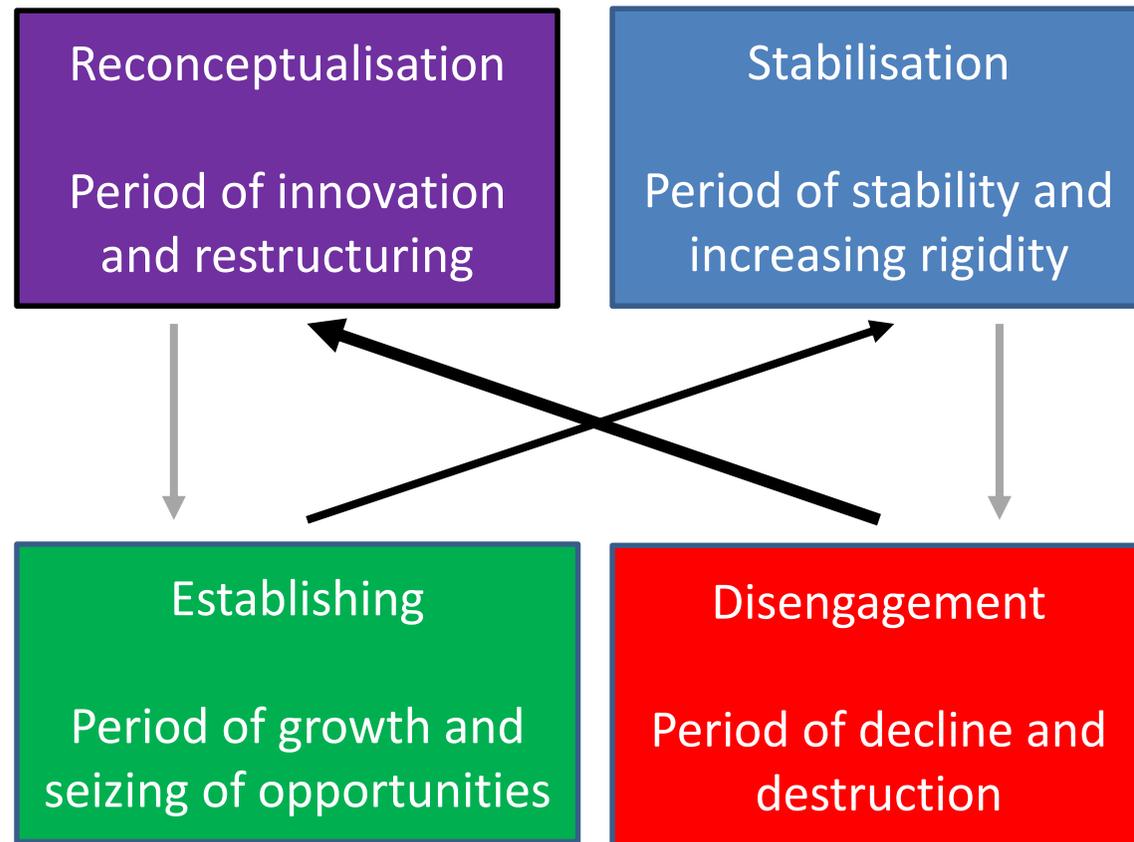
Theoretical framework

The Adaptive cycle



My implementation

← High Resilience Low →



Low Connections High →





Methodology and methods

- Contemporary historical research
 - Tell the story and show the development over time using the adaptive cycle

Westfjords/East Iceland

Stern trawler project

Quota system

Western Isles

LEADER programme

Land Reform Act

The development of the
knowledge society





Methodology and methods

Historical discourse analysis of official documents

- Discursive themes
- Legimating principles
- Historical conjuncture
- Normalization
- Power relations

- Ten official documents analysed

Thematic approach of analysing interviews

- Identifying themes
- Similar or different discourse
- In Vivo coding
 - Voices of participants
 - Themes

- Participants
 - Women 17
 - Men 23



| Year | Westfjords | Population | East Iceland | Population |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Establishing 1970 | Secondary college | 10.050 | | 11.315 |
| 1974 | | 9.940 | Snow avalanches | 11.919 |
| 1976-1980 | Stern trawler project | 10.080 | Stern trawler project | 12.377 |
| Stabilisation 1979 | | 10.363 | Secondary college | 12.763 |
| 1982 | Snow avalanches | 10.452 | | 13.068 |
| 1983 | The quota system | 10.427 | The quota system | 13.093 |
| Disengage 1987-1993 | Bankruptcy in the fisheries | 10.217 | | 13.096 |
| 1991 | The transferable quota system | 9.722 | The transferable quota system | 13.187 |
| 1995 | Snow avalanches | 9.018 | Natural History Institute | 12.632 |
| Reconcept 1997 | Natural History Institute | 8.634 | | 12.397 |
| 2005 | Unversty center | 7.546 | | 13.585 |
| 2006 | | 7.470 | East Iceland knowledge net | 15.350 |
| 2007 | | 7.309 | Large scale industry operational | 13.901 |
| 2012 | Development of the knowledge society | 6.955 | Development of the knowledge society | 12.359 |
| Establishing 2017 | Aquaculture | 6.870 | Aquaculture | 12.497 |



Official documents - findings

Westfjords/East Iceland

- Dominant discursive themes
 - The Triple Helix model
 - State/Government
 - Universities/Science
 - Industry
 - Areas strength and specialities
 - Nature
 - History
 - Culture
 - Sustainable communities

Western Isles

- Dominant discursive themes
 - The Triple Helix model
 - State/Government
 - Universities/Science
 - Industry
 - Community (fourth helix)
 - Environment (fifth helix)
 - Areas strength and speciality
 - Nature, history, culture
 - Sustainable and resilient communities

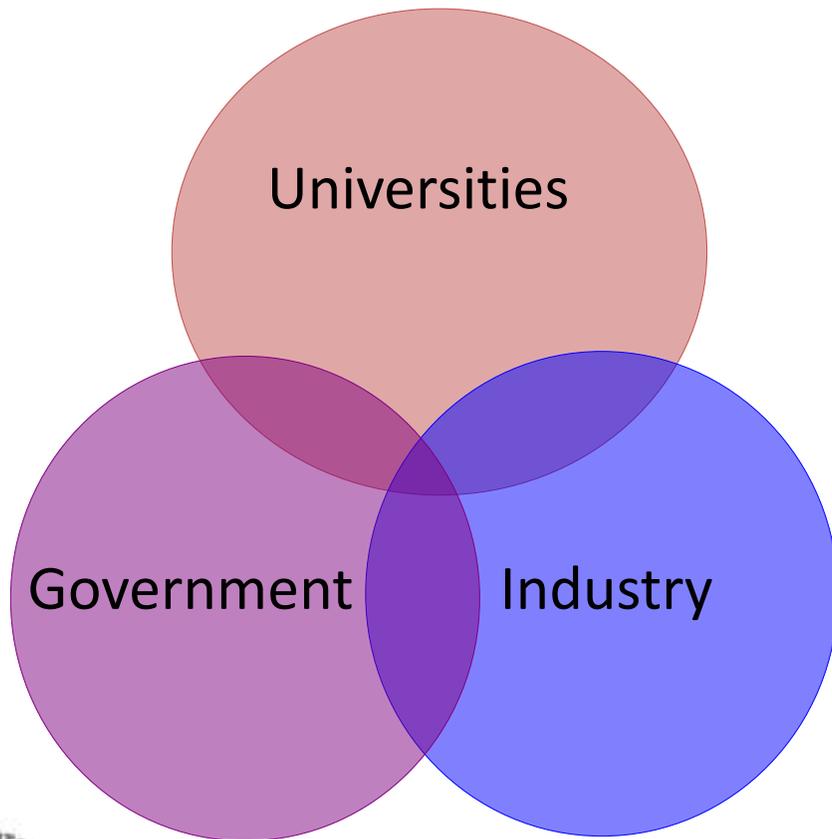




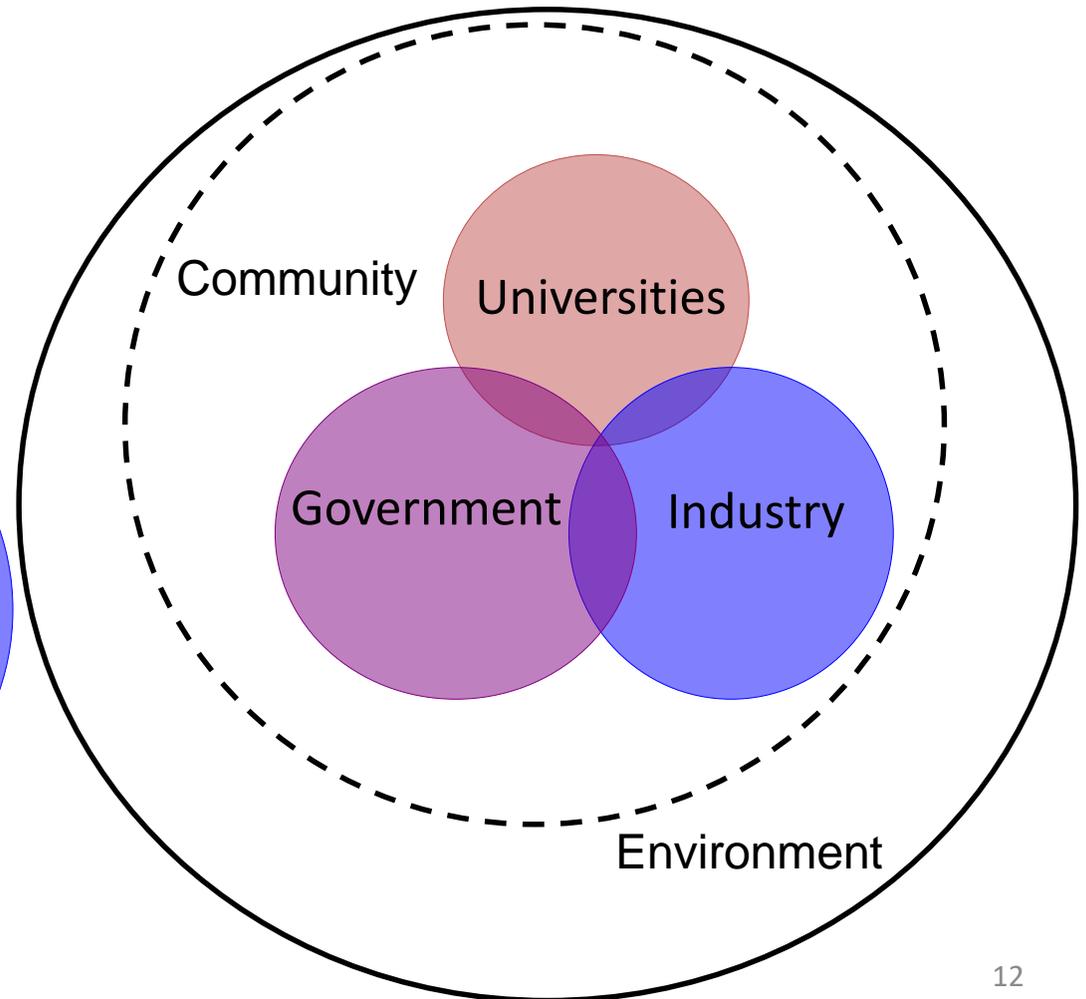
Triple helix model

Quadruple og quintuple models

Triple Helix model



Quadruple og quintuple models





Interviews - findings

Westfjords/East Iceland

- Match the discursive themes
 - Economic aspects
 - Women's status
 - Male dominant industry/values
 - Gender segregated job market
 - Study choices inside domestic sphere
 - Dissatisfied with universities
 - Courses offered on-line
 - Universities not active players in rural development

Western Isles

- Match the discursive themes
 - Enhancing quality of life
 - Women's status
 - Male dominant values
 - Gender segregated job market
 - Study choices inside domestic sphere
 - Satisfied with the college
 - Courses offered on-line
 - Is an active player in rural development





Rural development of today

Westfjords/East Iceland

- Stuck in the reorganization phase of
 - Large-scale industry policy
 - Moving public institutions to rural areas
 - Lack of holistic vision of how to create sustainable communities
 - Top-down strategies
 - A dominant male value discourse

Western Isles

- Seem to be on the move in the reorganization phase by adapting
 - Holistic vision of how to create resilient and sustainable communities
 - Bottom-up strategies
 - Empowering people in decision-making about land use.





Criteria

- Partnership in place-based plans at community level
- Establishing community trust funds
- A knowledge society partnership





Thank you for your attention



JAFNRÉTTISSJÓÐUR



UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND
Eimskip University Fund



Vaxtarsamningur
Vestfjarða



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