

Research | Practice  
Practice | Research

TOROA TALKS – series 01 – 2019



# TOROA TALKS – series 01 – 2019

## TOROA TALK 1.1

The “problem” of practice in research.

## TOROA TALK 1.2

Eccentric researchers, quirky processes, and the issue of subjectivity.

## TOROA TALK 1.3

Approaches to practice-based research design.

## TOROA TALK 1.4

Practice in various research disciplines and their methodologies.

**I love you.**

**I hate you.**

**I do not understand you.**



## Integrated thought with action

effectively has **plagued** philosophers,  
**frustrated** social scientists, and **eluded**  
professional practitioners for years.

It is one of the most prevalent and  
**least understood problems** of our age.

Argyris and Schön (1974, p. 3)



Theory versus  
Practice

Practice in and as  
Academic Research



**INTEGRATED  
THOUGHT  
WITH  
ACTION**

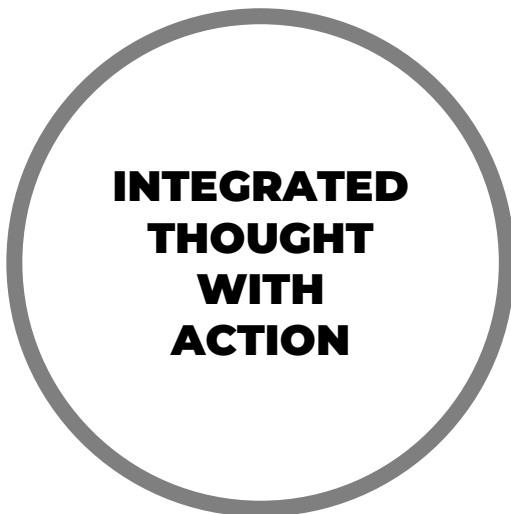
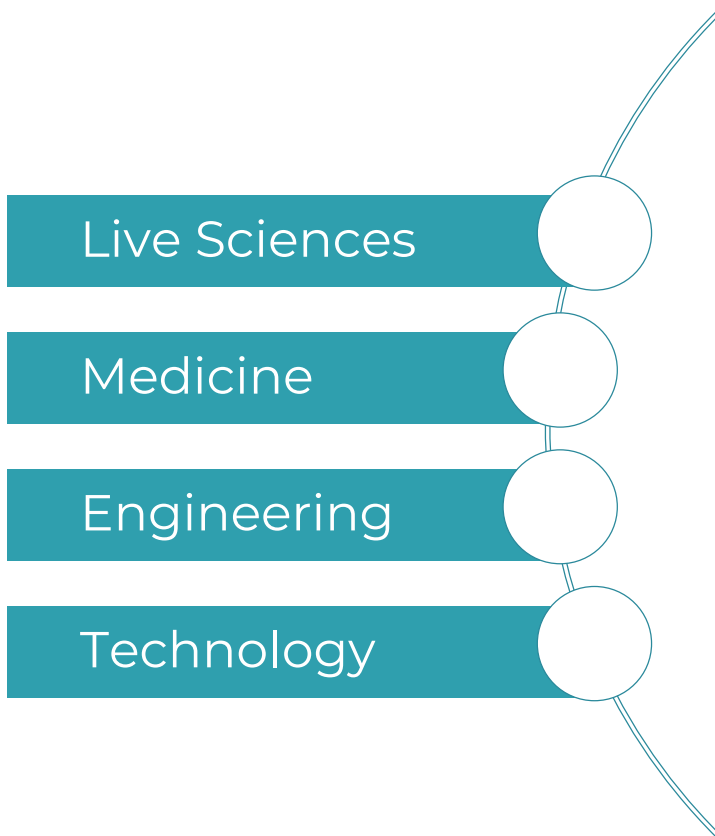
Legacy of  
Academic  
Research



Research in and  
as a Professional  
Practice



## “HARD SCIENCES”



## “SOFT SCIENCES”



## “HARD SCIENCES”



## “SOFT SCIENCES”



academic  
RESEARCH

professional  
RESEARCH

professional  
PRACTICE



NEW KNOWLEDGE

FINDING OUT

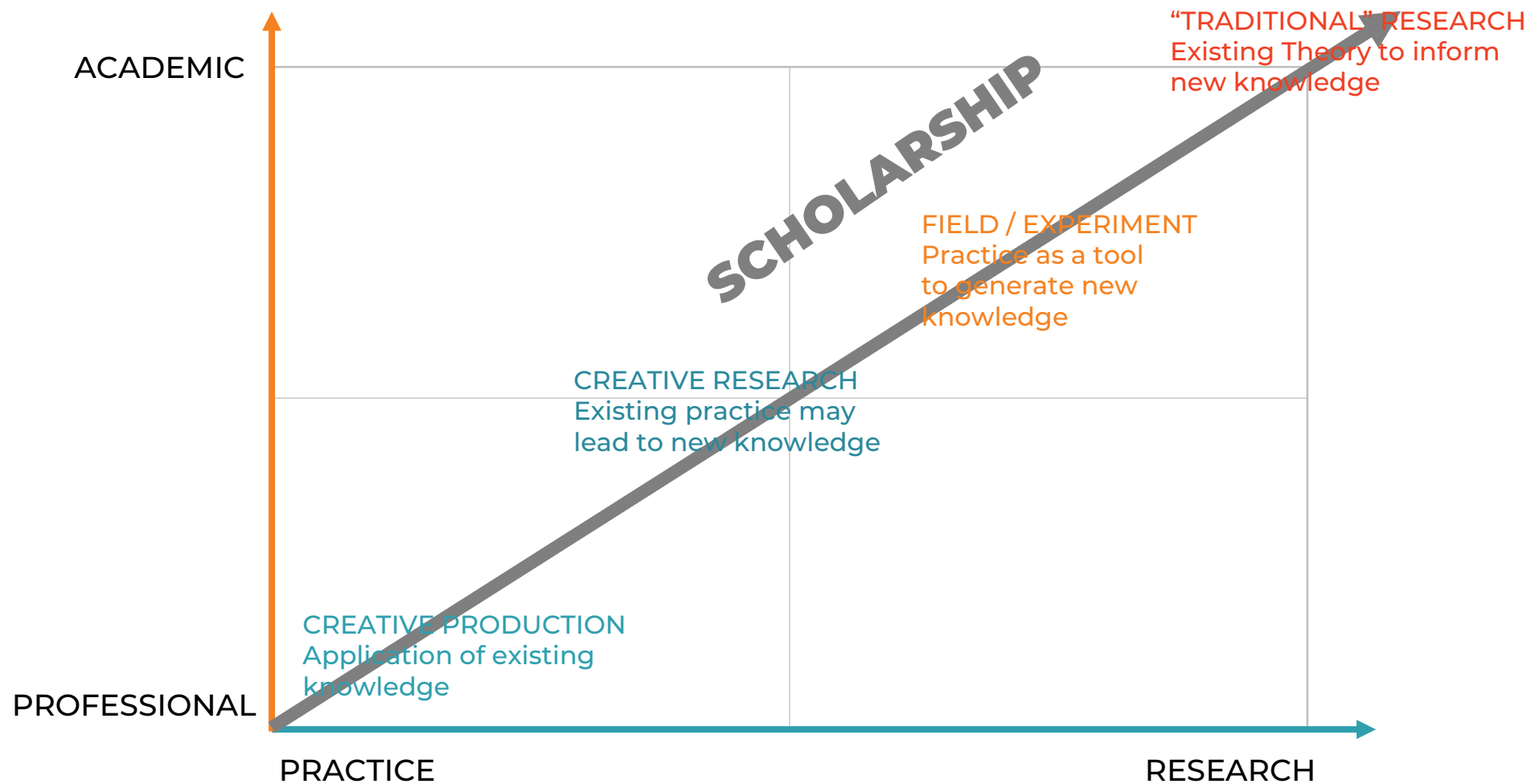
PRODUCTION  
APPLICATION

THEORY



KNOW-HOW





# 1 Scholarship of Practice

Is practice informed or verified by theory?

Is “doing” knowing?

Can practice generate new knowledge?

How do we know that we know when there is no intellectual articulation?

Can we know w/o words?

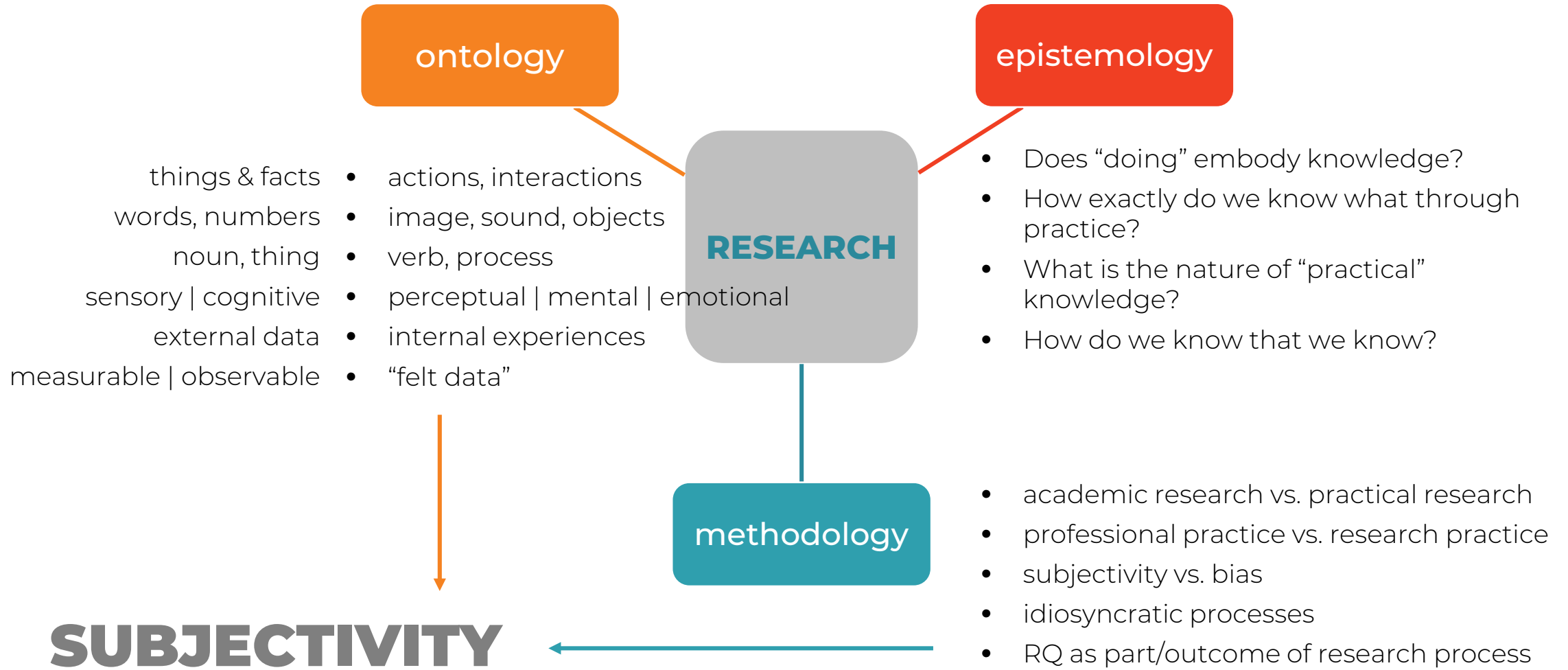
# 2 Practice as an Academic Process

Rigour of research practice?

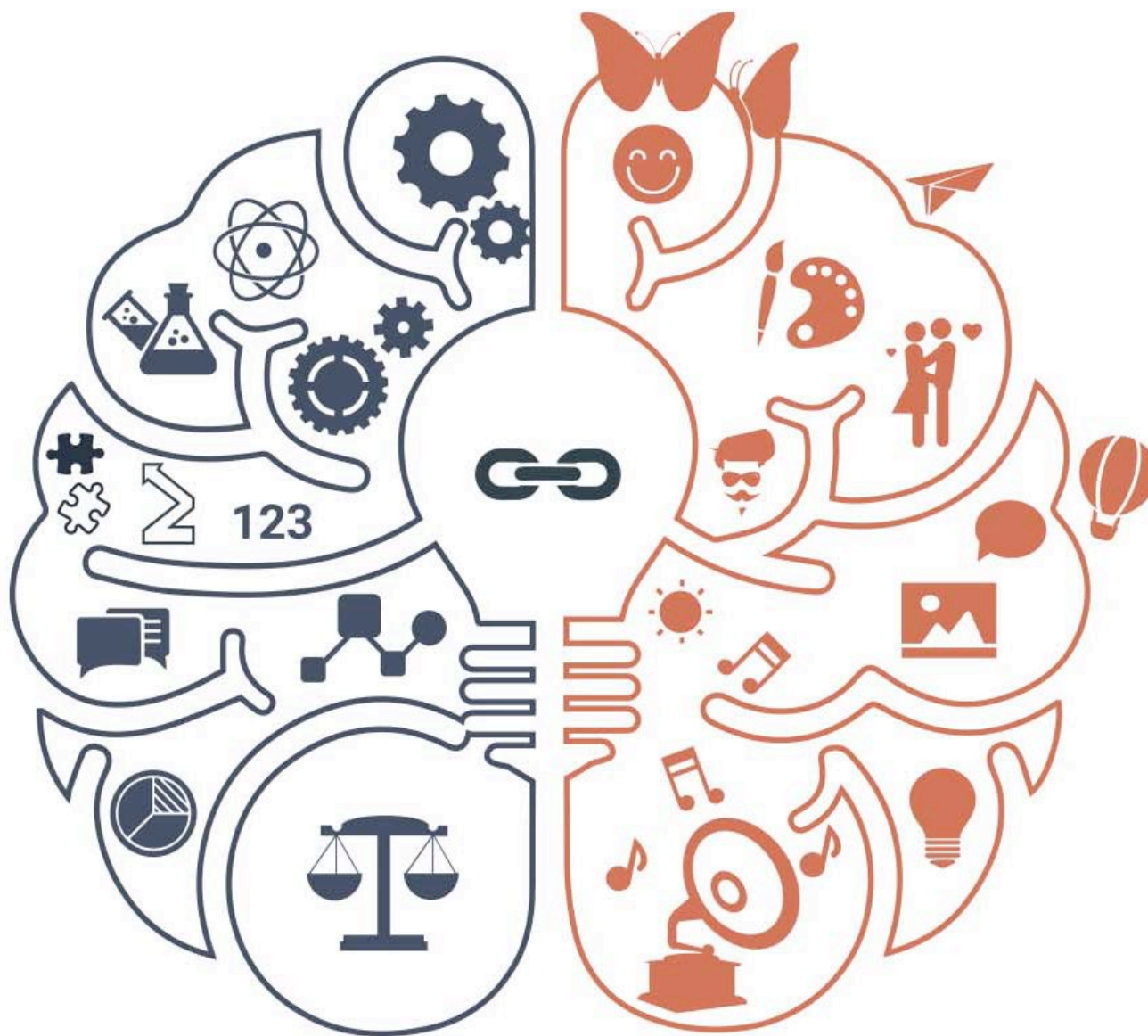
Measurability of processes?

Verifiability of outcomes?

Subjectivity of approaches?



logic  
facts  
linear thinking  
sequencing  
language  
analysis



imagination  
intuition  
holistic thinking  
associations  
visualisation  
synthesis

# KNOWLEDGE AS ICEBERG

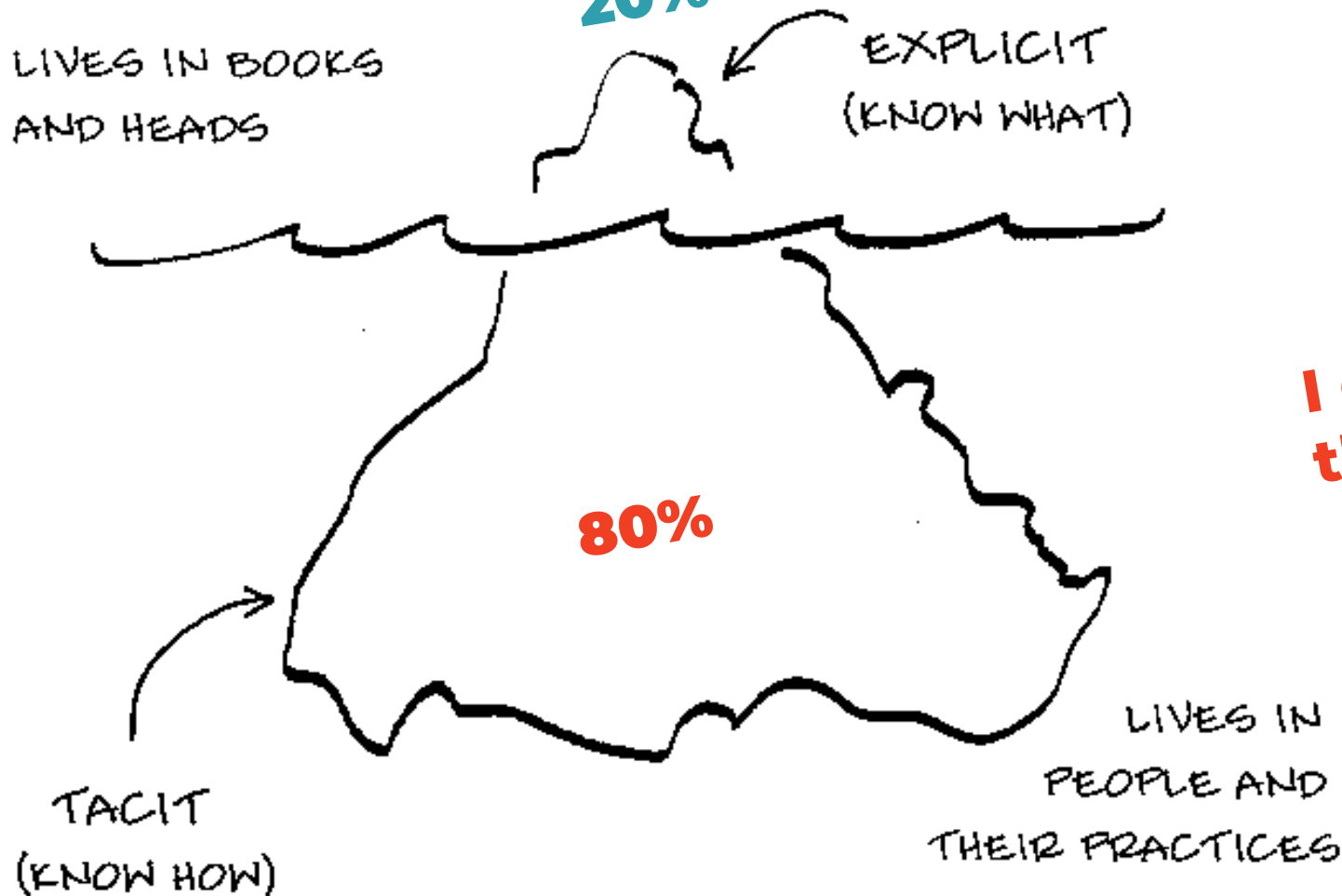
tangible  
manifest  
conscious  
visible  
public

20%

LIVES IN BOOKS  
AND HEADS

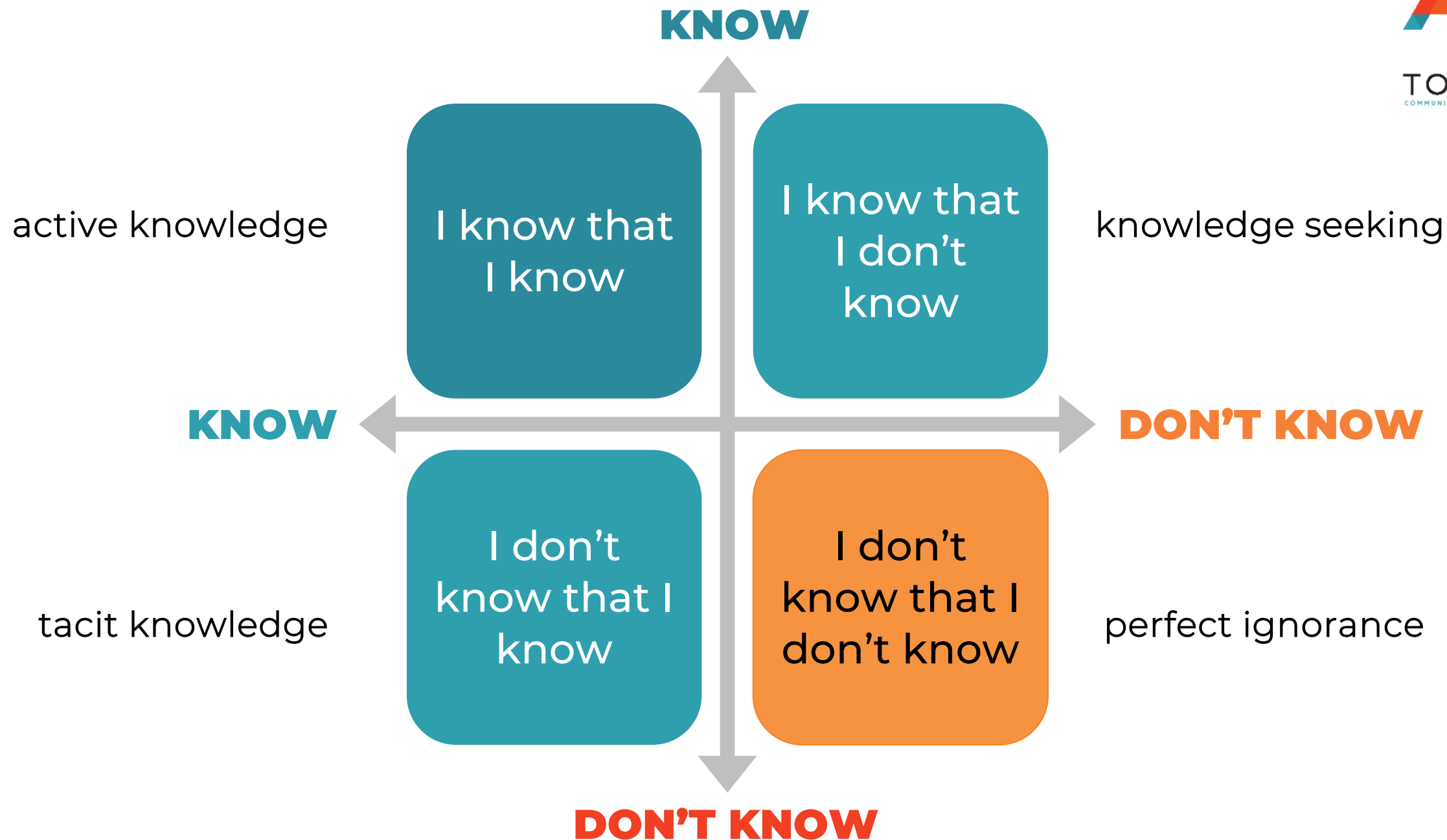
EXPLICIT  
(KNOW WHAT)

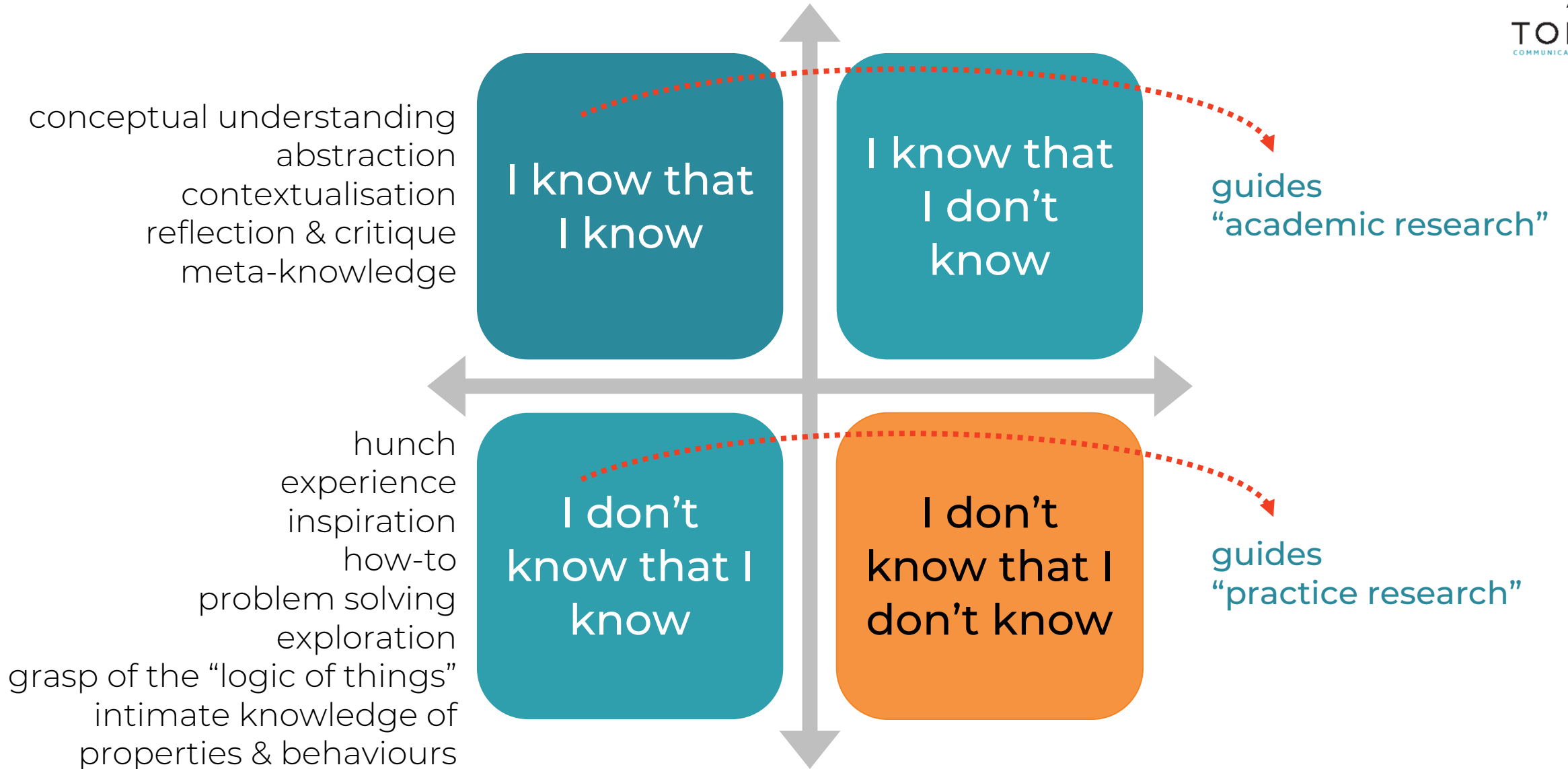
**I know  
that I know**



**I don't know  
that I do know**

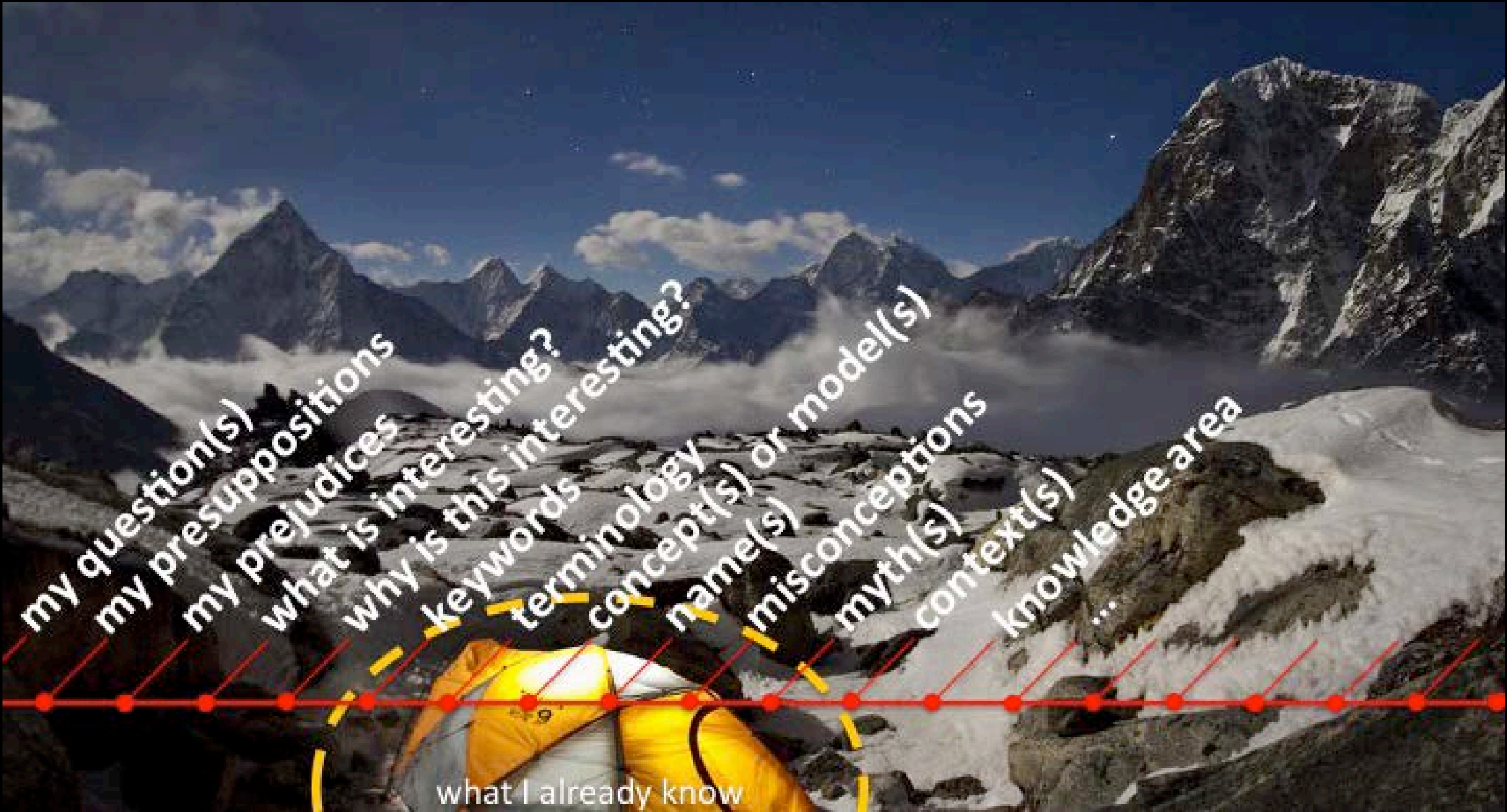
elusive  
undocumented  
experience  
intuition  
subconscious  
personal





my question(s)  
my presuppositions  
my prejudices  
what is interesting?  
why is this interesting?  
keywords  
terminology  
concept(s) or model(s)  
name(s)  
misconceptions  
myth(s)  
context(s)  
knowledge area  
...

what I already know

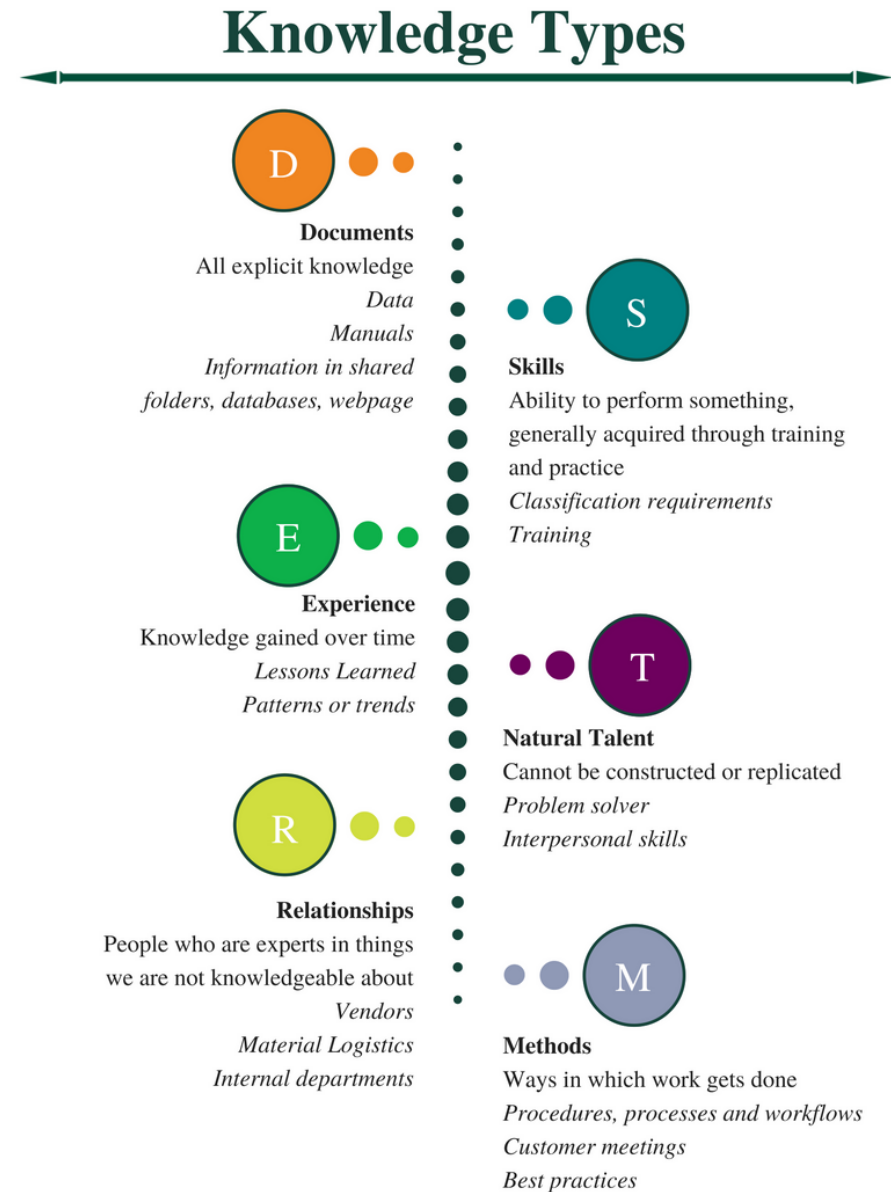




# KNOWLEDGE

Facts, information, and skills acquired through experience or education; the **theoretical** or **practical** understanding of a subject.

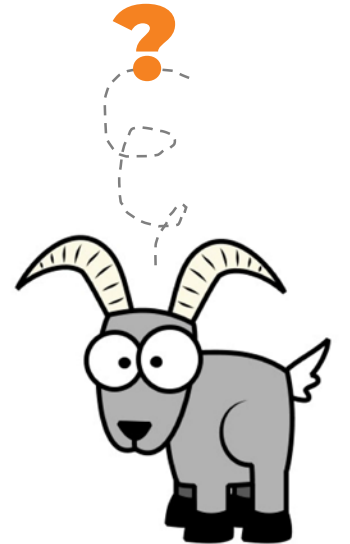
Oxford Dictionaries

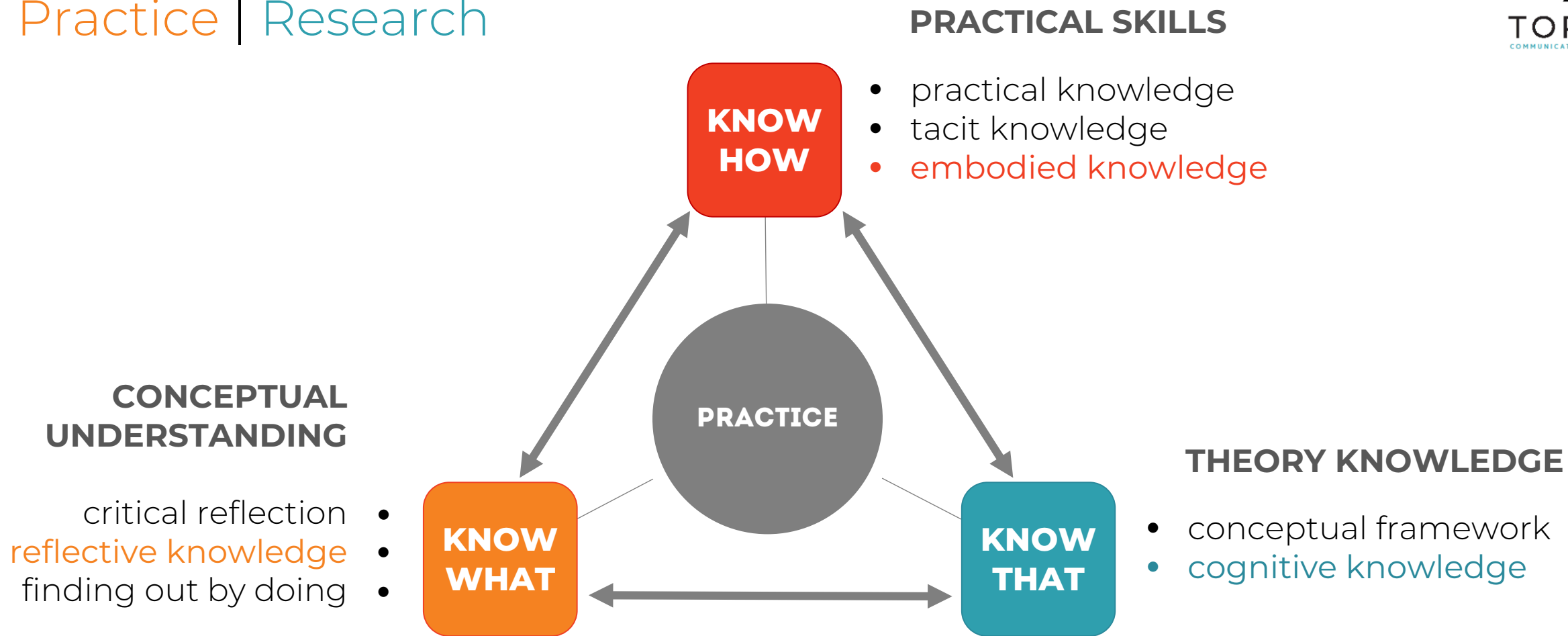


# KNOWLEDGE

Having **no clue** is a totally  
**valid** form of **knowledge**.

We knew this!





Adapted from  
Robin Nelson (2010): *Dynamic Model for Practice as Research*.

# Research-based Practice



# Practice-based Research

# Practice-based Research ≠ Advanced Practice

- Discipline **EXPERTISE** is required.
- Explicit understanding of how practice contributes to an inquiry.
- Systematic, aware, reflective and **WELL DOCUMENTED** research process.
- **SIGNIFICANCE** of inquiry.
- **JUSTIFICATION** of process.
- **KNOWLEDGE** arising from production of artefact more significant than artefact itself.
- Clear research **OUTCOMES**.
- **PUBLIC** knowledge – not just personal insights.

**Aware | Reflective | Critical**

**Clear Objectives**

**Process Documentation**

**Justification**

**Knowledge-Producing**

**Articulated Insights**

**Public | Dissemination**

**ENGINEER**

- design and build

**PILOT**

- fly (perform)

**FIELD MANAGER**

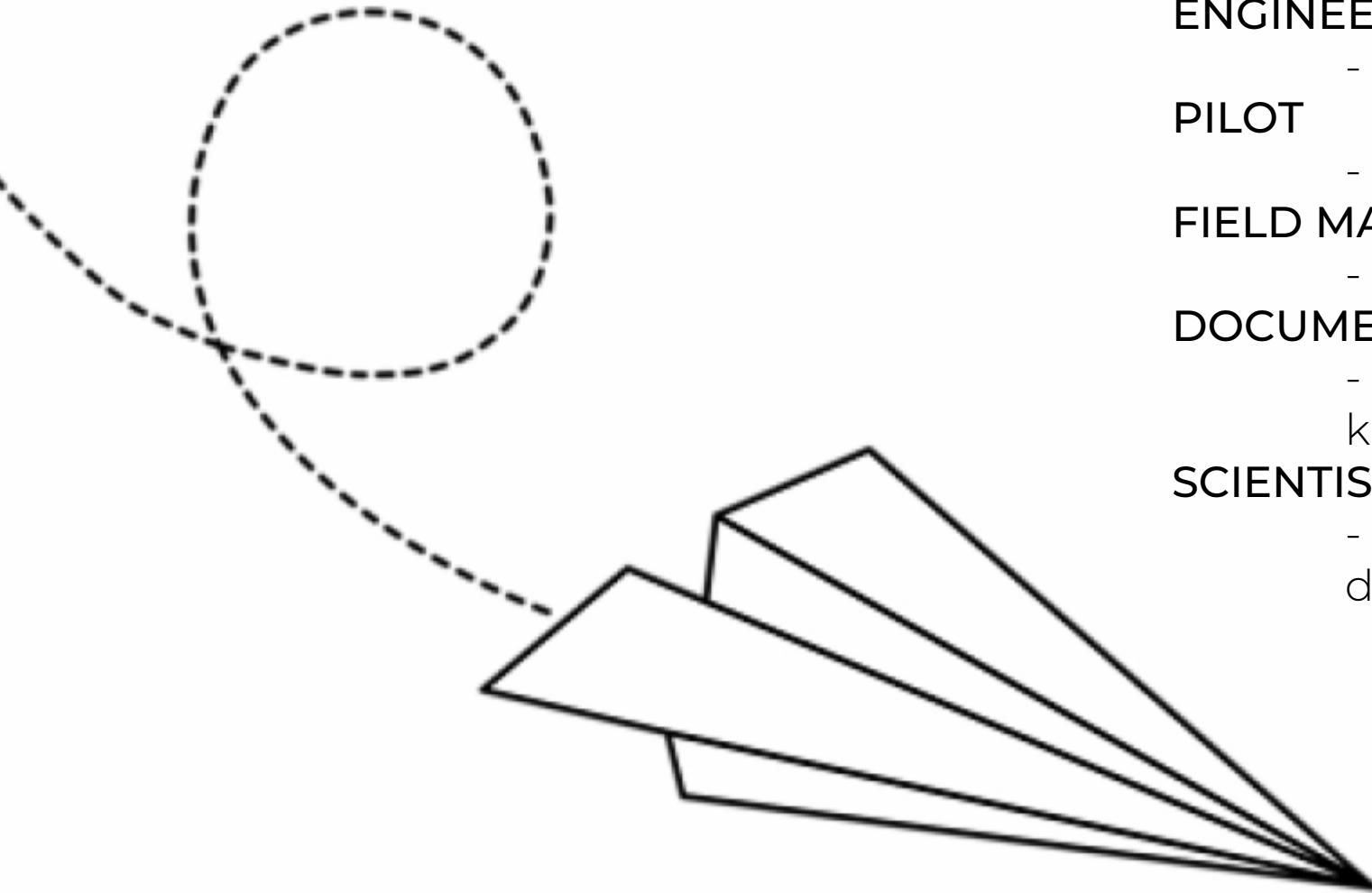
- organise and supervise field

**DOCUMENTER**

- documentation & note  
keeping

**SCIENTIST**

- rationalise, explain,  
develop concept/theory



# THEORY-IN-ACTION

Theory is **modified** by  
practice,  
not just practice **informed**  
by theory.