

**Knowledge and Development :**  
**A research showcase for the QwaQwa**  
**Region:**

**UFS QwaQwa Campus**

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**The Triple Helix: Implications for regional**  
**development**

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# Emergence of the Triple Helix

- Shift in development thinking; (From Rostow's stages to spiral model)
- Cut in university funding or rise of 'Third Mission'?
- Change in academia management – Entrepreneurial .
- Rise of 'Mode 2' knowledge in the new economy.
- Rise of a new social contract
- Shift from linear innovation to interactive interplay.
- New kind of skills needed in industry (reprogrammable).
- Need for continuous learning and 'unlearning' by business and governments.

# Triple Helix Thesis: What is it ?

Authored by Etzkowitz, H. & Leydesdorff, L in 1995

Various definitions used; depending on analytical lens

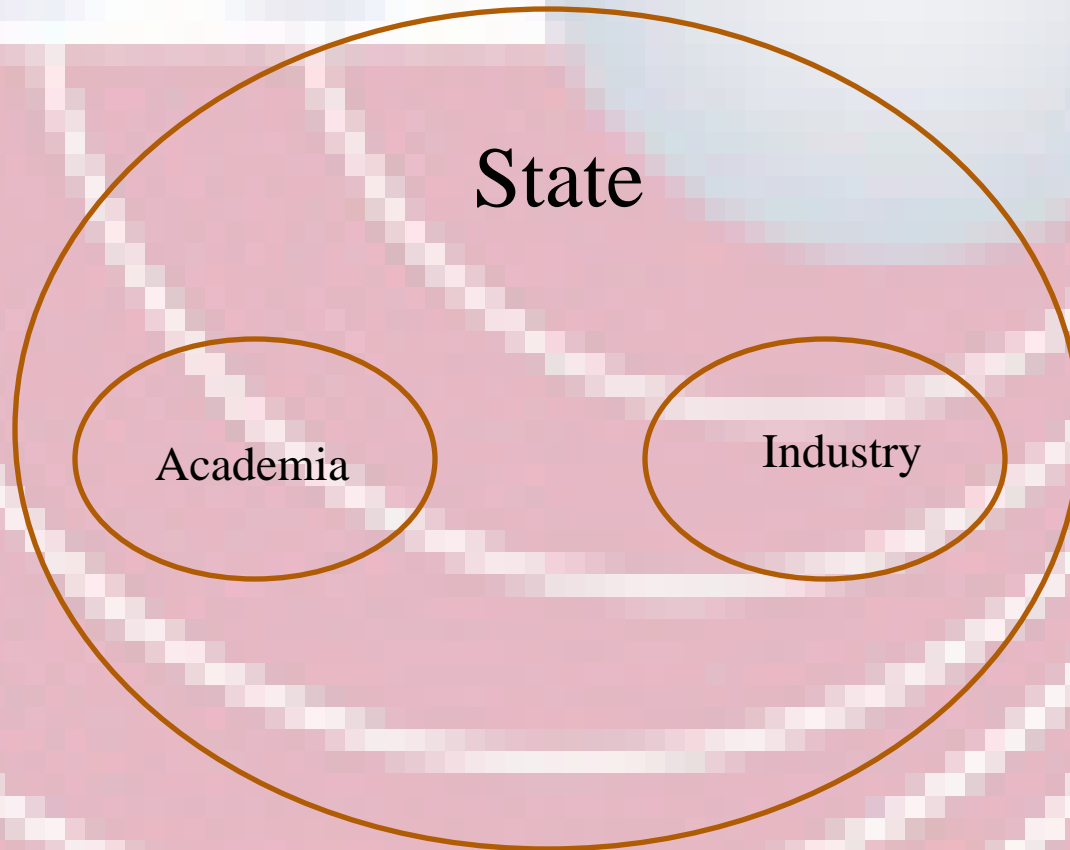
- It is a regional development model
- it is a multi-structural / multi-functional framework
- A model for analysing innovation at a regional level

“The TH thesis is that university-industry-government network relations are the KEY to knowledge-based economic development in a broad range of post laissez-faire capitalist and post-socialist societies.”

(Leydesdorff & Etzkowitz, 2001)

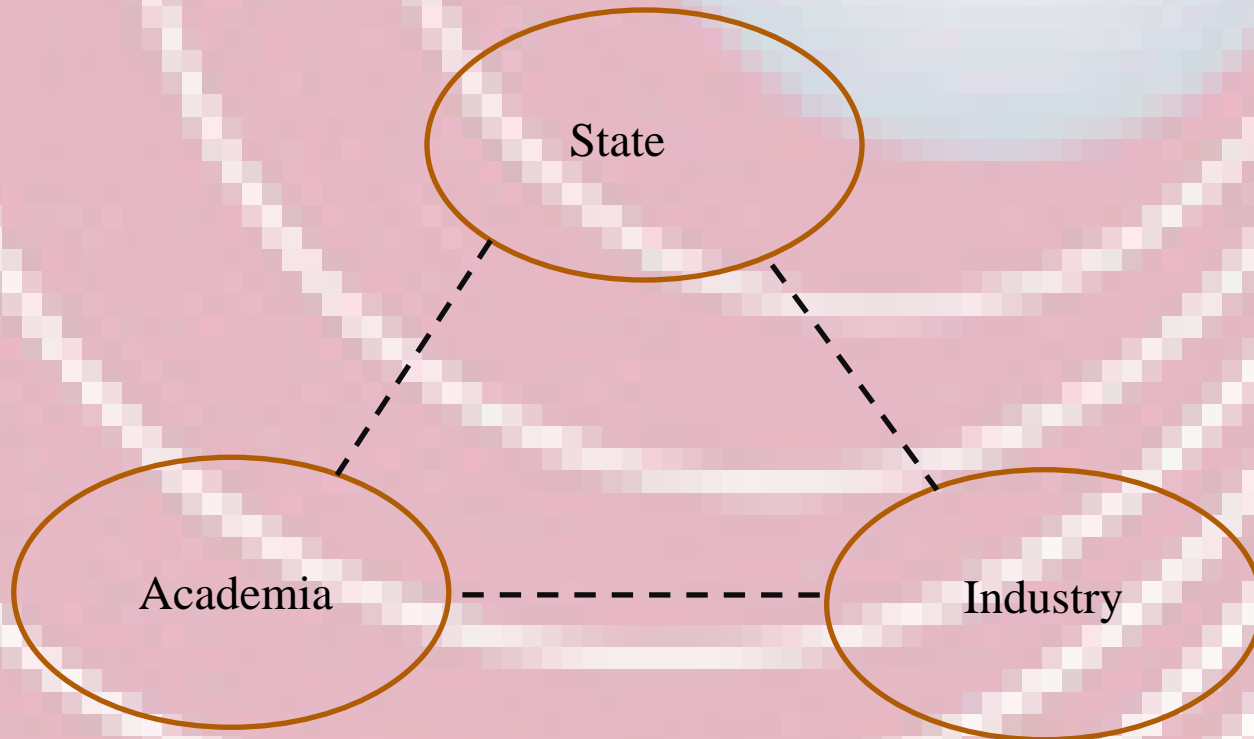
# Forms of Tripartite Collaboration

The socialist model:



# Forms of Tripartite Collaboration cont.

## The laissez-faire model

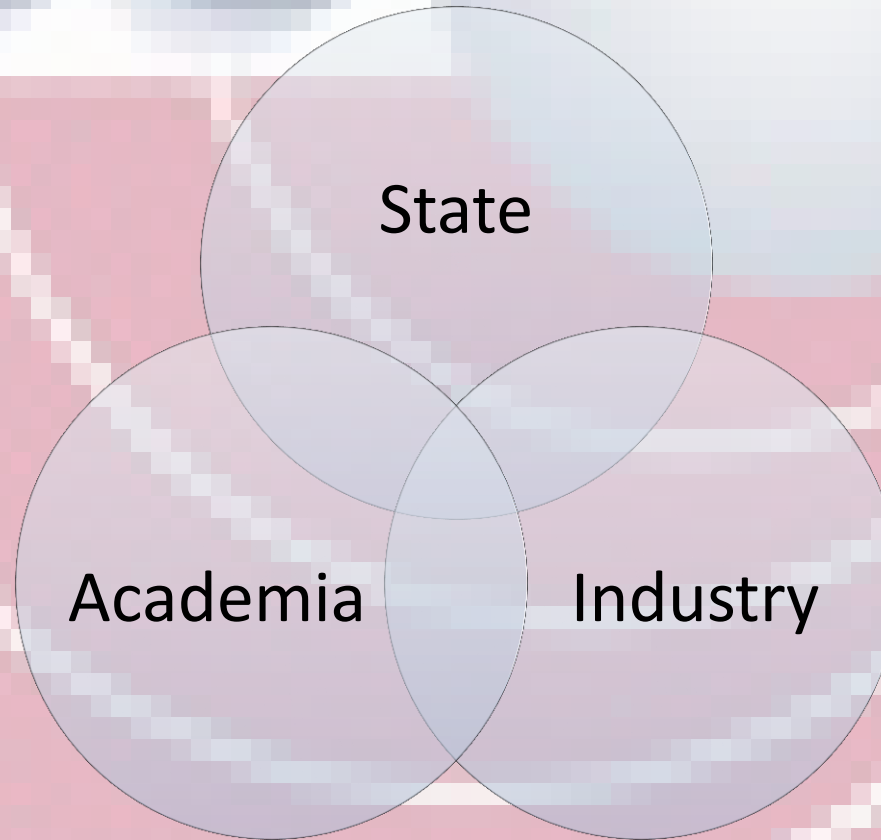


# The Triple Helix Thesis: Key Assumptions

- In-tandem collaboration of the 3-spheres in critical.
- Emphasises the role of universities (knowledge and technology) in development; with new ideas and skills.
- Government plays the incentivising role (not control).
- Each institutional sphere takes the role of the other (while maintaining their traditional functions).
- Growth in knowledge base of the region.
- Subsequent economic growth and development

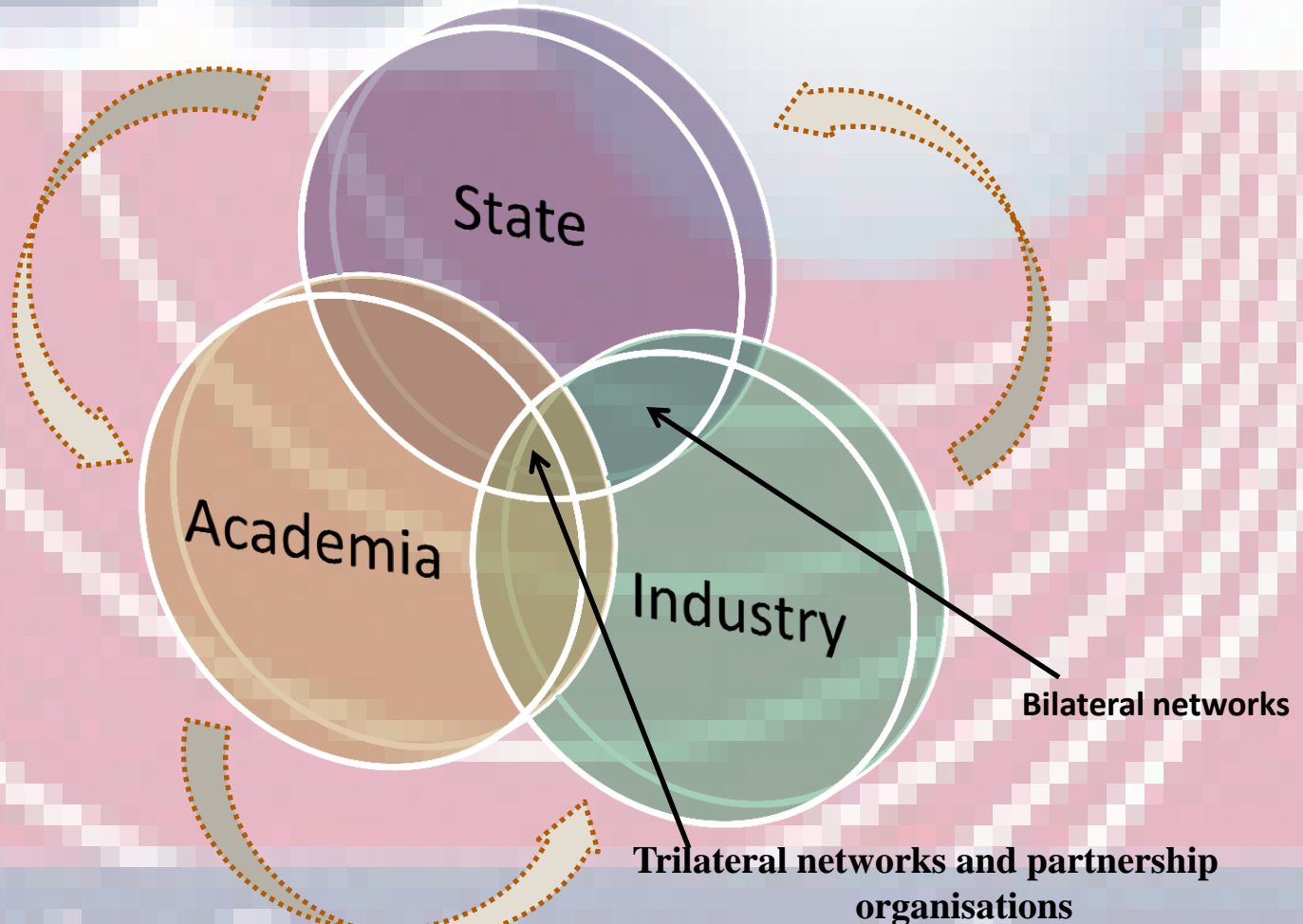
# Forms of Tripartite collaboration cont.

## The Triple Helix (Traditional)



# Forms of Tripartite collaboration cont.

## The Triple Helix:





# Operationalising the Triple Helix

- Acknowledge the need for collaboration
- Internal (institutional) transformation
  - more entrepreneurship from university
  - more engagement from government
  - more partnership from industry / business (society)
- Respect the integrity and interest of all institutional partners
- Formation of hybrid organisations (UFS clusters; knowledge hub, knowledge transfer bodies, etc ...)
- Regional policies to enhance partnerships.
- Integrate new knowledge into business and local governance.

# Implications 1- Academia

- Breaking the 'Ivory tower' – be more entrepreneurial
- Invest significantly on problem-solving research.
- Adequate policies and structures for partnership.
- Emphasise regional engagement from academics.
- Revise curricula to reflect needs of industry / society
- Bring in non-academics (professionals) into teaching and research (including supervision).
- ????
- ????

# Implications 2 - Government

This could apply to local, provincial and national.

- Normative control
- 'Animator of development'
- Provide suitable environment for business growth
- Inform academia of skills and knowledge need
- More inclusive approach to decision making.
- Research informed policies.
- ???

## Implications 3 - Industry

- Promote the development of an 'absorptive capacity' in the region.
- Sponsor (and apply) business related research
- Provision of venture capital for start-ups.
- Transition from resource dependence to knowledge and technology dependence.
- Continuous training and Lifelong Learning.
- ???

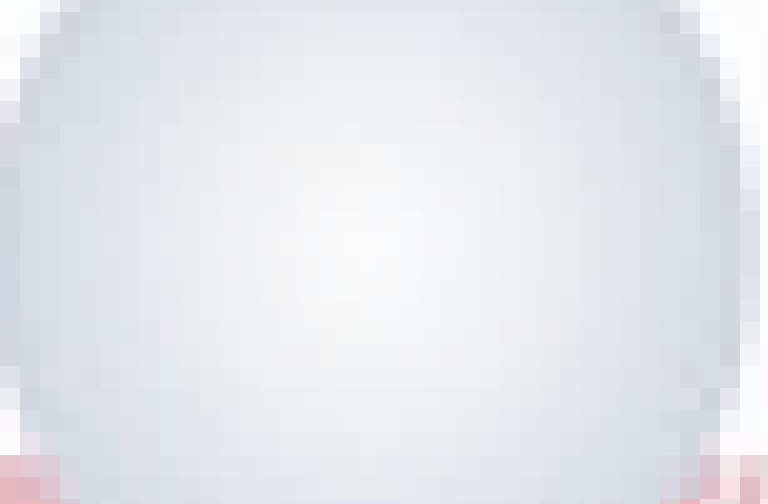
# Critiquing the Triple Helix

- Argued to be more abstract than empirical.
- Lacks in-depth empirical grounding
- Ignores the power struggle between the three spheres.
- Also significantly ignores 'institutional thickness' within university and government.
- Fails to recognise national, regional and local settings.

# Concluding remarks

- Societies do not evolve (develop) biologically (mutations); or natural stage theory.
- They must be actively and consciously steered
- Emphasise the role of partnerships and knowledge.
- The Triple Helix provides a possible framework
- However theoretical and practical aspects inherent in Triple Helix; must be contextually analysed.
- We therefore need to start talking; in larger and broader platforms – workshops, conferences, thesis ...
- It starts here !!!

CDS



Thank You.

