Rural policy and expertise

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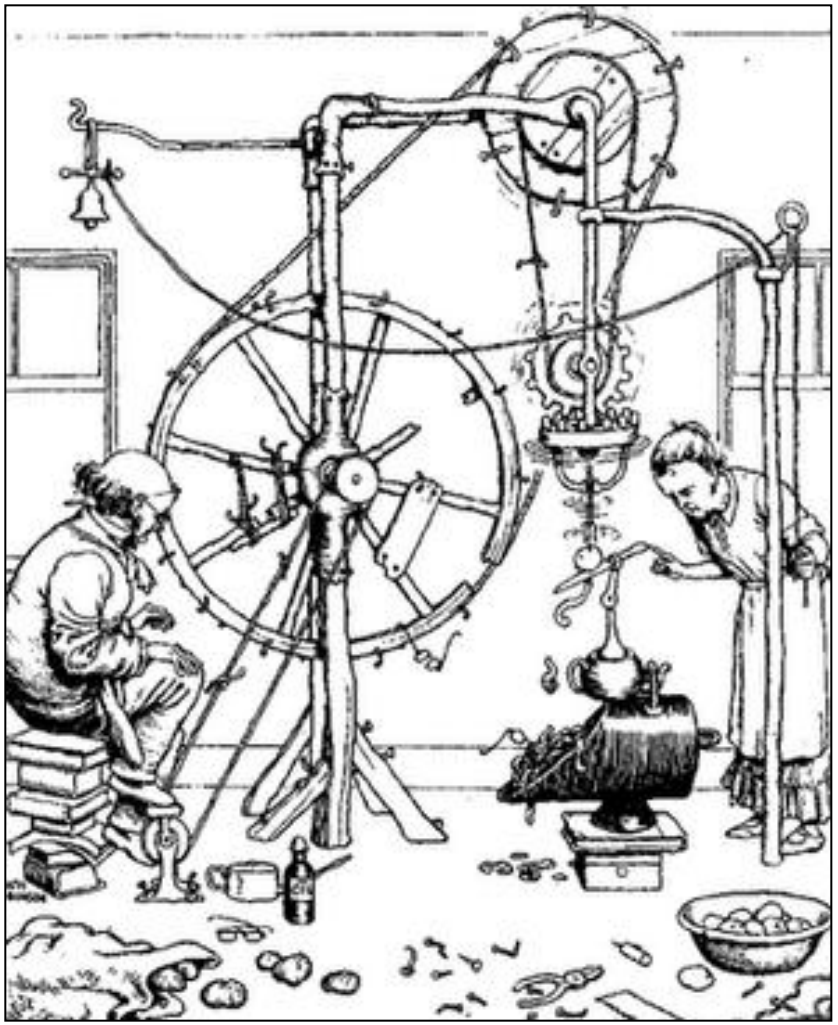
Macaulay Institute 2010

Science and Expertise

- Too much science
- Not enough expertise



The Professor's Invention for Peeling Potatoes

Science and Expertise

Science tells us ….

Experts advise us …

Science and Expertise

- Science advances through **experi**mentation
- Expertise builds on **experi**ence
- What's the difference?
- What's at stake?

Science and Expertise

A typology of knowledge

	Individual	Social
Explicit	Conscious Embrained Know-what	Objectified Encoded Know-why
Tacit	Automatic Embodied Know-how	Collective Encultured Know-who

(Adapted from Spender, 1997 and Amin and Cohendet, 2004)

Experts as Scientists

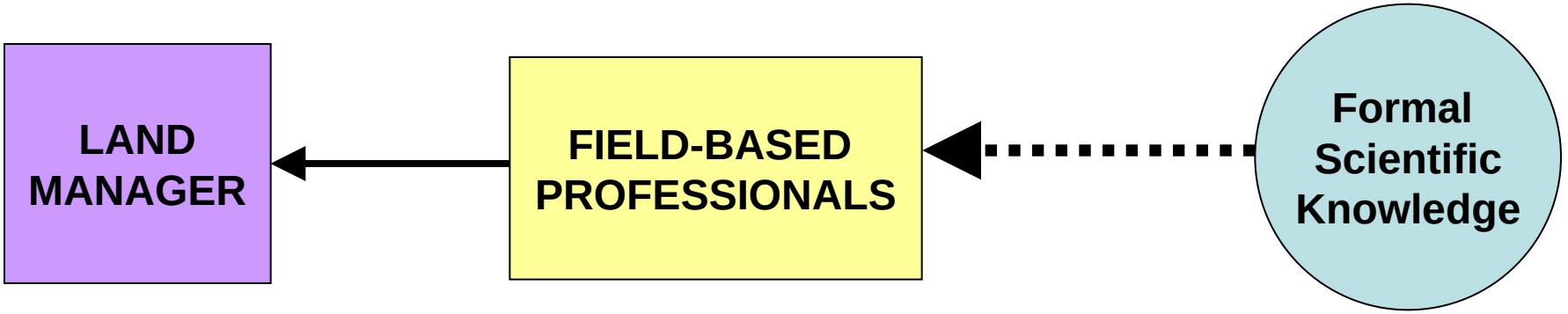
What constitutes field expertise?

Veterinarians

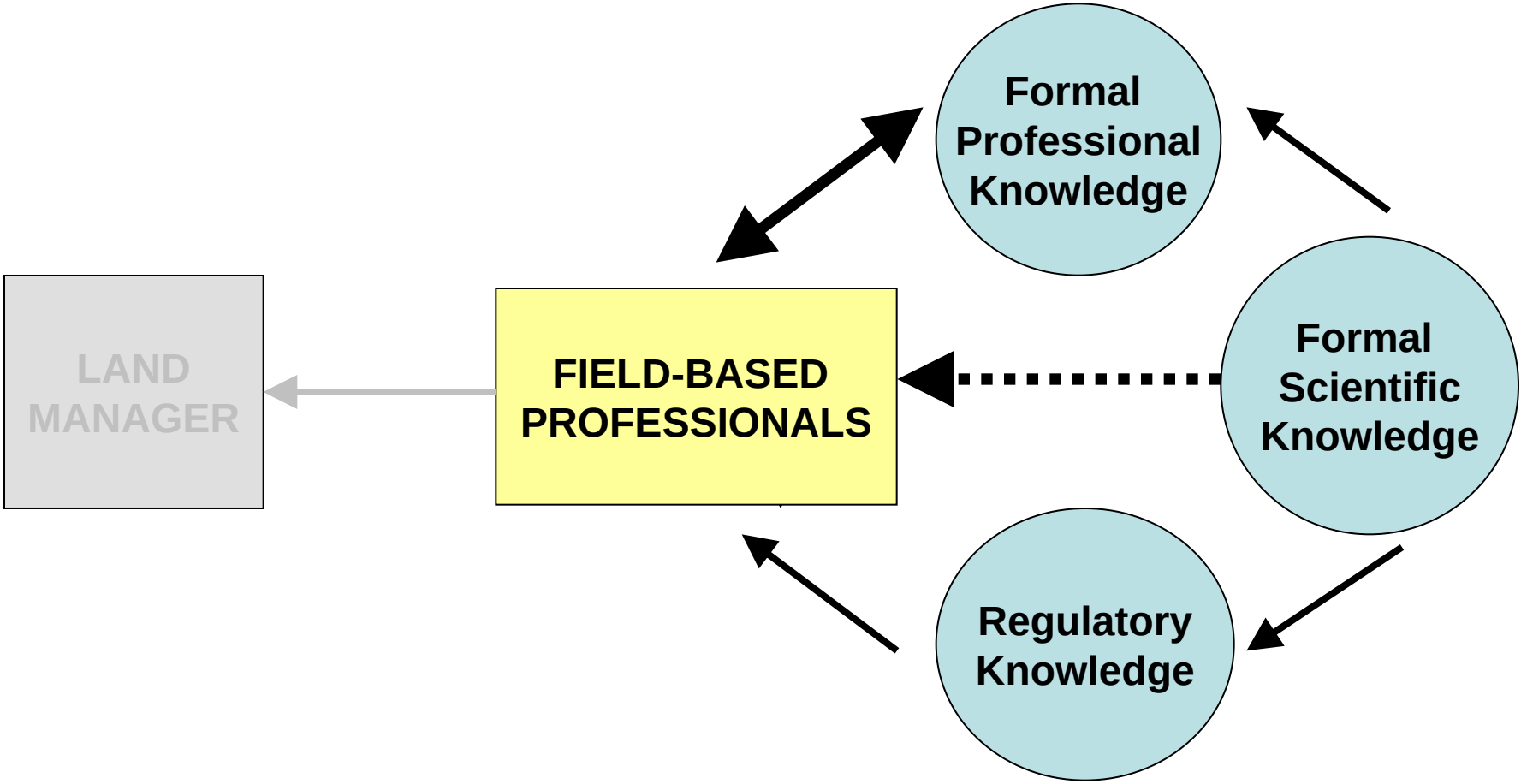
Applied ecologists

Land agents

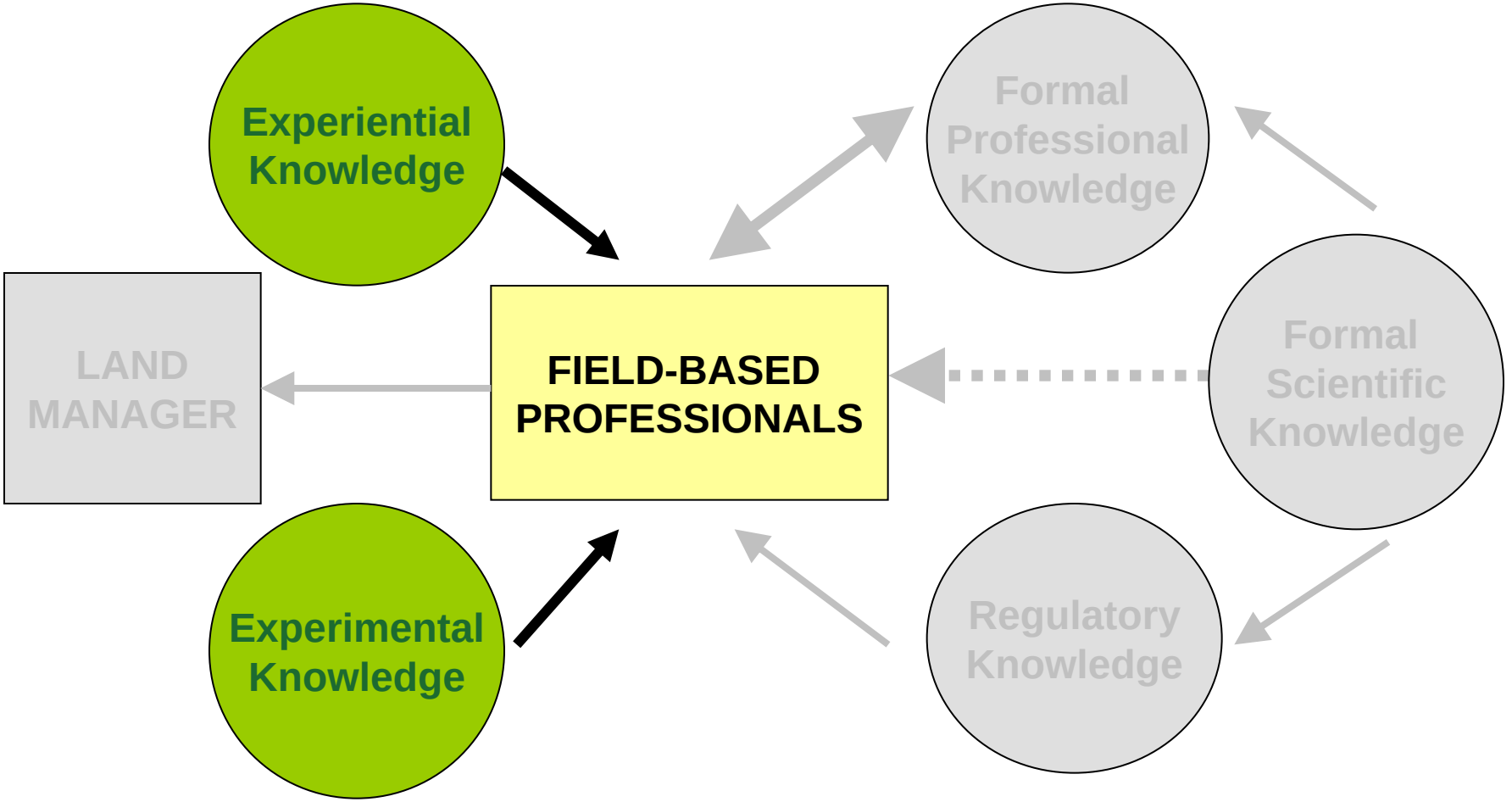
Experts as Scientists



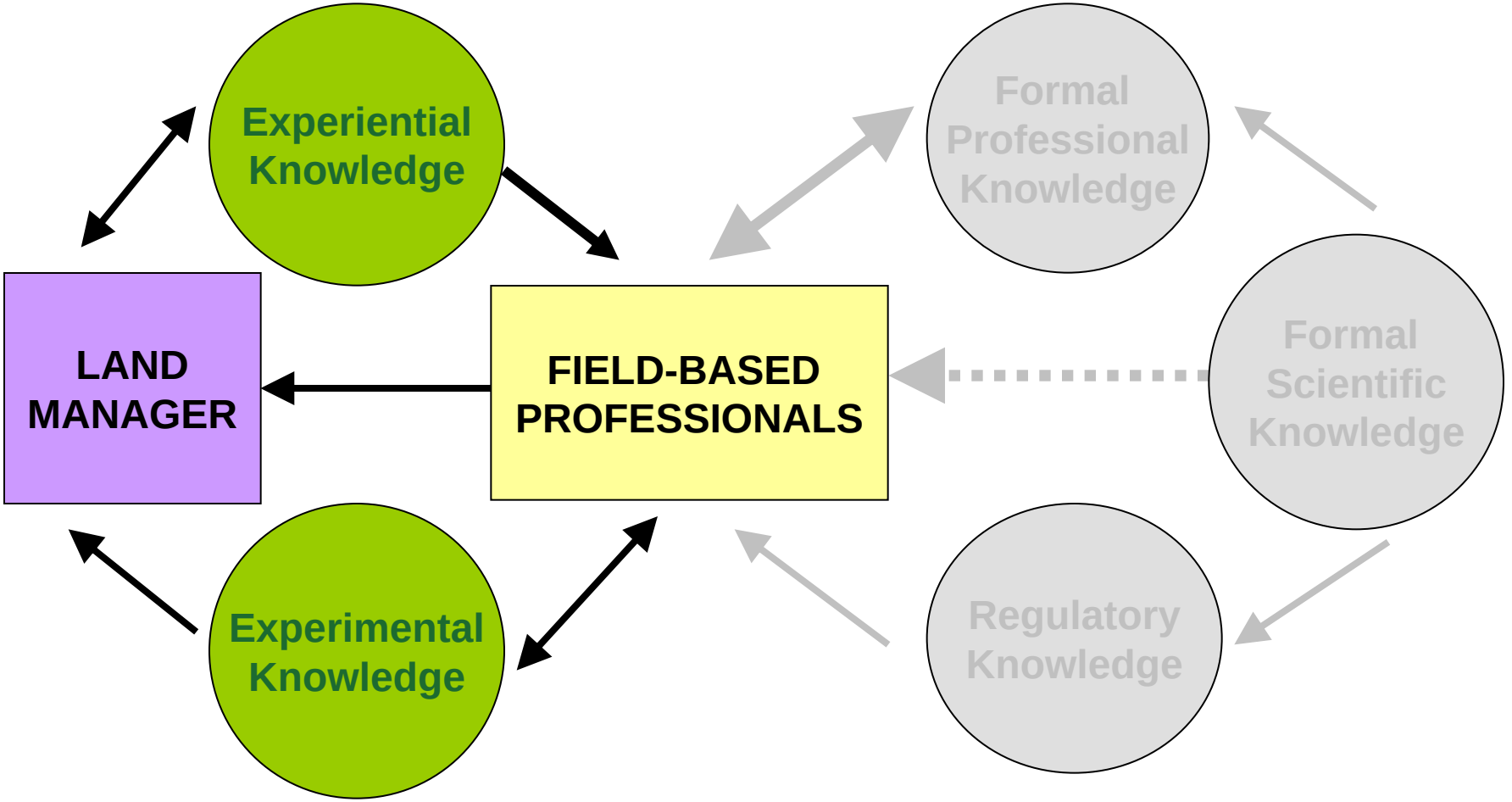
Experts as Scientists



Experts as Scientists



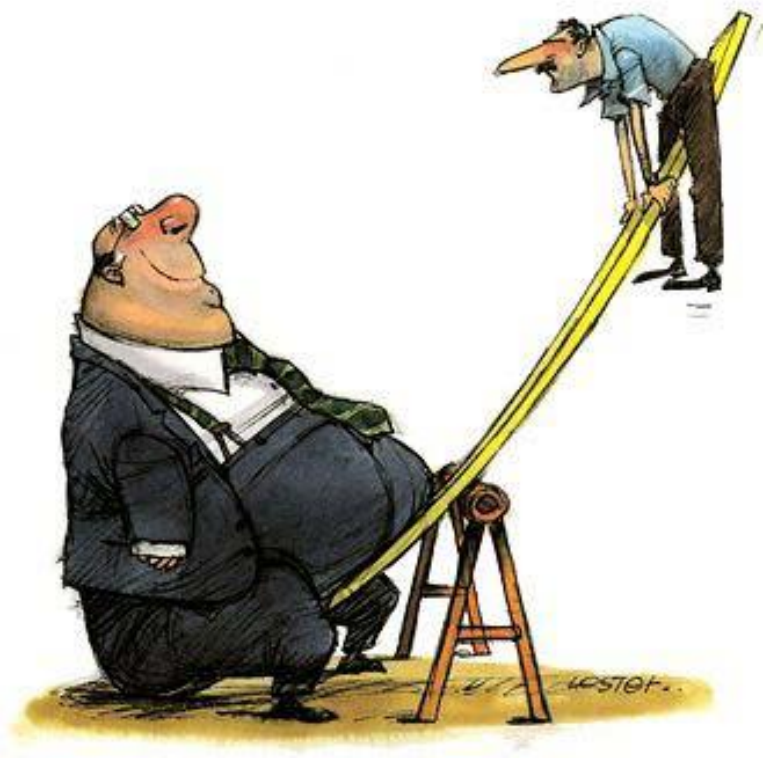
Land managers as field (in)experts



Managing the Expert/Inexpert Interface

Understanding this as a process of exchange

- of trust, for authority
- of professional services, responsive to client demand



Scientists as Experts

What makes a scientist an effective expert?

- How to deal with inexperts?
- How to deal with other experts? (or how to be inexpert?)

Scientists as Experts

The Relu Experience

Relu is promoting interdisciplinary research collaborations to advance understandings of the social, economic, environmental and technological challenges facing agriculture and rural areas

For the programme:

- Expert-expert interactions
- Expert-inexpert interactions

Pursued through:

- Interdisciplinarity
- Stakeholder engagement and knowledge exchange

Scientists as Experts

- Groupings of diverse experts doing different types of science must negotiate the expert-expert interface
- Creative interchange demands that they alternate expert-inexpert roles
- The promise of such interdisciplinary exchange is to:
  - Avoid partial framings of complex problems
  - Introduce new framings of questions
  - Contextualise technological and environmental constraints and opportunities
  - Provide holistic solutions
  - Improve accountability by opening up framing of problems and resource allocation decisions

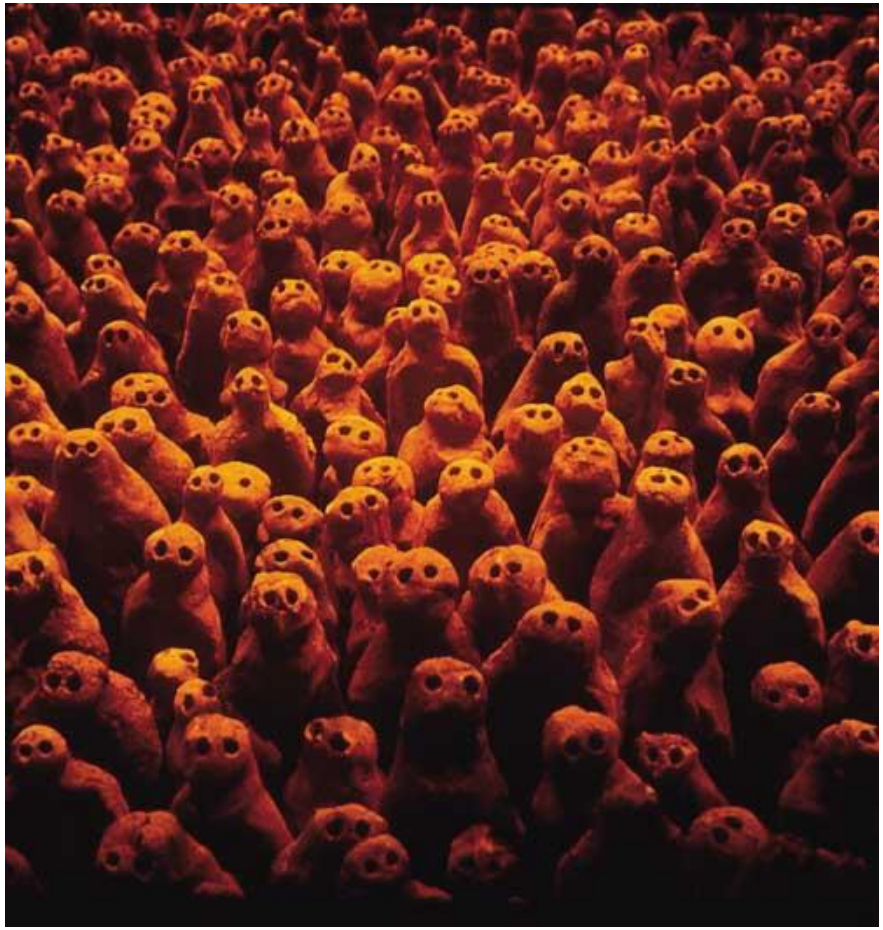
Scientists as (In)Experts

Ecologists as connoisseurs of social scientific expertise

Scientists as (In)Experts

The functions of social science in interdisciplinary research

Roles	To…
Problem framing	Reflect on the appropriate definition of problems
Public representation	Help illuminate or facilitate expression and engagement of public, consumer and stakeholder preferences, values and motivations
Systems analysis	Understand the organisation and governance of complex systems



Scientists as Experts

How do scientists become experts?

The Relu Work Shadow Programme

Stakeholder benefits:

- Opportunity to inform focus and relevance of research
- **Keeping in touch with latest research on policy and commercial challenges**
- **Bringing an outside perspective on policies and practices**
- **Refinement of analytical approaches, databases and techniques**
- Business development
- Policy and strategy development
- **Identifying future research needs**

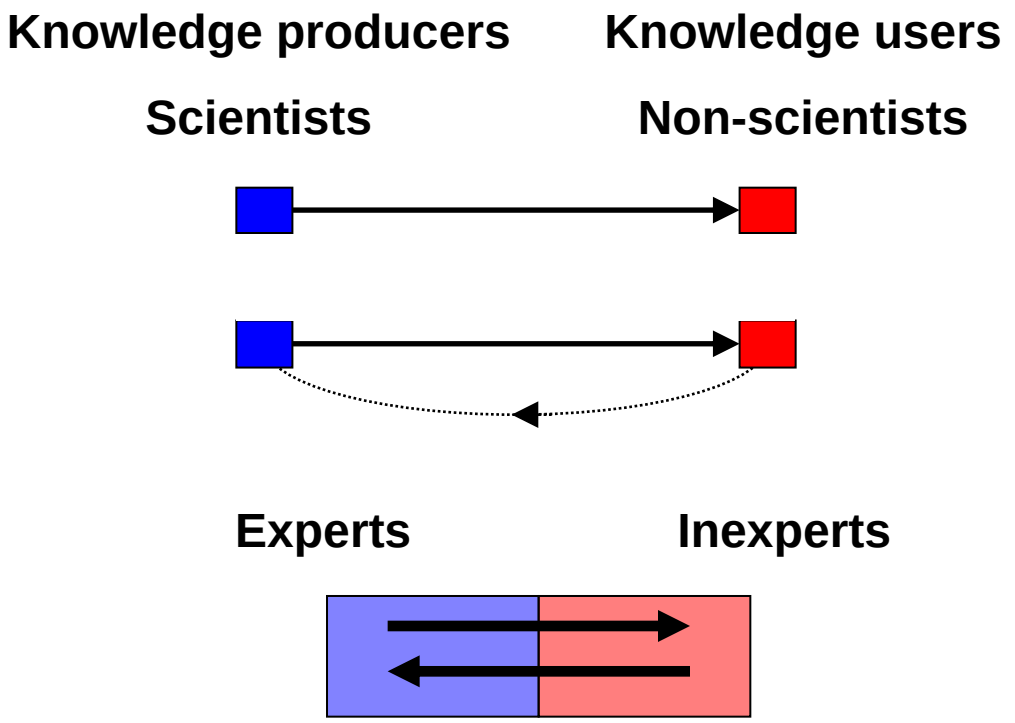
a "challenge to the accepted ways of working from an alternative perspective, objective analysis of current policies"

"invaluable" insight into the workings of our animal welfare team and policy objectives and a "third pair of eyes"

"a valuable contribution to the development of our forthcoming strategy for reducing Campylobacter in the Scottish population"

Scientists as Experts

Science-driven knowledge transfer	Pure science
	Applied science
Expert-mediated knowledge exchange	Joint-knowledge production / Adaptive learning networks



Scientists as Experts

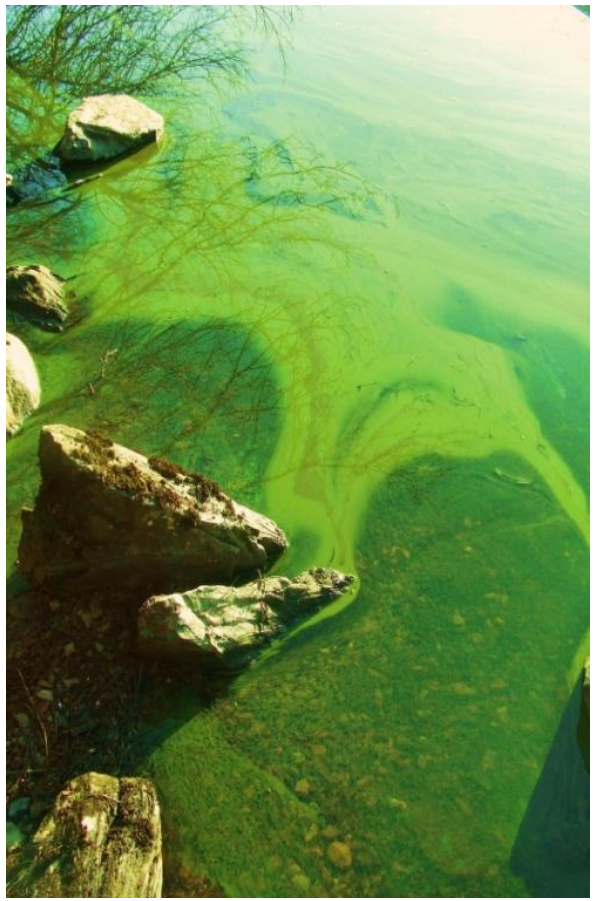
Joint-knowledge production

Knowledge controversies

Scientists as Experts

Adaptive learning networks

Testing a community approach to catchment management



Scientists as Experts