



The impact of regional public institutions on innovation in business networks

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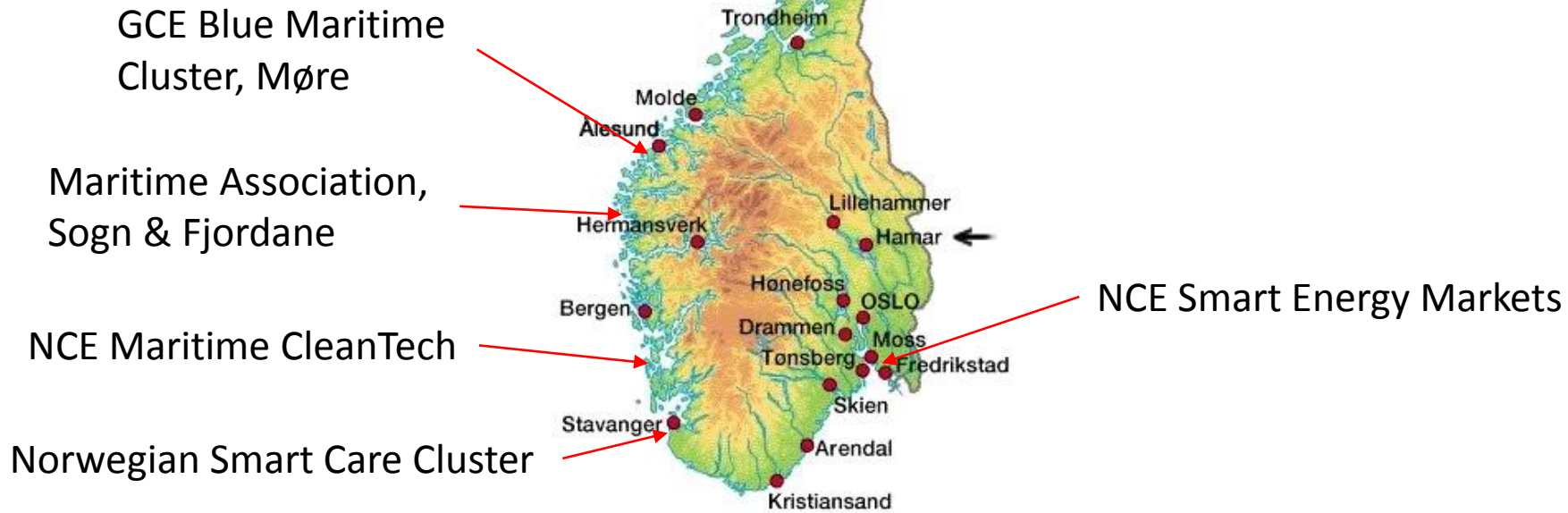
Cardiff, November 4th, 2016



Research questions

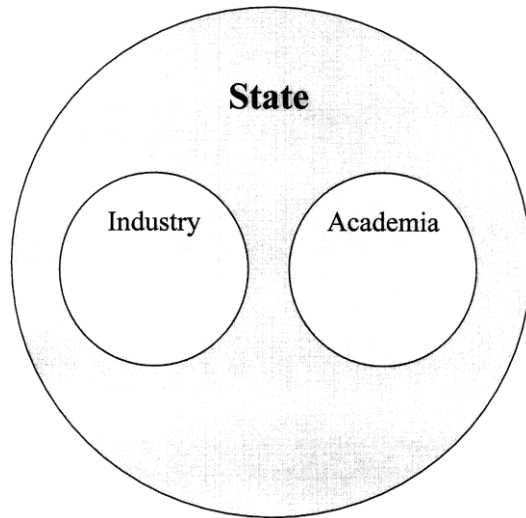
- General topic: Public role in business network building
- Our hypothesis is that private sector actors do not necessarily value these public endeavors. To improve the initiatives, stakeholders need a deeper understanding of how they are perceived.
- Questions:
 1. In what degree do business leaders specifically mention the public role regarding innovation when explaining reasons for joining business networks?
 2. How do business leaders interpret the regional public role in network building, and what do they think of the support they get for innovative activities?

OUR CASES

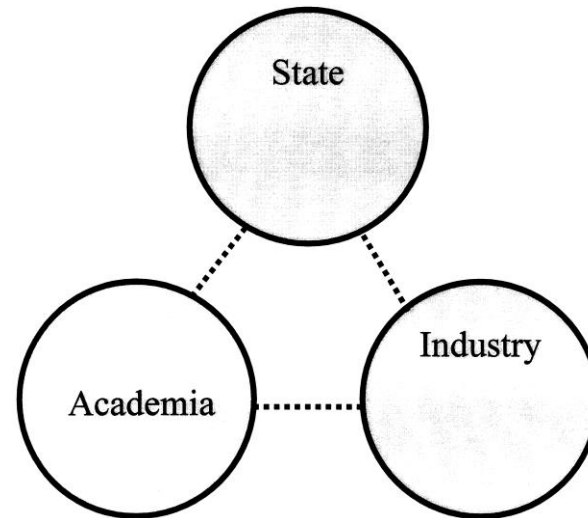


Three models for relations between Academia-Industry-Government

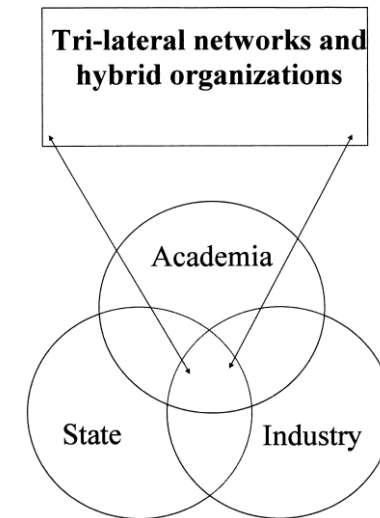
A “statist” model of university–industry–government relations



A “laissez-faire” model of university–industry–government relations



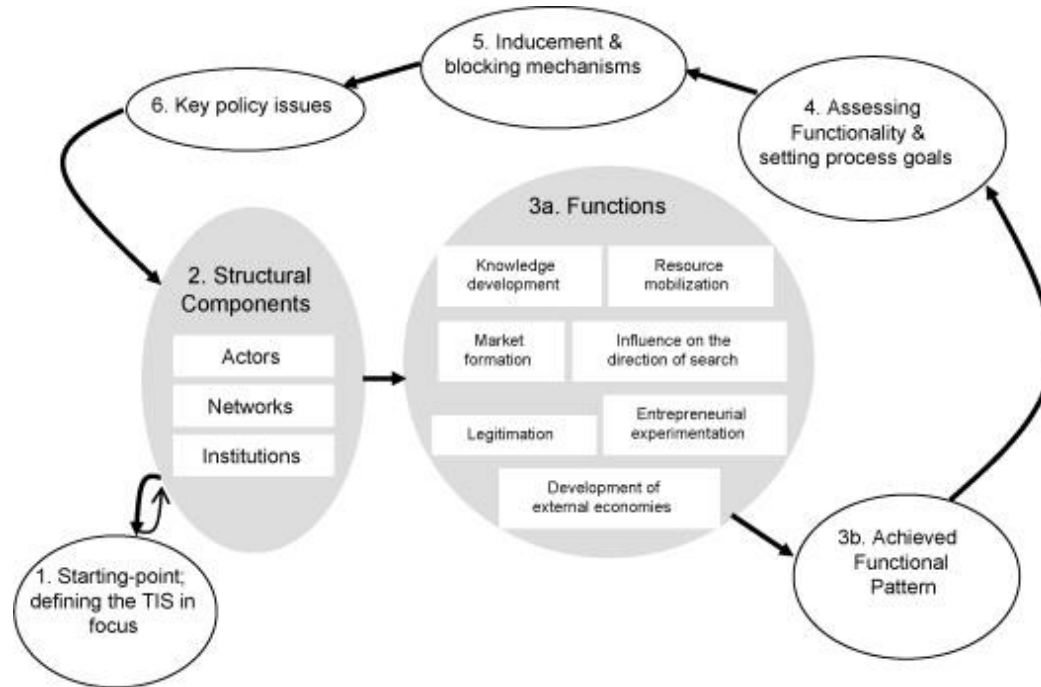
A “balanced” model of university–industry–government relations (Triple Helix)



Models and government role

Model	Government role	Possible problems
Statist	Dominating	Lock-ins/ path dependency Sub-optimal solutions
Laissez-faire	At a minimum; regulator and customer	Greater differences between regions
TH	Active role (e.g. in innovation and entrepreneurship)	Mixture of roles – do businesses understand public role?

Functions of business networks



Ranga & Etzkowitz (2013):
 «... the main function of a Triple Helix system ... is that of generating, diffusing and utilizing knowledge and innovation.»

Fig. 1. The scheme of analysis (adapted from Oltander and Perez Vico, 2005).

Interviews and data processing

	Maritime Association, Sogn & Fjordane	GCE Blue Maritime Cluster, Møre	NCE Maritime CleanTech	NCE Smart Energy Markets	Norwegian Smart Care Cluster
Companies	9	5	9	5	6
Network management	2	1	2	1	3
County municipality	1	1	1	2	1
Other public actors at regional level (IN, NRC)	1	2	1	5	3
Partner responsible for interview, transcribing/ taking notes and coding	Vestlandsforskning, Sogn & Fjordane University College	Møreforskning	Polytec	Østfoldforskning, Østfold University College	BI Norwegian Business School Stavanger, Polytec
Data processing	All interviews except 1 were transcribed from recordings. Notes from 1 due to recording failure. Coding/ sorting according to table 1.	8 of 9 interviews recorded. Separate notes from two interviewers. Coding/ sorting according to table 1.	All interviews transcribed from recordings. Coding/ sorting according to table 1.	4 of 13 interviews recorded. Notes. Coding/ sorting according to table 1.	2 of 13 interviews recorded. Notes. Coding/ sorting according to table 1.



Results Q1: Most common reasons for businesses to join networks

- Meeting place, “connecting people”
 - Arena for meeting important stakeholders, including representatives of the public sector (County M., IN, NRC)
 - Motives for meeting public sector: Money and lobbying
 - Other motives: Money, knowledge/information, relations (investors, lenders, customers, suppliers, etc.)
- Reputation/ legitimacy building
 - Reputation for region, industry and company as part of “something bigger”
 - Making value creation and workplaces visible
 - Membership has value in itself
- Innovation
 - Participation in projects (pilots, developing new products) important
 - No particular public role mentioned
- Public roles: Funding, regulating, (part of) organizing networks, participating (in network meetings)



Results Q2: Business leaders' view on public roles

- Common findings in all the networks
 - Private actors in the value chain are in the driver's seat in pushing for innovation
 - Large companies are key members and need to participate
- The public sector at the national level was mainly considered an important party
 - As customer
 - In funding of projects
 - As regulator
- The public at the regional level and funding agencies are in varying extent considered important
 - In funding of projects and as network facilitator
- Academia is in most networks not considered a crucial success factor for innovation

Conclusion:
Government role still like laissez-faire?

