

Socialisation of Science in Spain
and some remarks on
Scientific Mediation

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1. Socialisation of Science in Spain

Qualitative Methodology

- > Interdisciplinary experts from all over the country
 - > 8 sociological interviews and 2 focus groups
- February – April 2007

Theoretical Context

- > Socialization: societal embeddedness of science, social cooperation, transdisciplinarity, social obstacles and contradictions within scientific research...
- > Knowledge society and integration into the European Research Area

1. Socialisation of Science in Spain



Contradictory Legitimation

> Only some scientists are well perceived by society, while investment, human resources and public support are still scarce.

Agreed Improvement, but many risks

> Recent improvement of internationalization of science and standards is emphasized, but risks of privatization and lost of public interest are also feared.

1. Socialisation of Science in Spain



Contradictory Responsibility

> Managers and some researchers tend to stress more the role of firms at leading S&T, while others researchers and members of NGOs point out to citizens and public resources.

Key emergent issues

- > Communication and evaluation of science.
- > Governance: transparency, public knowledge, public debate and education.

2. Some remarks on Scientific Mediation



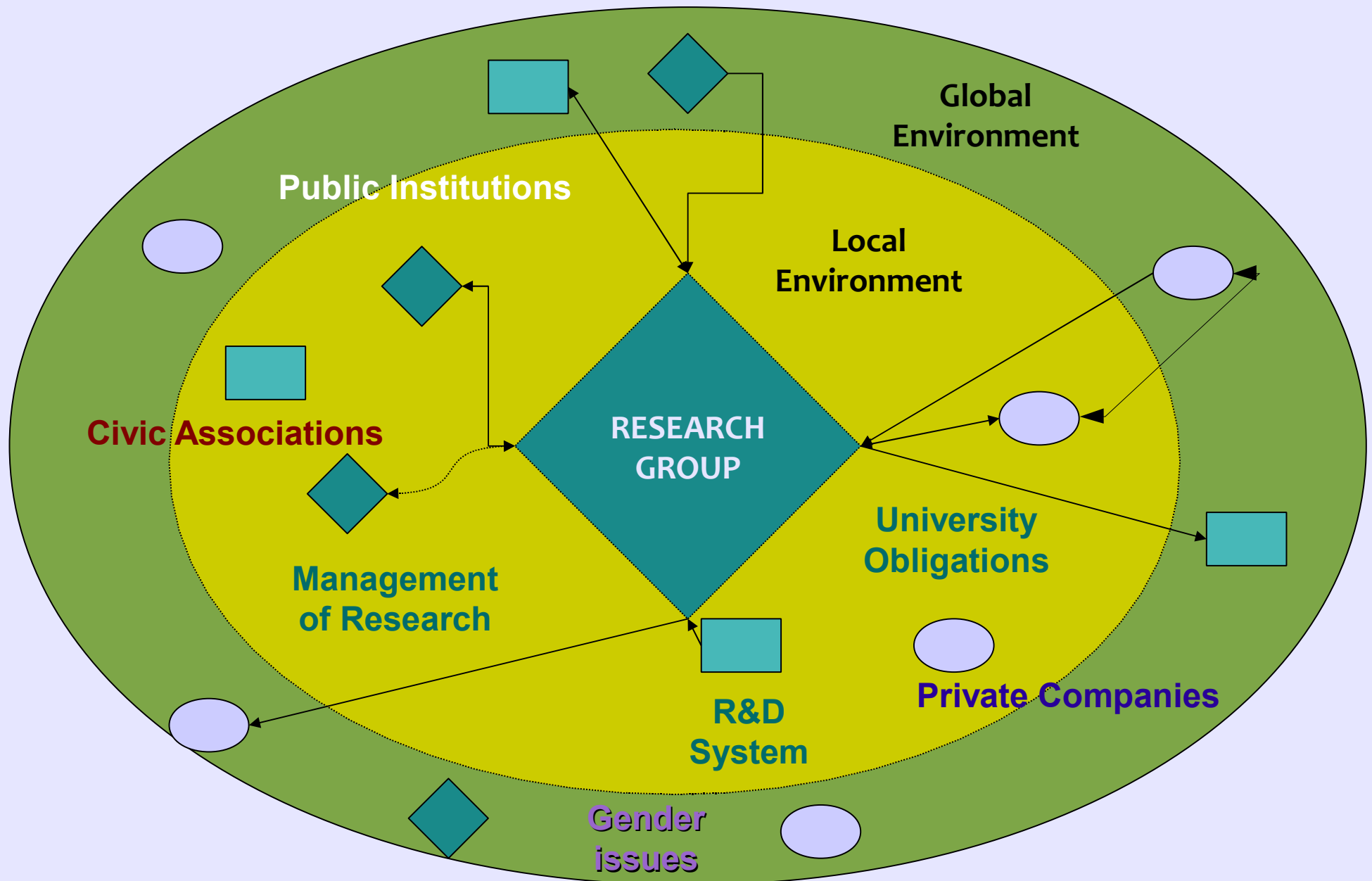
Purpose of the Experimentation

> To discover and to remove hindering factors relating to the mediation of natural scientists with firms and university

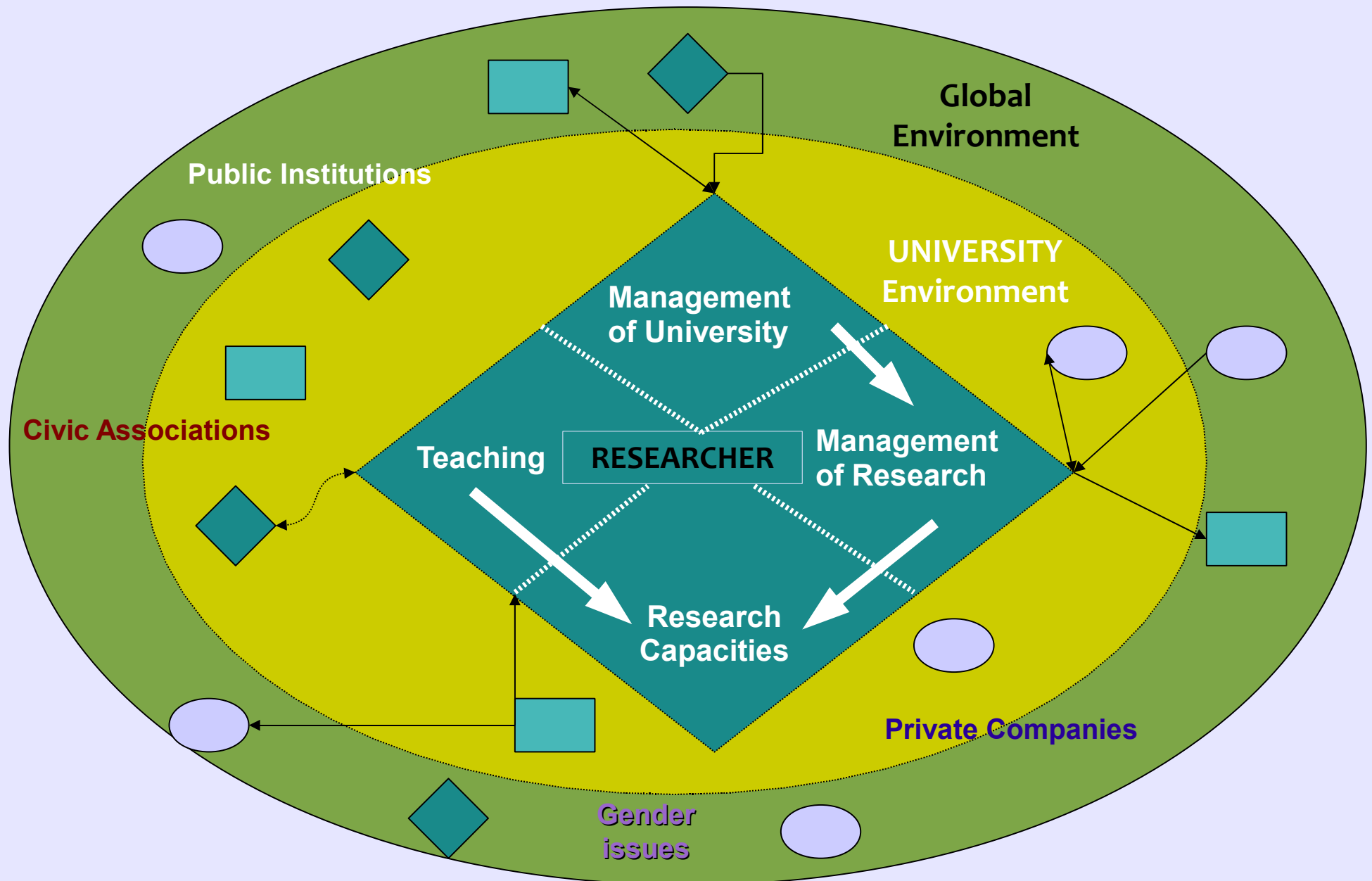
Participatory Action- Research Methodology

- > 2 research groups of natural scientists working at university
 - > Daily observation of practices, weekly interviews, workshops, pre- and post-test
 - > Experimental mediation with 4 private firms
- Nov. 2007 – June 2009

2. Some remarks on Scientific Mediation



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2. Some remarks on Scientific Mediation

Management of Research

- > It is mainly in charge of Principal Investigators so they cannot really research nor *manage* properly their research groups.
- > Our smallest group (formed only by women) was more able to avoid those constraints.

University Teaching

- > It is a heavy “burden” in terms of an excessive number of hours and related tasks (included those that involve responsibility on institutional management).
- > Due to the present incompatibility with research dedication, some professors would like to dedicate more to teach, while others rather prefer to research.

2. Some remarks on Scientific Mediation

Firms' views about Collaboration

- > Unknowledge about research groups' interests, purposes and practices.
- > They pay only for profitable results.



Researchers' views about external Collaboration

- > Unbearable due to scarce time, many projects in progress and difficult adaptation to firms' requirements.
- > Firms are not interested on scientific-open publication, and basic research.

2. Some remarks on Scientific Mediation

Successful Collaboration

- > Previous and multiple relationships with firms.
- > Well defined research project which only needed firms' installations.



Unsuccessful Collaboration

- > Delayed decisions due to the complexity of the research group and the long spatial distance between them and specific firms interested.
- > Relevant contribution of money from the company was demanded.

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