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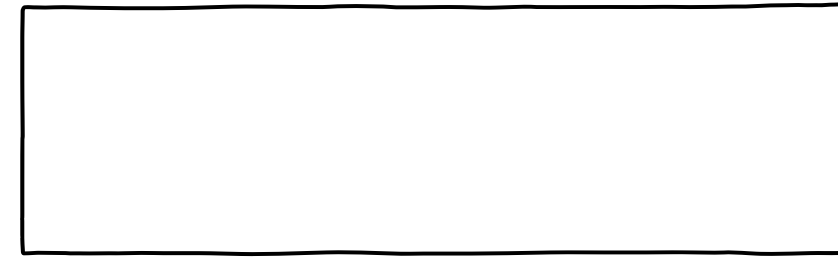
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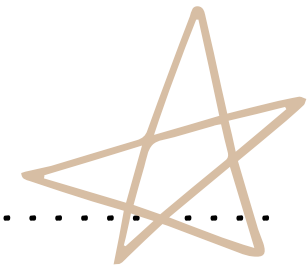
Conceptualising

Tourist  
Skills

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# Background & Methodology



Data collection on trains



Data collection on boats

1

Researching transport tourism in the UK: train travel and canal boating

2

Mobile ethnographic methods:

2.1

12 journeys on regular trains; 15 boate trips

2.2

Interviews & participant observations

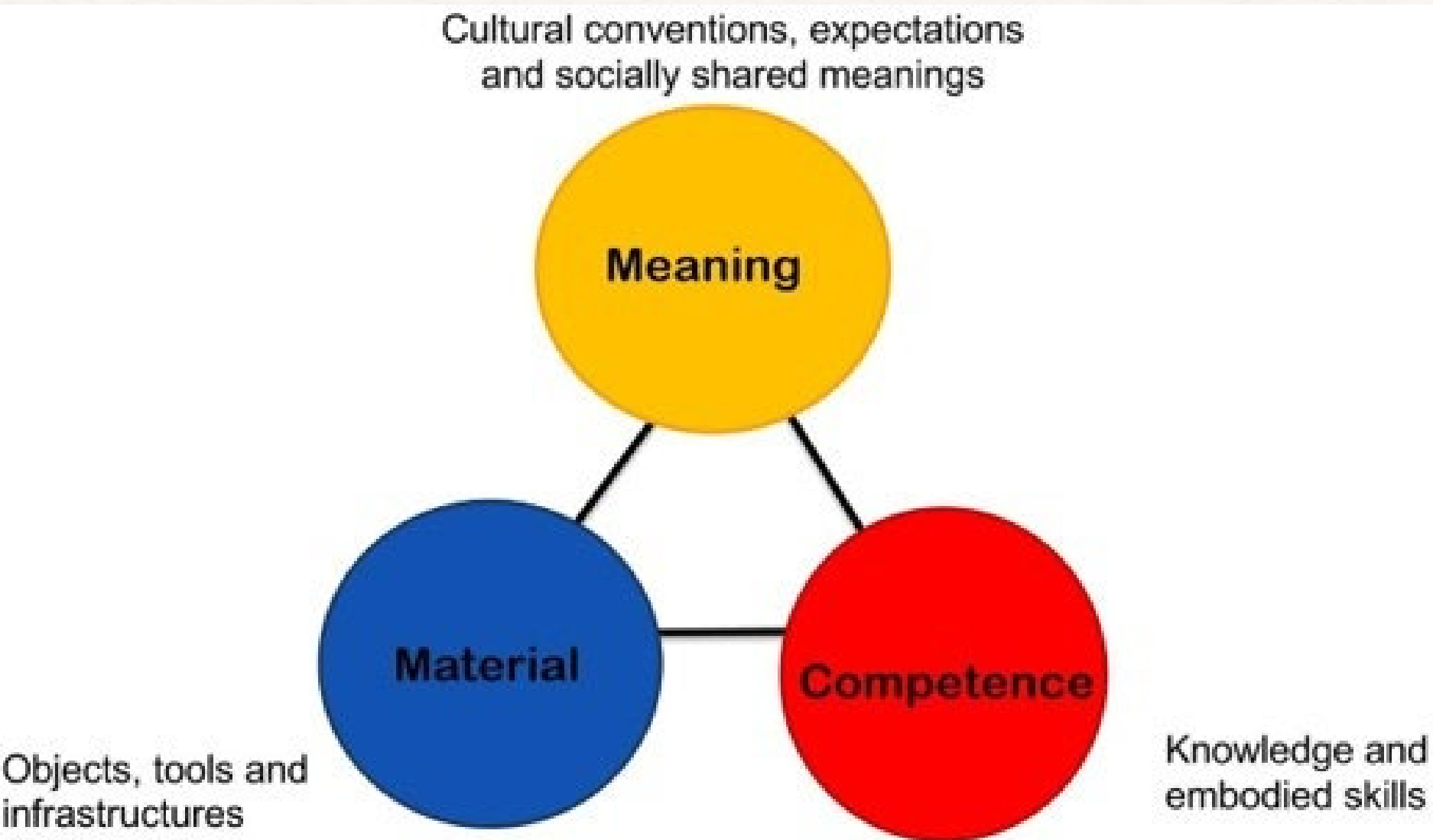
3

Skills as a recurring theme

# Social Practice Theory

## Foregrounds:

- **Social practices** (e.g., cycling, boating, sightseeing), not individual practitioners
- **What people do** over what they think, value, et.
- The role of the body and **socio-material interactions**
- Any practice consists of **three groups of elements**

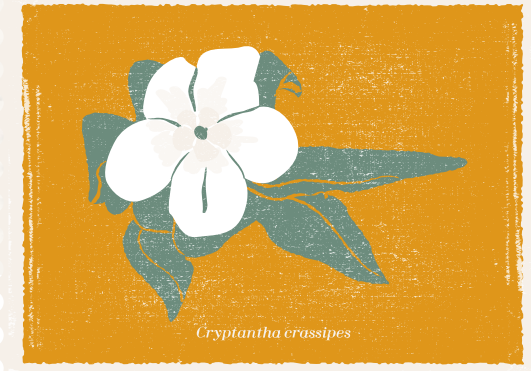


(Source: Shove, Pantzar, Watson, 2012)

# Properties of Skills:

Skills are not things -in-themselves

(Ingold, 1996)

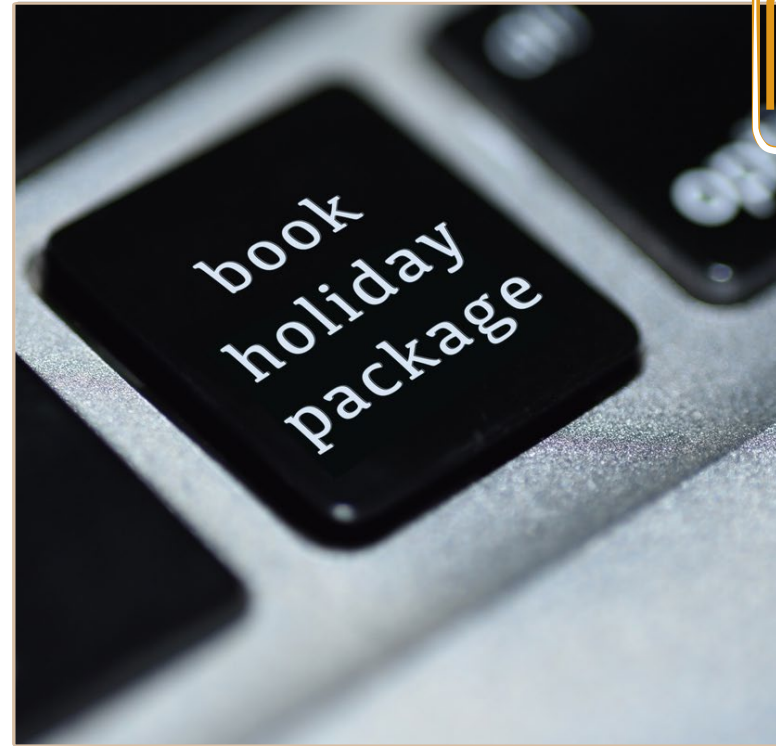


# Existing Research in Tourism & Leisure

- Examines specialist skills (Shipway & Jones, 2007)
- Foregrounds knowledge (Tsaur, Yen and Chen, 2010; Cutler and Carmichael, 2010)
- Categories skills; lists of skills (Pearce and Foster, 2007)



Focus on Specialist skills



Low-skill, high -skill activities (Richards, 1996)



Unskilled practices (Scitovsky, 1992)

# TOURIST SKILLS

Mertena, I., Kaaristo, M., & Edensor, T. (2022) Tourist skills. *Annals of Tourism Research*.

Extant studies in  
tourism

Skilled &  
unskilled  
tourism  
practices

New conceptual framework

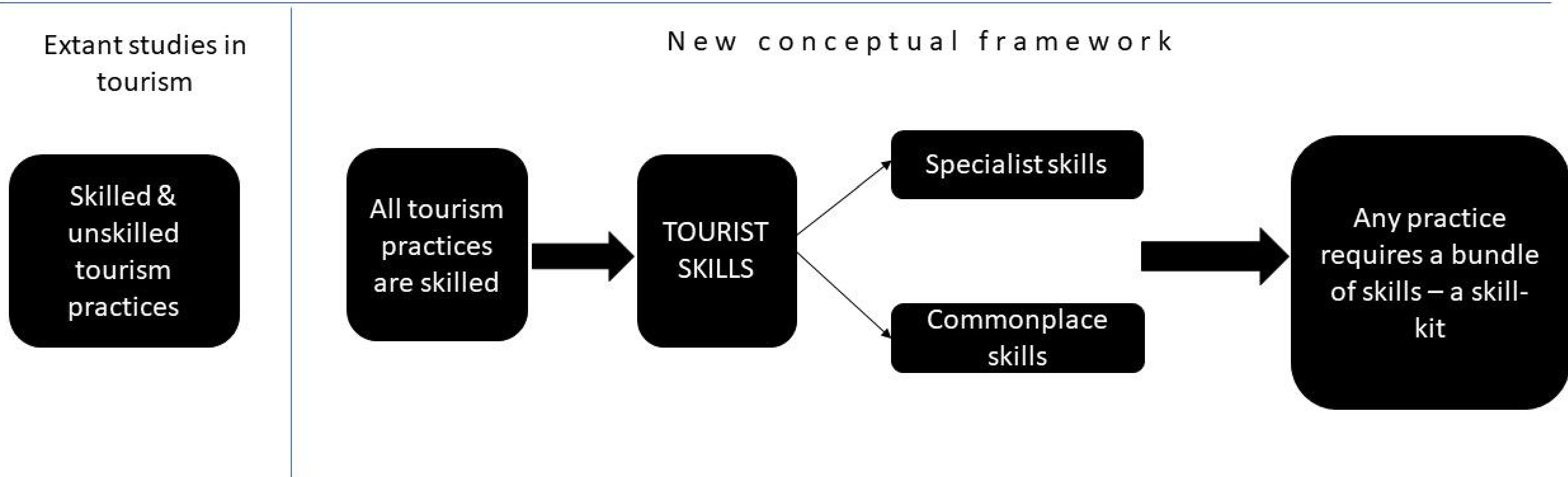
All tourism  
practices  
are skilled

TOURIST  
SKILLS

Specialist skills

Commonplace  
skills

Any practice  
requires a bundle  
of skills – a skill-  
kit



# Tourist Skills (Mertena, Kaaristo & Edensor, 2022)

Skill-kit



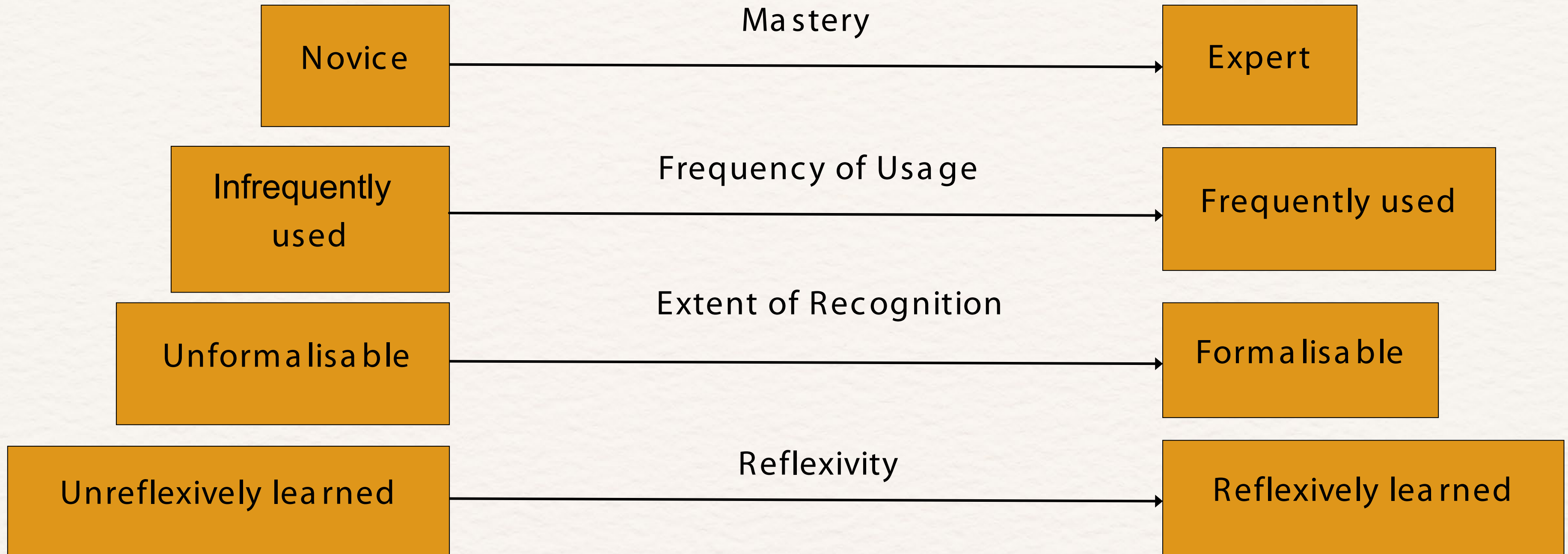
Commonplace  
Skills



Commonplace and  
Specialist skills



# Conceptualising Tourist Skills





# Future Research

01

Research s[kills in](#)  
different contexts

02

Explore the four  
dimensions of skill

03

The role of skills in  
decision making,  
motivation and  
the tourist  
experience

04

Explore if non -  
participation in  
tourism is linked to  
a lack of certain  
skills



Thank you for  
your  
attention!

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