



Please cite the Published Version

Mertena, Ilze  and Kaaristo, Maarja  (2022) Conceptualising tourist skills. In: T²M Annual Conference 'Mobilities: disruptions and reconnections', 21 September 2022 - 24 September 2022, Padua, Italy. (Unpublished)

Version: Presentation

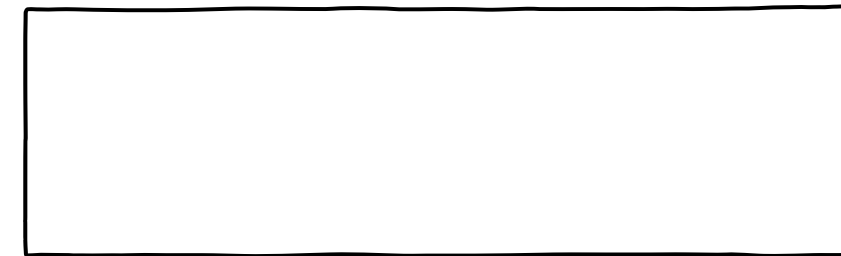
Downloaded from: <https://e-space.mmu.ac.uk/637895/>

Usage rights:  In Copyright

Additional Information: Slides of a lecture given at T²M Annual Conference 'Mobilities: disruptions and reconnections'

Enquiries:

If you have questions about this document, contact openresearch@mmu.ac.uk. Please include the URL of the record in e-space. If you believe that your, or a third party's rights have been compromised through this document please see our Take Down policy (available from <https://www.mmu.ac.uk/library/using-the-library/policies-and-guidelines>)



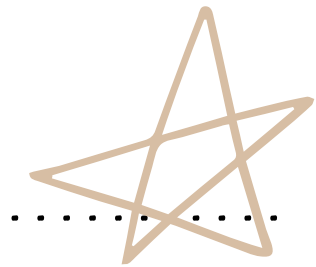
Conceptualising

Tourist
Skills

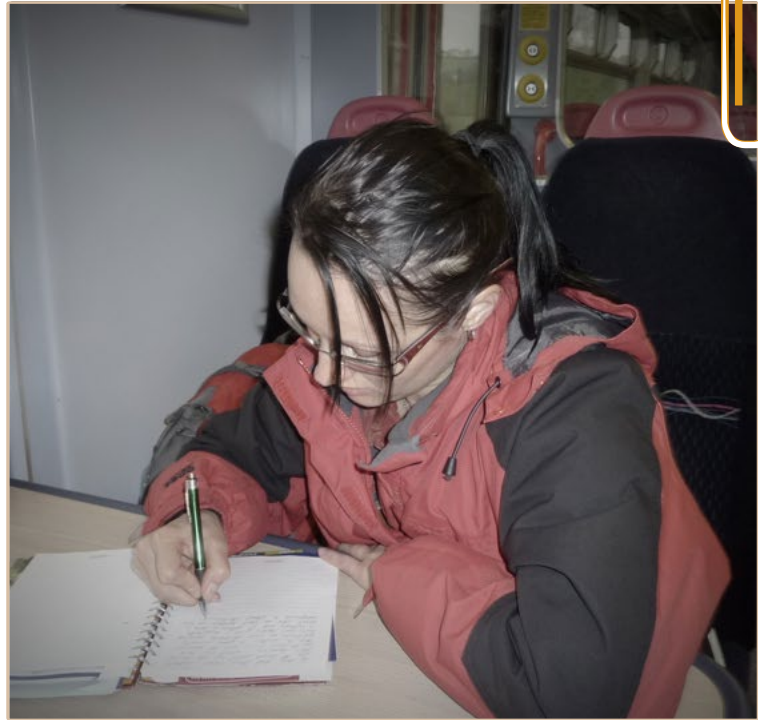
Ilze Mertena

Maarja Kaaristo

Manchester Metropolitan University



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

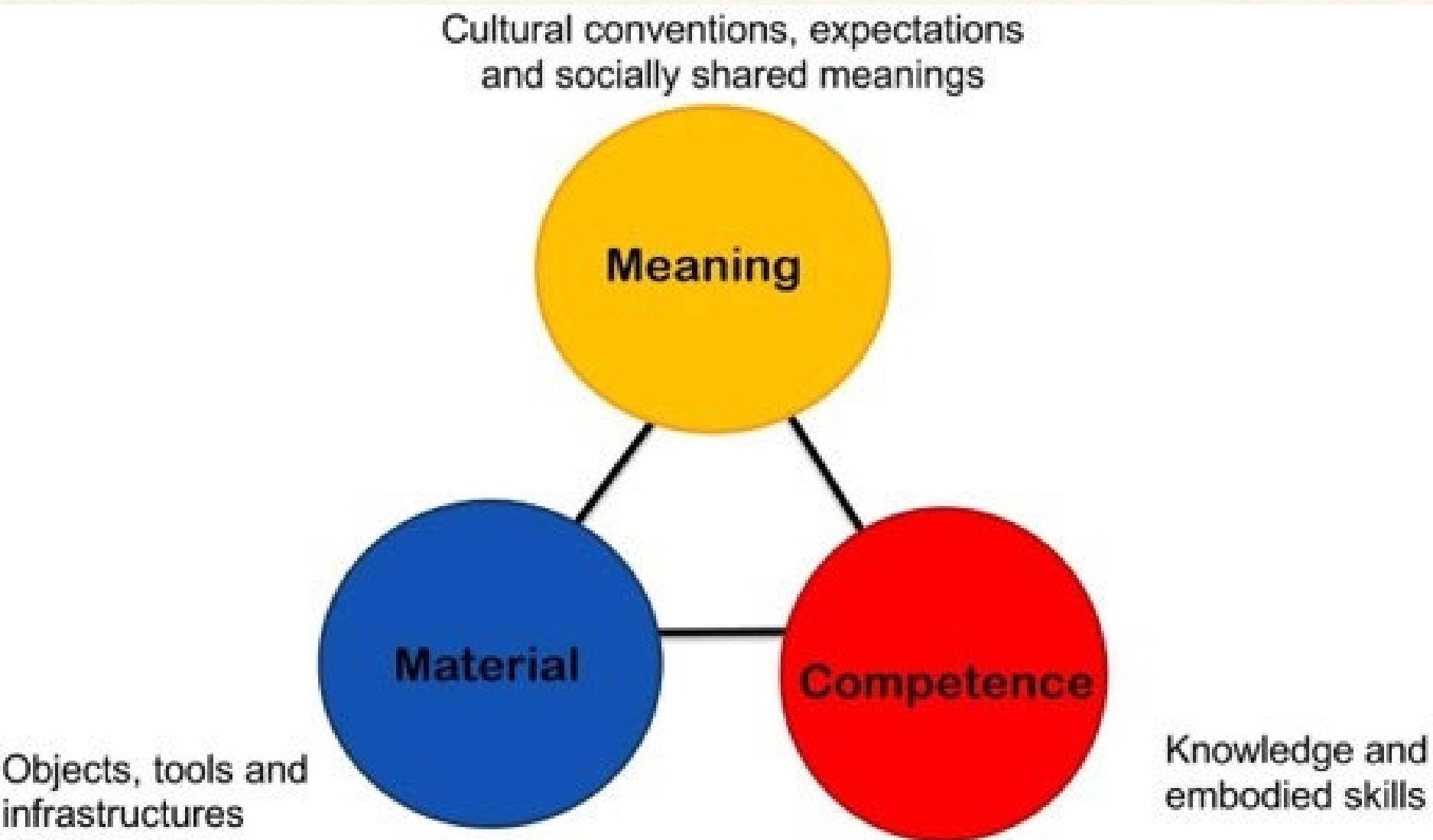
3

Skills as a recurring theme

Social Practice Theory

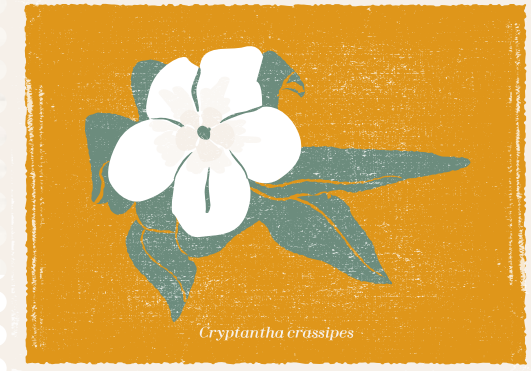
Foregrounds:

- **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

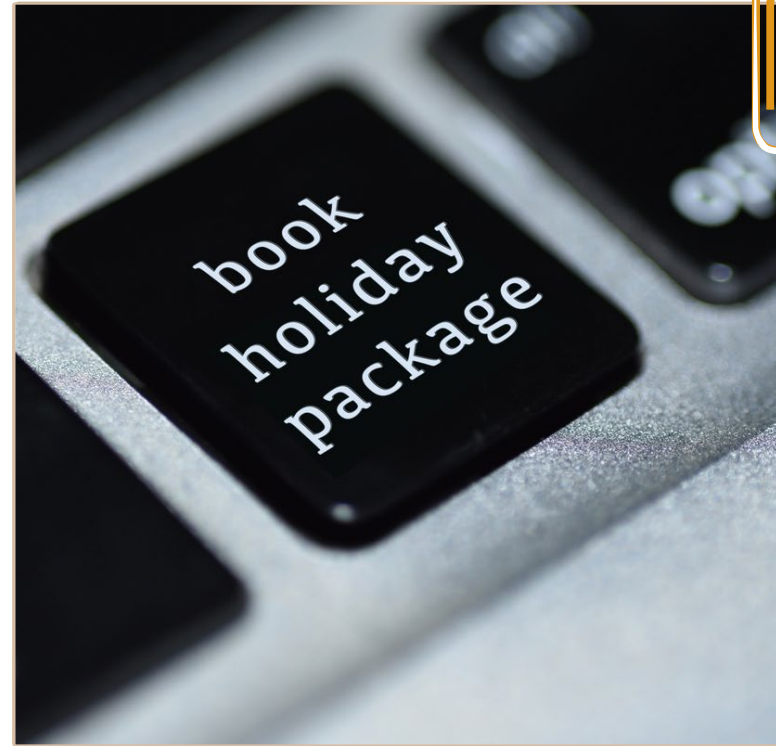
(Ingold, 1996)

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

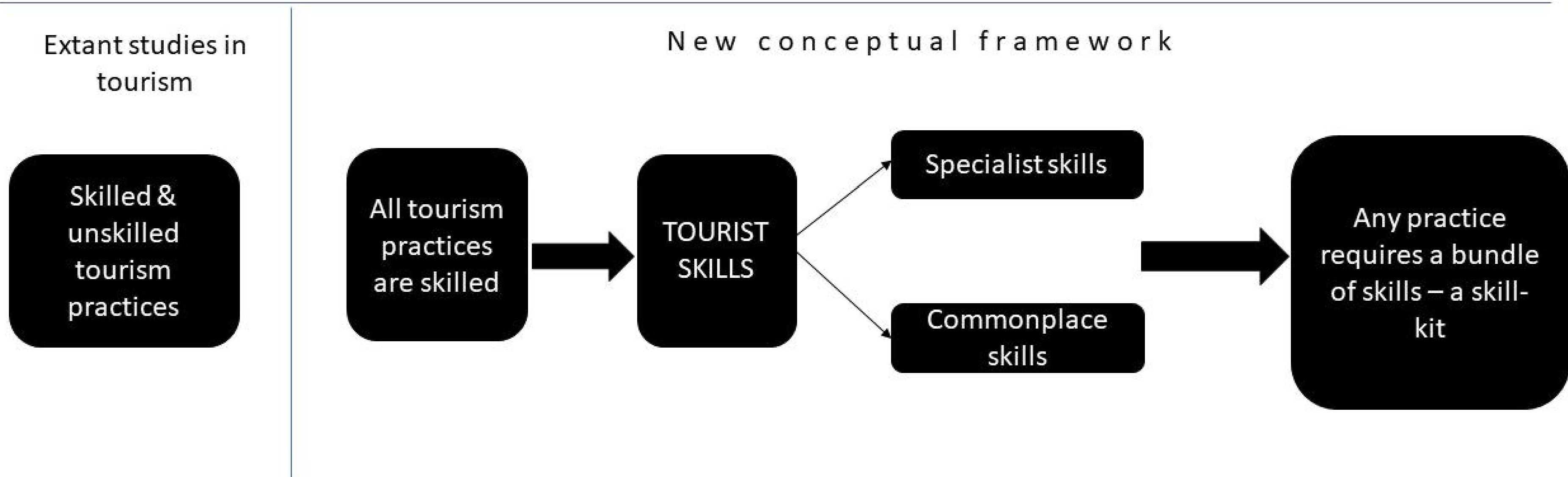
All tourism
practices
are skilled

TOURIST
SKILLS

Specialist skills

Commonplace
skills

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



Tourist Skills (Mertena, Kaaristo & Edensor, 2022)

Skill-kit

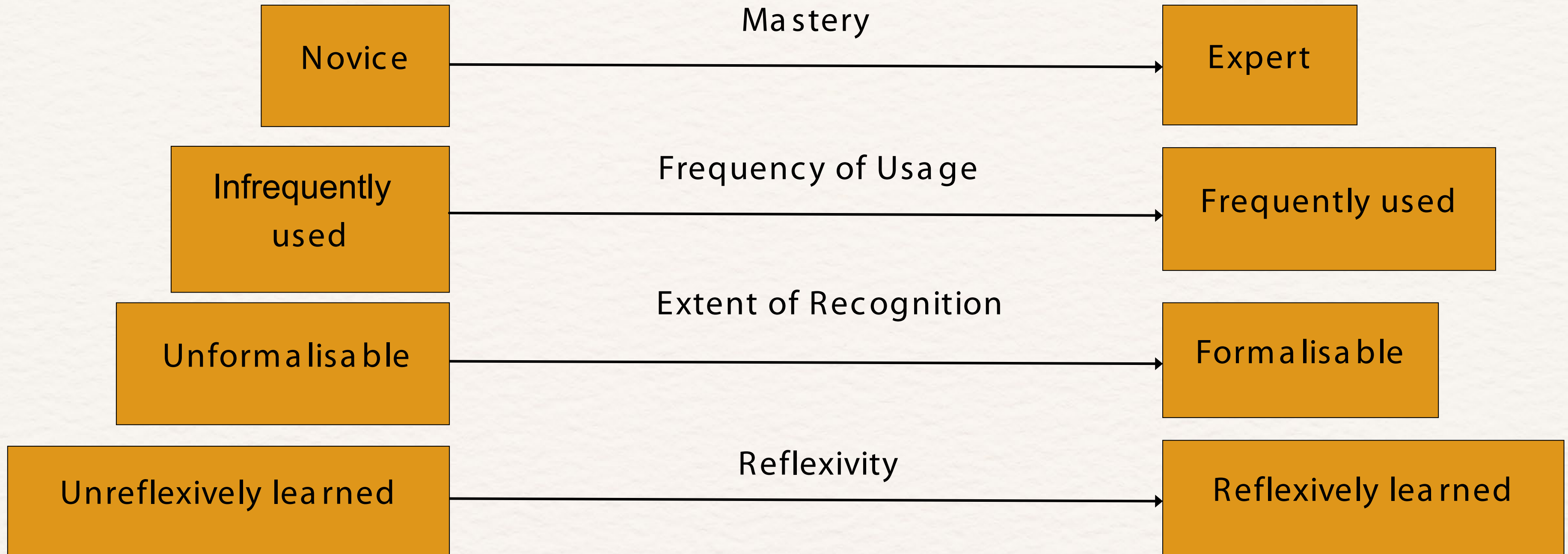


Commonplace
Skills



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!

Ilze Mertena

Maarja Kaaristo

i.mertena@mmu.ac.uk

m.kaaristo@mmu.ac.uk

[@Dziedatajallze](https://www.instagram.com/Dziedatajallze)

[@MaarjaKaaristo](https://www.instagram.com/MaarjaKaaristo)

References:

Cutler, S. Q. & Carmichael, B. A. (2010). The Dimensions of the Tourist Experience. In Morgan, M., Lugosi, & Ritchie, J. R. B. (Eds.) *Aspects of tourism. The tourism and leisure experience: consumer and managerial perspectives* (pp. 3 –26). Bristol: Channel View Publications.

Ingold, T. (1996). Situating action V: The history and evolution of bodily skills. *Ecological psychology*, 8(2), 174-182.

Mertena, I., Kaaristo, M. & Edensor, T. (2022). Tourist Skills. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 94, 103387.

Pearce, P. L., & Foster, F. (2007). A “university of travel”: Backpacker learning. *Tourism Management*, 28(5), 1285-1298.

Richards, G. (1996). Skilled consumption and UK ski holidays. *Tourism Management*, 17(1), 25 –34.

Shipway, R., & Jones, I. (2007). Running away from home: Understanding visitor experiences and behaviour at sport tourism events. *International Journal of Tourism Research*, 9(5), 373 –383.

Shove, E., Pantzar, M., & Watson, M. (2012). *The dynamics of social practice: Everyday life and how it changes*. London: Sage.

Scitovsky, T. 1992 [1976] *The Joyless Economy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tsaur, S. H., Yen, C. H., & Chen, C. L. (2010) Independent tourist knowledge and skills. *Annals of Tourism Research*, 37(4), 1035–1054.