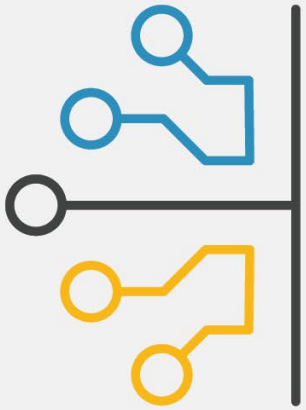
Welcome to



EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE

at Advanced Textiles EXPO®

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE at Advanced Textiles EXPO

Moving Innovations to the Masses

Technology Transfer in US Textiles

Erin Tillery

NC State University, Wilson College of Textiles

NC STATE

Wilson College of Textiles

Why textiles?

- The textile literature, doesn't talk about technology transfer
  - Universities have a unique positioning and perspective
- Technology transfer literature, doesn't talk about textiles
  - Engineering and medical disciplines are the most popular
- Textiles now, are not the same as textiles then
  - Textiles have been seen as a "Low R&D intensive" field (Malerba, 2009)

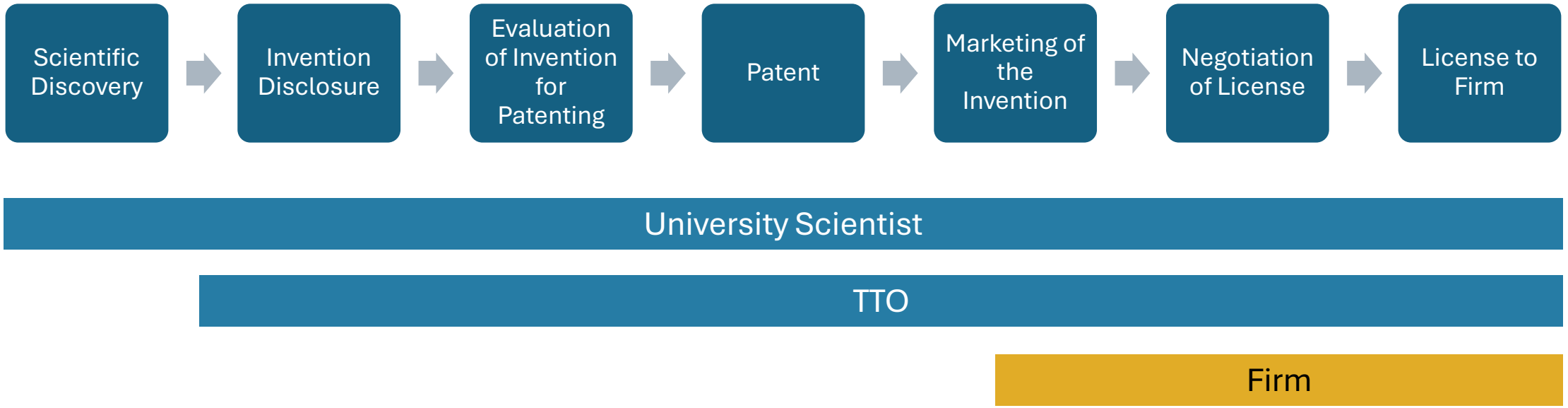
Purpose

1. Understand the textile innovation environment, from the perspective of all actors
2. Understand how different groups interact, and challenges to connection
3. Determine how different actors perceive barriers to textile innovation, building towards future work, in improving these barriers

Our first focus: Academia

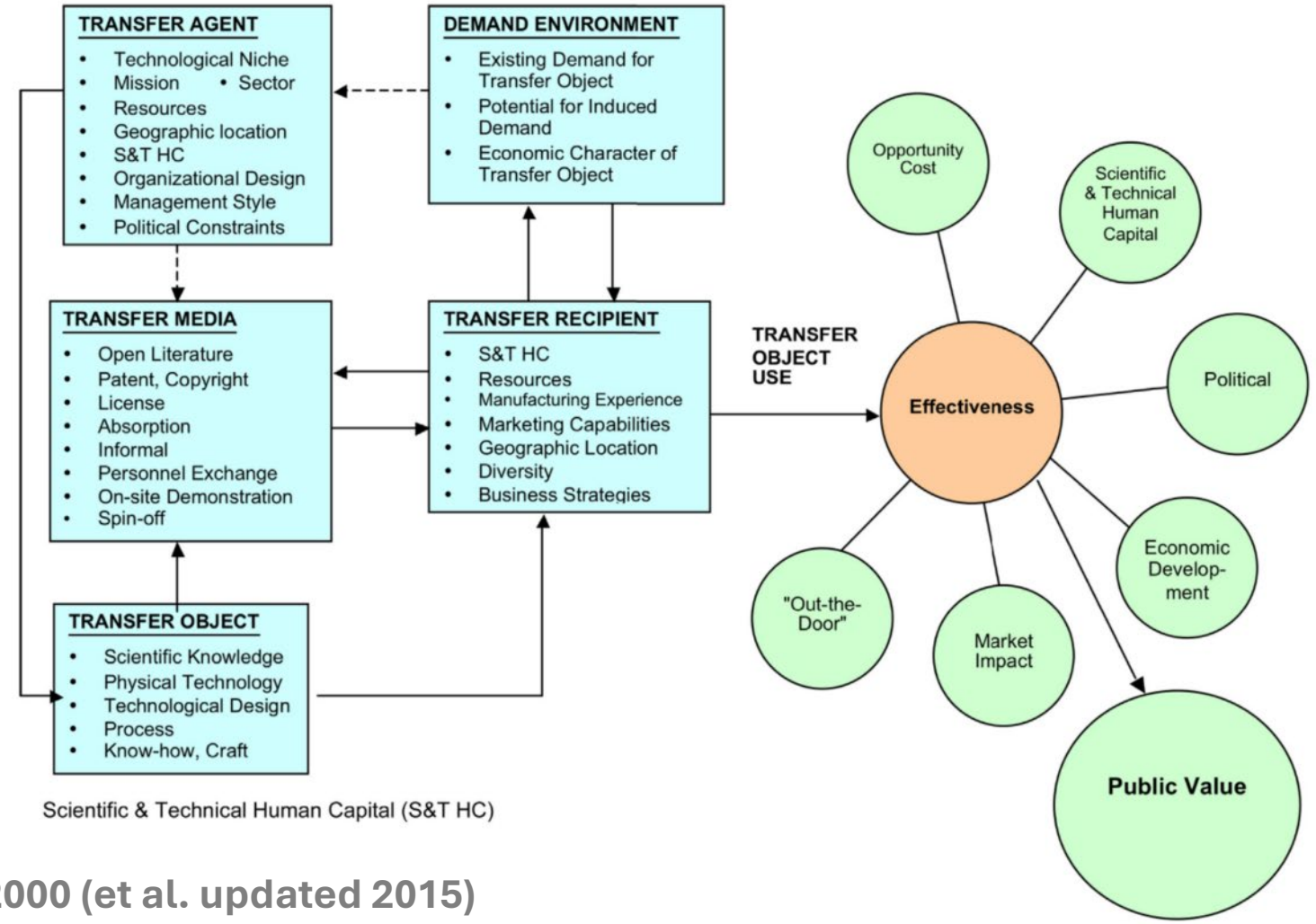
And the technology transfer process

Technology Transfer



Timeline of Involvement

(Developed from Siegel et. Al. 2003)



Bozeman, 2000 (et al. updated 2015)

What we've done so far

- Interviews with current and former academics who have gone through the technology transfer process
- Asked them about their motivations, experiences, and challenges they faced in their work
- Some were former faculty, some former students, some started companies, others didn't get their ideas through the TTO…

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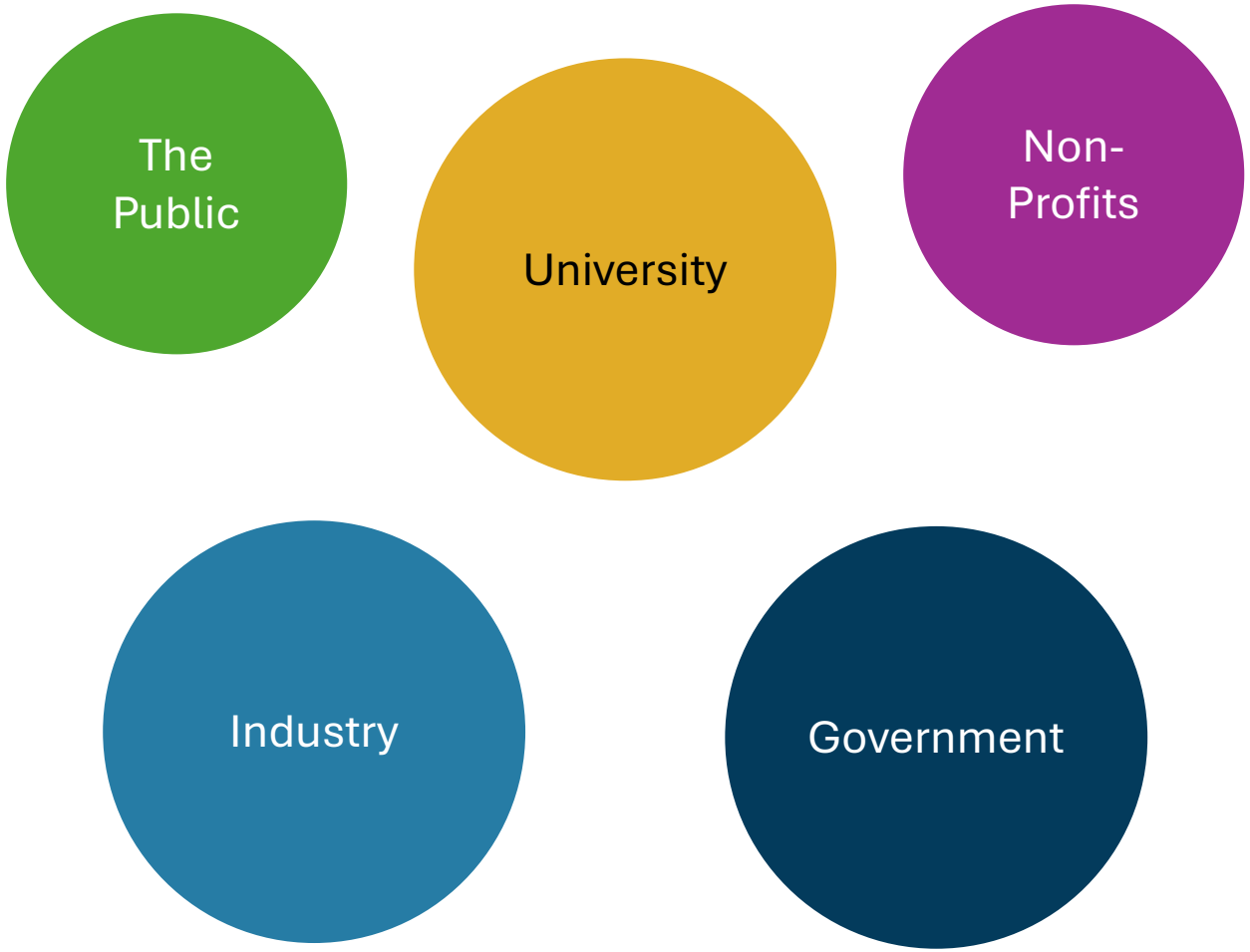
Who are our actors?

1. Academia/Universities
2. Industry
3. Government
4. The Public
5. Non-profits/Not-for-profits



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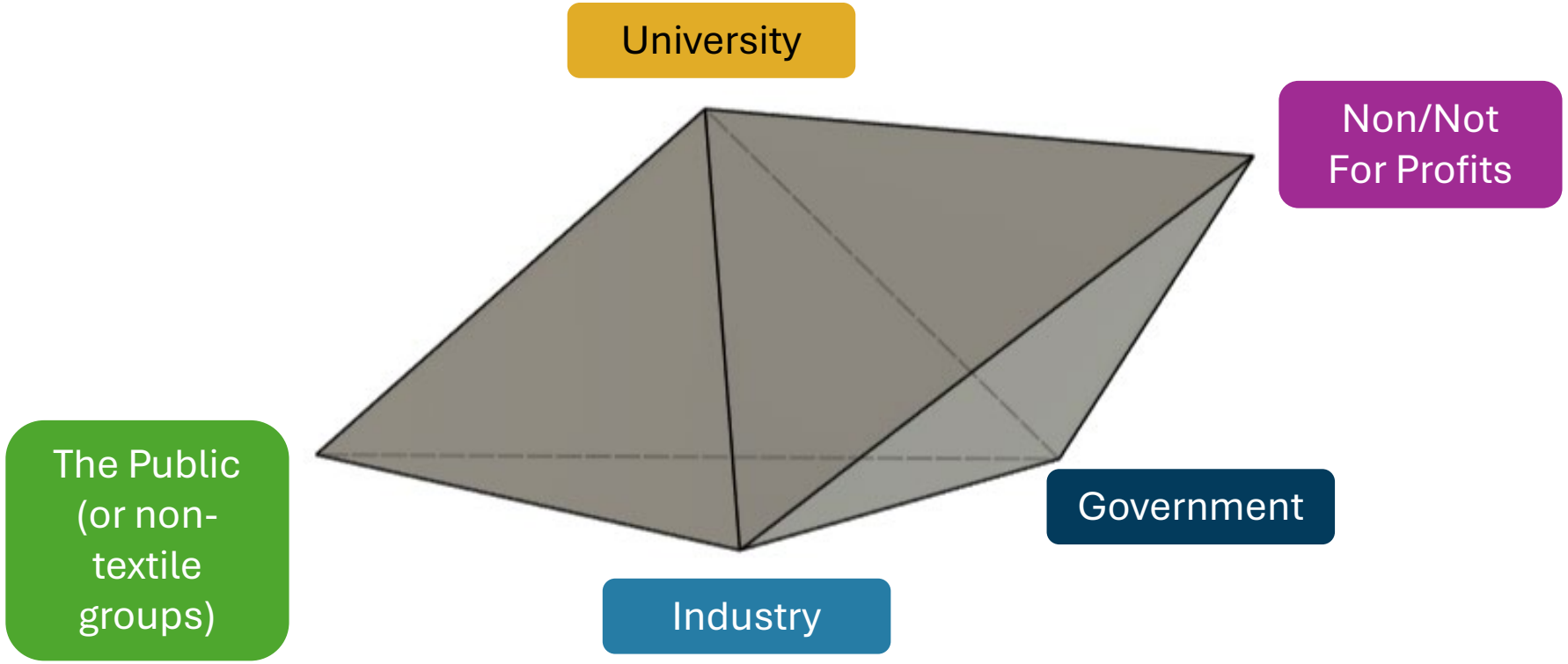

The Di-Pyramid Textile Innovation Model

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Interview Insights – Potential Barriers for Universities

“I don't really have a good understanding (of it).” – Former graduate student, referring to technology transfer

“As a Ph.D. student, the primary goal was publishing. - We never got a patent on it, because we wanted to publish the work.” - Former graduate student

“They (non-profit) want it (patented technology) given away at no charge, because that's part of their mission.” – if you’re a TTO “that's just $10,000 to $12,000 that you're never going to get back.” – Faculty Member

FUTURE WORK – We want to talk to you

- Industry
- Government
- Non-profits
- Those in other industries or in the general public

Thank you. Questions?

Share your feedback on this session

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See you next year!

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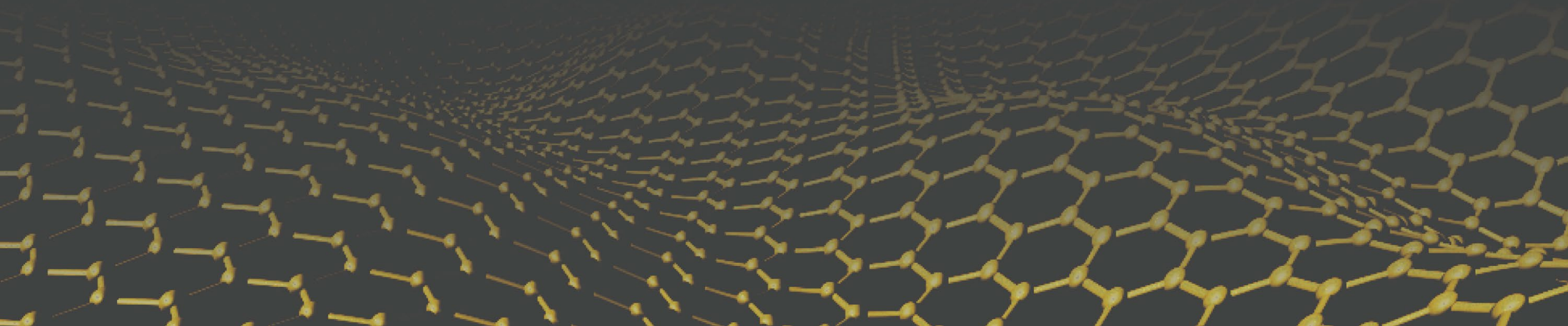
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