



Relating inclusive innovations to indigenous and local knowledge: a conceptual framework

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Highlights



- Necessity to reflexively consider positioning of indigenous and local knowledge in innovation processes
- Different problems require different relations
- Call attention to epistemic justice

1. Introduction



- Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) play an increasingly important role in debates about inclusive innovation
- However, the positioning of indigenous and local knowledge in innovation processes remains ambiguous and contested
- We address this positioning in the context of inclusive agricultural innovations by reviewing 65 publications

2. Methods

- The Web of Science search criteria (Feb 2021)



Topics must include synonyms of...
Indigenous and local knowledge
Inclusive innovations
Agriculture

Title must contain synonyms of...
Knowledge

- 7 publications were beyond the scope of this review
- 58 publications were qualitatively analyzed through iterative inductive coding (Fig. 1)

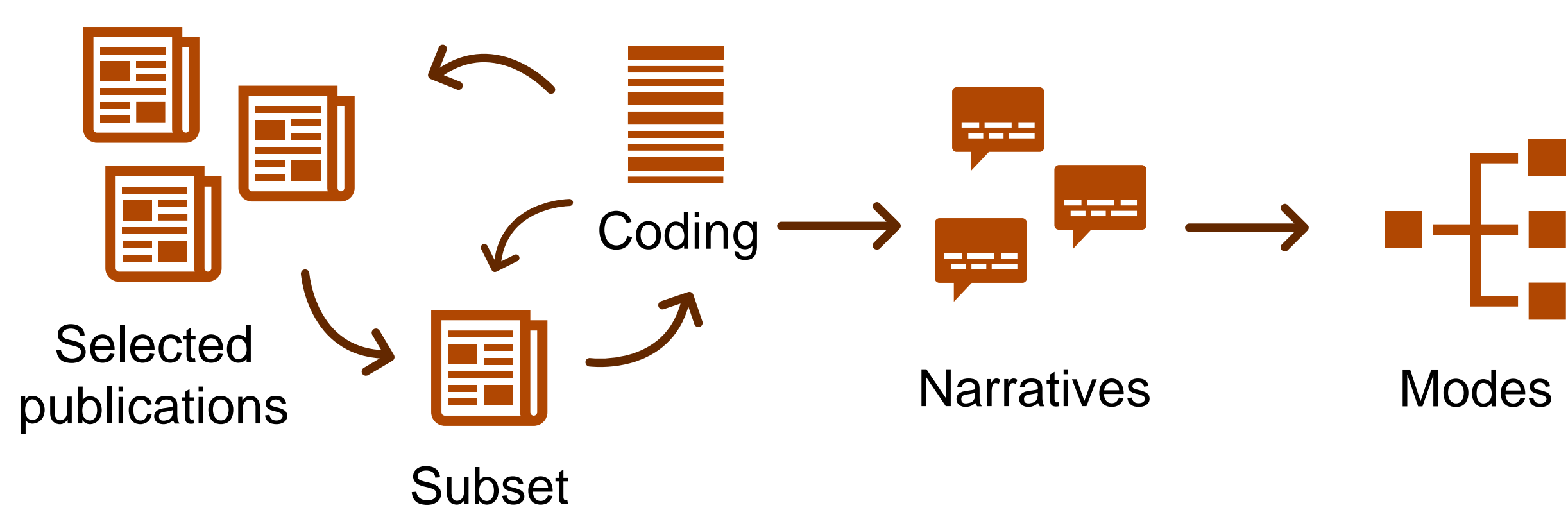


Fig. 1: Visual scheme denoting the employed methodology

3. Modes

Where are innovations situated in relation to ILK?

- **Internally** → ILK is inherently innovative
- **Externally** → innovations are externally induced
- In **hybridity** → at the interface of ILK and non-ILK

How is ILK envisioned?

- Rather **static**
- Rather **dynamic**



4. Conceptual framework



- We propose a framework that conceptualizes different relations between ILK and innovation processes
- The modes are placed on axes (Fig. 2), which results in 5 different conceptualisations of ILK within inclusive innovation processes

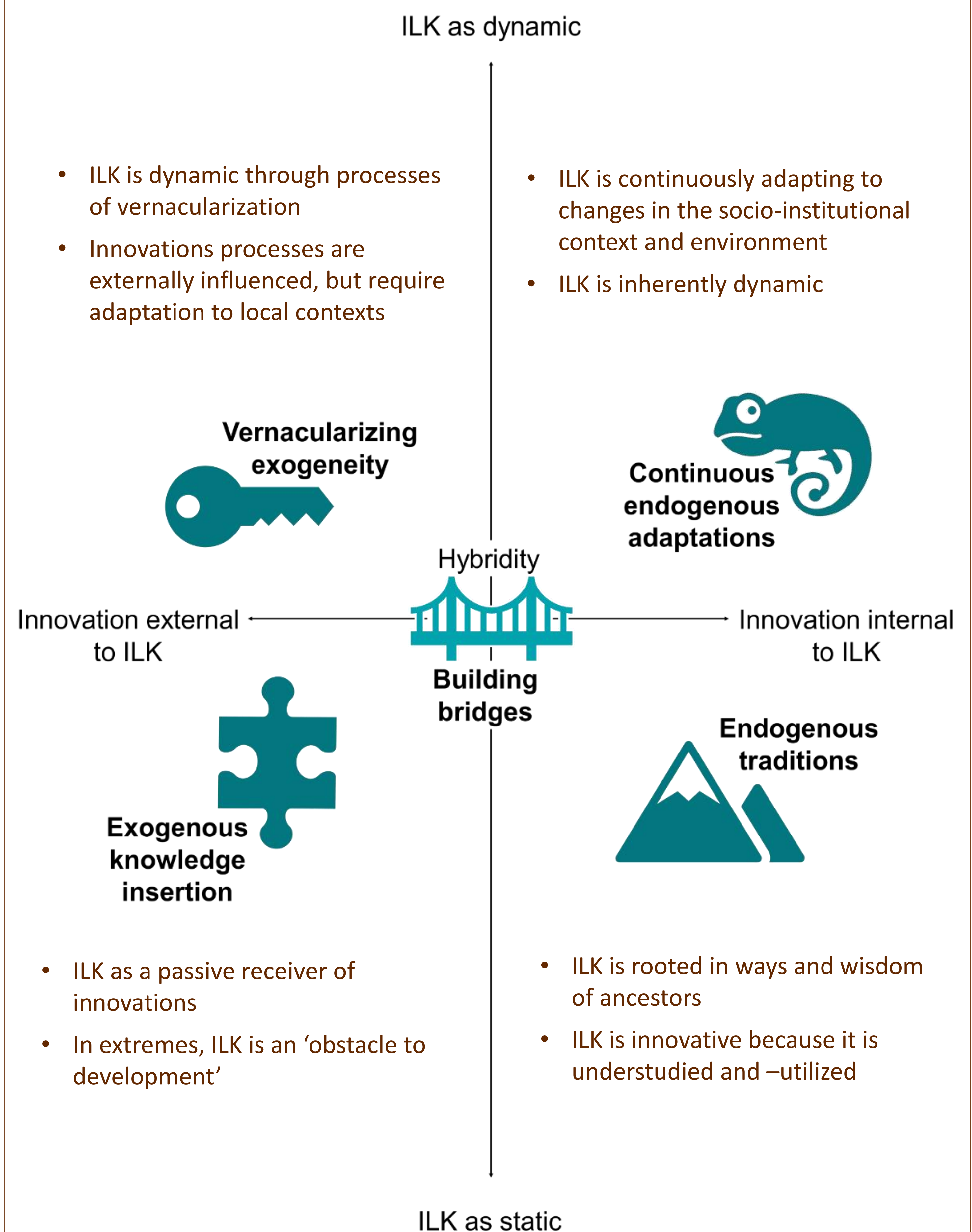


Fig. 2: Proposed conceptual framework of positioning of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) in reviewed literature

Building bridges

- Often implies some form of knowledge integration
- Need for dialogue to build bridges between ILK and non-ILK traditions
- However, also necessary to recognize politics of knowledge



Concluding remarks



- ILK is approached in remarkably different and sometimes contradictory ways in agriculture
- We advocate for a pluralist stance: depending on the particular context, there are different ways to position ILK in innovation processes
- However, not every mode is equally acceptable in every context. We emphasize the need to critically engage with the politics of ILK in agricultural innovations

