

# Faculty of Health Sciences

*Caring for tomorrow*



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## Rape and Society: What is our profession?



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# Brief project description

- Consulting and management planning services (mainly staff members).
- Placement of students and active provision of psychological services (counselling, group based interventions, community based interventions).
- To organisations that work with survivors of rape (NPA, TCC and RCC)

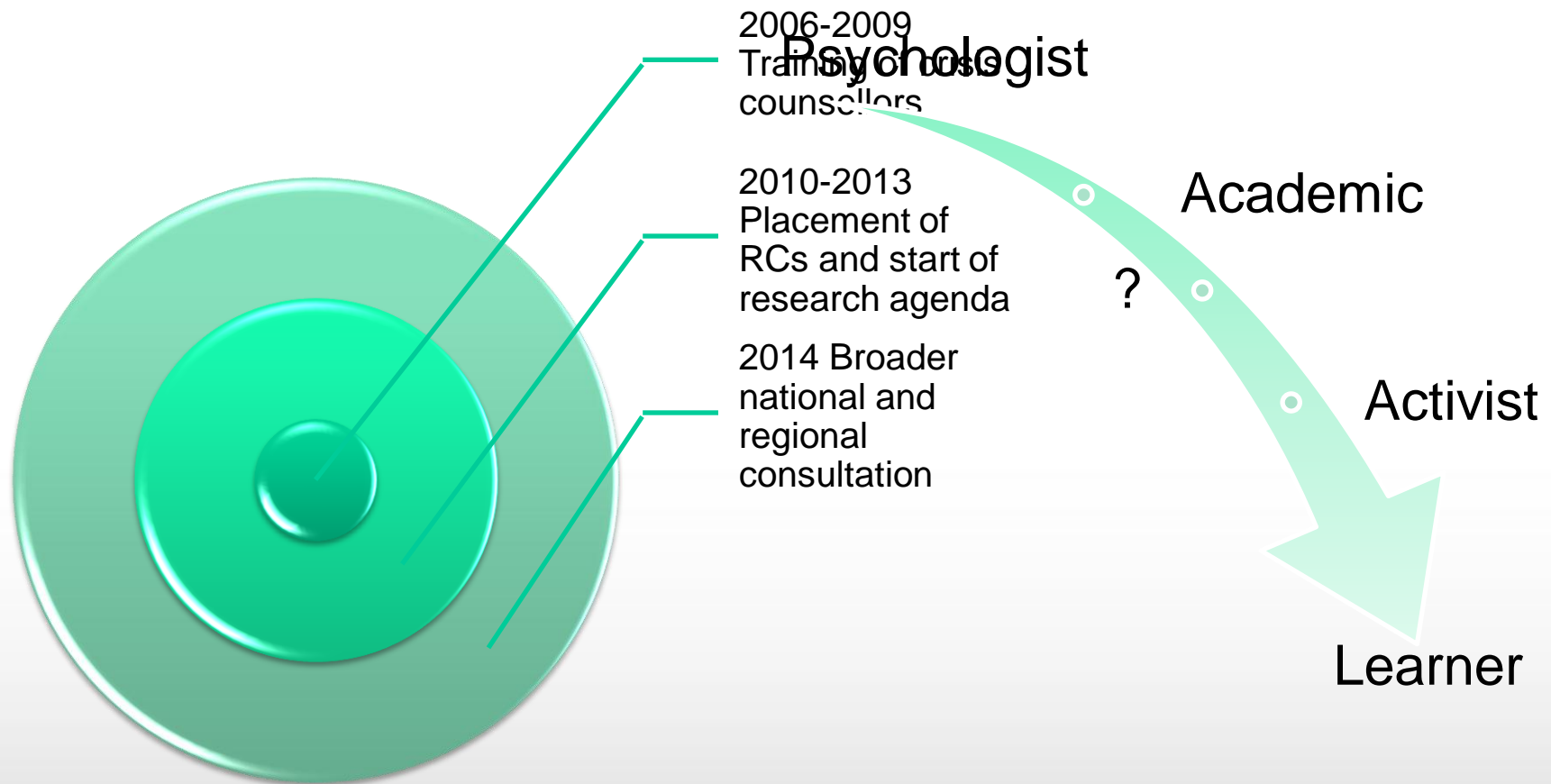
# Purpose of this presentation

- Track my journey
- Elucidate practical lessons learnt
- Honestly reflect on life lessons learnt/broader perspectives that have been enhanced
- To do the above, I use a slightly disjointed analogy/theme. My hope is also to leave you with some disjointedness.

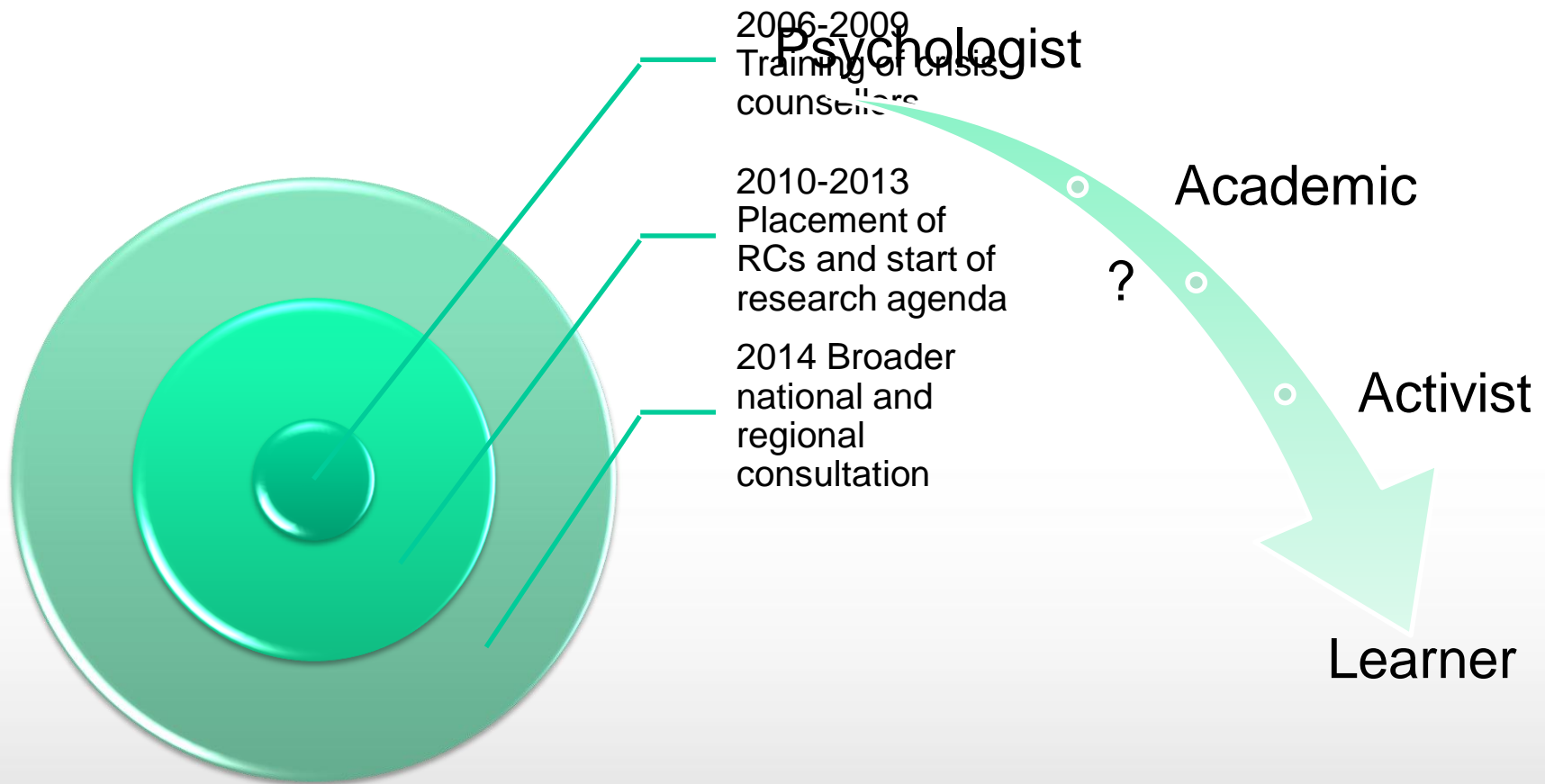
# My Journey started in 2006

- Private practice clinical psychologist
- Mainly involved with training of crisis counsellors
- To organisations that work with survivors of rape (NPA, TCC and RCC)

# My Journey started in 2006



# My Journey started in 2006



# My Journey started in 2006



- The early purpose and focus: protection of rape survivors from further harm.
- Focus was narrow and the purpose clear.
- My enemy was the perpetrator.
- I worked with the RCC as a psychologist.

# The intermediate phase



- The focus here was on continuing the early intervention prevention with more qualified professionals.
- Secondly the start of a research agenda (this is a facet which warrants an individual discussion).
- My enemy still very much, the perpetrator. But this was the start of the recognition that systemic influences are at play (from research).
- Locked shields with RCC and NPA (TCC) as scientist practitioner.



# The next phase



Continuing preventative intervention work and direct placement and involvement.

Shift of focus to preventative initiatives (male prevention; female risk management).

My enemy now very much society and societal forces. The language of rape and its dialects.

- Locking shields with RCC; NPA (TCC and regionally and nationally); UNICEF; variety of funding organisations; Childline National; FAMSA; and a variety of others) as a psychologist, researcher and activist.

# Lessons learnt



Lesson 1: This is  
SPARTA!!!!!!!!!!!!

# Lessons learnt



- The place of academic knowledge within broader contextual factors.
- No.
- Our place as knowledgeable contributors to the society that we find ourselves in.

# Lessons learnt



Lesson 2: What is your profession?

# Lessons learnt



- Inasmuch as we should not be reticent about what we know, we should not be afraid to be shaped by our fellow collaborators
- We should bring our hammers and ploughs to bear on an enemy that knows swords and shields.
- What is our profession as academics? What do we leave behind? Our fields unploughed? Our smithies dark?

# Lessons learnt



Lesson 3: Won't it be nice to fight in the shade then?

# Lessons learnt



- We should not be afraid to tackle the problems that are insurmountable.
- We often cannot appreciate the complexity of a real world problem unless we fight in the shade.
- We learn in a different way by this interaction than we do by reading the literature

# Summative points



- Integration into other functions is not rocket science.
- The question that remains as far as engagement is not about whether and how, its about how can we not? Find the way by walking it.
- Social problems is about the engager, not just the engagement.