DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH METHODS

Week 8, Lesson 1: Social Capital Assessment Tools

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What we will cover in today's lecture

1. What is Social Capital
2. Different Types of Social Capital
3. Measuring Social Capital
4. Social Capital Measurement Tool (SOCAT)

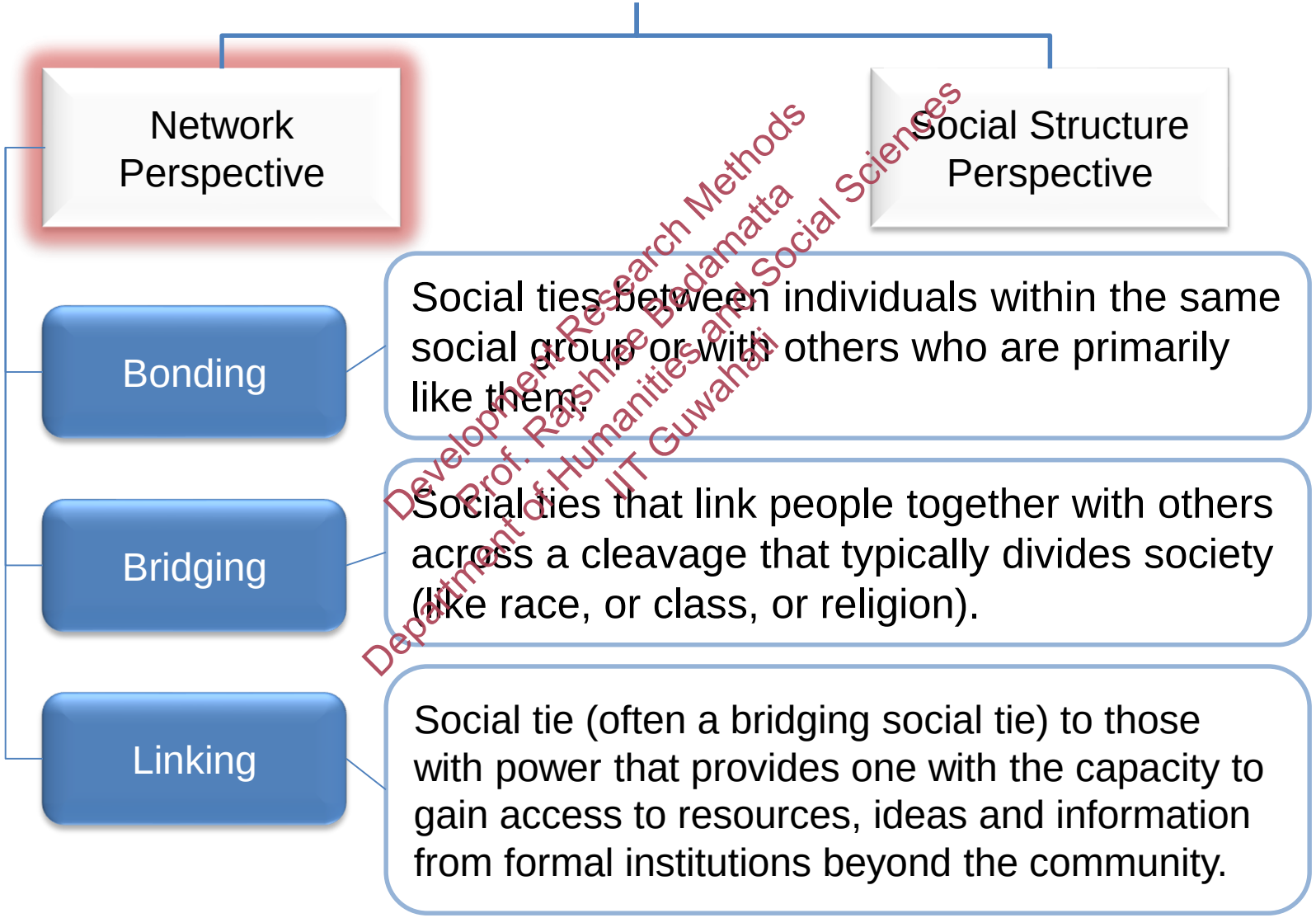
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What is Social Capital?

- Social capital is defined as the institutions and relationships, as well as the trust, norms and values, that govern interactions among people and contribute to economic and social development.
- It can be used to measures individuals and groups' opportunities and constraints by focusing on the social assets and networks that determine their access to resources.
- Helps in understanding the transaction costs associated with acquiring information, and actions by members to overcome imperfect markets through social sanctions or mutual support.
- It is useful for estimating likely changes in productive behavior at the household and community level in response to policy change.
- It allows analysts to identify how networks and norms affect this behavioral response.
- It can be tailored to specific policy domains and used to give depth to other methods of data gathering and analysis.

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Different Types of Social Capital



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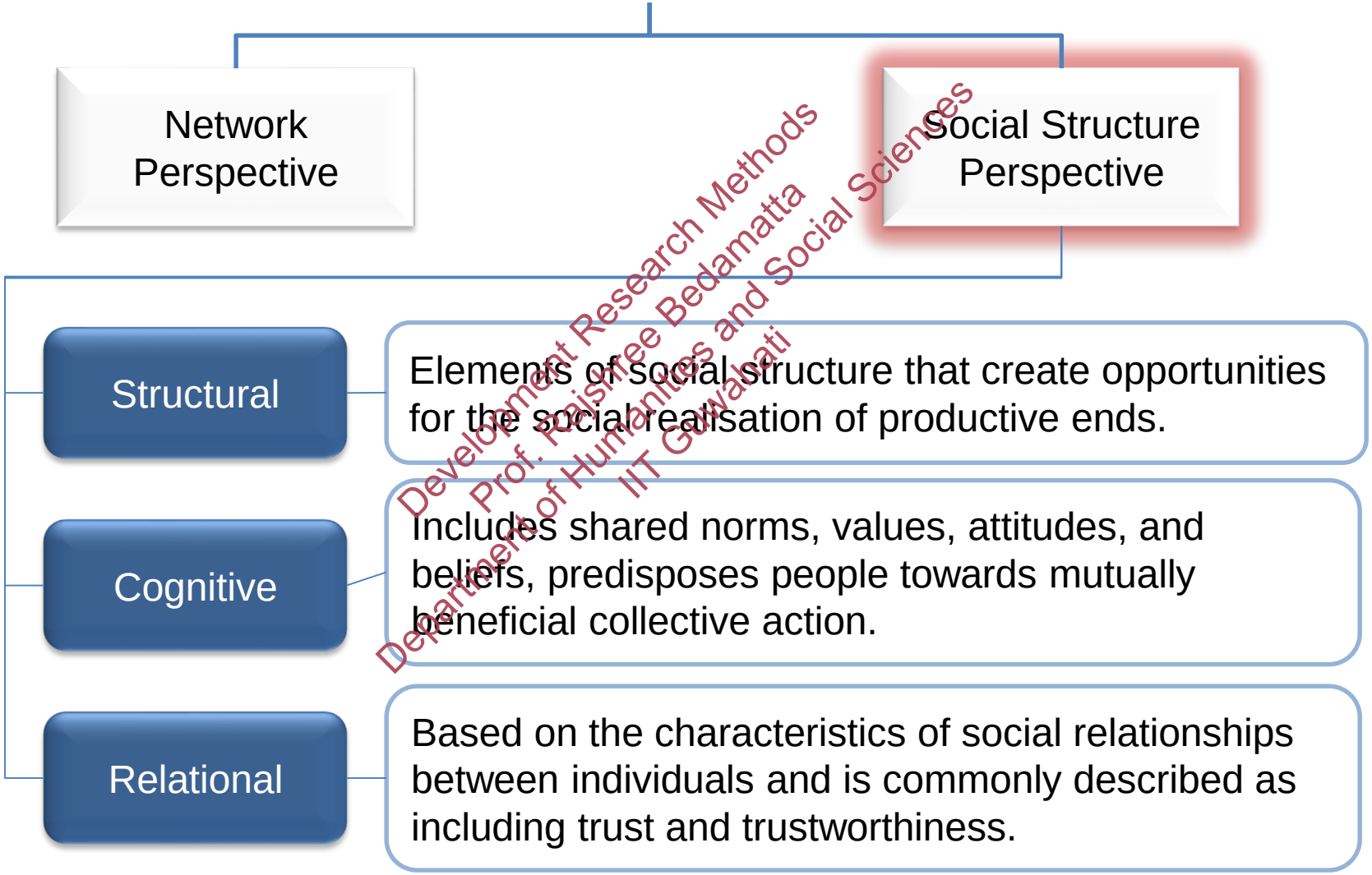
Table 1 Examples of different types of ties of different strengths

	Strong Ties	Weak Ties
Bonding (horizontal) ties	Close friends or immediate family with similar social characteristics, e.g. social class or religion	Members with similar interests or social characteristics within voluntary associations
Bridging (horizontal) ties	Close friends or immediate family with different social characteristics, e.g. age, gender or ethnicity	Acquaintances and members with different social characteristics within voluntary associations
Linking (Vertical) ties	Close work colleagues with different hierarchical positions	Distant colleagues with different hierarchical positions and ties between citizens and civil servants

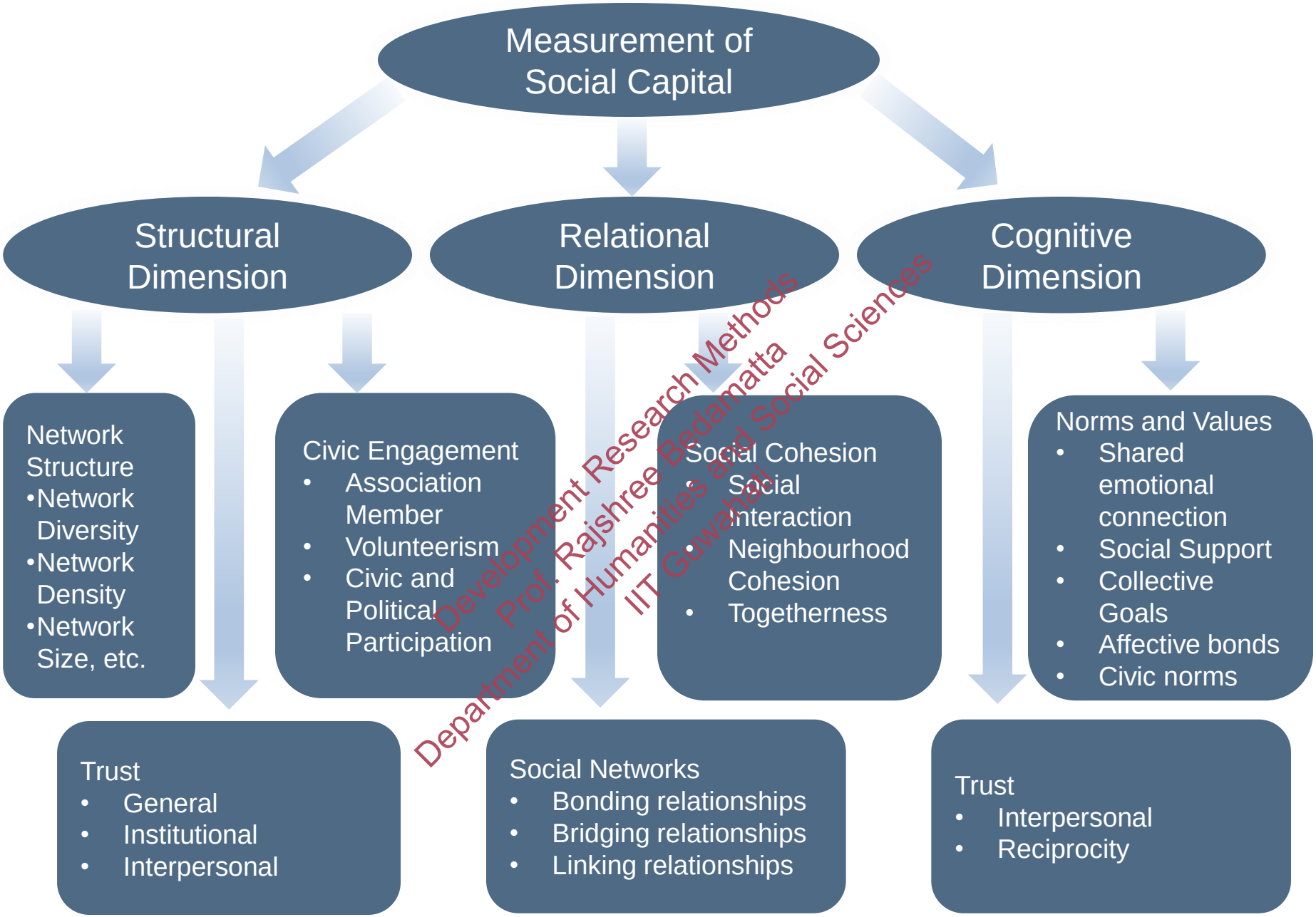
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Source: www.socialcapitalresearch.com

Different Types of Social Capital



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Source: Network for Business Sustainability

How to Measure Social Capital

- Social capital cannot be measured directly, but can be inferred from its determinants or manifestations.
- Measurement of social capital depends on the level of analysis and also on the interests of researchers – whether they are interested in the source, form or consequences of social capital.
- Manifestations are the outcomes of social capital for example lower crime rates. We measure social capital by using indicators or “proxies” that are theoretically linked to social capital.
- The determinants are factors that have an impact on social interactions and therefore allow social capital to come about.
- Past approaches to measuring social capital have ranged from simply using one indicator (e.g. trust) to using complicated groups of indexes.
- Most investigators now agree that due to the multidimensional nature of social capital a wide range of indicators should be used.

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How to Measure Social Capital-2

- The type of measurement will depend on the scale of interest. Generally, there are three different levels:
  - **Macro – community or national**
  - **Meso – groups or organisations**
  - **Micro – individual**

Most investigators tend to summarise the components of social capital into four broad categories:

- **Networks, relationships and connections**
- **Trust**
- **Civic engagement and voluntary activities (including cooperation, political participation, social participation, associational memberships, community volunteerism, etc.)**
- **Civic norms, shared norms and values**

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Measuring Social Capital at Community and National (Country) level

- **Structural Dimension**
  - Trust (General And Institutional), Trustworthiness, Network Structural Characteristics (e.g. Network Density, Intra-community Ties, etc.), Association Membership and Community Engagement, and Voluntary Activities (e.g. Community Volunteerism, Civic Engagement, Social And Political Participation, Etc.).
- **Relational Dimension**
  - Social Relationships, Social Cohesion, And Social Interactions.
- **Cognitive Dimension**
  - Civic Norms, Reciprocity, Trust, Social Support, Affective Bonds And Collective Goals.

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Measuring Social Capital at Group and Organisation Level

Structural Dimension

- Network structural characteristics (e.g. Network links, network centrality, network density, network diversity, network size, network frequency, network redundancy, institutional network, etc.) Network ties (government officials tie, structural holes, etc.) Association membership and institutional links.

Relational Dimension

- Social connections and ties with Close acquaintances (e.g. Family members, and colleagues at work), and Various external stakeholders (e.g. Executives from other businesses, board members, political leaders, government bureaucratic officials, and community leaders)

Cognitive Dimension

- Shared norms, values and obligations, Reciprocity, Shared goals and mission, Attitudes and beliefs.

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Measuring Social Capital at Individual level

- **Structural Dimension**
  - Social network structure and position (e.g. Network centrality, network size, network density, betweenness centrality, network homogeneity/heterogeneity, homophily/heterophily, network constraint, tie strength, structural holes, etc.), Number of network memberships, Association memberships and social participation, Social connections and relationships (e.g. Bonding ties, bridging ties, linking ties, connectivity, etc.), and The quantity or volume of social resources
- **Relational Dimension**
  - Social interactions, Social relationships, Social networking, Social support, Social cohesion, and Associability.
- **Cognitive Dimension**
  - General and interpersonal trust, Shared goals, Shared culture, Reciprocity, Feelings of safety, and Views of multiculturalism to gauge the individual's tolerance of diversity.

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Examples of Indexes Used to Measure Social Capital

1. **World Bank's Social Capital Assessment Tool** (SOCAT)- Grootaert and Van Bastelaer (2002)
2. **World Values Survey (WVS**)- Tinglehart (1997)
3. **Putnam's Social Capital Index Instrument**
4. **General Social Survey (GSS)-** National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago (Biennial Survey)
5. **Global Social Capital Survey-**Narayan and Cassidy (2001)
6. **New South Wales Study-** Onyx and Bullen (2000)
7. **The Barometer of Social Capital-** Sudarsky (1999)
8. **Index of National Civic Health in the US -**National Commission on Civic Renewal (1996)
9. **Aspects of Social Capital-**Harpham (2003)
10. **University of Minnesota Scale-** Scheffert, Horntvedt, and Chazdon (2009)
11. **Adapted Social Capital Assessment Tool (A-SCAT)-** Harpham, Grant and Thomas (2002)
12. **World Bank Integrated Questionnaire for the Measurement of Social Capital (SC-IQ**)-Grootaert, Narayan, Jones, and Woolcock (2004)
13. **Social Capital Measurement Tool (SCMT)-**Kitchen, Williams and Simone (2012)
14. **Social Relationship Index-**Wilson (2006)
15. **The UK Social Capital Measurement Framework-** Harper and Kelly (2003)

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Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT)

What is it?

- A set of integrated quantitative and qualitative measurement tools to investigate institutions, networks and norms that enable collective action.
- The general framework of this tool is edited by the World Bank Group.
- It has to be adapted to a specific research issue. Can be implemented in conjunction with other tools.

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Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT)

What can it be used for?

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- Primarily useful for reforms with low/medium indirect impacts.
- Agricultural reforms (changing subsidies/taxes), liberalizing markets, financial reforms (changing access to credit), labor market reforms (active labor market programs), utility reforms (access to services), decentralization, social safety net programs (changing public/private transfers).

Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT)

What does it tell you?

- Existence of institutions and networks affected by and/or involved in reform implementation.
- The distribution of social assets and their role in income generation and risk management.
- What are the impacts of reforms on households with low social assets? Which adaptations in policy formulation and / or which mitigation measures are advisable? Which norms and values lead to policy adoption or resistance?

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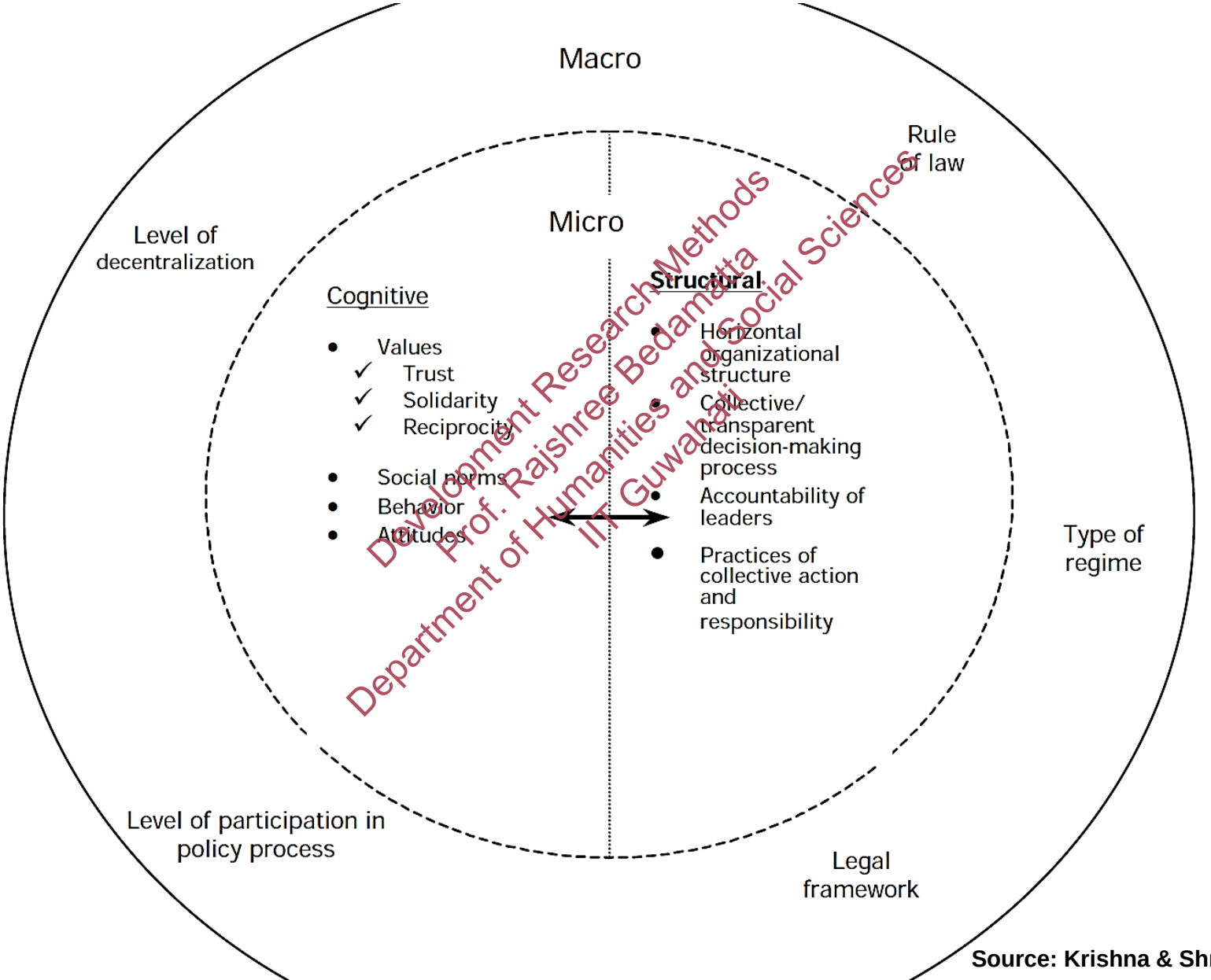
Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT)

Key Elements

- Integrated application and analysis of quantitative and qualitative information (surveys, key informant interviews, focus groups) obtained at the level of households, communities, and organizations.
- Analysis builds on the understanding of solidarity, trust and cooperation, and conflict resolution (cognitive social capital), as well as organizations and their membership (structural social capital).

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Conceptual Framework of SOCAT



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Source: Krishna & Shrader (1999)

Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT)

Requirements

- **Data/ Information**
- **Time**
- **Skills**
- **Supporting Software**
- **Financial Cost**

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- Use as standalone tool for social capital analysis, or use in conjunction with other surveys (e.g. LSMS, income/expenditure surveys) for analysis of links between poverty and social capital. Modules for integration in other surveys are available, so are sector specific questionnaires.

Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT)

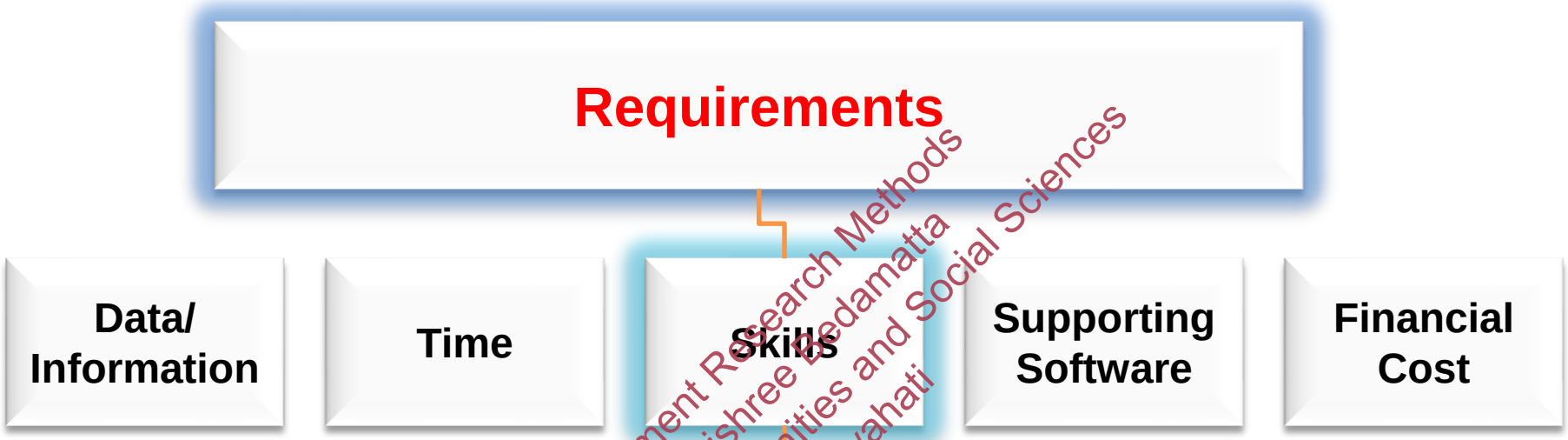
Requirements

Data/ Information | **Time** | **Skills** | **Supporting Software** | **Financial Cost**

- Typical application requires 3-4 months.

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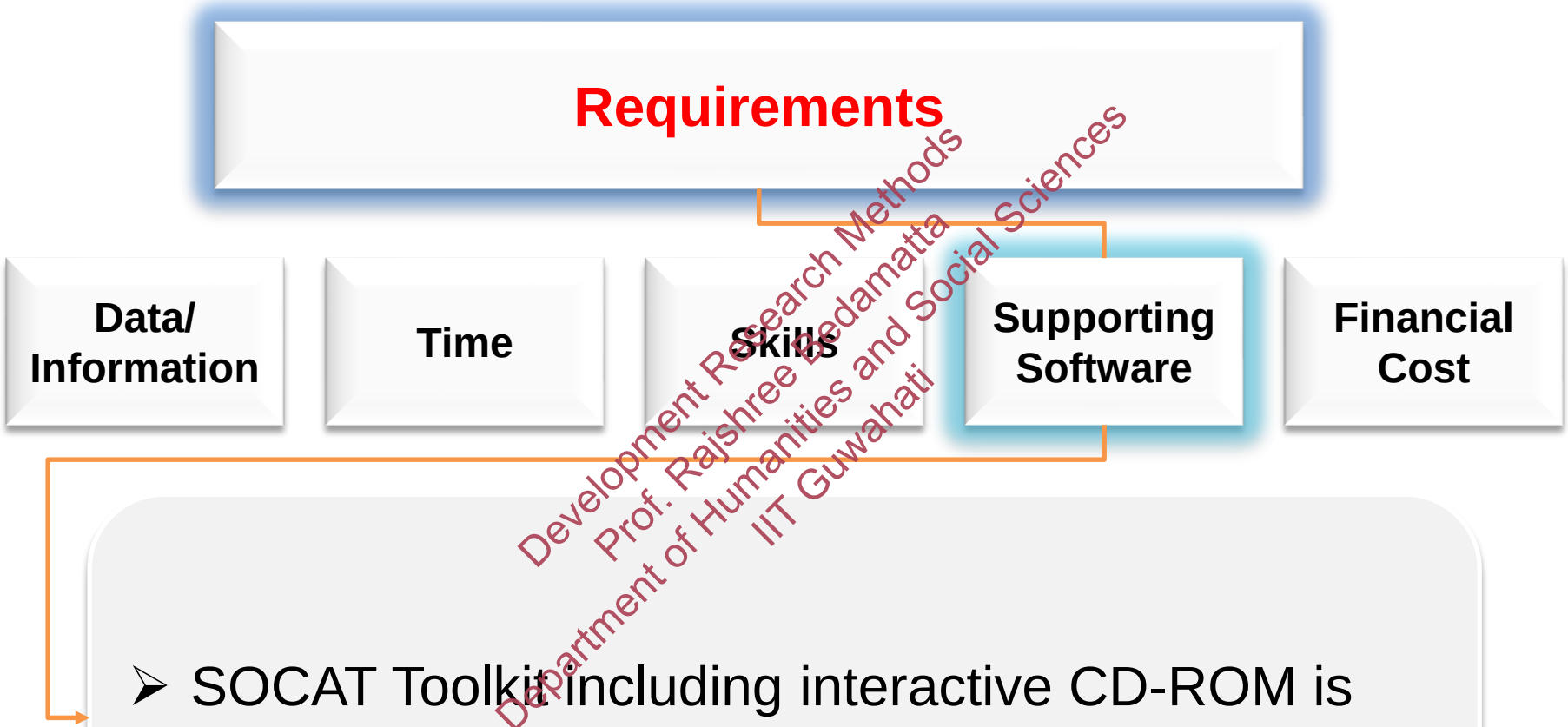
Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT)



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- Sociological or anthropological training are helpful, in particular a sound understanding of formal and informal institutions and networks.
- Good knowledge of the program and its setting is crucial.

Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT)



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- SOCAT Toolkit including interactive CD-ROM is available.

Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT)

Requirements

Data/ Information | **Time** | **Skills** | **Supporting Software** | **Financial Cost**

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- Depends on sample size and local wage and transport costs for field team. Typical range for standalone SOCAT exercise would be US$50,000 to US$200,000.
- Costs can be substantially lower if used in conjunction with other data collection instruments

Social Capital Assessment Tool (SOCAT)

- **Complimentary tools**:
  - Stakeholder analysis, institutional analysis, social impact analysis (SIA), beneficiary assessments (BA).

- **Limitations:**
  - Collects social capital data only at micro and meso levels.
  - For analysis of links between social capital and poverty, combination with other survey is necessary.

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References used for this lecture

1. Claridge, T. (n.d.). How to measure social capital. Retrieved July 30, 2019, from https://www.socialcapitalresearch.com/measure-social-capital/
2. Krishna, A., & Shrader, E. (1999, June). Social capital assessment tool. In *Conference on social capital and poverty reduction* (Vol. 2224). Washington, DC: World Bank.
3. Instruments of Social Capital Assessment Tool. (n.d.). Retrieved July 30, 2019, from http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTSOCIALCAPITAL/Resources/Social-Capital-Assessment-Tool-SOCAT-/annex1.pdf
4. Grootaert, C., & Van Bastelar, T. (Eds.). (2002). Understanding and measuring social capital: A multi-disciplinary tool for practitioners. The World Bank.

For a comprehensive literature on the topics covered in this lecture it is also suggested that students go through the reference list of the above cited papers.

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