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Research at the Crossroads of Law and Education
A Taxonomy of Legal Education Research

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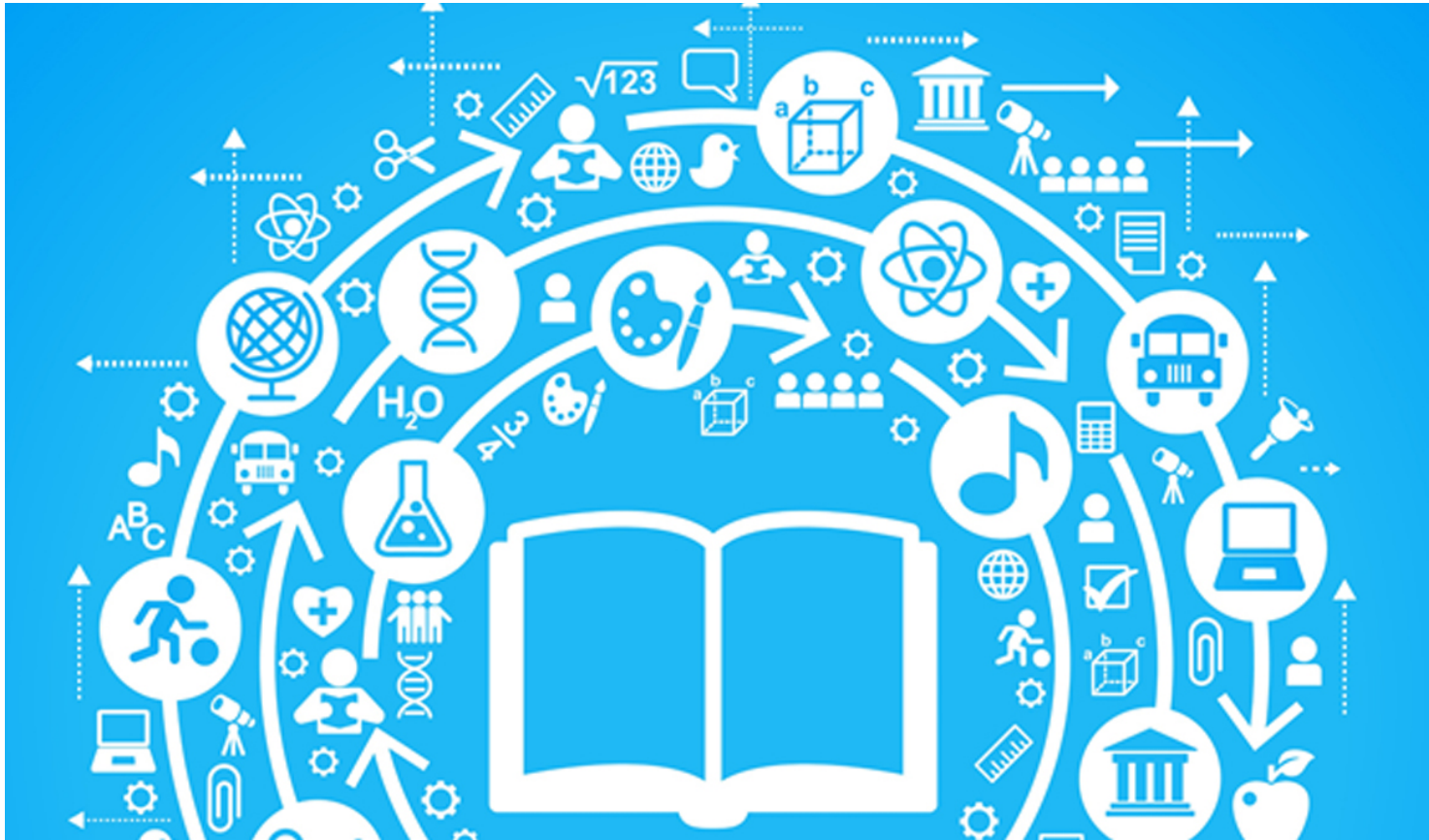


Research at the Crossroads of Law and Education

A Taxonomy of Legal Education
Research



The doctrinal tradition of legal research



Increasing interdisciplinarity
of legal research

- Socio-legal
- Comparativist
- Feminist
- Critical
- Indigenist
- Historiography
- Empirical

What is
'true' legal
research?

The One True Way

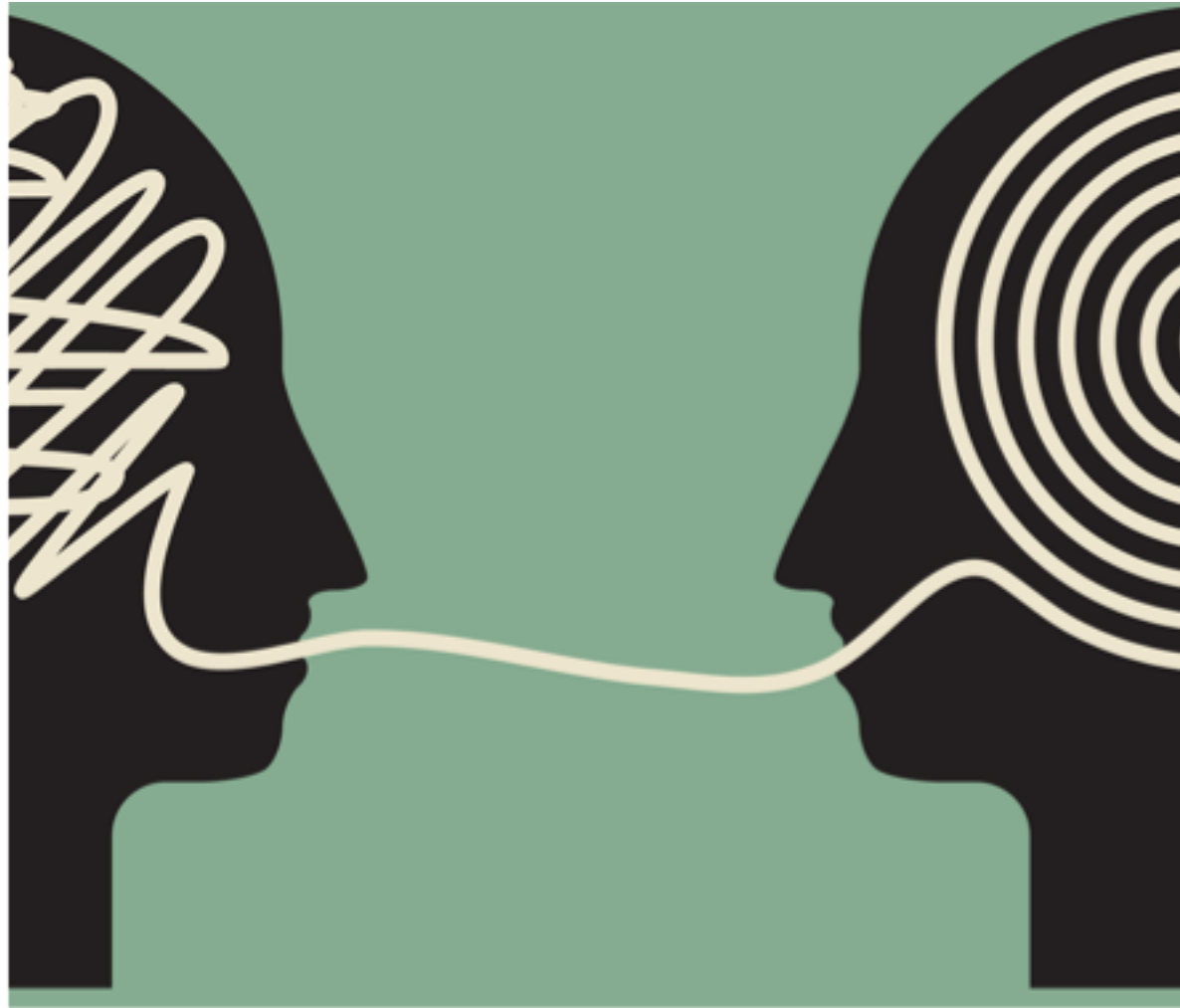




Legal *education* research is generally categorised outside legal research per se

Where research metrics count, categorization matters



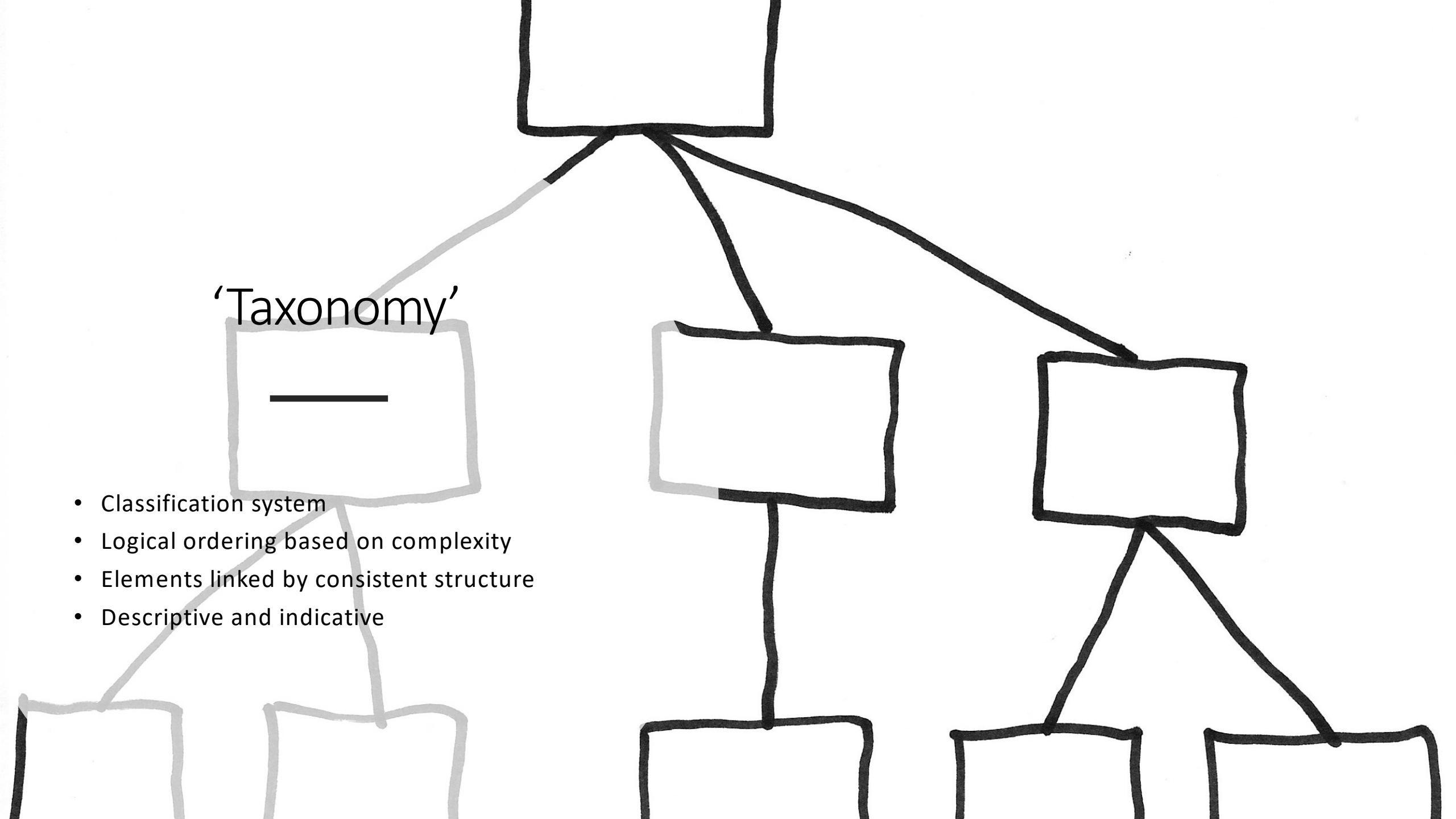


SoLE Project:

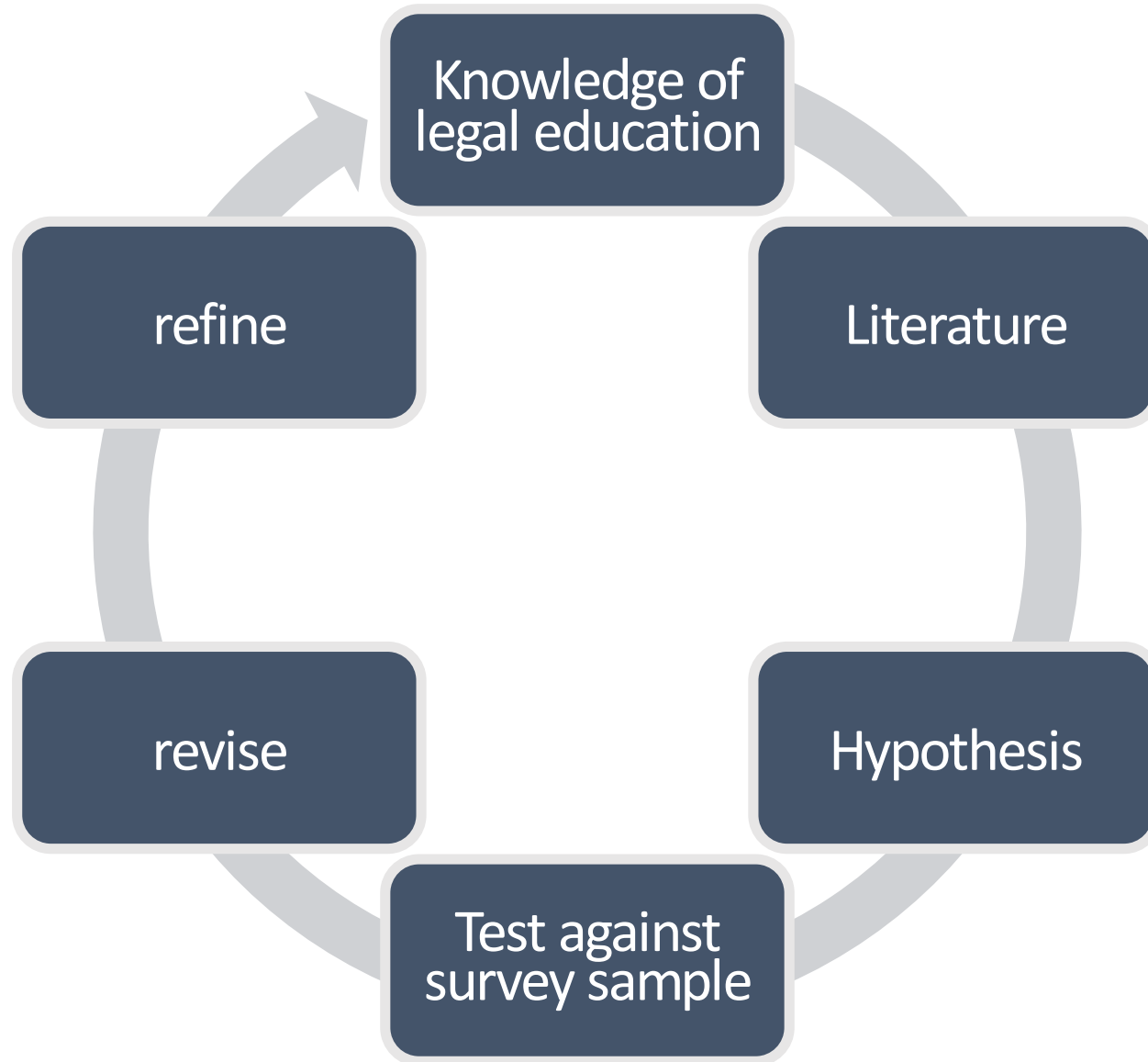
Examine legal education literature in terms of a taxonomy to create a language of legal education research; reveal trends, gaps, and opportunities for new research

'Taxonomy'

- Classification system
- Logical ordering based on complexity
- Elements linked by consistent structure
- Descriptive and indicative

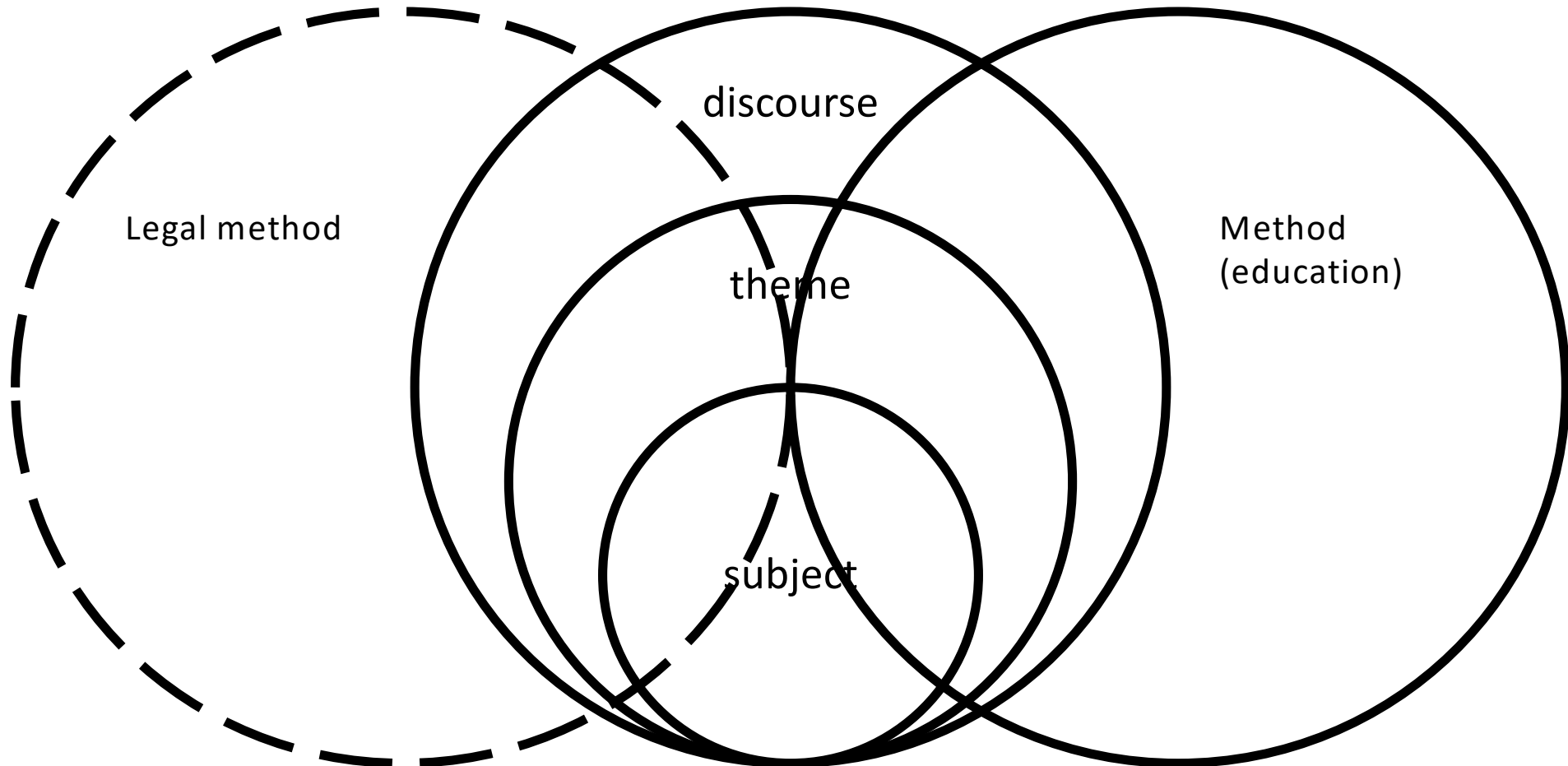


Method

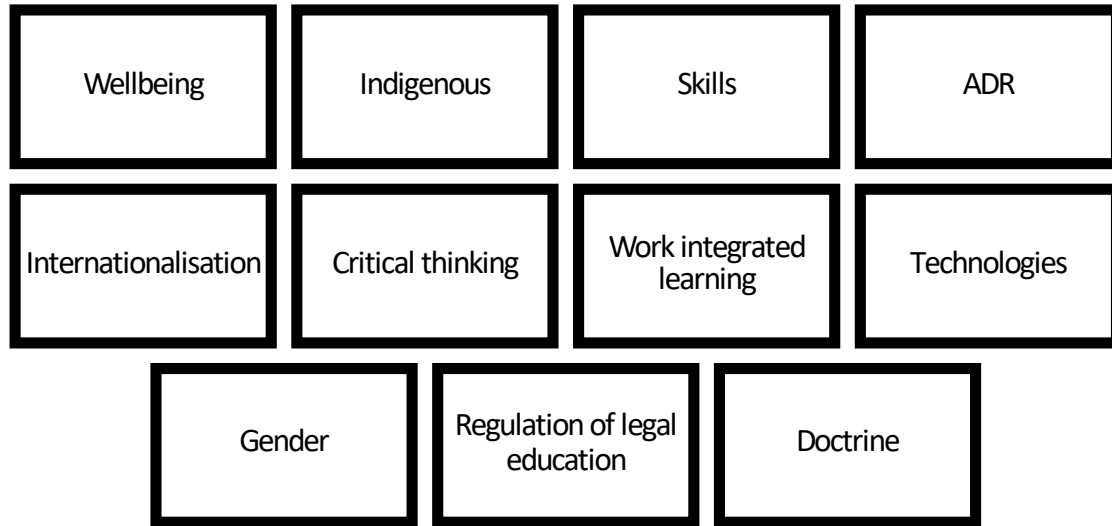


Initial conceptualisation:

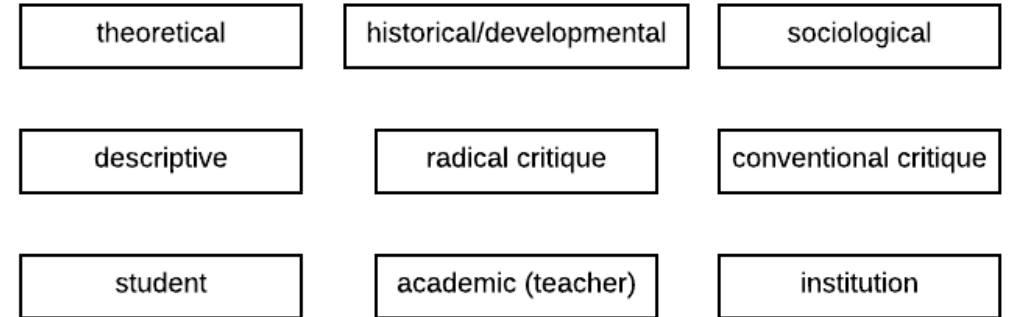
Not a linear taxonomy, but an interlocking one—a ‘system of systems; finding unifying principles running vertically [and horizontally] through and binding together the universe of [legal education scholarship]’ (Hill, p 189)



Legal education themes



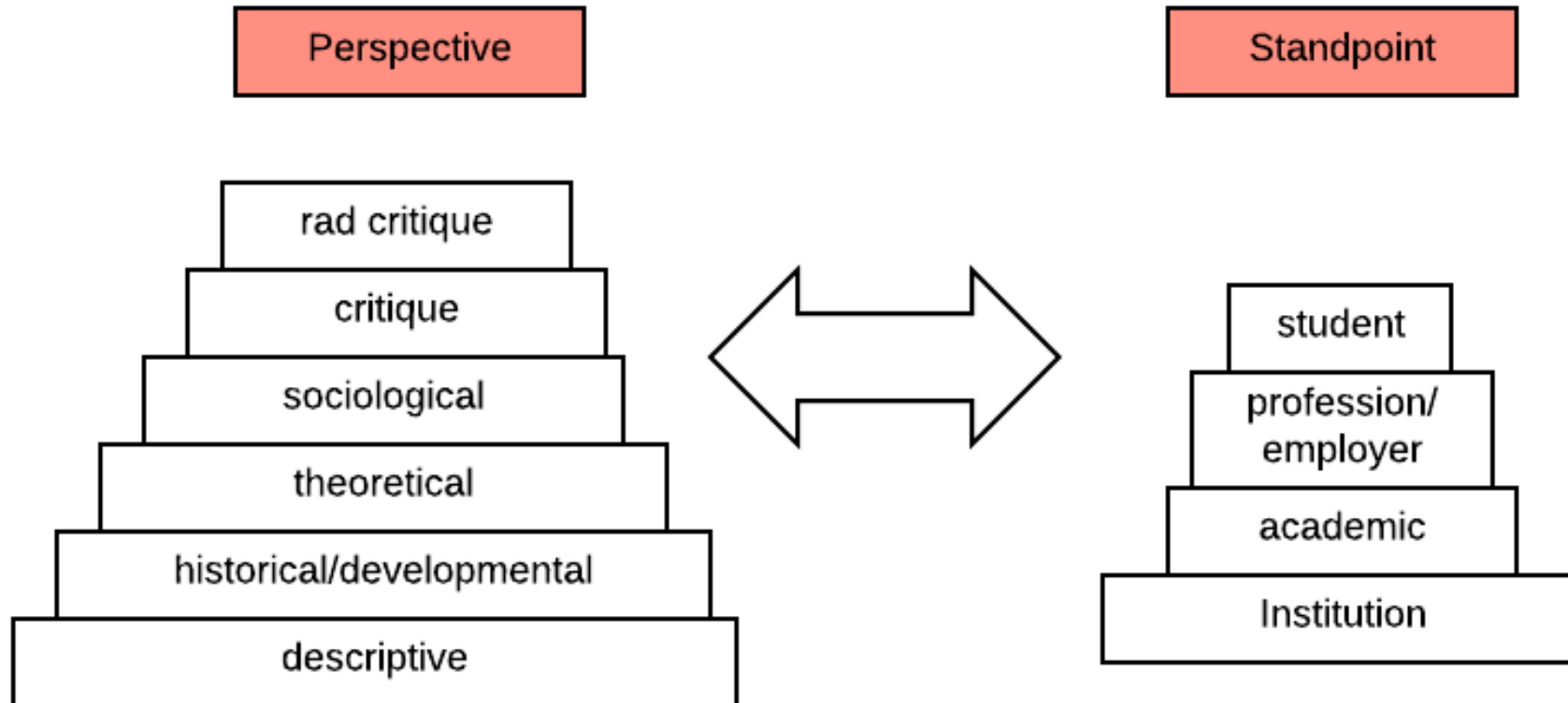
Perspectives



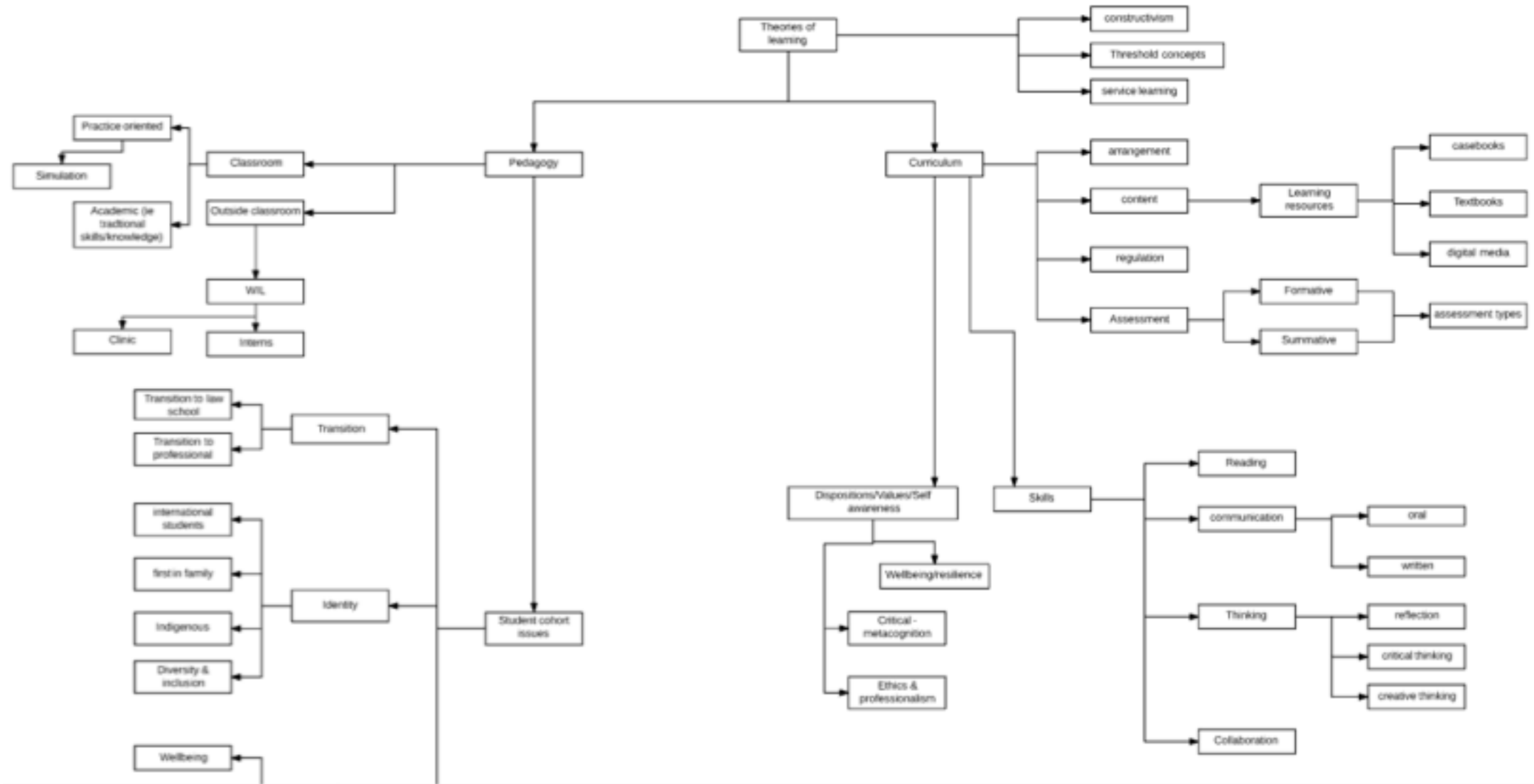
Starting point

But not yet clear connections to create a system...

Work in progress...



Legal education themes



Integration of taxonomic elements



Applying the taxonomy

Standpoint		Intellectual perspective		Research method	
Academic	10	Descriptive	4	Documentary / theoretical	7
Institution	2	Historical /developmental	3	Case study	4
Student	1	Critique	3	Ethnographic	1
Profession	0	Theoretical	2	Meta-analysis	0
		Radical critique	1	Action research	0
		Sociological	0		

Legal education themes (lowest level): utility?

Theme	Occurrence	Theme	Occurrence
Critical thinking	3	Dispositions/values	1
Assessment	2	Simulation	1
Written communication	2	Digital media	1
Curriculum arrangement	2	Wellbeing	1
Critical/metacognition	2	Regulation	1
Thinking	2	Case books	1
Reading	2	International students	1
Negotiation	1	Student cohort issues (unspecified)	1



Legal education themes
(highest level): utility?

- Curriculum: 13
- Pedagogy: 3
- Theories of learning: 0



Limits,
challenges, next
steps



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