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Constructing ethics in bioscience research

The case of (advanced) biofuels

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Presentation Overview

- 1) The case of biofuels – context
- 2) Current examples of ‘ethics’ in research in the biosciences
- 3) Talking to scientists about responsibility and ethics

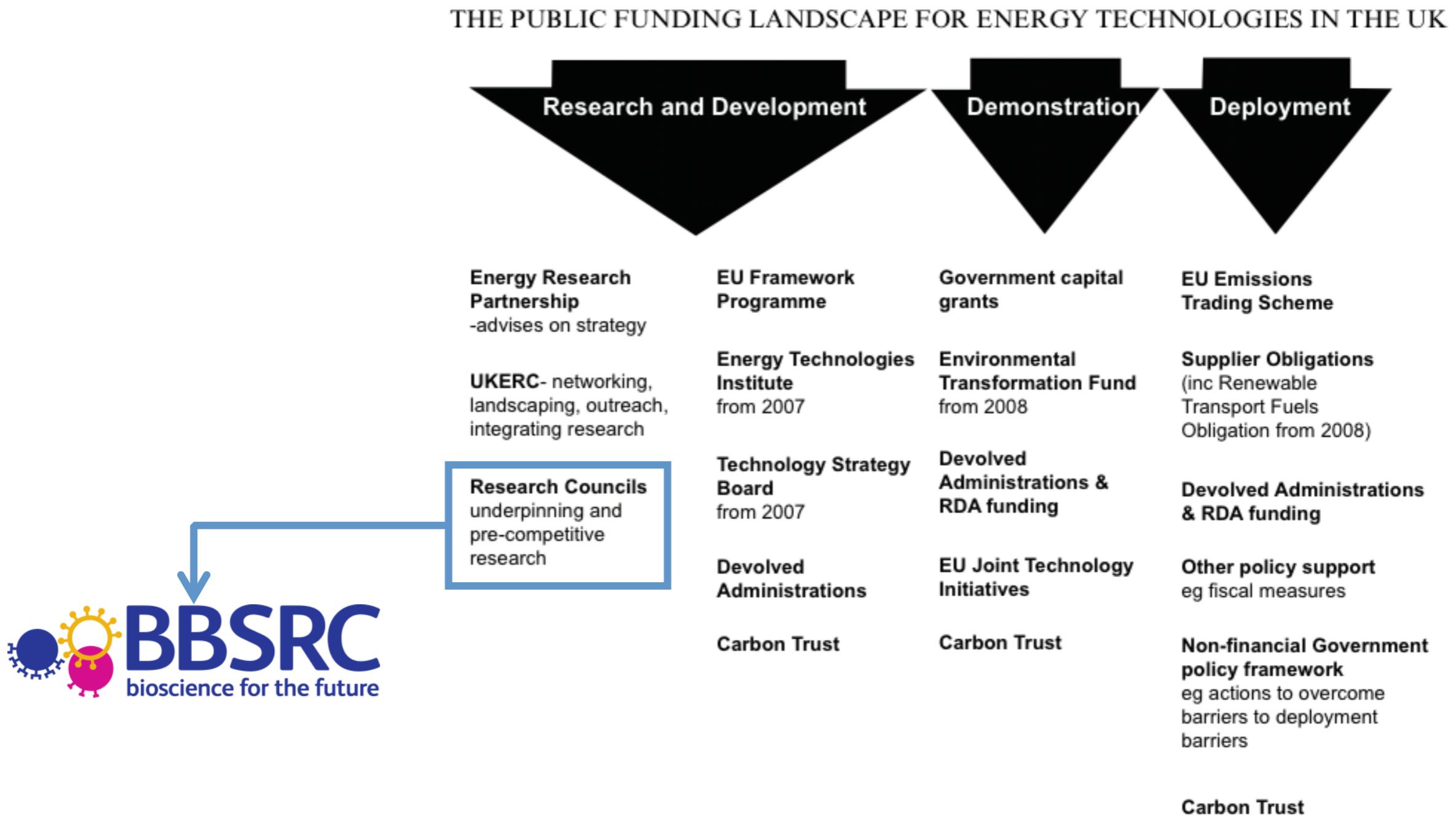
Biofuels as a case example



Biofuels become controversial



Bioenergy becomes a public research priority



Scientists fulfilling their responsibility to address ‘wider implications’ has changed

1. Self-regulation

2. Educate (the public)

3. Dialogue & Participation

4. Reflection & Responsibility

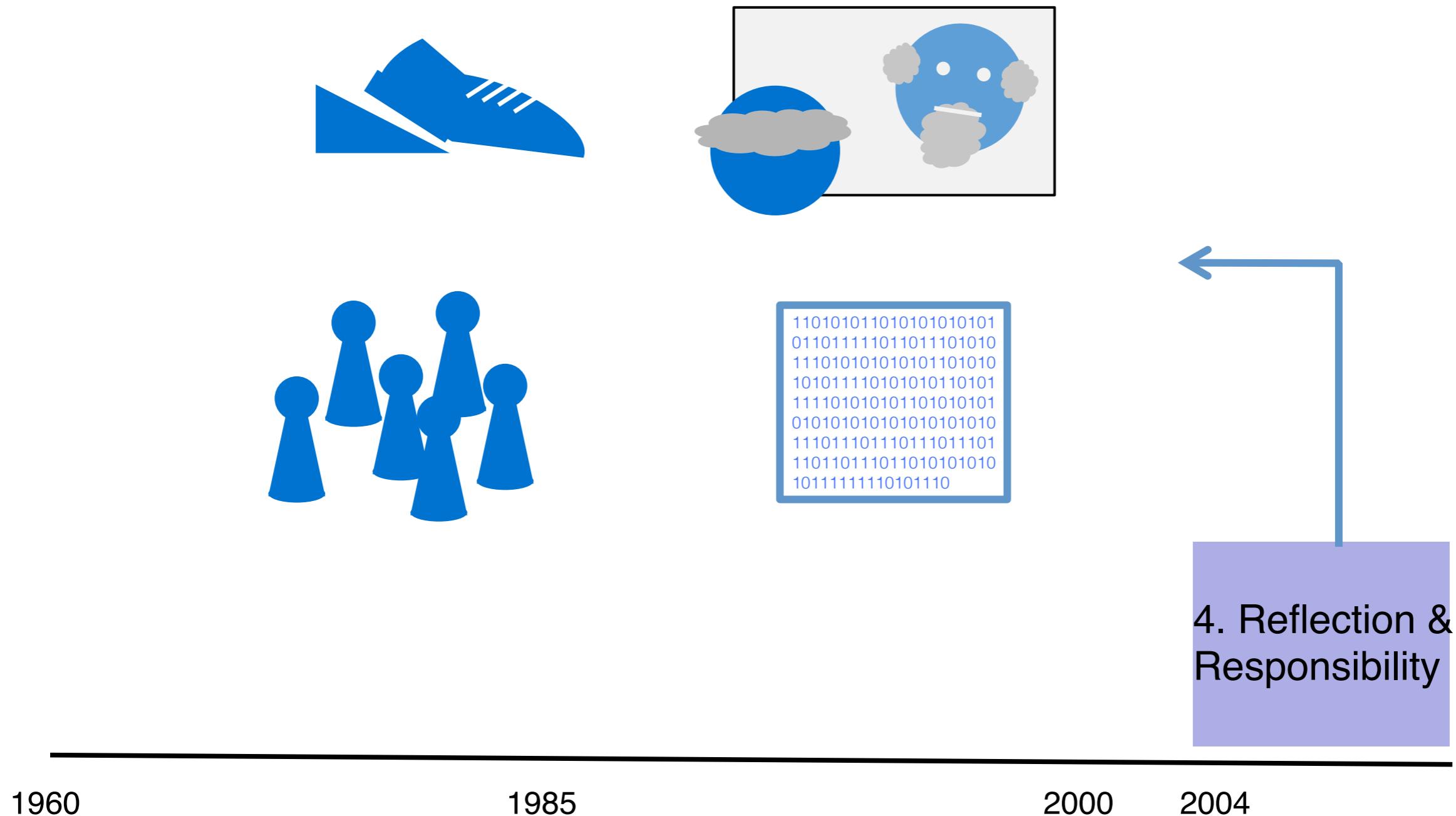
1960

1985

2000

2004

How scientists can fulfill their responsibility to address ‘wider implications’



Summary of the case

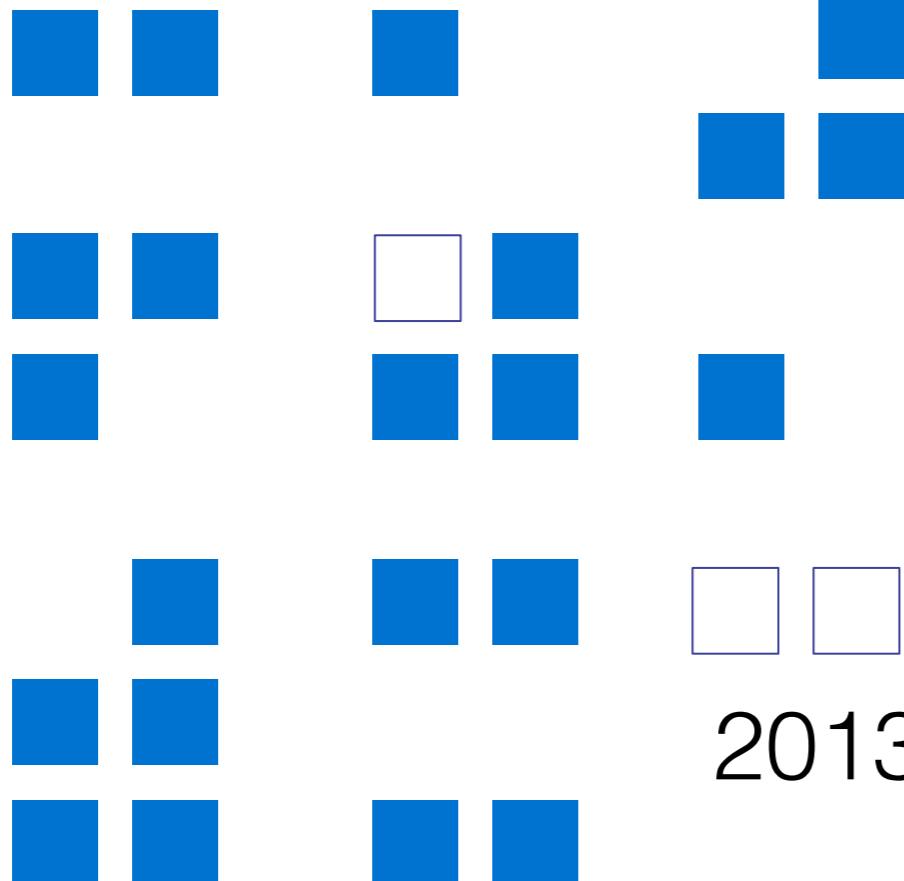
I'm interested in the ethical debate here, but more in the ways that it is used and the forms that it takes and the ways that it's dealt with rather than the actual content of the debate *per se*. (although understanding the content is obviously key to understanding how it's used)

So the debate has been occurring at a political / policy level but arguably it intersects research as well – it intersects it because unsurprisingly scientists have been brought into it. But what kind of ethics is enacted here? And what kind of reflection happens here?

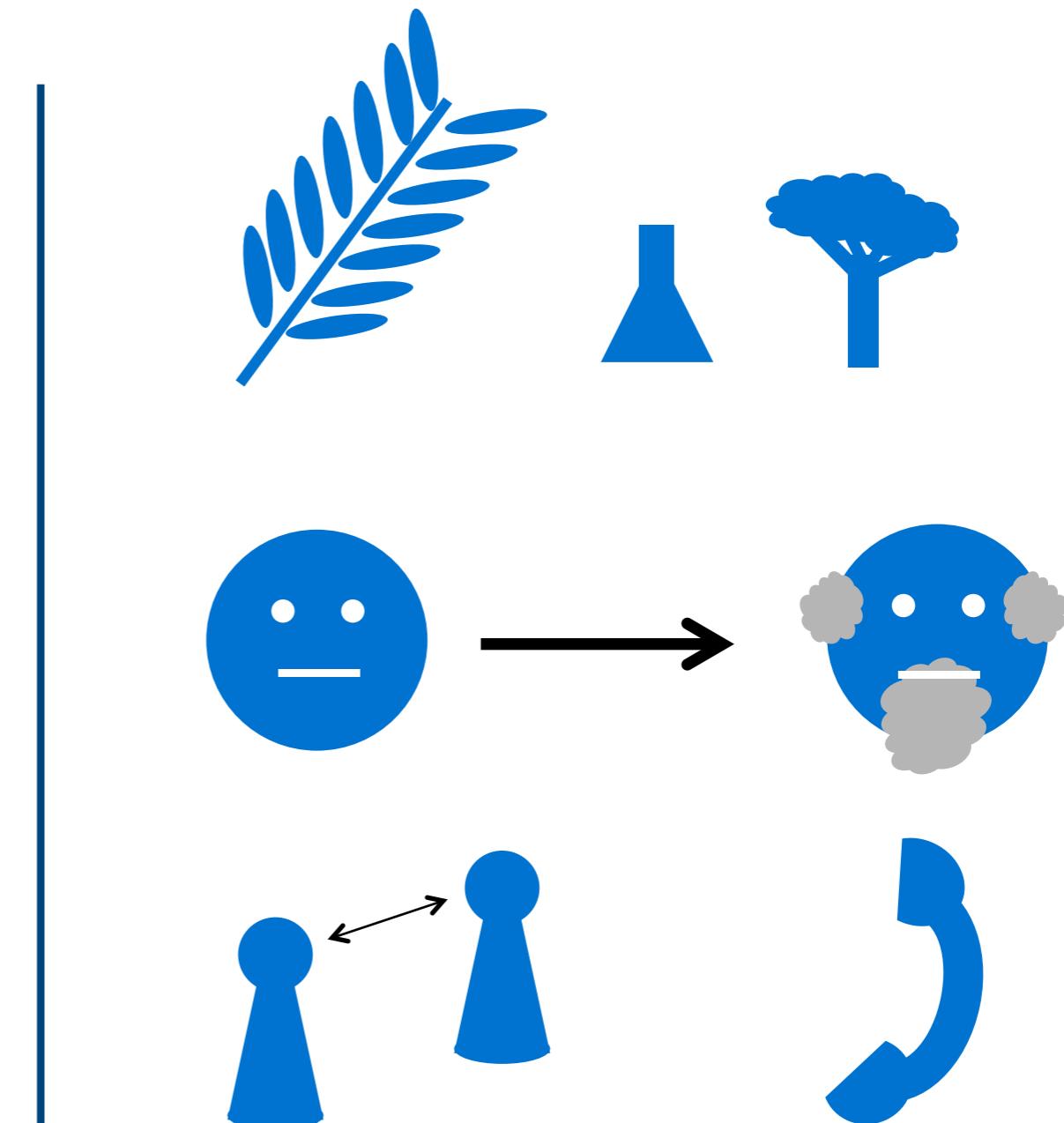
In the debate, scientific tools have been mobilised in the form of assessments, most frequently of the sustainability of biofuels and tools such as LCA, other forms of modelling and sustainability assessments of specific systems are key here. They are value-laden tools because they inform and decisions are based on them – what *should* we do.

Conducting interviews with scientists

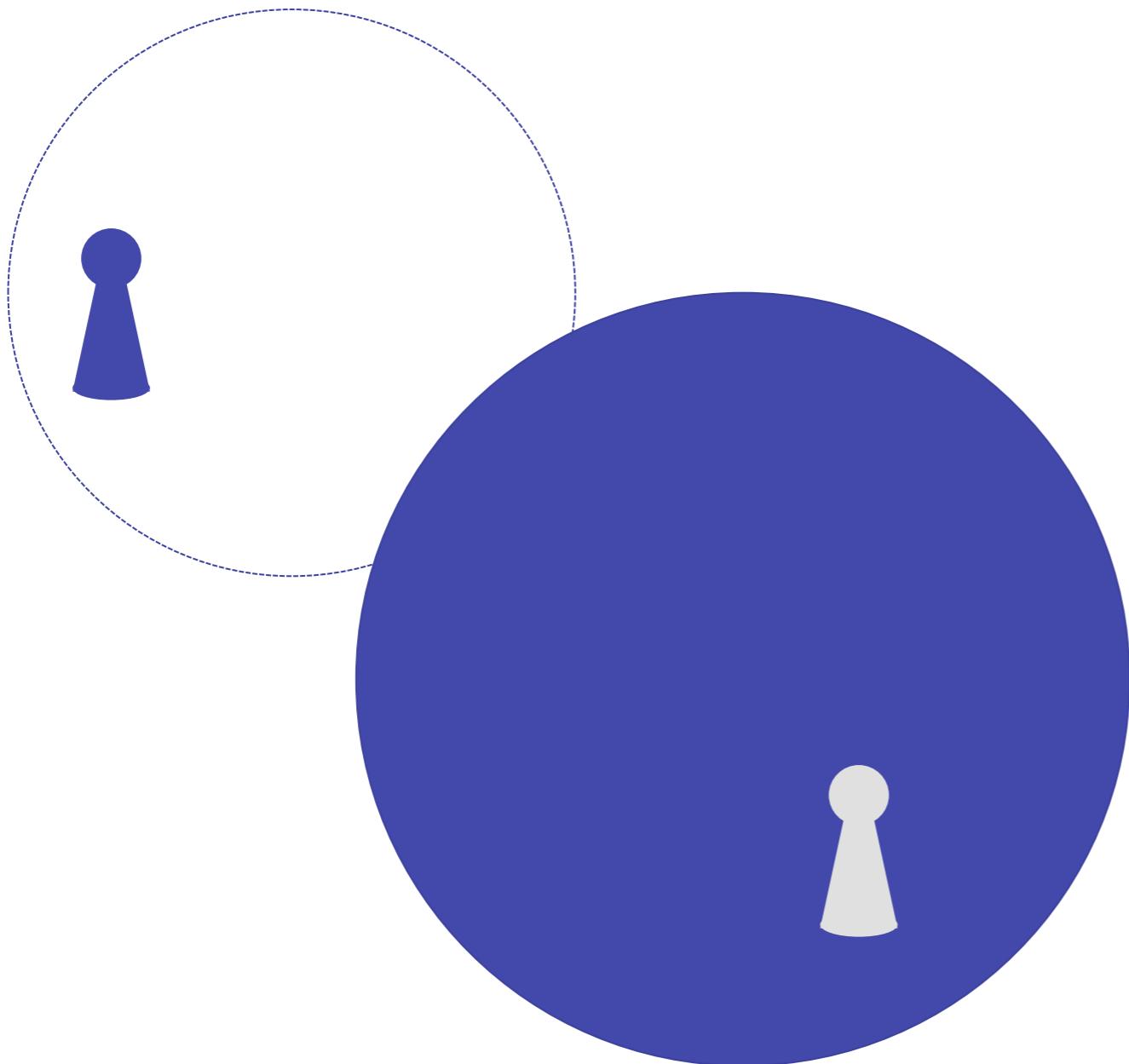
2011



2013

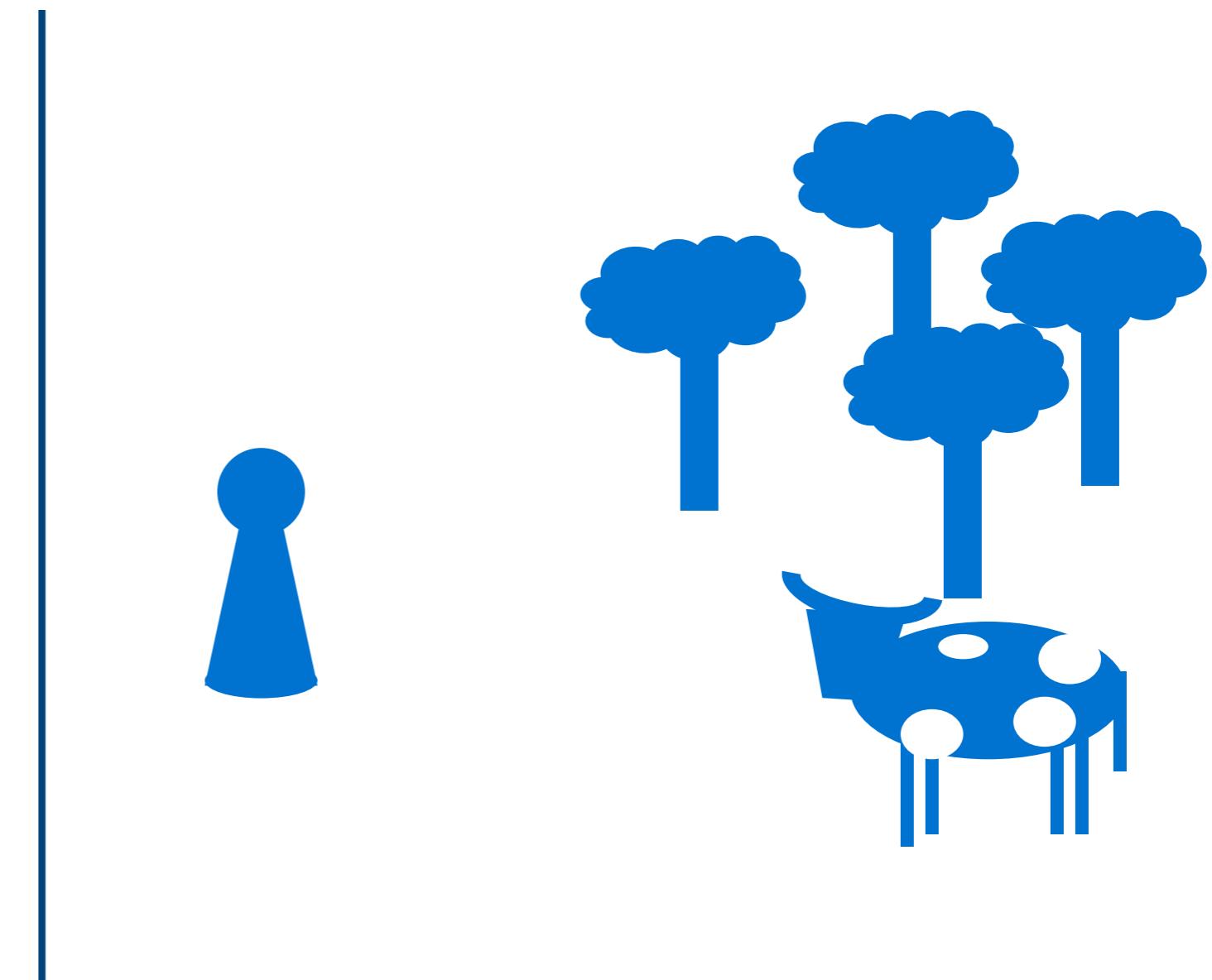
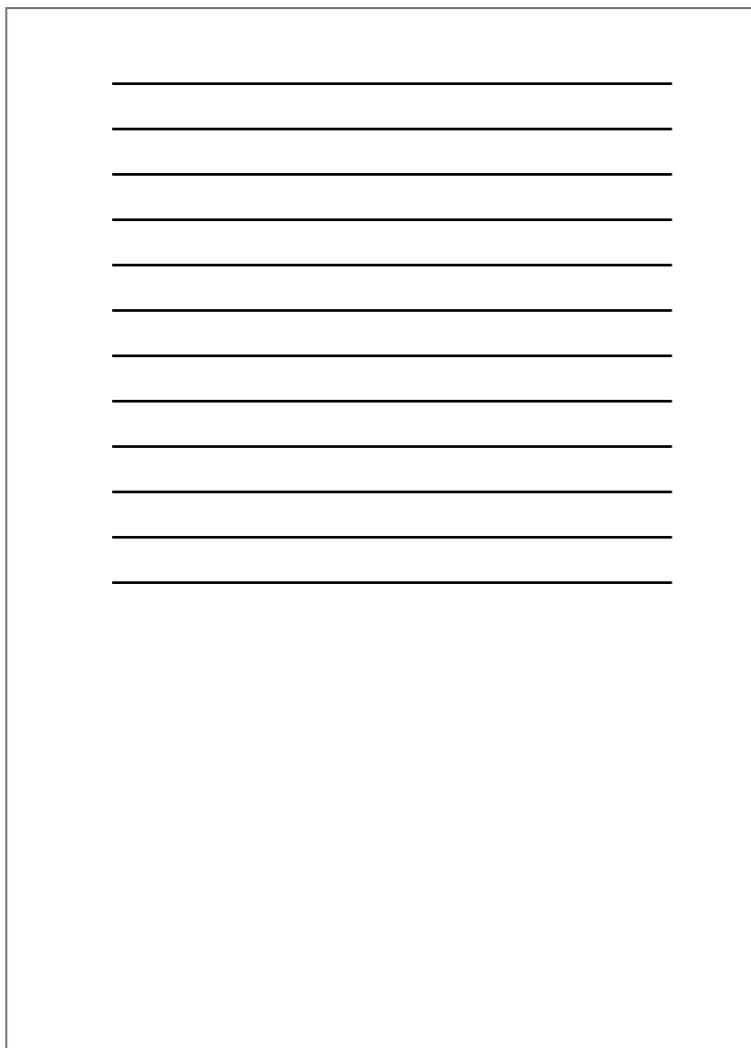


Defining ‘Ethics’ 1

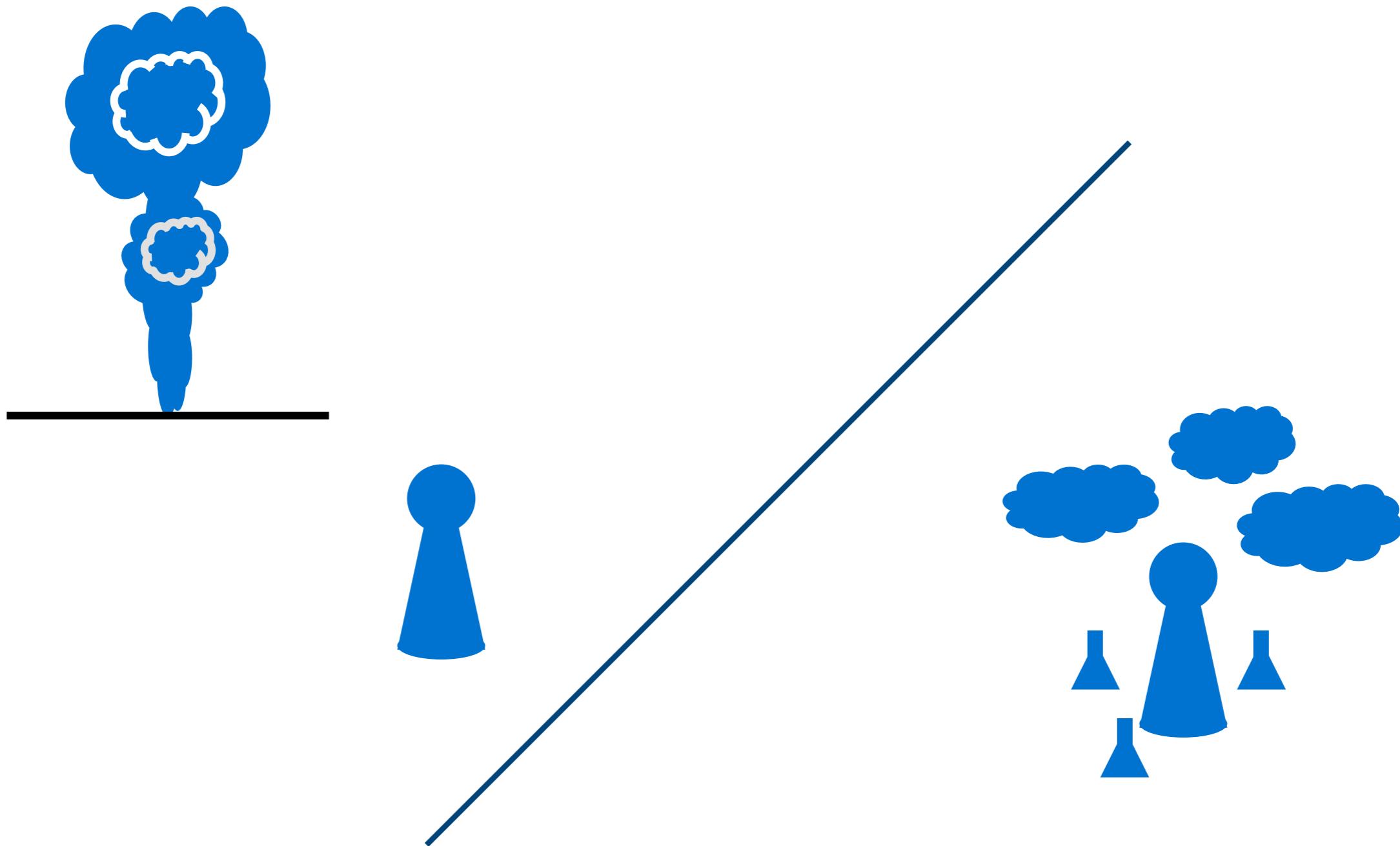


Defining ‘Ethics’ 2

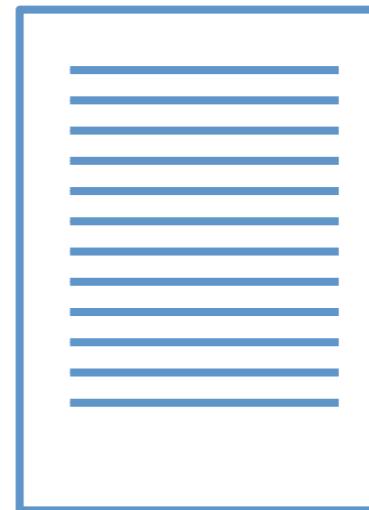
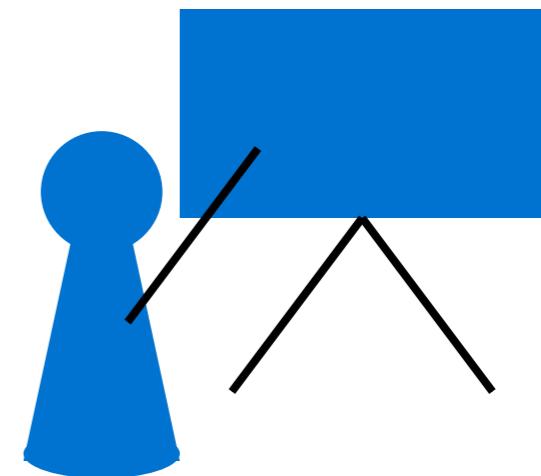
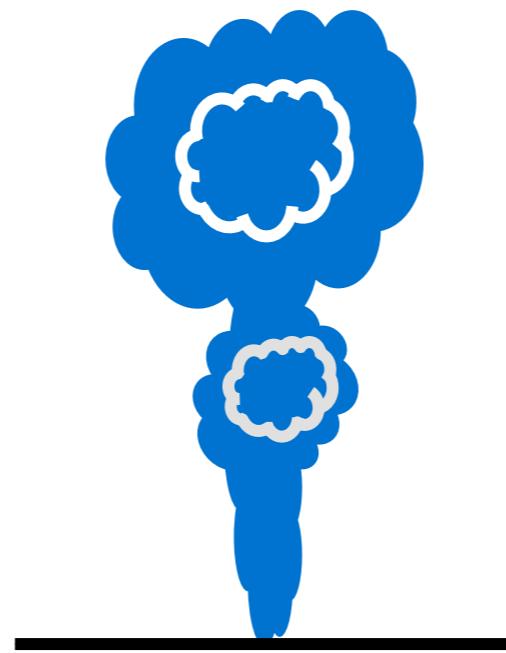
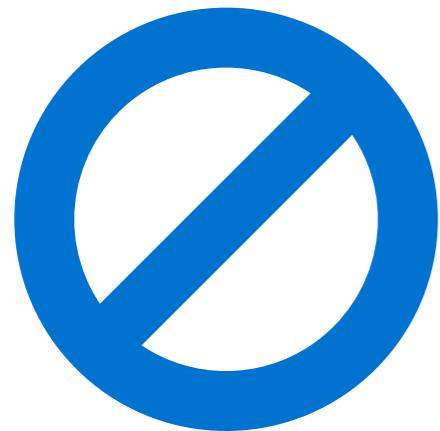
Regulatory ethics versus ‘wider moral dilemmas’



‘Applied – Basic Boundary’



Points and Methods of reflection



Conclusions / Ongoing Work

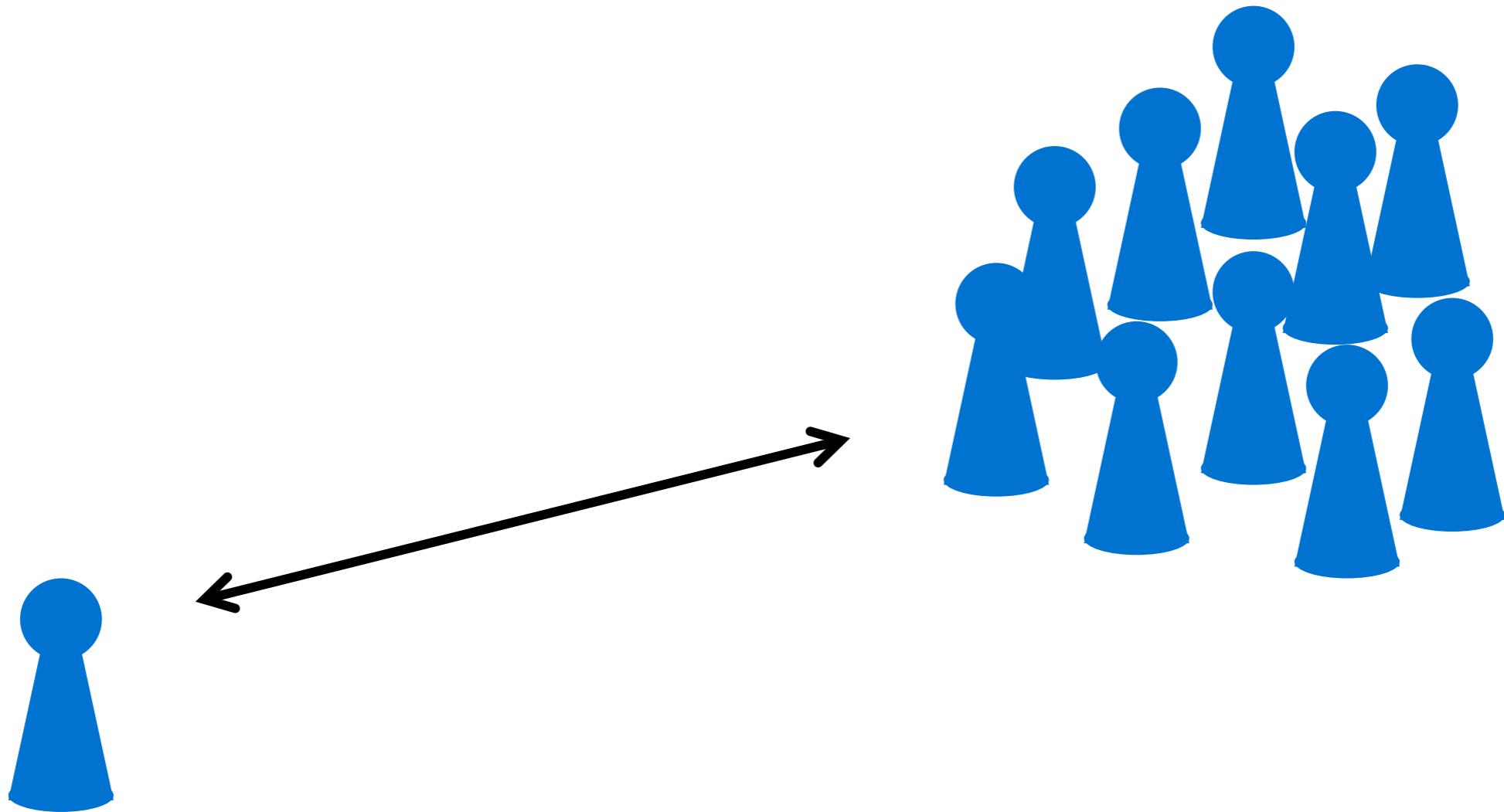




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Thanks for listening.



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