



KLINIKUM
DER UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

**Unit for Occupational and Environmental
Epidemiology & Net Teaching**
Head: Prof. Dr. Katja Radon, MSc

**Institute and Outpatient Clinic for
Occupational, Social and Environmental Medicine**
Director: Prof. Dr. med. Dennis Nowak



Background



Key Ingredients of a Good Background



- Logic ++
- Content +
- Writing +
- Selling +

Length: 4-4.5 pages 1.5 space

Your background needs to leave the reviewer with the following impression:

- This is an important and interesting question
- We do not yet know to answer this question
- We need to know the answer to this question because...
 - it will have an impact on_____
 - it will change _____
- The question can be answered by this study

☞ Last der Erkrankung

? wie viele Leute sind von der Erkrankung betroffen
(1:10 oder 1:1.000.000)

? wie schwer ist die Erkrankung

(5 Jahresüberlebensrate 0,9% oder 99,9%)

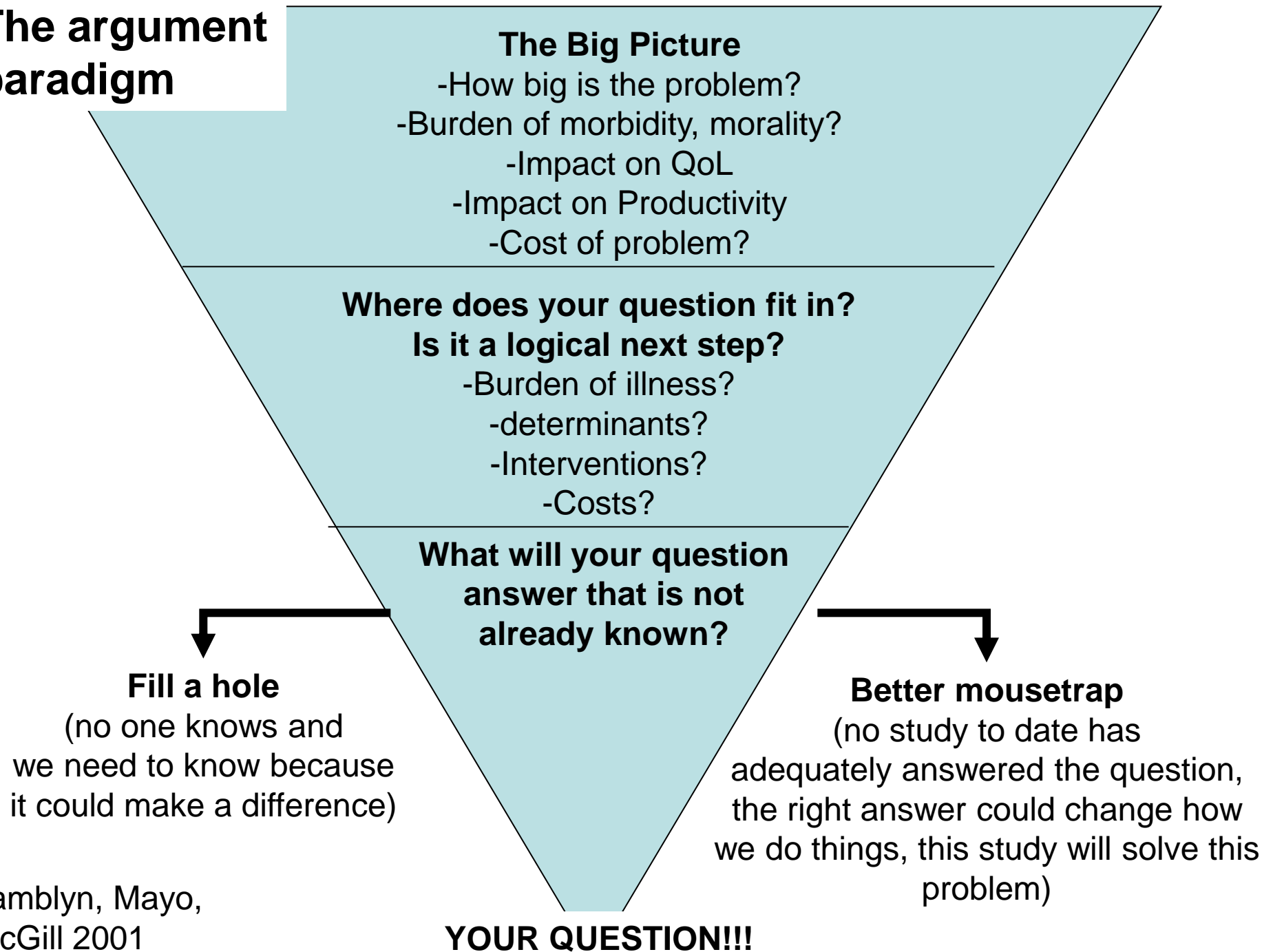
? welchen Einfluss hat die Erkrankung auf die Person,
die QoL, die Gesellschaft (Wirtschaft, Arbeitswelt, ...)

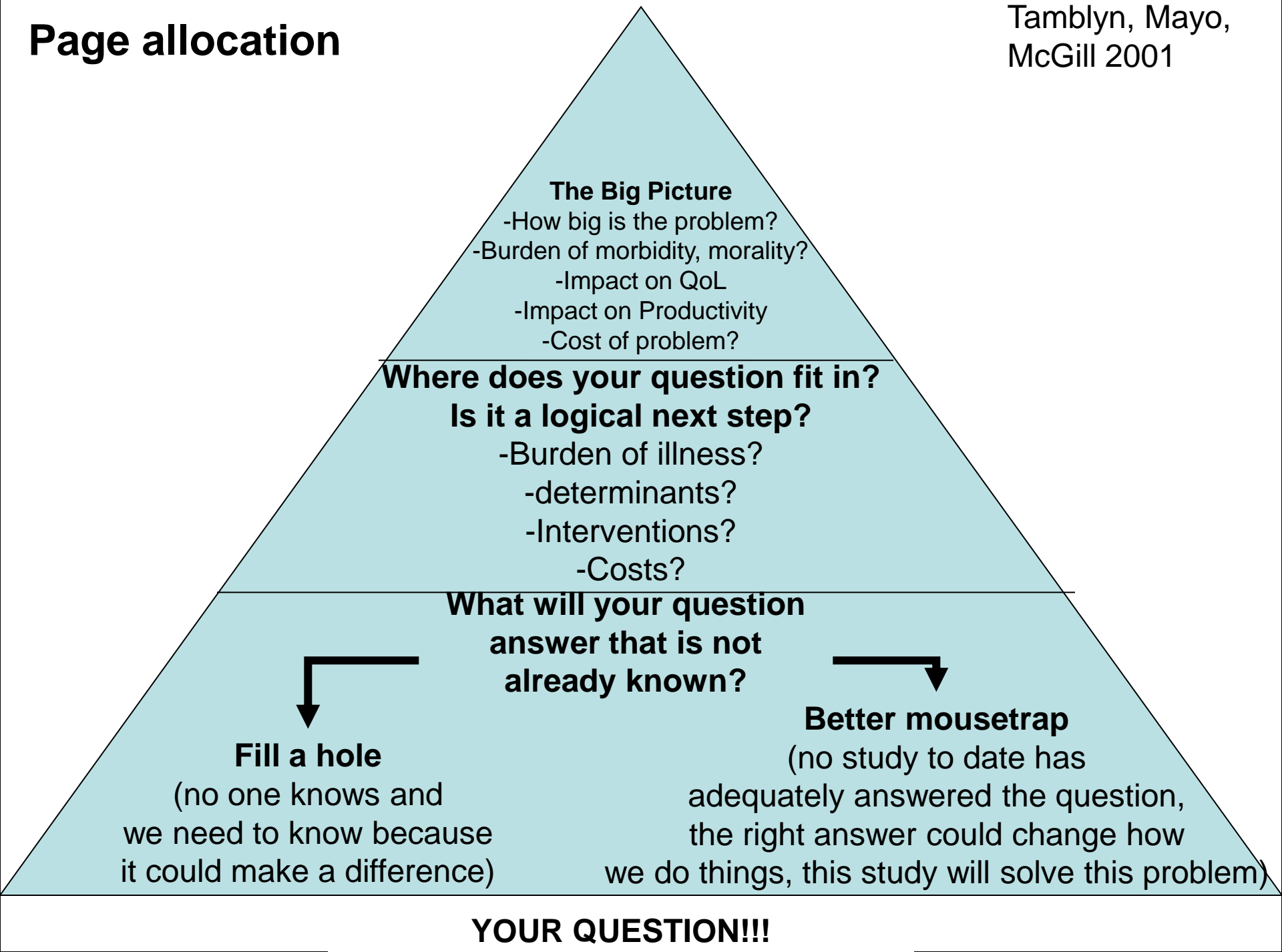
☞ was ist zu den Ursachen bekannt

☞ welche Therapiemöglichkeiten gibt es bisher

☞ welche Art von Studien fehlen (natürlich genau IHRE)!

The argument paradigm





Getting started

- What do you want to know from reviewing the literature -> develop a search strategy
 - Sketch out the logic of your argument and find related literature OR
 - Read some review articles to get a handle on the area, the assumptions, the unknown
- Make a summary table of the key elements
- Having problems?
Figure out why!
 - Question not well defined?
 - Too many questions?
 - Question at the wrong part of the research cycle?

Example: ECRHS-II



How would you structure the background of the following protocol?

The overall aim of this large community based study of young men and women is to examine the occupations, industries and exposures in the workplace which are associated with a high risk for asthma and other adverse respiratory health effects. Particular emphasis will be put on specific exposures of predominantly female occupations.

Example: ECRHS-OA II

Structure

1. Occupational asthma (OA) is an important endpoint all over Europe
 - Epidemiology of occupational asthma
2. Some agents causing OA are well-defined
 - enzymes, isocyanates, metals, latex...
3. It is plausible that other causes of OA are unknown, especially in “female occupations”
 - Community based cross-sectional studies, registries
4. Only prospective community based cohort studies may help to identify such causes
 - ECRHS I, register based studies are likely to underestimate the incidence

Assignments

To be completed until our next class:

- **Significance.** Use PubMed/Web of Science to do a computerized literature search, and word-process a first draft of your "Significance" section for your research question with an adequate set of references (preferably inserted with EndNote or equivalent software).
- Prepare a **brief outline** of your research protocol using the excel sheet provided earlier on
- Present your results to the class (5 min).