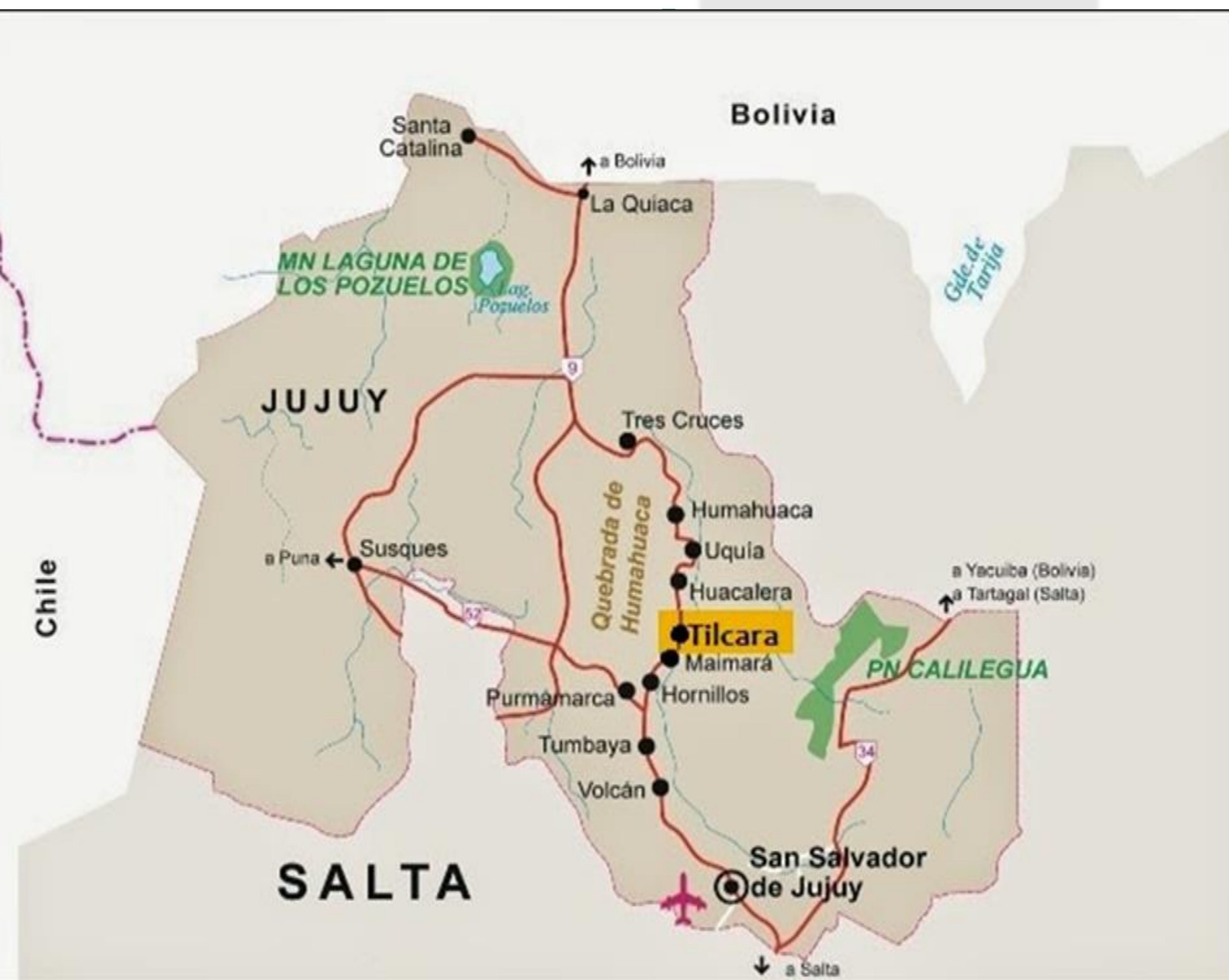


Maria Waked, Andy Noss/Ana Puig

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL USA - Corresponding Author: mrwaked@ufl.edu

## INTRODUCTION

Recently, INECHOA has been promoting a variety of activities to strengthen local ecotourism, particularly capacity building for local nature guides in Tilcara, a small town in the Quebrada de Humahuaca valley. Since 2017, in association with the Tourism Office of Tilcara, INECHOA has been implementing a series of training courses mainly focused on Biodiversity, Geology, and Archaeology. To support these activities, my fieldwork with the host organization was to design a pedagogical trekking walk, using inquiring and sensory activities, inspired by mindfulness techniques and local knowledge. This pilot project strengthened the well-established relationships between the local tourism guides and INECHOA.



## Theoretical Approaches

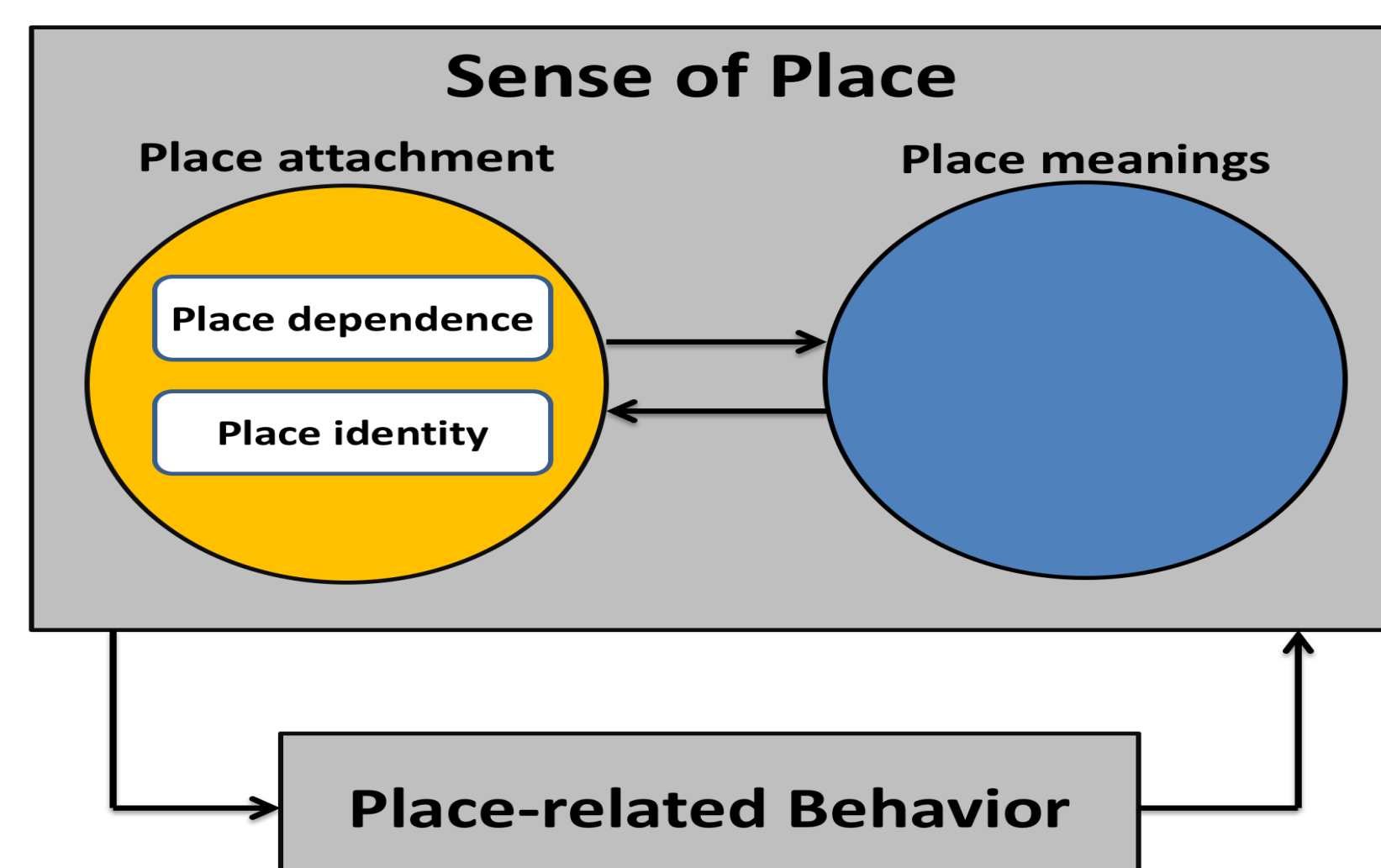
Sustainable tourism



## Knowledge exchange system



## Ecology of Place



## Mindfulness on nature



## OBJECTIVES

**Main objective:** To create a pilot design of a pedagogical trekking using sensory activities and local knowledge, which can be used as pedagogical material by INECHOA and local natural guides in Tilcara, Argentina

1. To identify INECHOA members, local guides or tourism agents who are interested in participating in the design of the guided trail in Tilcara.
2. To collect information on current guided nature trails and on training courses for local guides.
3. To design a guided nature walk, using sensory activities and local knowledge in the Quebrada de Humahuaca with the participation of members of INECHOA.
4. To evaluate the guided nature walk aimed at INECHOA members, local guides and tourists.



## PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

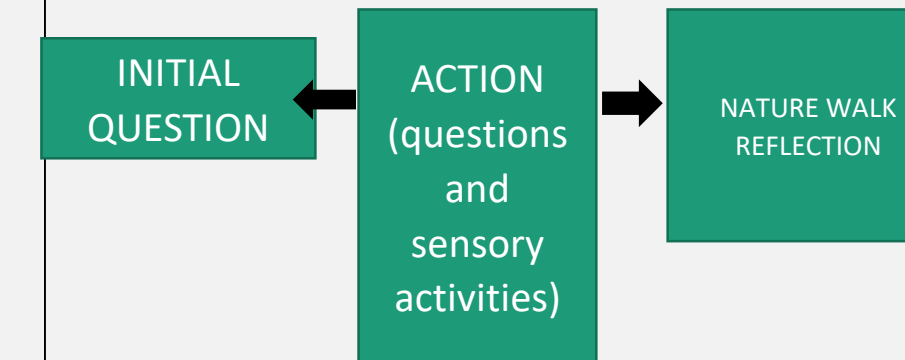
### MEETINGS

Get involved the community into the pedagogical hiking design

### DIRECT OBSERVATION/SECONDARY DATA COLLECTION

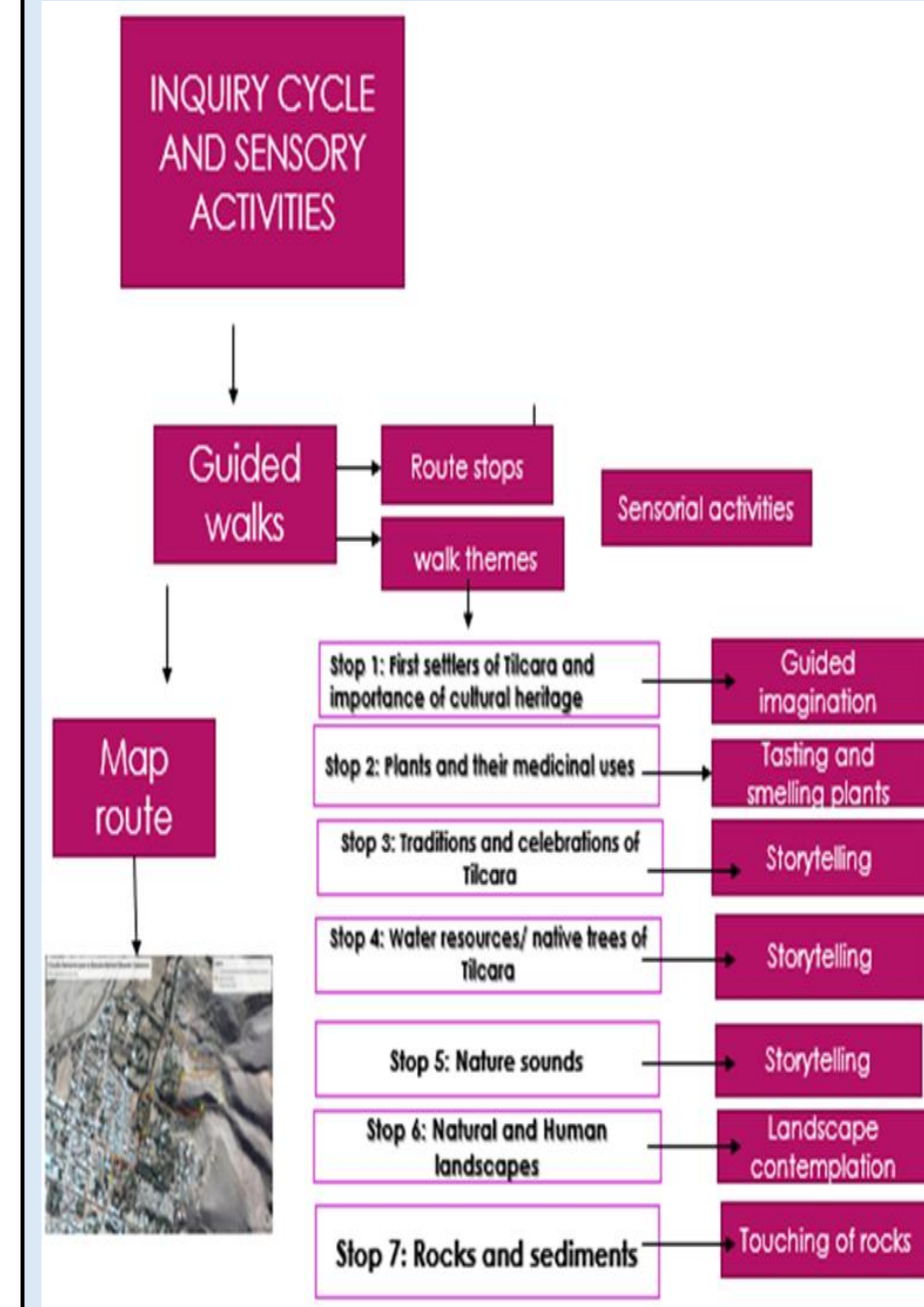
Collecting local and scientific knowledge

### CYCLE INQUIRING AND SENSORIAL METHOD



## DELIVERABLES

### SCRIPT ON HOW TO GUIDE THE NATURE WALK



### WORKSHOP TO TRAIN LOCAL GUIDES IN HOW TO DESIGN NATURE WALKS



## CONCLUSIONS

-The local tourism guides who participated in the design of the pedagogical hiking and who attended the workshop learned specific communication skills to guide walks as invite visitors to ask questions and reflect on the place they are visiting, facilitate sensory activities, organize thematic information in stops, make use of a script and introduce evaluation tools such as oral evaluations led by the guide, which can serve them as self-assessment tools to improve the quality of their guided tours.

-In addition of serving as a training tool in practical knowledge, the pedagogical hiking design breaks with the conception that tourism is directed solely at national and foreign tourists. Instead, it proposes a different view of tourism in which local people such as schoolchildren and university students or other members of the Tilcara community participate in this alternative form of tourism.

-In sum, one of the lessons I learned from this fieldwork was the importance of trained local tourism guides in communication and pedagogical skills inspired by theoretical approaches such as the ecology of place, mindfulness on nature and knowledge exchange systems. This type of knowledge can be very useful for them to propose alternative projects in tourism

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & REFERENCES

Maria Waked would like to thank the INECHOA Institute, the Local Guides Association in Tilcara, University of Buenos Aires, MDP, Tinker Foundation, the Center for Latin American Studies and the Liberal Arts College of the University of Florida who supported and funded my field practicum. Also to my advisor Andy Noss and co-advisor Ana Puig for your useful comments. Finally, to my beloved husband Trey Crouch, my future baby, mom and sibling for provide me your support and motivated me to complete my work on the field.

Haynes, Deborah (2017). Contemplative practice and the education of the whole person". Retrieved from : [http://www.colorado.edu/teep/sites/default/files/attached-files/haynes\\_-\\_education\\_of\\_the\\_whole\\_world.pdf](http://www.colorado.edu/teep/sites/default/files/attached-files/haynes_-_education_of_the_whole_world.pdf)

Bastidas, Miriam (2007). "La provincia de Jujuy se compromete con la agenda 2030". Retrieved from <http://www.onu.org.ar/la-provincia-de-jujuy-se-compromete-con-la-agenda-2030/>

Carrillo, Ivone (2013). Quebrada de Humahuaca, Jujuy, Republica Argentina: Patrimonio de la Humanidad y nuevas realidades. Retrieved from <http://observatoriogeograficoamericalatina.org.mx/egal14/Geografiasocioeconomica/Geografiacultural/57.pdf>