Turner & Knight (2015) A debate on the professional identity of occupational therapists	Turner & Alsop (2015) Unique core skills: Exploring occupational therapists' hidden assets
Similarities found during literature searches for these articles	
*Longstanding confusion over unique identity leading to lack of consistent message *The essence of occupational therapy is different from that of dominant paradigm in statutory care but in line with the increasing public perception of health *It's OK to be different but knowledge must be sound and articulated *Practice can appear mundane as it deals with the everyday fabric of life *Identity is a reflection of the profession's unique core beliefs and skills *Themes arose from international literature and were consistent	
Causes of confusion	
*Being at odds with the dominant paradigm *Unclear central message *Lack of unique theory base *Lack of evidence of efficacy	*Unique core skills are conceptual not visible *Uniqueness had been poorly understood *Professional skills often muddled with practical techniques and personal attributes
Consequences	
*Perceived low status *Working to expectations of others *Others' theories seen as more valued *Inability to act strategically	*Visible skills perceived as sum total of professional thinking and action *Intellectual skills remained unappreciated *Articulations of profession remain unfocused
Insights and strategies	
*Own & develop unique beliefs & knowledge *Accept/celebrate different paradigm and ways and places of working *Form communities of practice to reinforce unique paradigm *Use occupational language and thinking to focus practice and communication	*Unique core skills are reasoned judgement used to promote occupational participation *Occupational science gives specialist knowledge to reinforce uniqueness *Visible practice is as boundless as service users' meaningful occupations *Practice needs clear occ. justification

Figure 2 Turner (2018) Analysis of the themes from literature underpinning the two articles (Turner and Alsop 2015, Turner and Knight 2015)
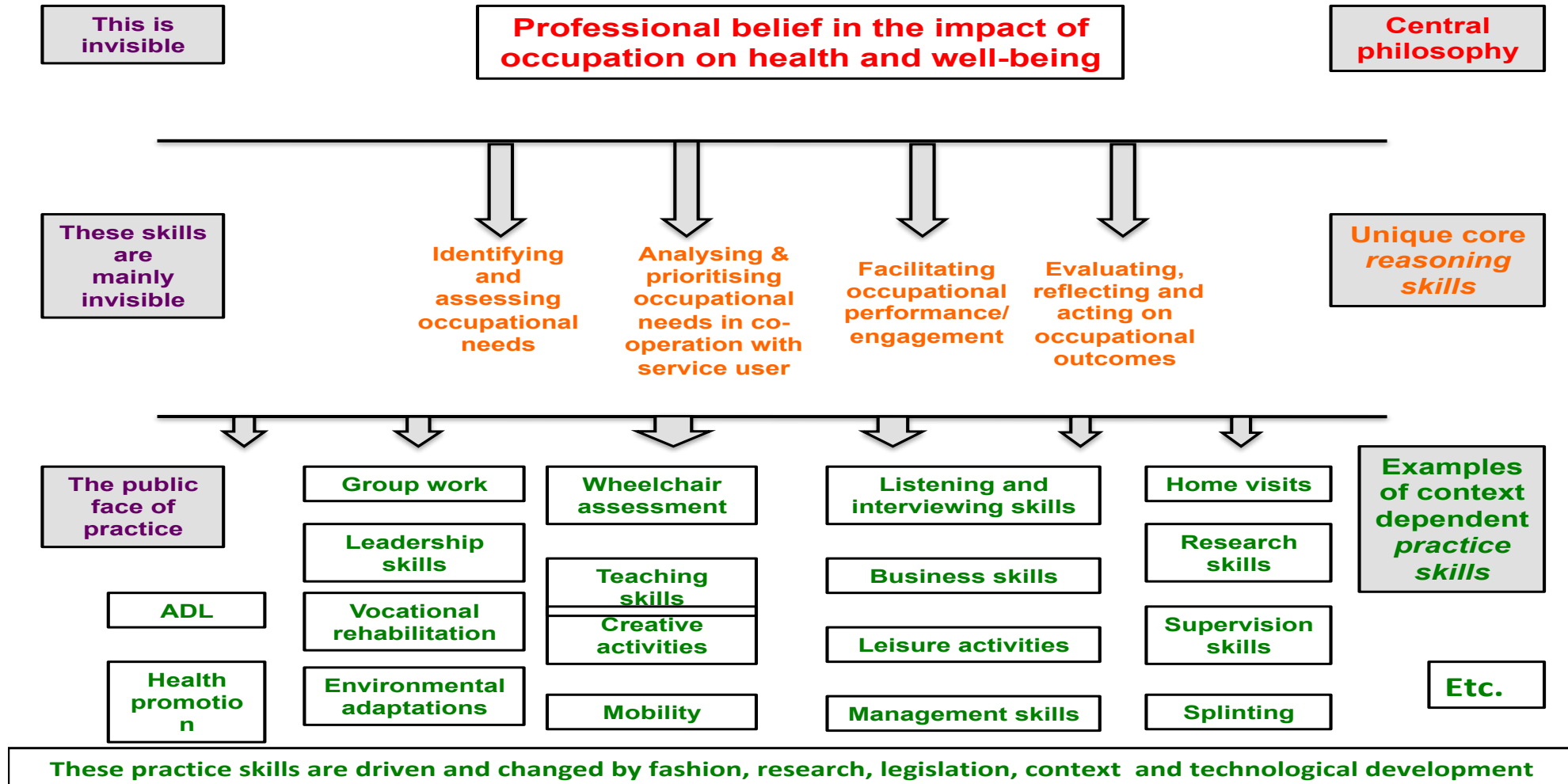
Unique core skills of occupational therapy

This is invisible

Professional belief in the impact of occupation on health and well-being

Central philosophy

These skills are mainly invisible

Identifying and assessing occupational needs

Analysing & prioritising occupational needs in co-operation with service user

Facilitating occupational performance/engagement

Evaluating, reflecting and acting on occupational outcomes

Unique core *reasoning skills*

The public face of practice

Group work

Wheelchair assessment

Listening and interviewing skills

Home visits

Examples of context dependent *practice skills*

Leadership skills

Teaching skills

Business skills

Research skills

ADL

Vocational rehabilitation

Creative activities

Leisure activities

Supervision skills

Health promotion

Environmental adaptations

Mobility

Management skills

Splinting

Etc.

These practice skills are driven and changed by fashion, research, legislation, context and technological development

Figure 1 A visual representation of occupational therapy practice created to explain its conceptual nature. (Turner and Alsop 2015)