

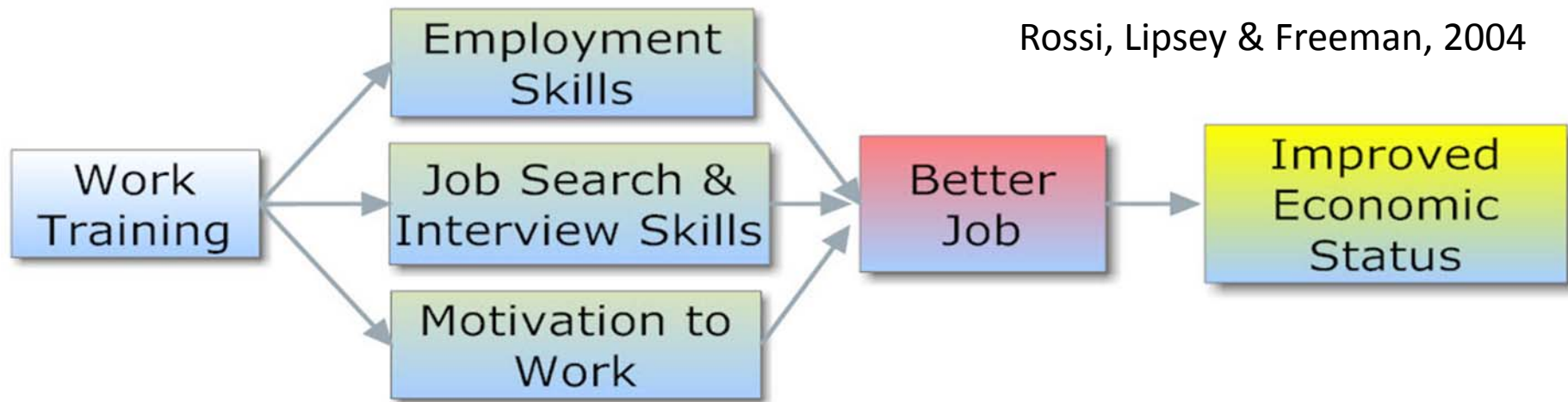


# Chains of Logic: Overcoming Limitations of Program Theory and its Use in Evaluation

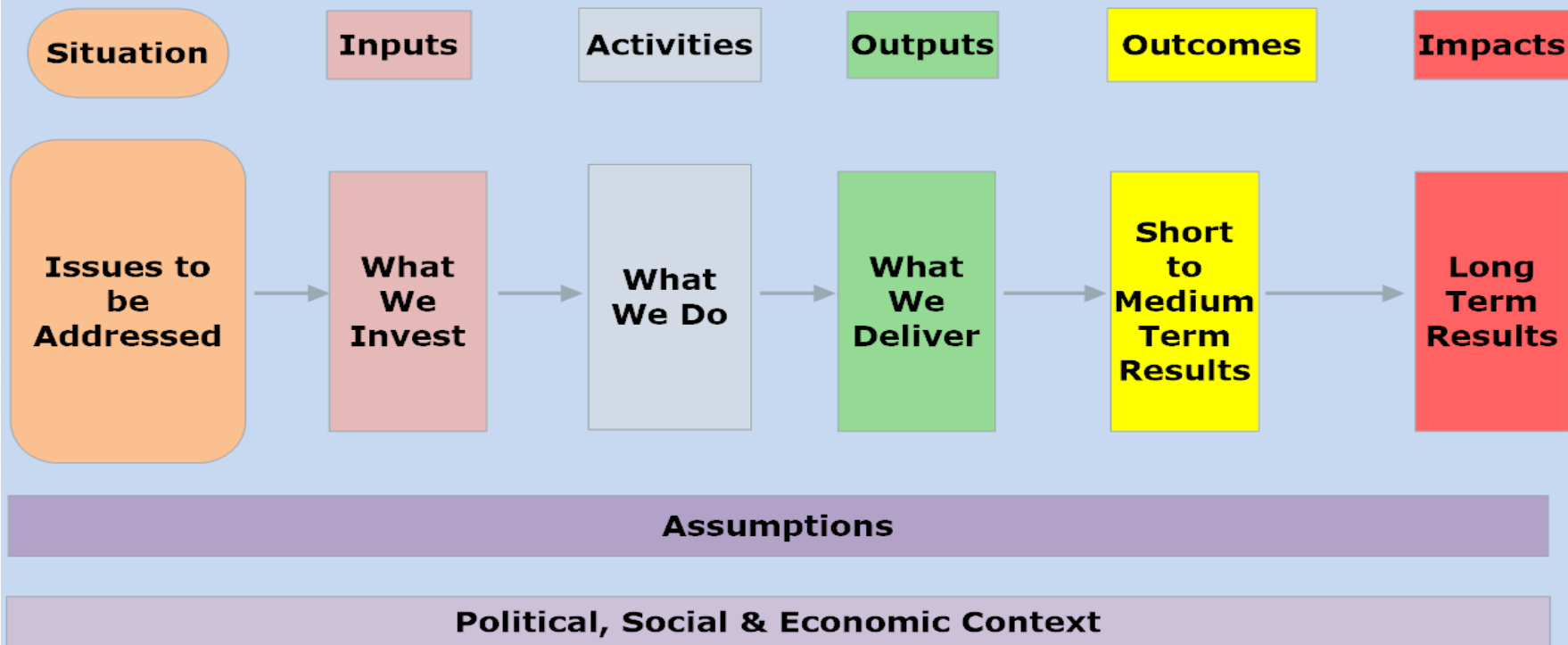
Dr. Ian Patrick

Ian Patrick & Associates

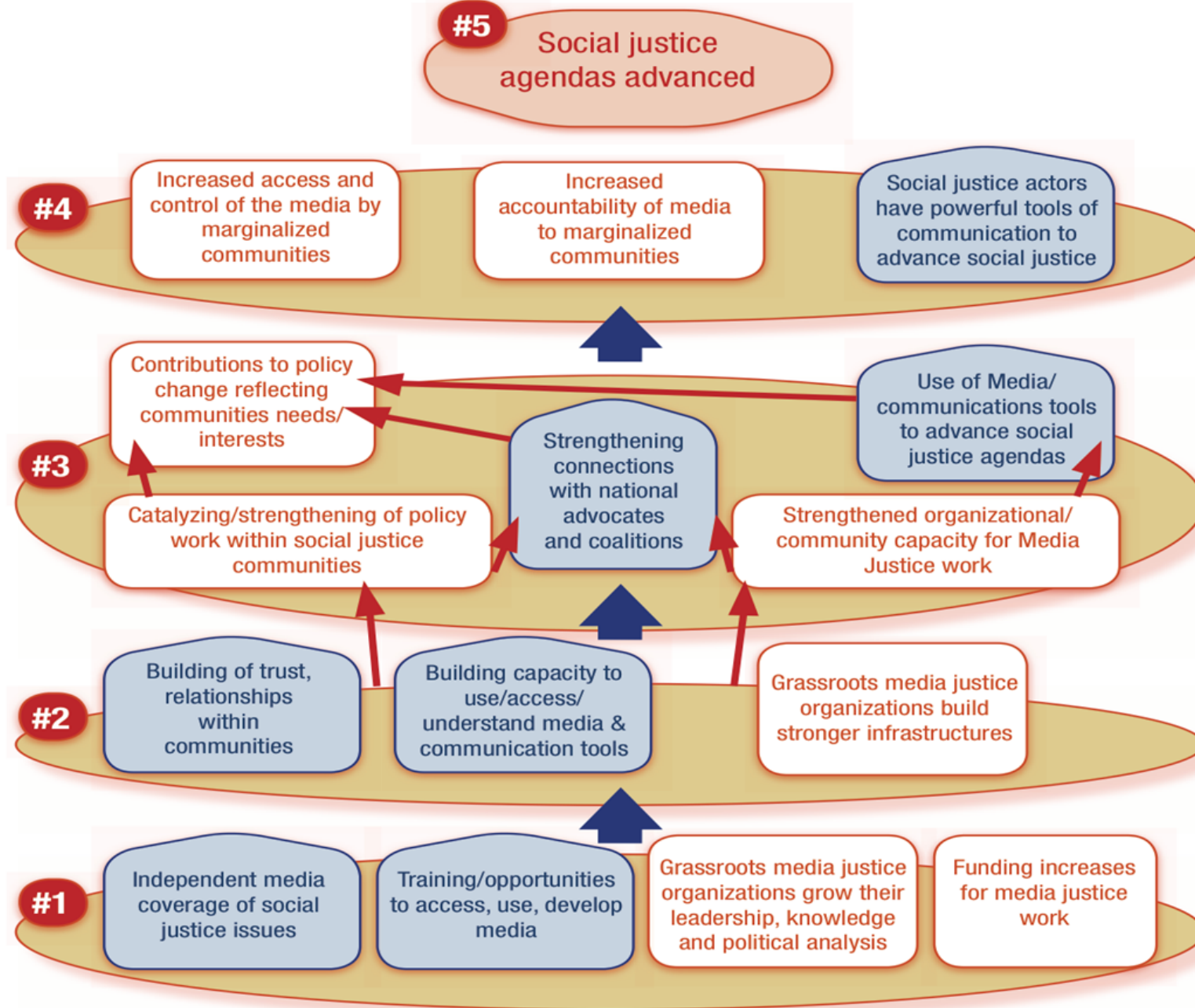
Rossi, Lipsey & Freeman, 2004



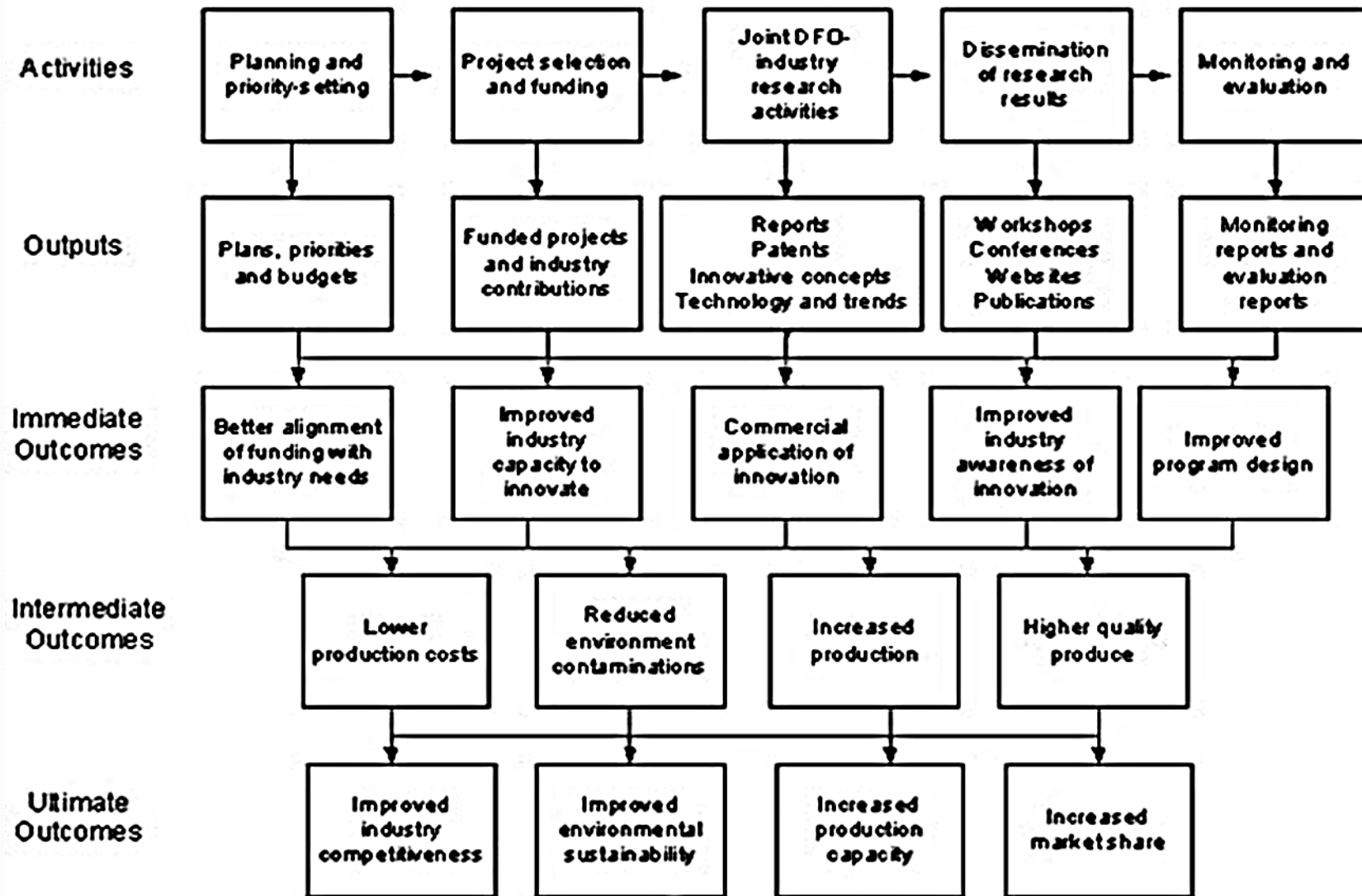
### Program Logic



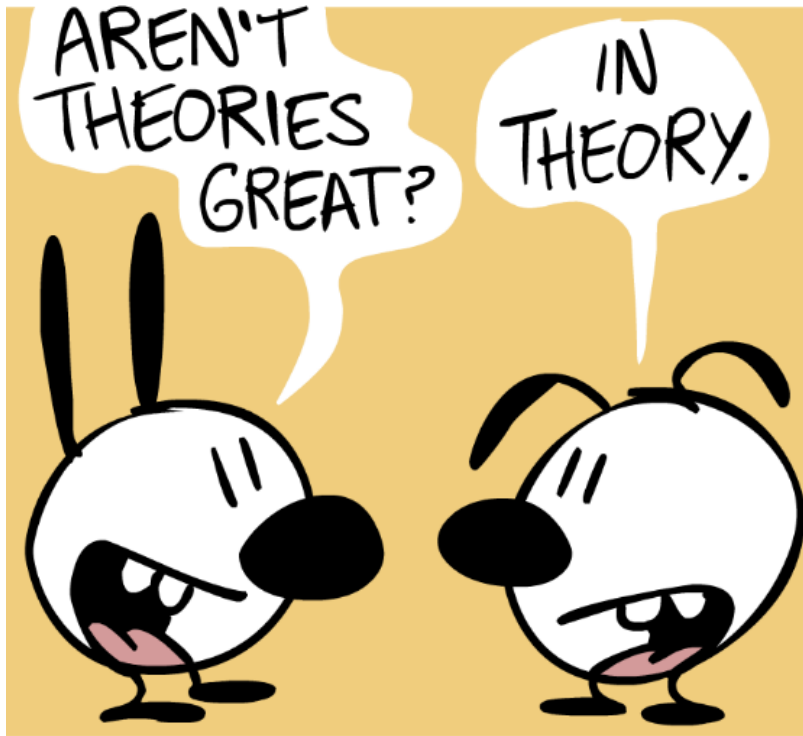
## MEDIA JUSTICE FUND THEORY OF CHANGE EMERGING FROM GRANTEE PERSPECTIVES



### Logic Model: ACRDP







- A system of ideas or statements explaining something, especially one based on general principles independent of the things to be explained
- Something that has been confirmed or established by observation or experiment and is accepted as accounting for known facts.

## **Causative Theory**

- Broad perspective
- Program actions to results

## **Theory of Action**

- How a program / organisation works to support the envisaged changes
- Stakeholder roles in producing results
- Context influences

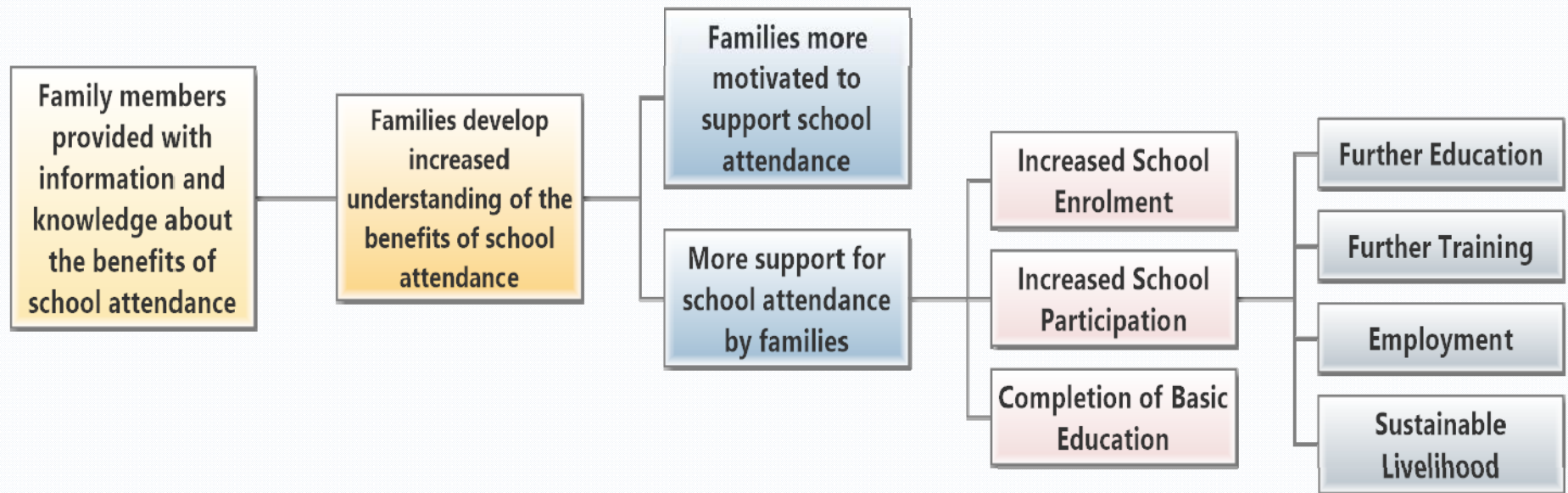
## **Foundational Theory**

How and why human perspectives and values influence both change and action models

## Theory Based Approach



- Causal model
- Identifying shared understandings
- Means to articulate critical evaluation questions, assumptions and external factors
- Reference point - assess viability of model, and actual performance against expected performance



- **Abbreviated, condensed representation**
- **Based on various forms of knowledge and understanding**
- **Whose knowledge and understanding?**
- **Accepted and used?**
- **Could be incomplete or wrong, partially or totally**
- **Or not the right approach at all**





# Theories within Theories

## Behavioural change theories

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Behavioural change theories** are attempts to explain why behaviours change. application of these theories in the areas of health, education, criminology, energ

### Contents [\[hide\]](#)

#### 1 General theories and models

##### 1.1 Self-efficacy

##### 1.2 Learning theories/behaviour analytic theories of change

##### 1.3 Social learning/social cognitive theory

##### 1.4 Theory of reasoned action

##### 1.5 Theory of planned behaviour

##### 1.6 Transtheoretical/stages of change model

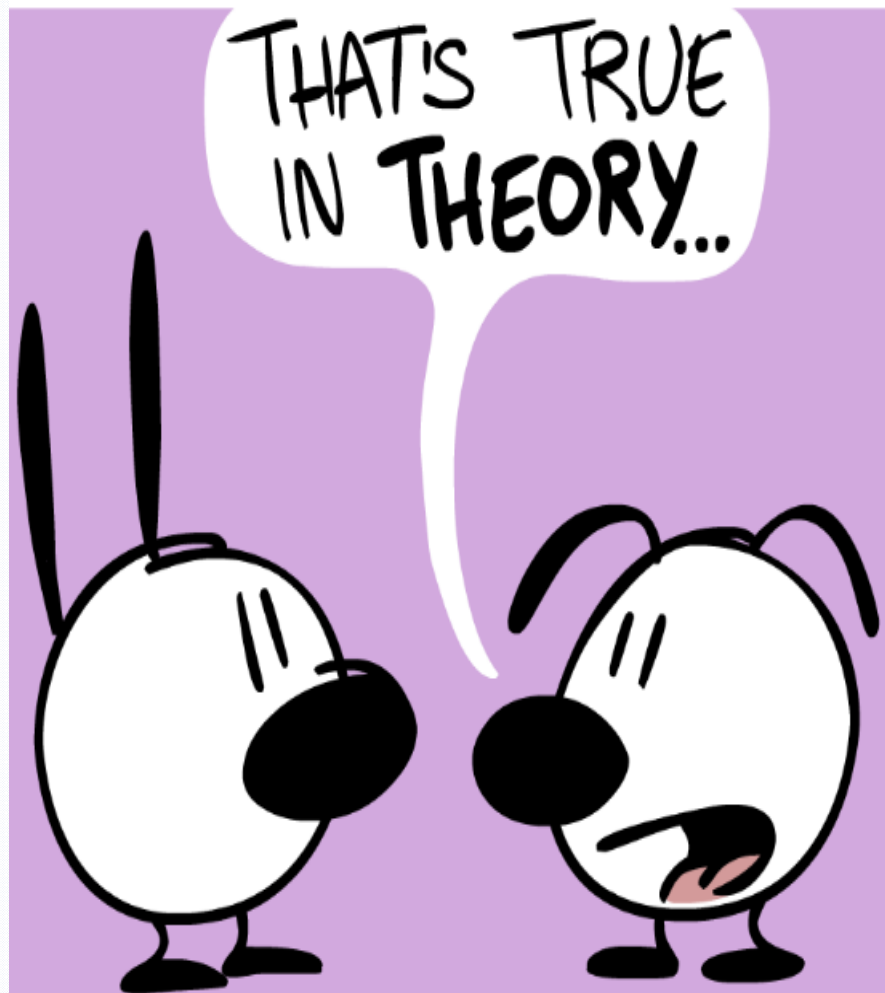
##### 1.7 Health action process approach

##### 1.8 Education

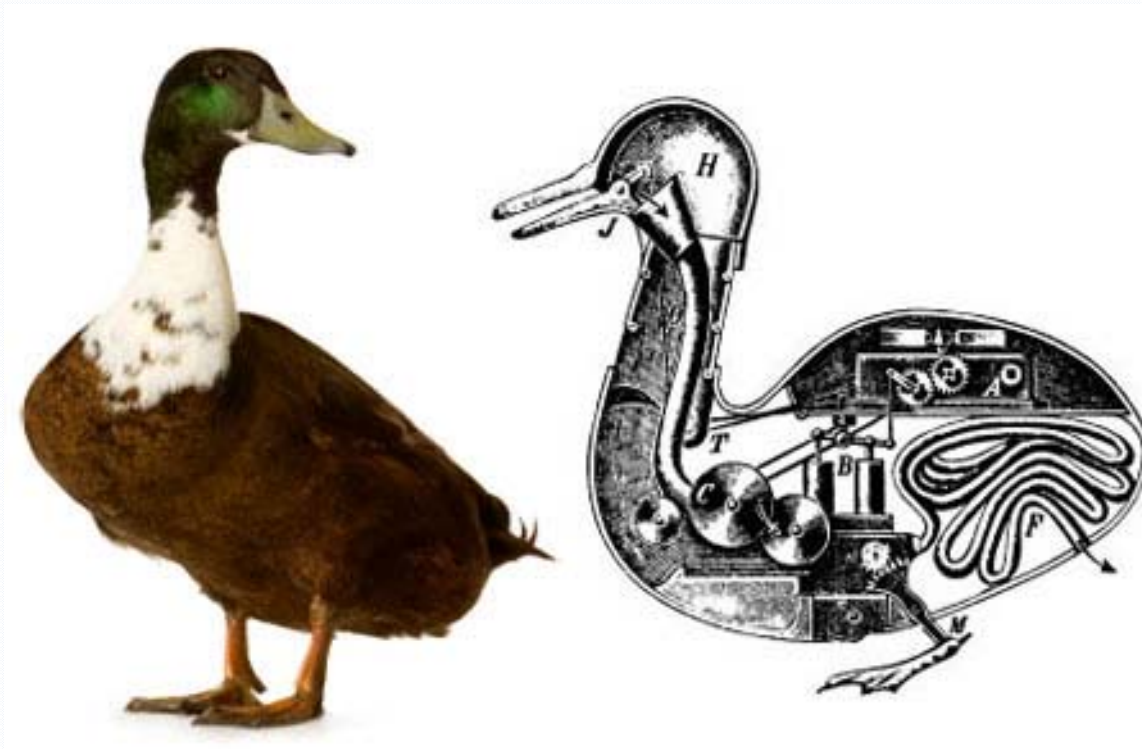
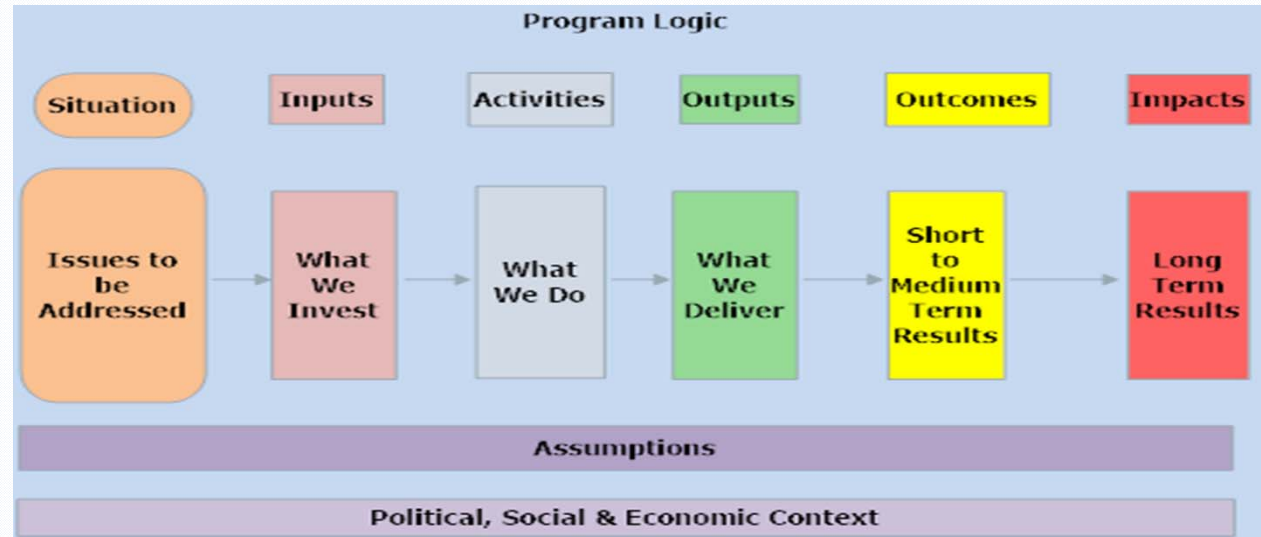
##### 1.9 Criminology

##### 1.10 Energy

#### 2 Objections



# Results

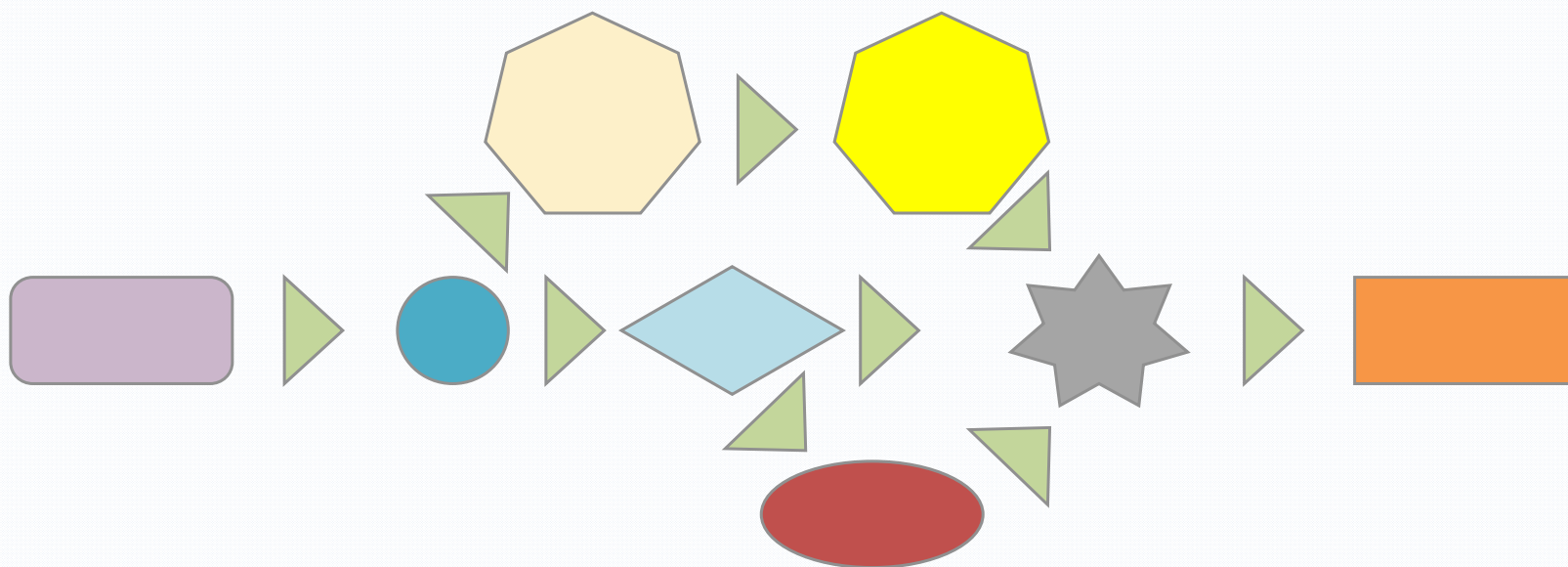
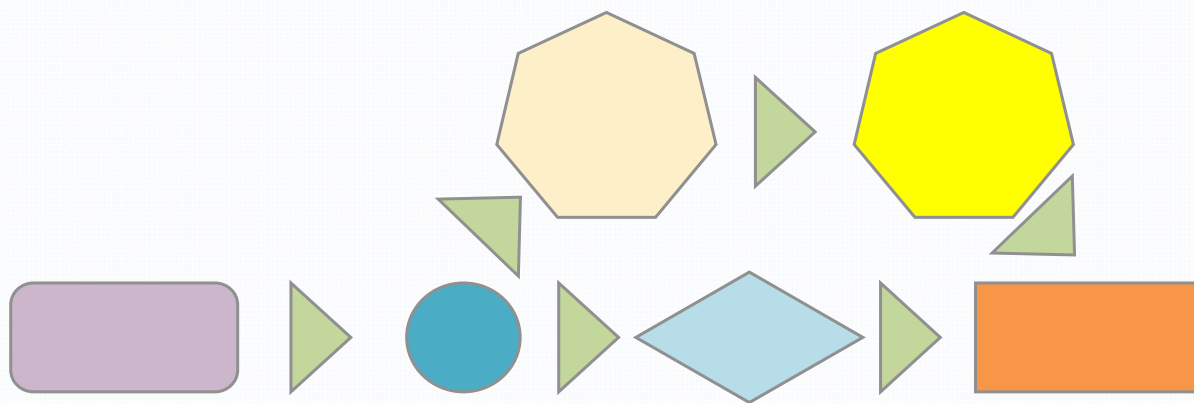


**Reductionism**

**Reification**

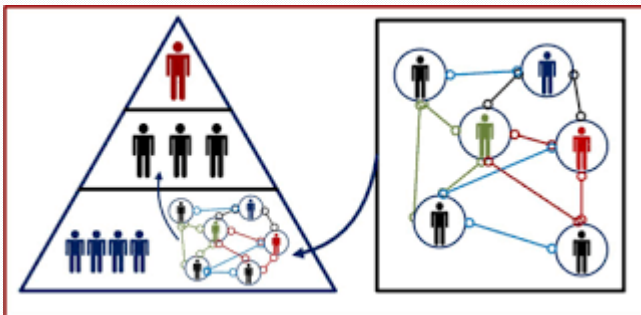
**Relevance  
Effectiveness  
Efficiency  
Impact  
Sustainability**







# Theory of rational action



# Rational Organisation Theory



# Relationship to Planning

## Conventional Planning Model

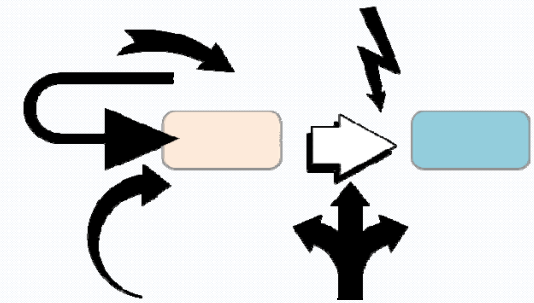
- Plan express intent, based on shared knowledge of situation & appropriate action
- Actions most effective when derived from & justified by plans
- Planner plays central role in decision making

## Situated Action (Lucy Suchman)

- Plans do not determine action, but orientate action
- Rationality is a post action occurrence
- Precise goals often worked out on the way
- Individual action is mediated & affected by a range of circumstances

## Power & Process

- Participatory Planning
- Transactive Planning
- Communicative Approach



## Identifying Options

- Mixed Scanning Model

## Staged Process of Development

- Incrementalism

## Devolving Planning Aspirations

- Outcome Mapping



# Where are the principles?

**Actions**

**Outcomes**

**Results**

**Logic**



**Principles**

**Values**

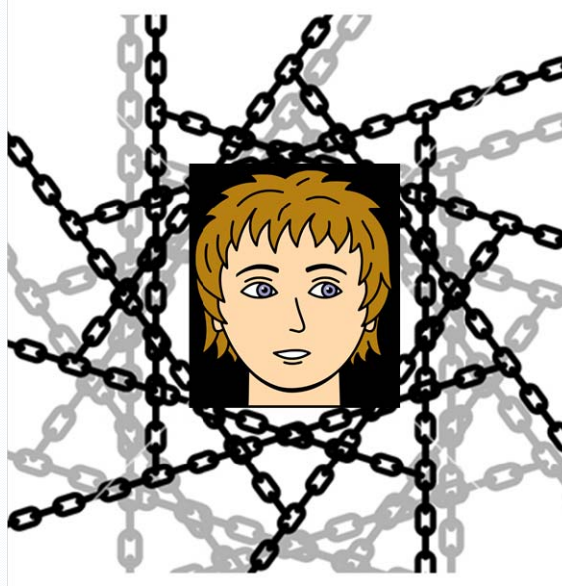


# Some solutions

- Balance – consider a range of evaluation domains and mixing methods
- Provide a big window for the unexpected and unknown
- Construct theories carefully based on evidence, and provide narrative justification
- Consider alternative planning models, and integrate their intent, as appropriate
- Evaluate how things are done, as well as what is done (principles)

# Where are the people?

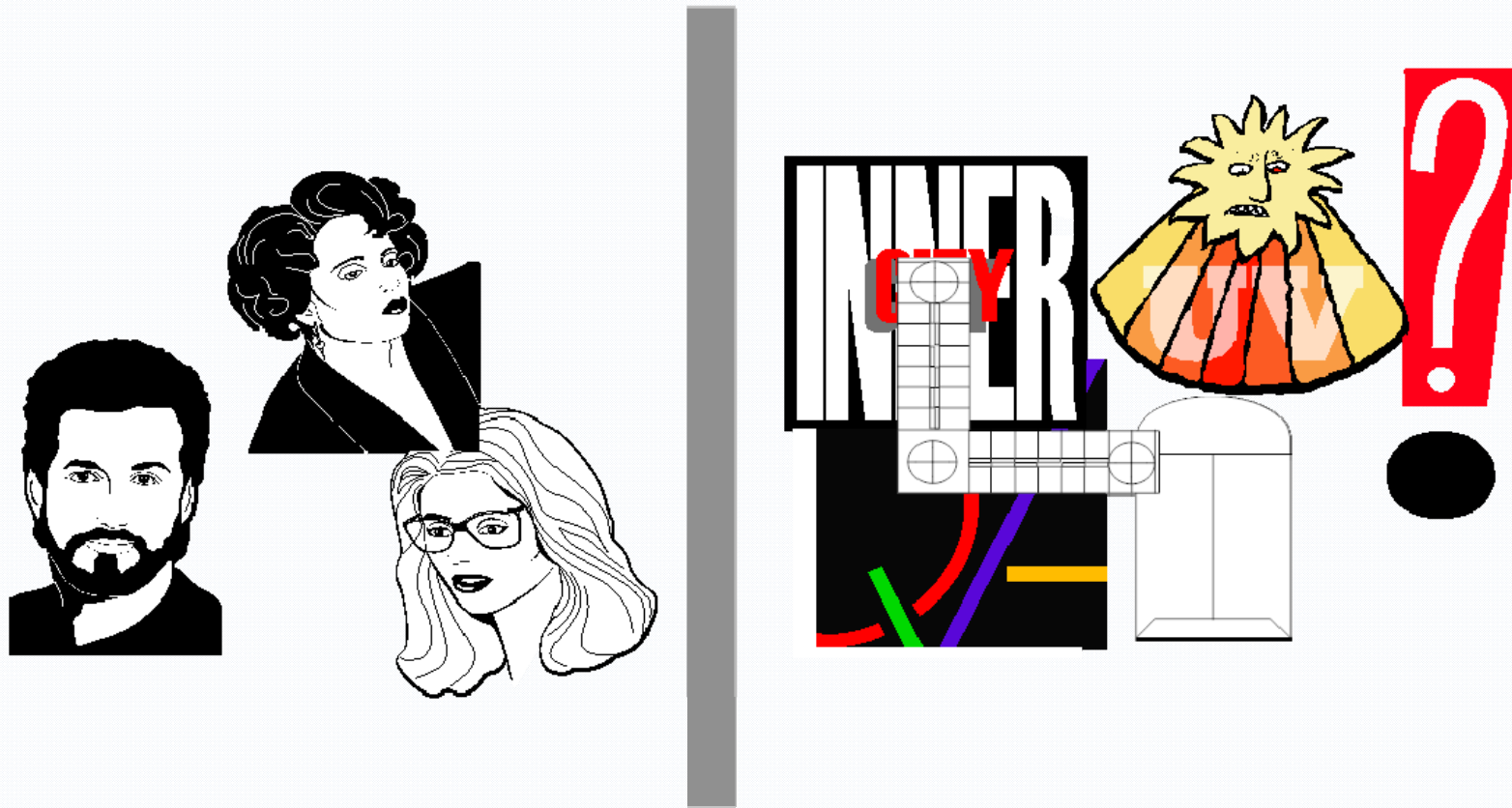
Improved health  
conditions



Increased capacity  
for planning ,  
monitoring and  
evaluation

Improved  
educational  
results





To a person with a computer,  
everything looks like data





# Some solutions

- People-centred program theory
  - Development
  - Focus and targets of change

Dart & McGarry, 2006

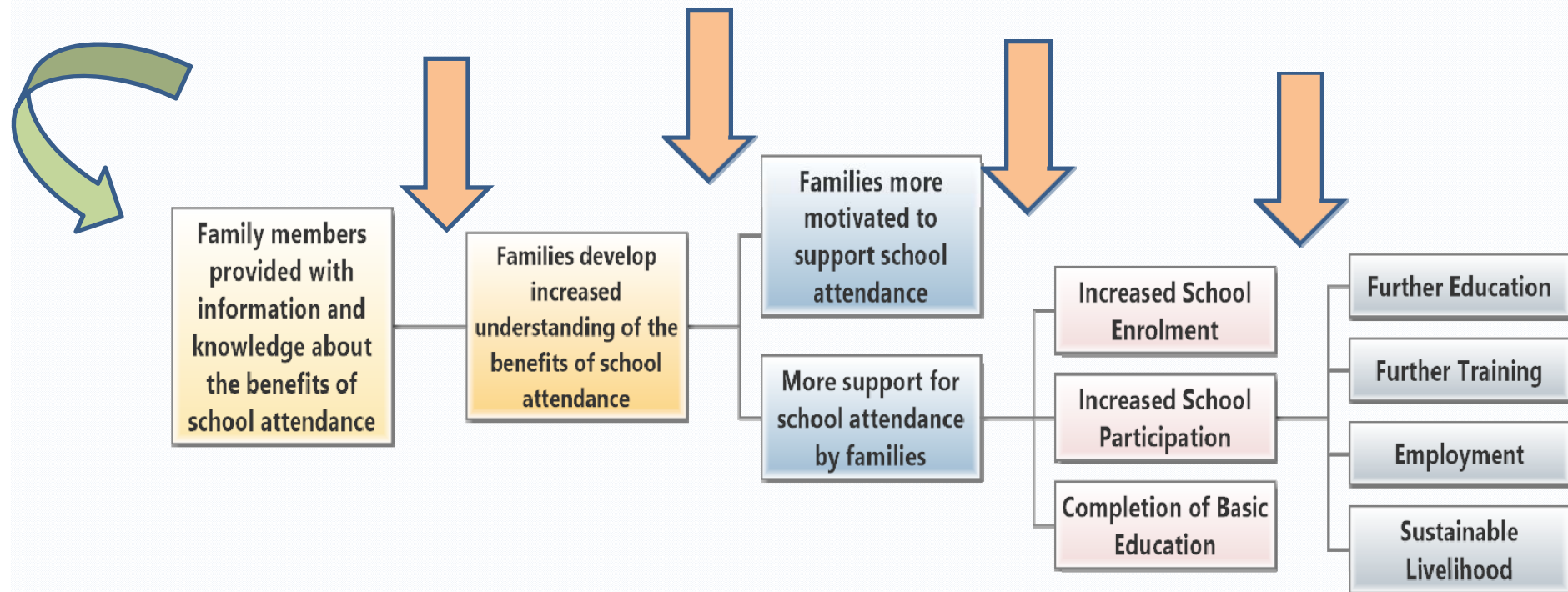
Residents in xxx  
and xxx have  
improved health  
conditions

# Assumptions



## Preconditions

## Connective





## Some solutions

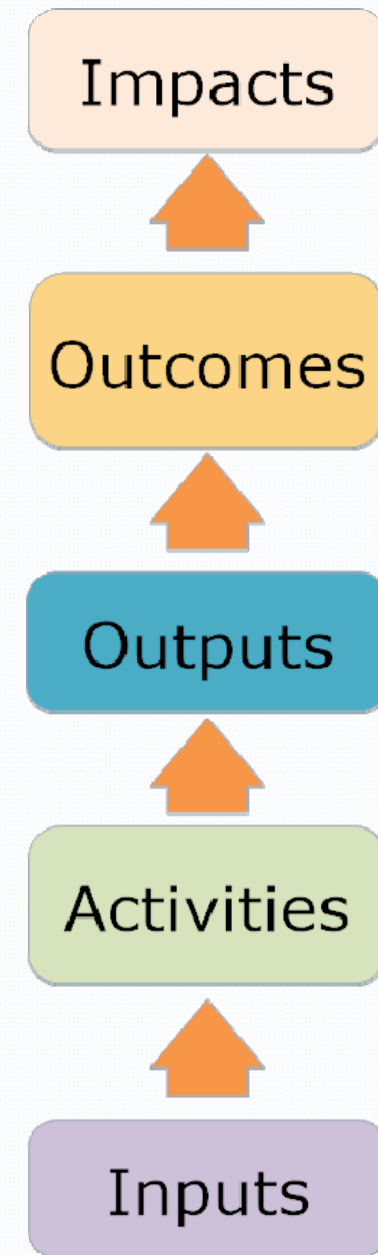
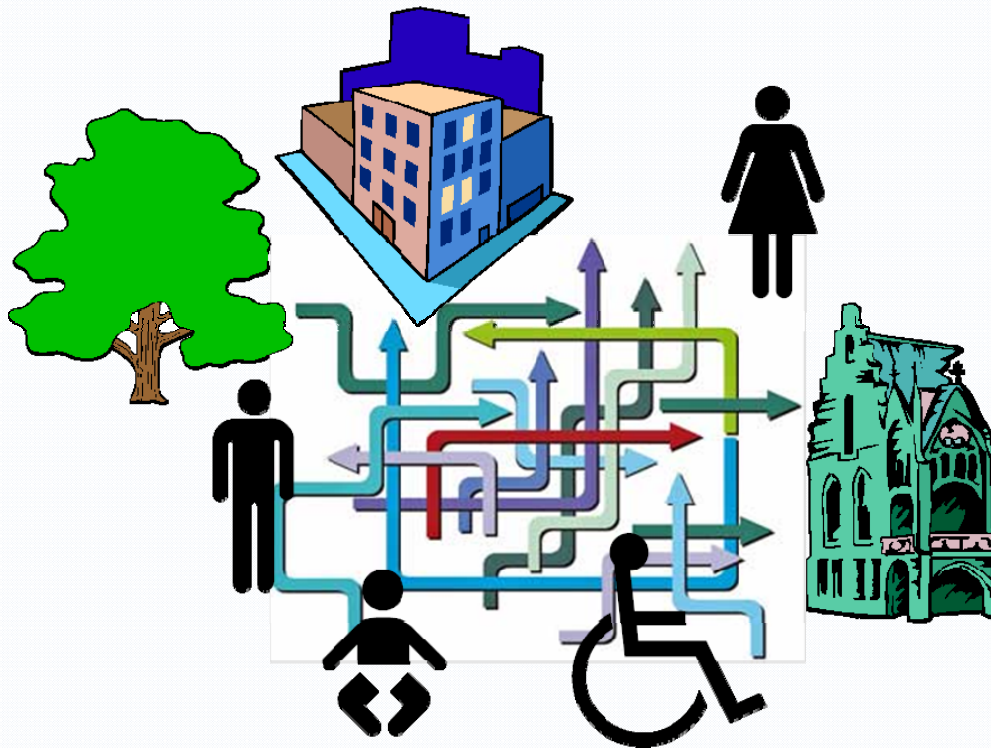
- Identify assumptions on program theory
- Prioritise & turn critical assumptions into appropriateness / relevance questions

**Assumption:** That parents are able to afford the costs of sending their children to school.

**Evaluation Question:** To what extent did affordability affect parents' ability to access school education for their children?



# What about these constructs?

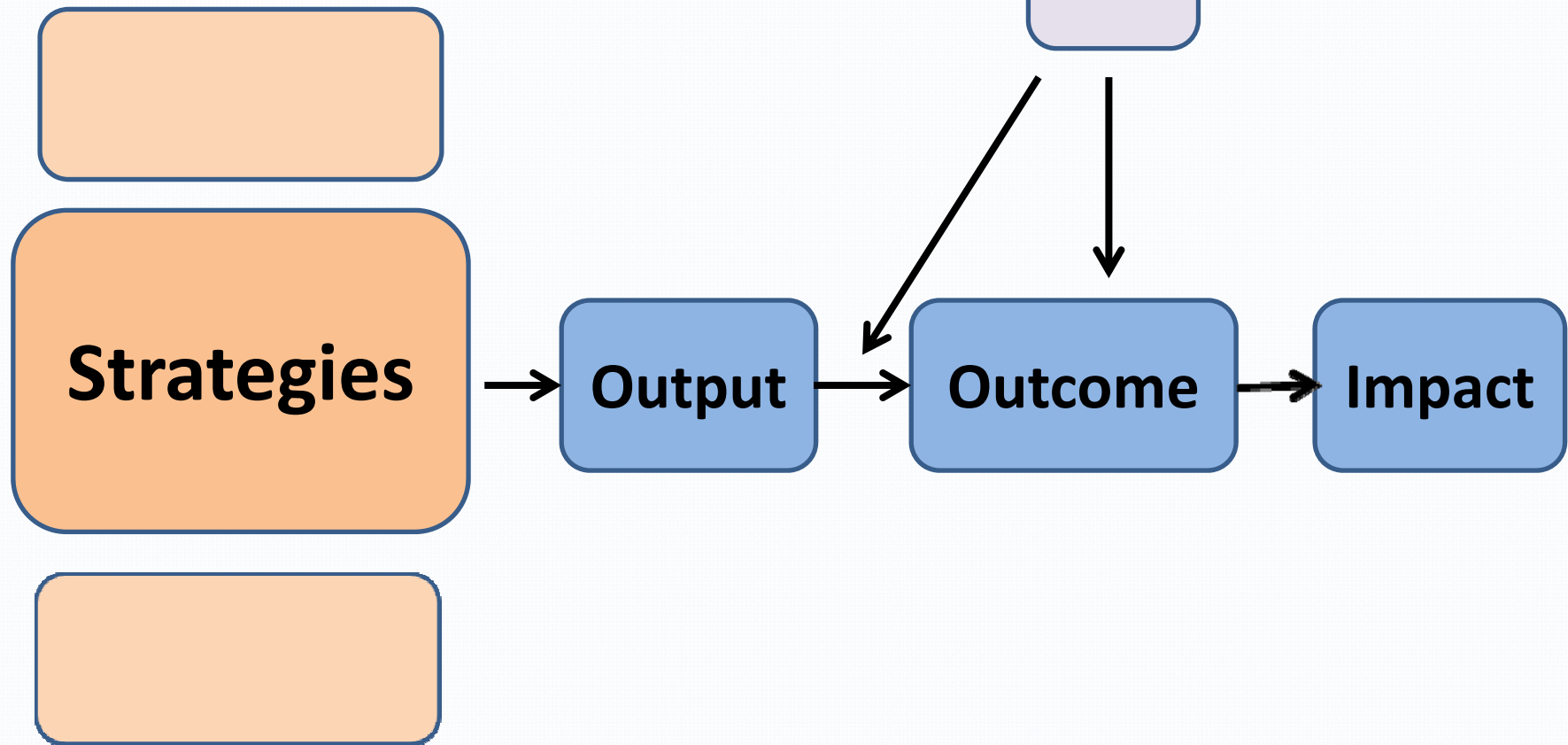




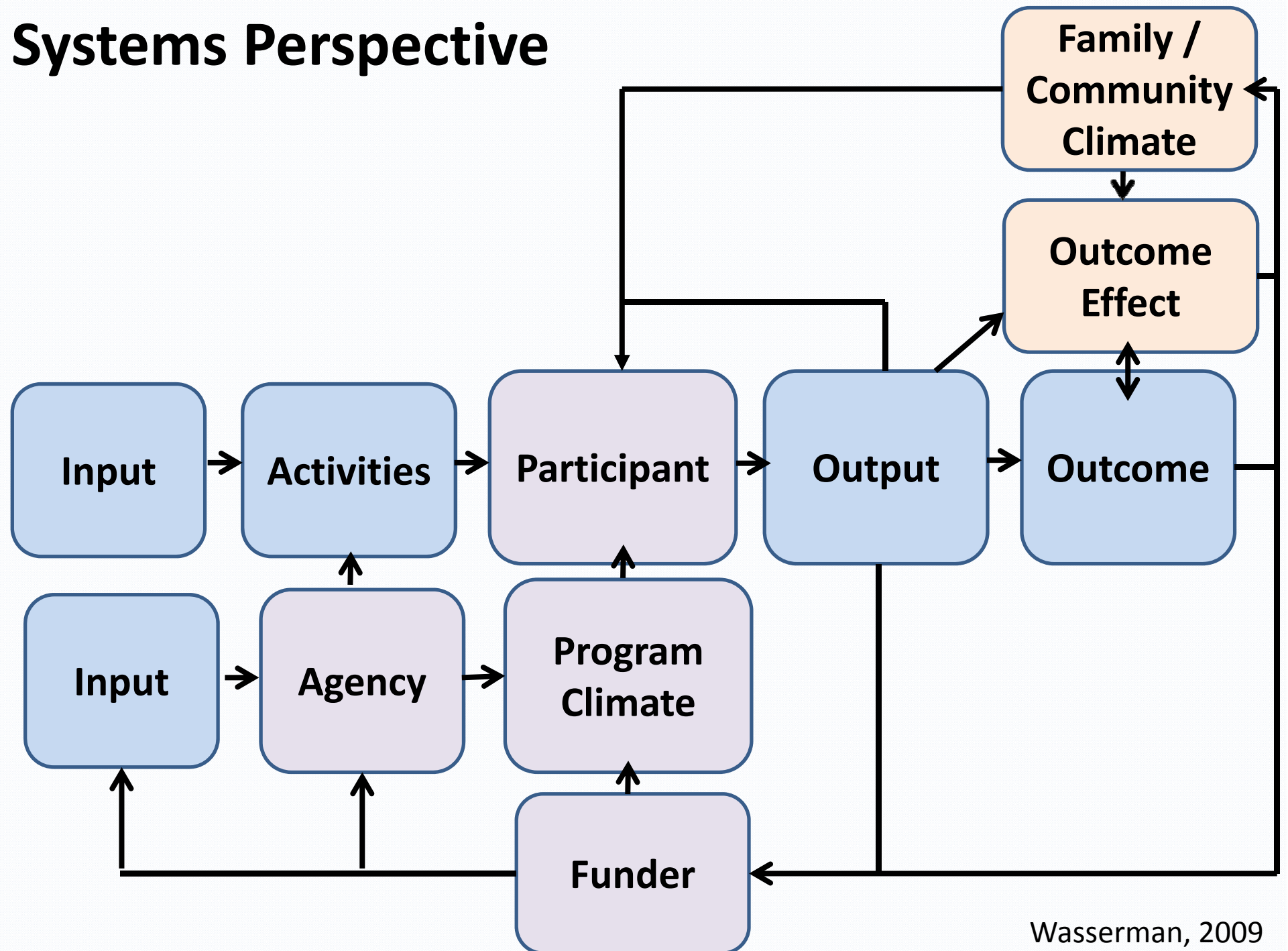


## Some solutions

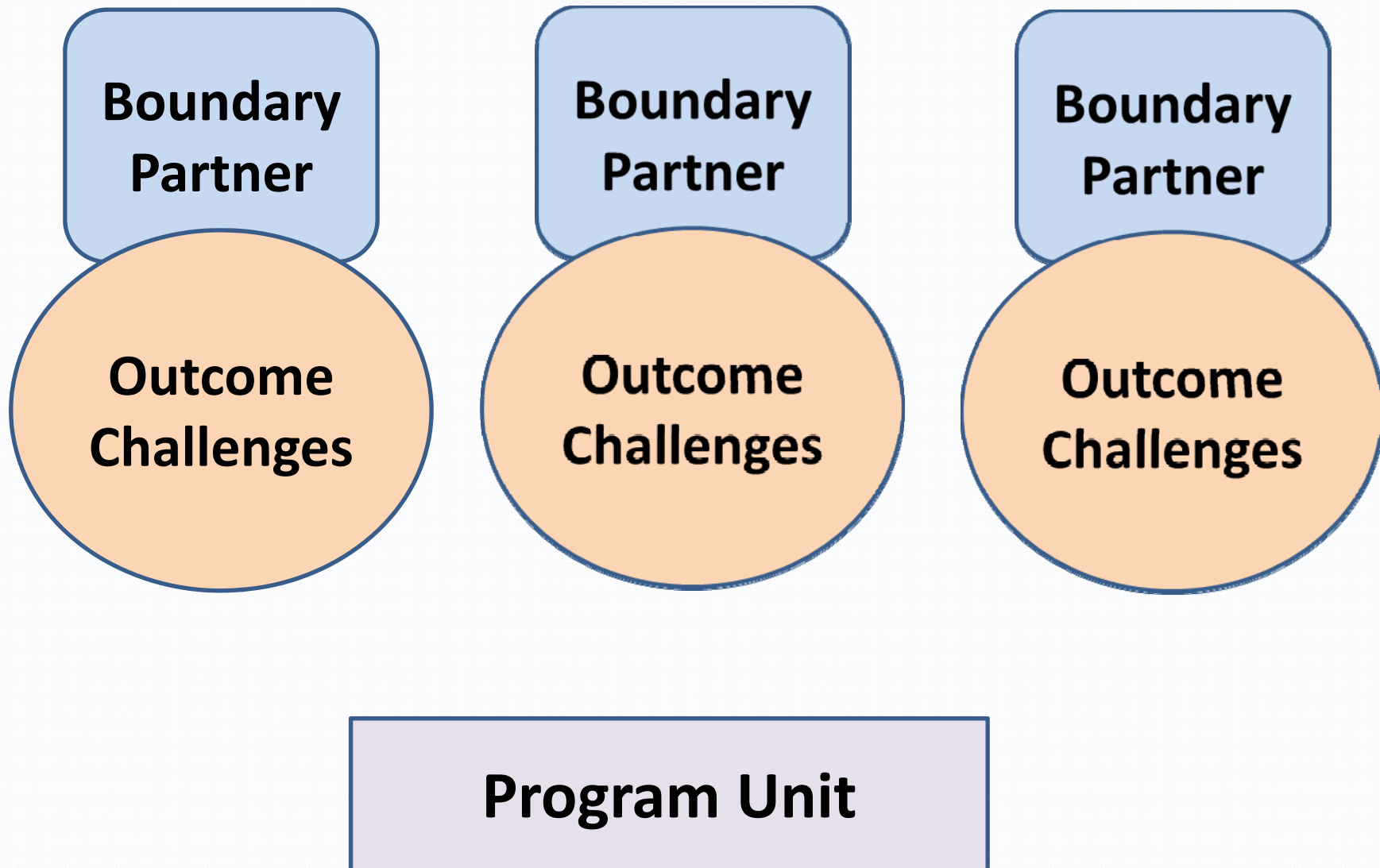
- Consider linking systemic elements to program theory / logic
- Adopt a systems approach
- Consider focusing results at level of partners rather than program



# Systems Perspective

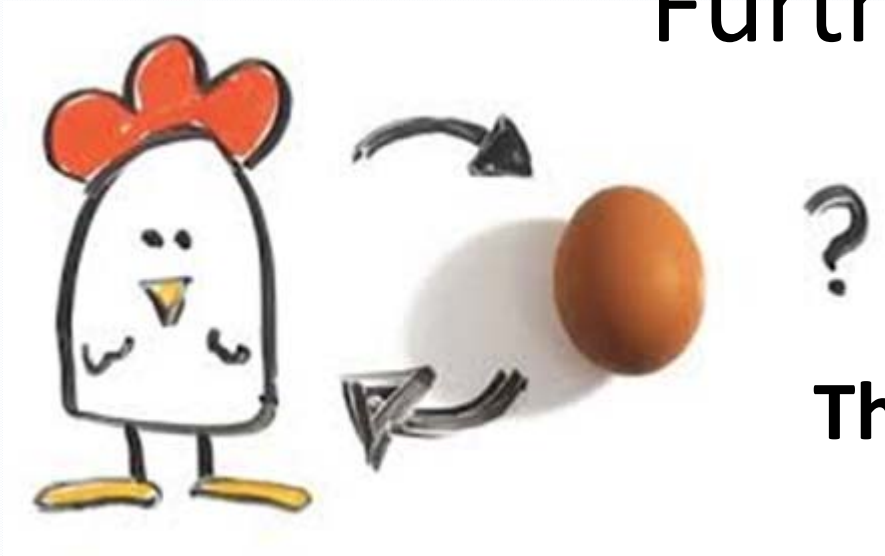


# Outcome Mapping





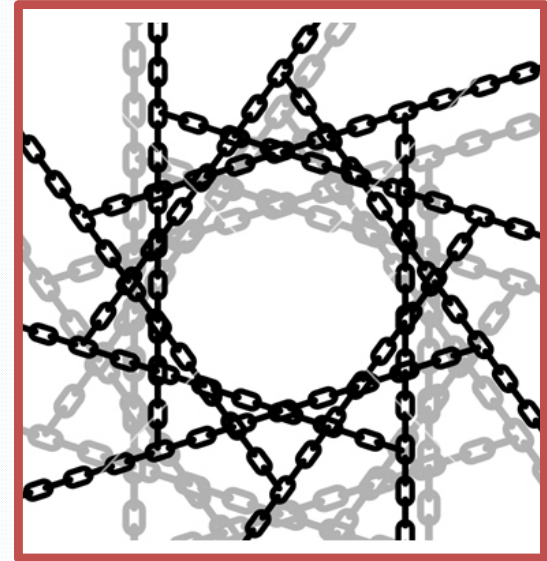
# Further considerations



**The nature of:**

- Reasoning
- Logic
- Practical reasoning
- Theoretical reasoning
- Adequacy and sufficiency
- Drawing conclusions
- Alternatives to logic

# Conclusions



- Plenty of strengths & limitations; overall useful
- Slick technical looks can obscure
- Link to other parts of evaluation practice
- Continue to refine and experiment with approach