

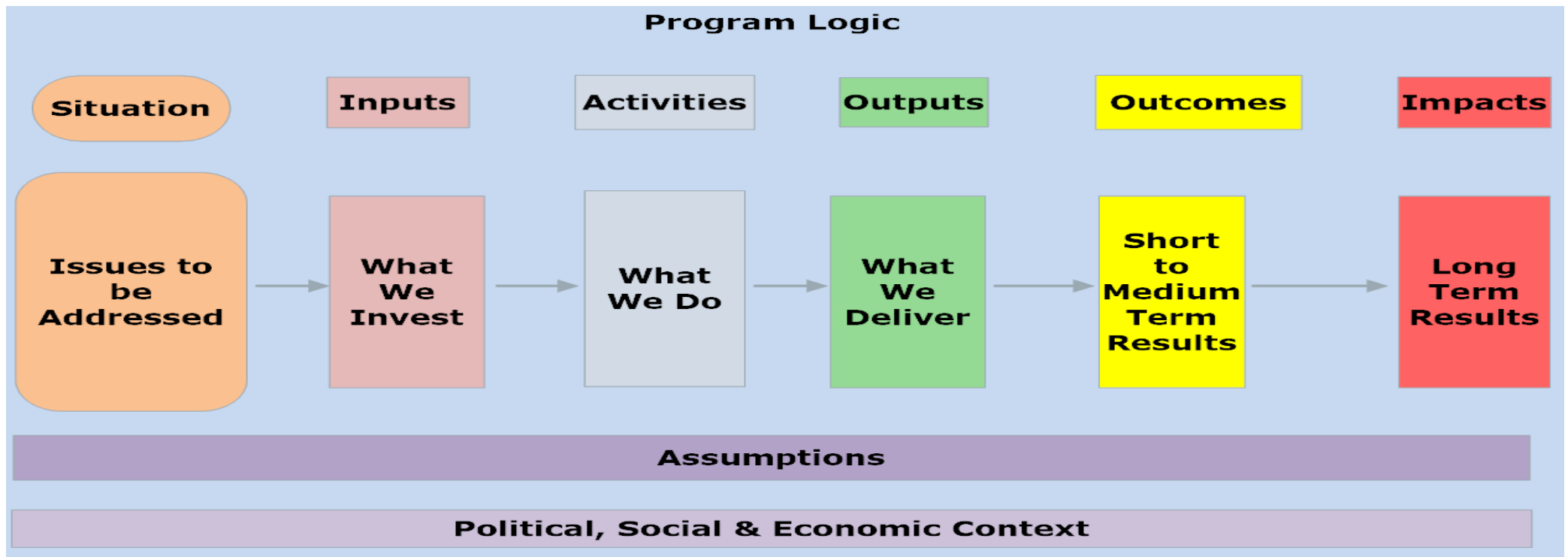
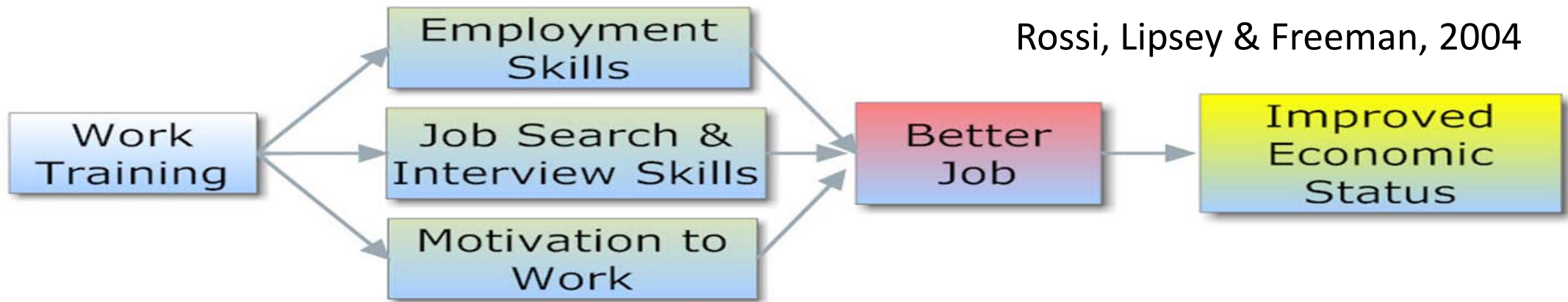


Chains of Logic: Overcoming Limitations of Program Theory and its Use in Evaluation

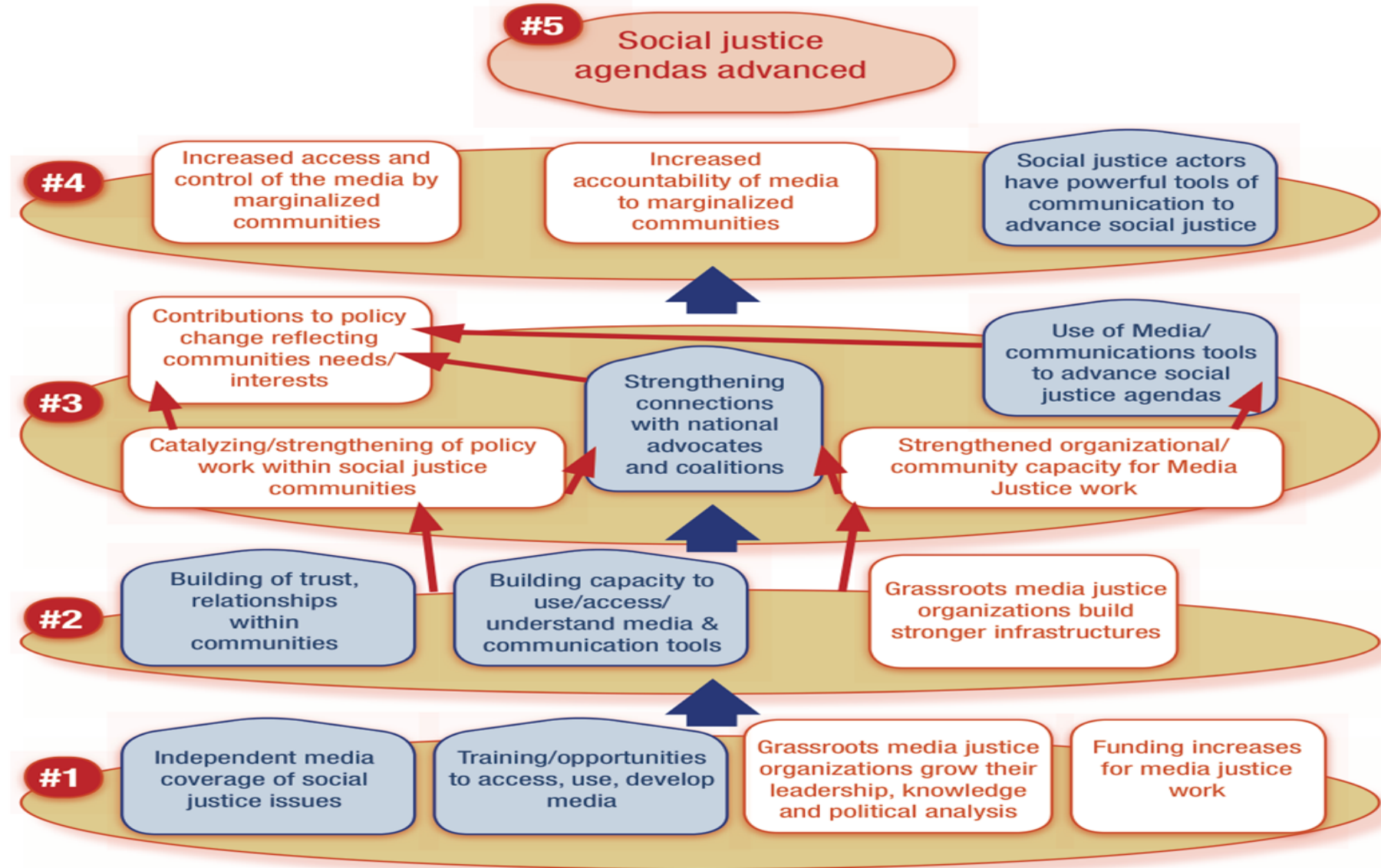
Dr. Ian Patrick

Ian Patrick & Associates

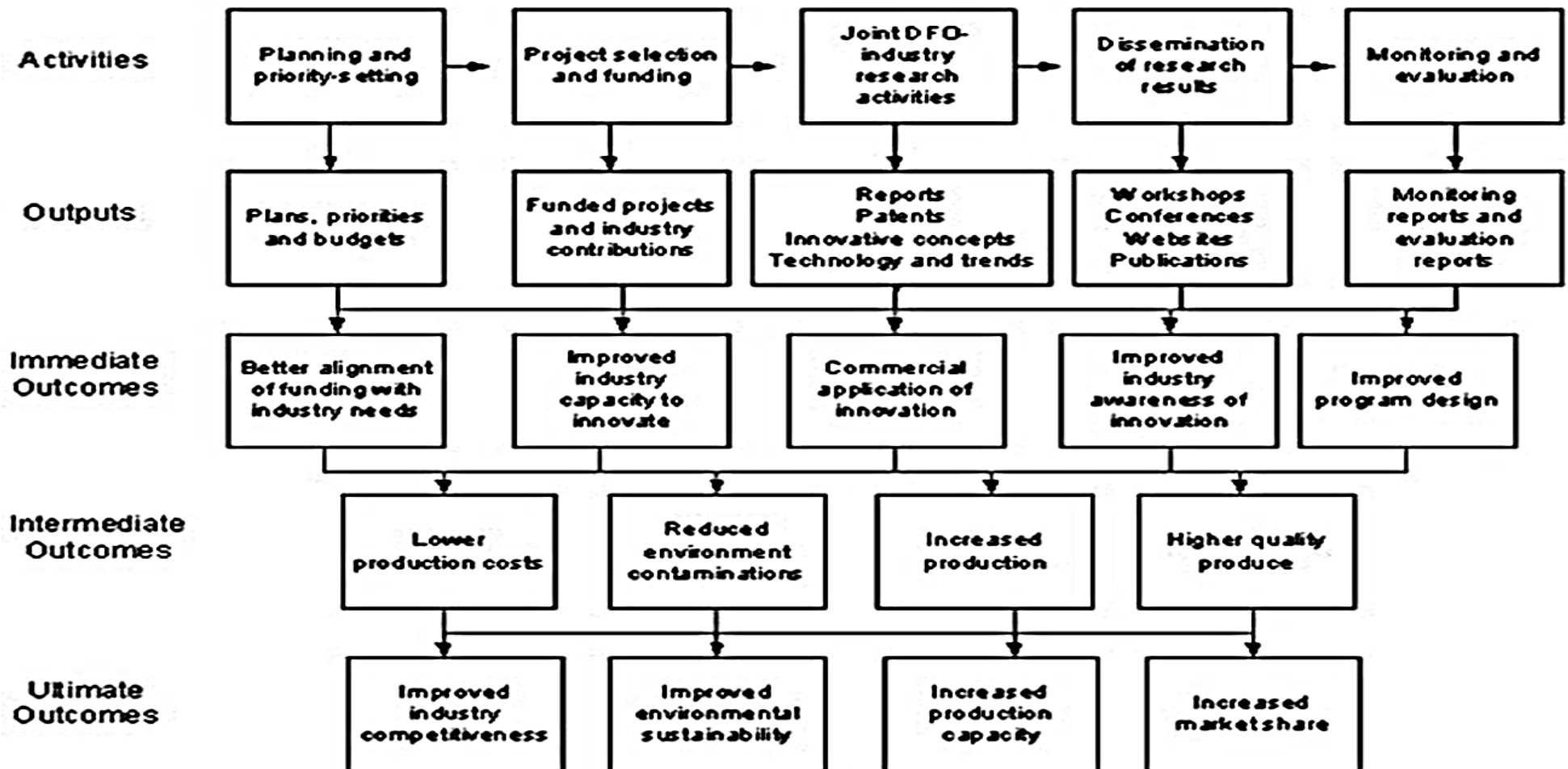
Rossi, Lipsey & Freeman, 2004

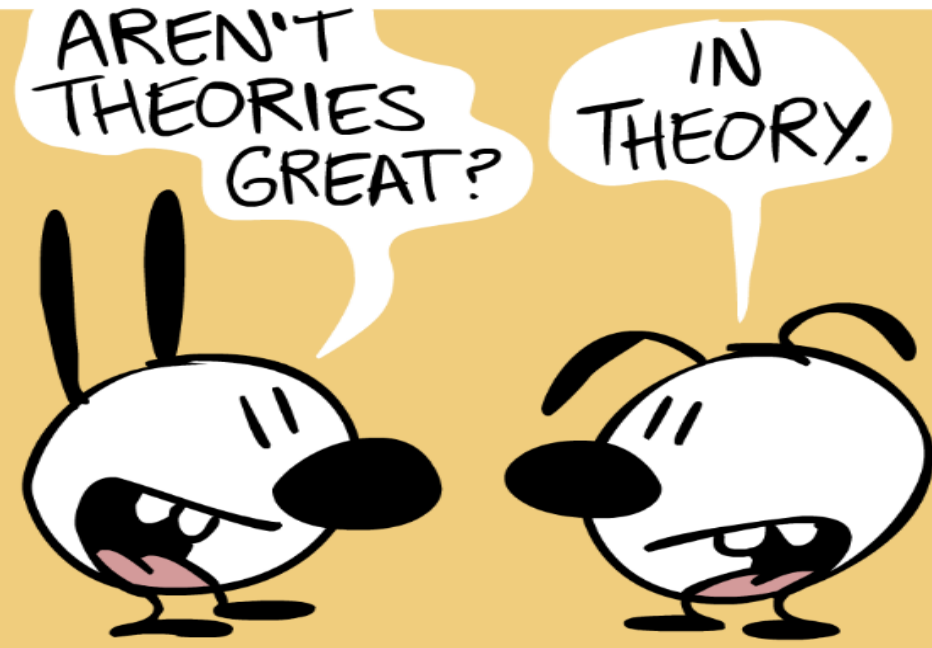


MEDIA JUSTICE FUND THEORY OF CHANGE EMERGING FROM GRANTEE PERSPECTIVES



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

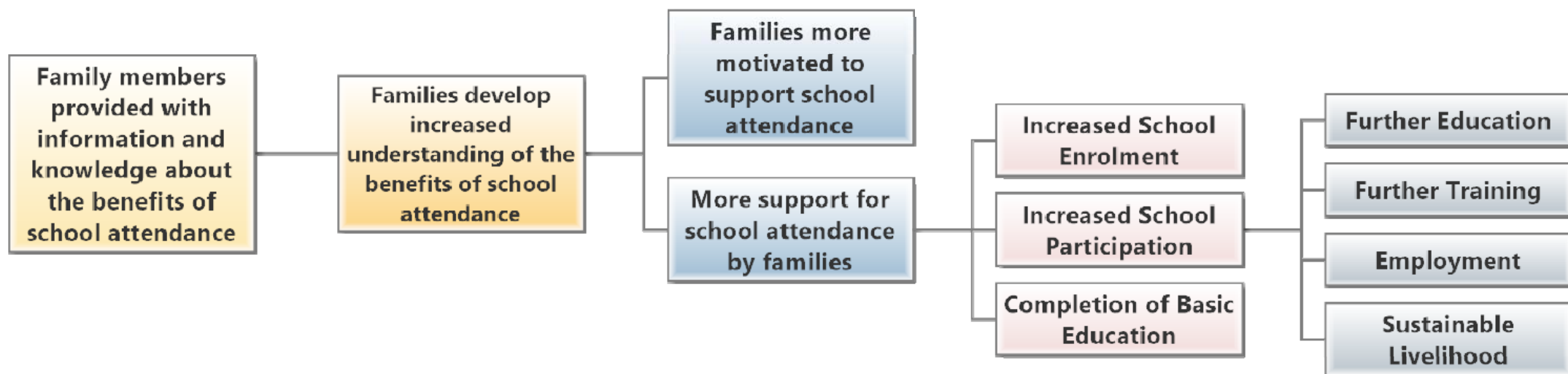
Foundational Theory

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

Theory Based Approach



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



- **Abbreviated, condensed representation**
- **Based on various forms of knowledge & understanding**
- **Whose knowledge & understanding?**
- **Could be incomplete or wrong, partially or totally**

Theories within Theories

Behavioural change theories

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

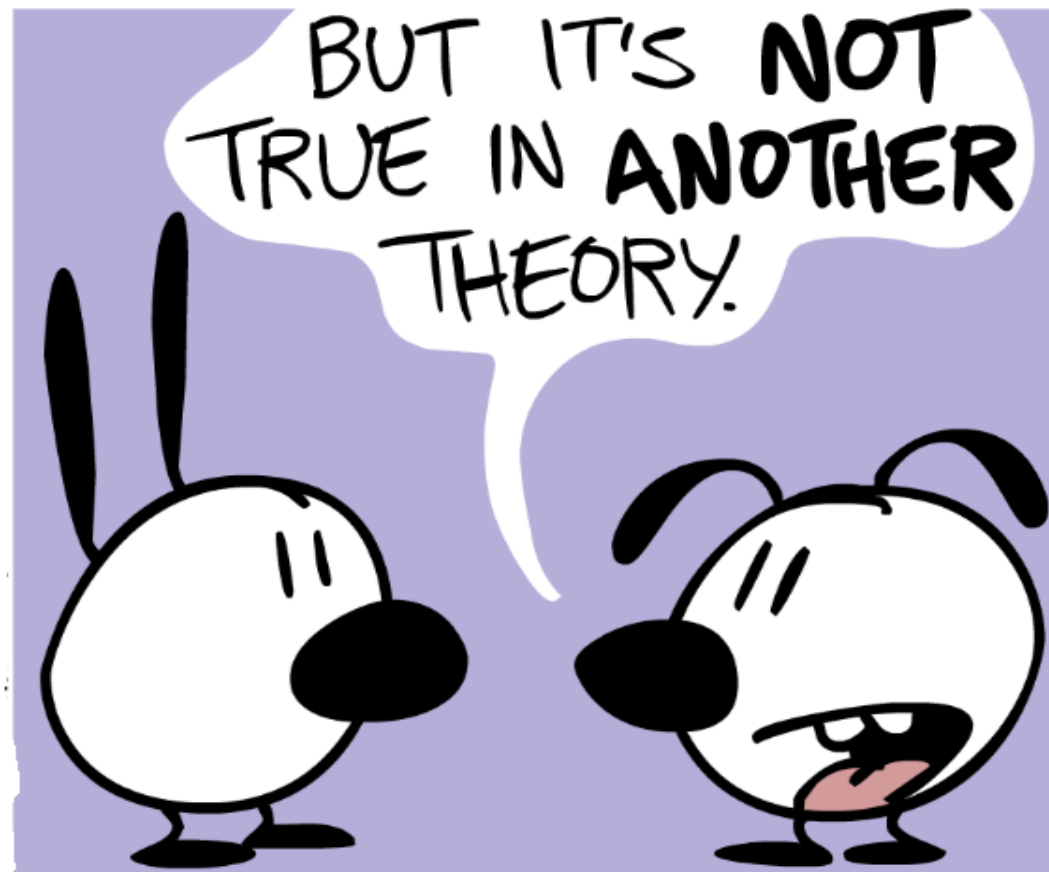
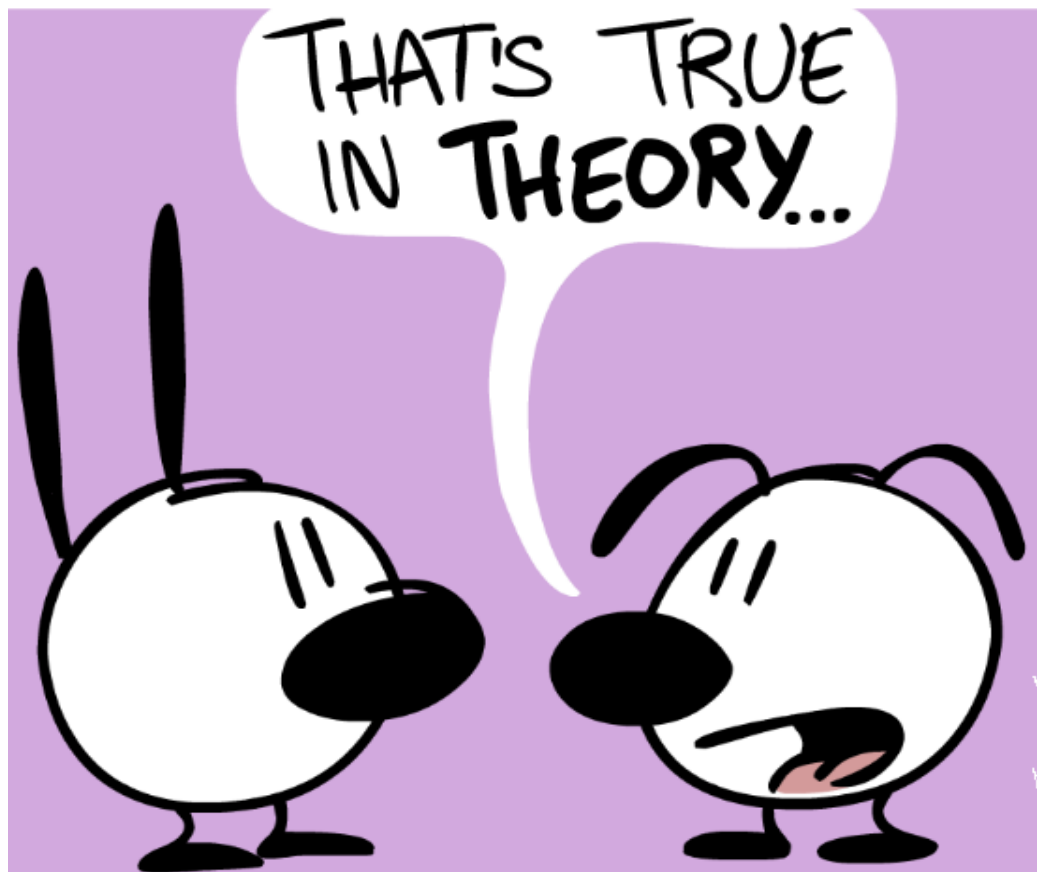
Behavioural change theories are attempts to explain why behaviours change. application of these theories in the areas of health, education, criminology, energy

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

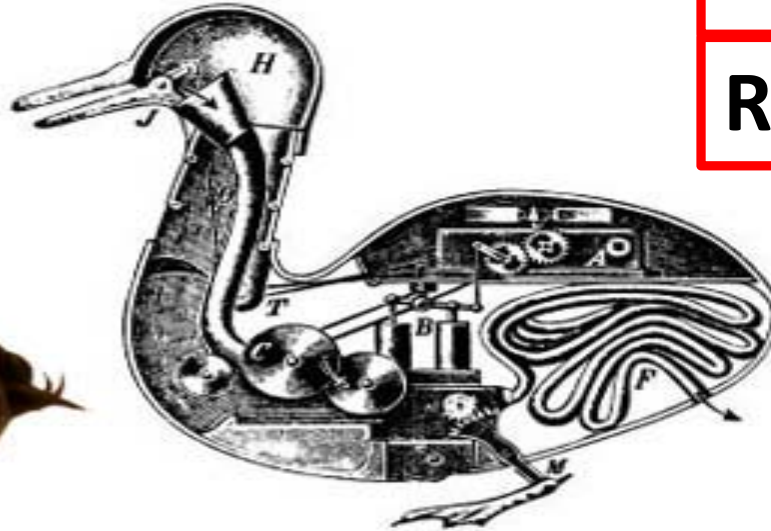
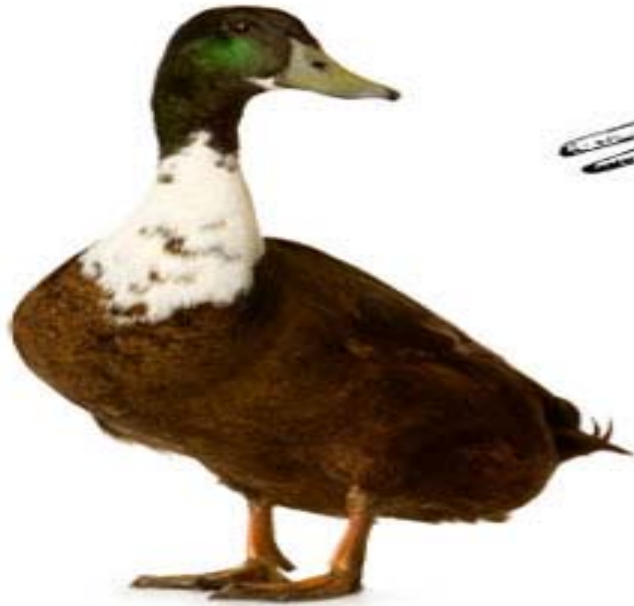
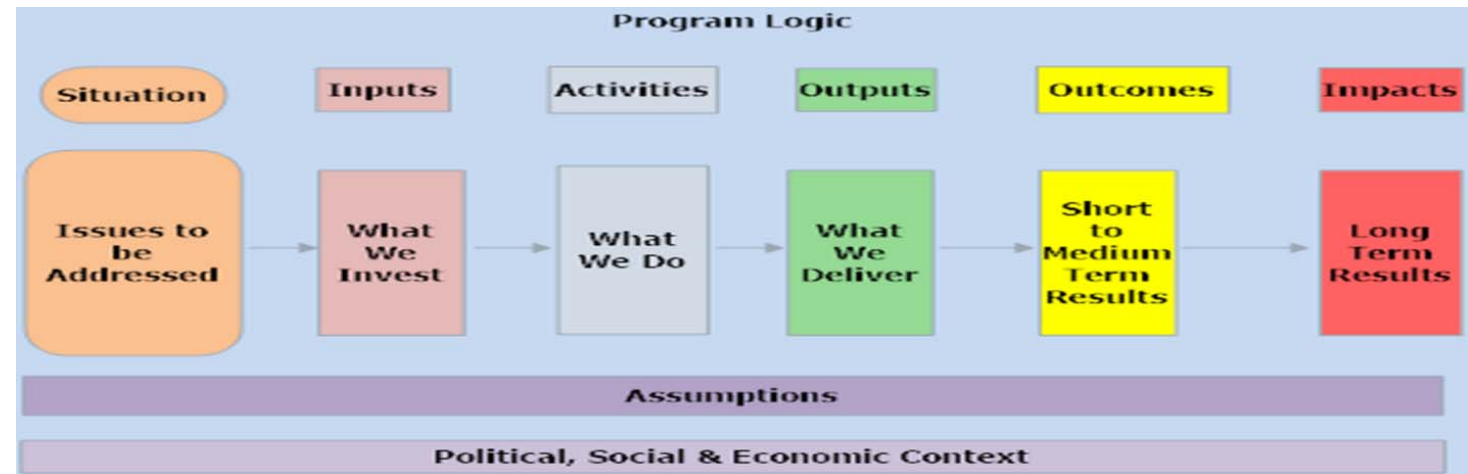
1 General theories and models

- 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



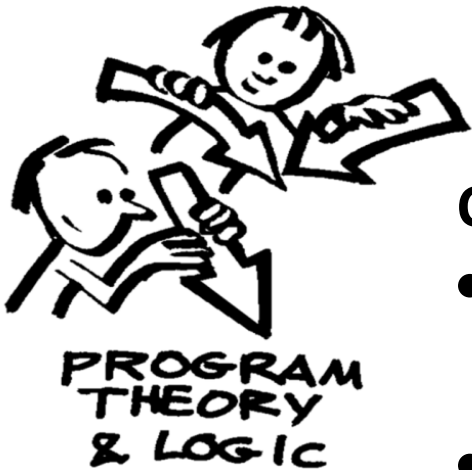
Results



Reductionism

Reification

Relevance
Effectiveness
Efficiency
Impact
Sustainability



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

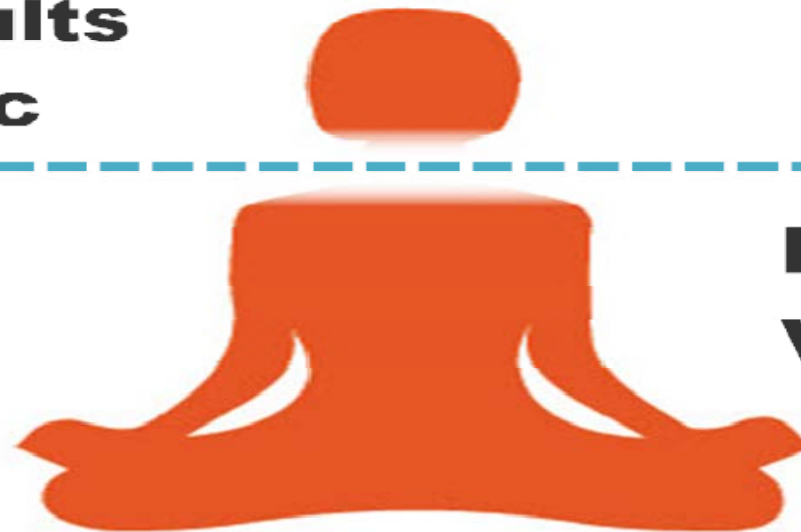
Where are the principles?

Actions

Outcomes

Results

Logic



Principles
Values

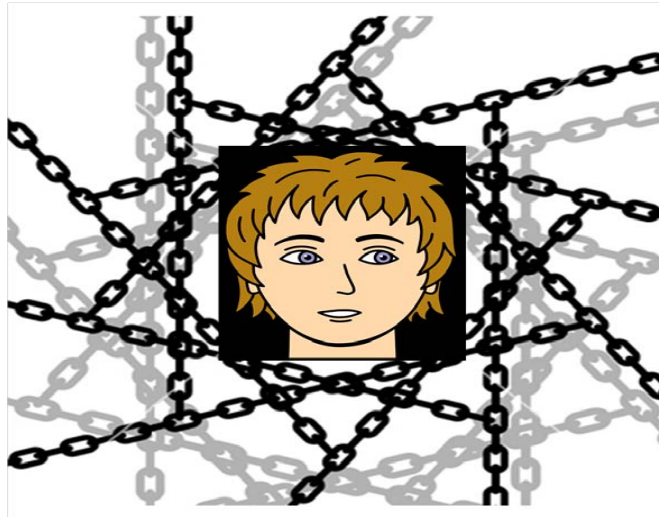


Some solutions

- 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



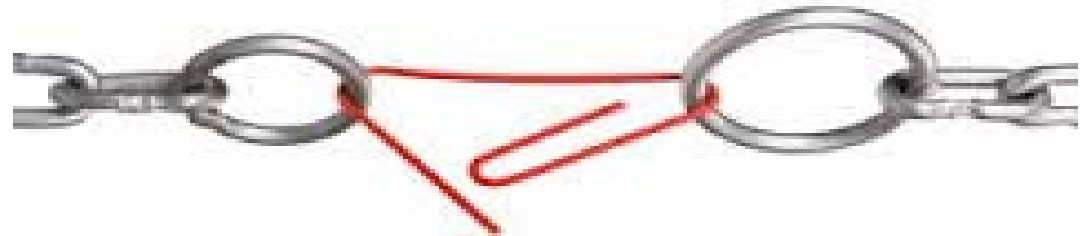
Some solutions

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

Residents in xxx
and xxx have
improved health
conditions

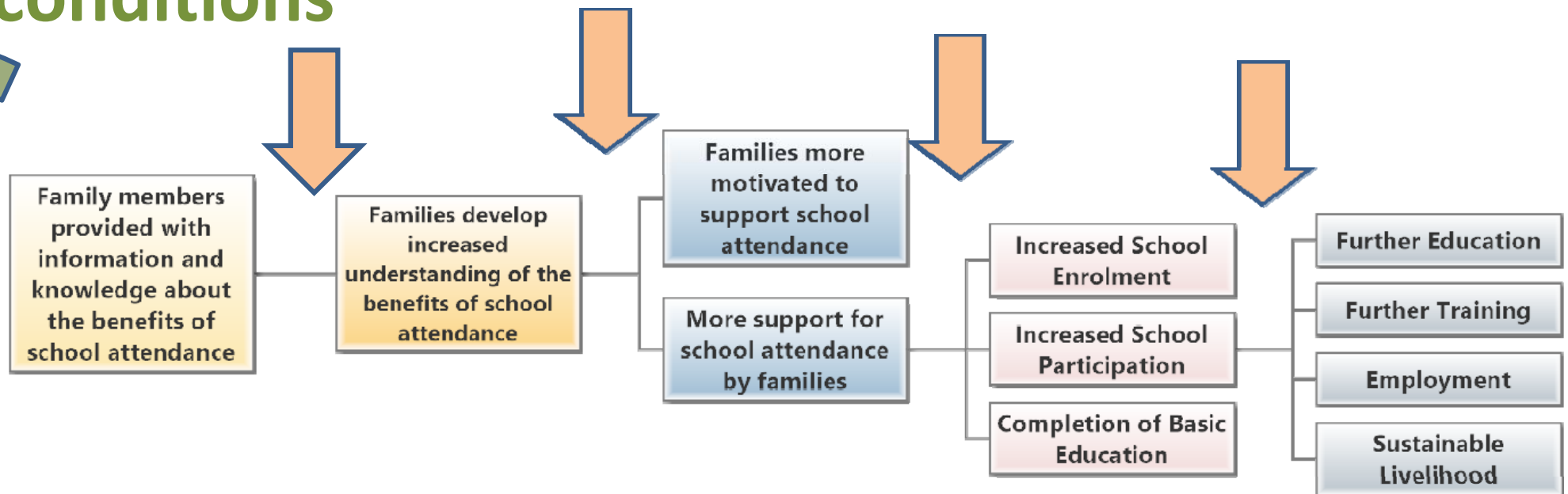
Dart & McGarry, 2006

Assumptions



Preconditions

Connective





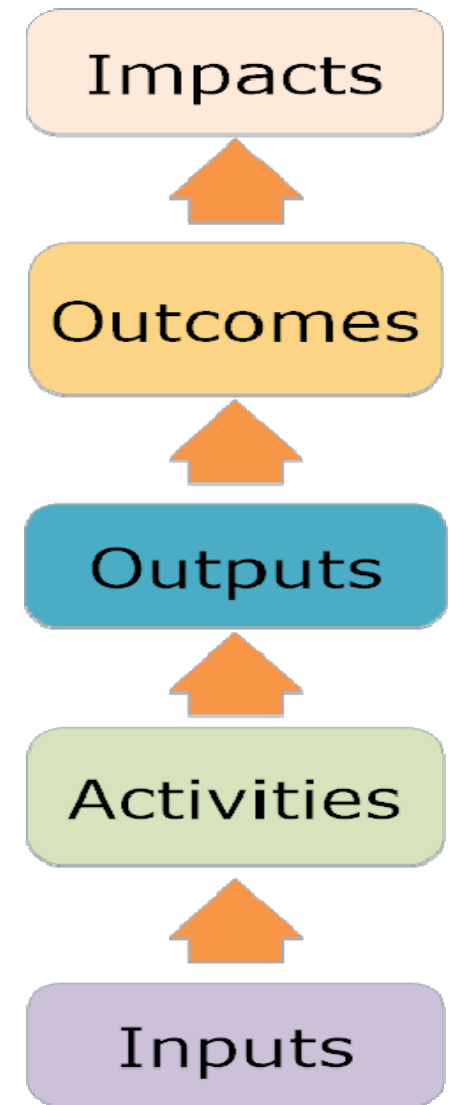
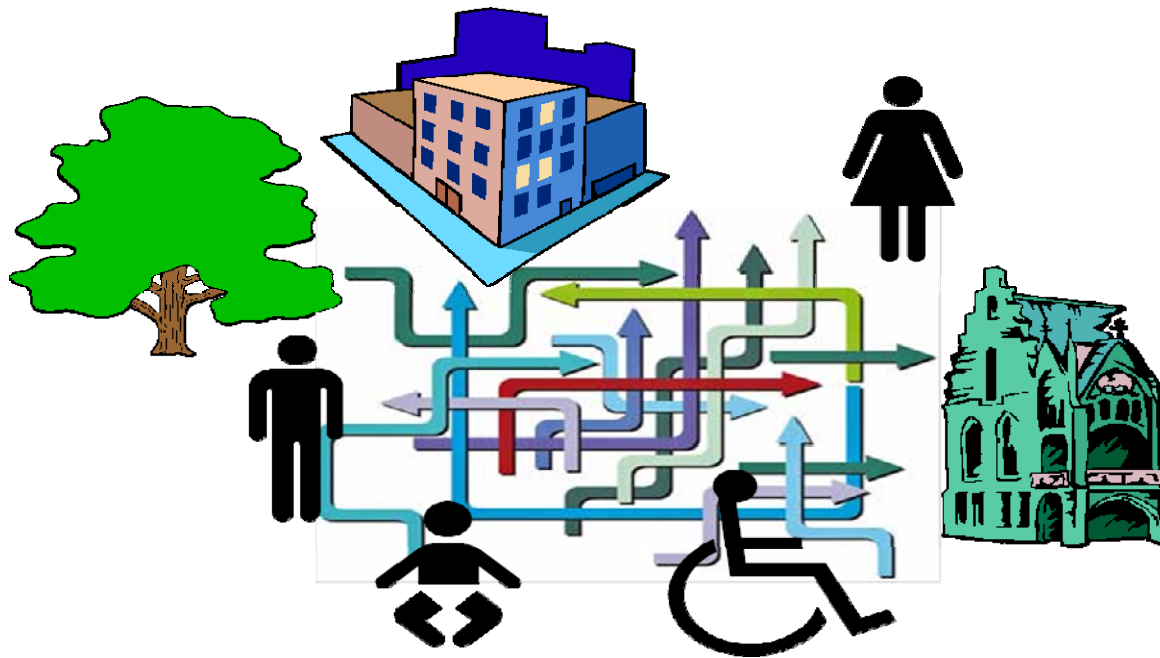
Some solutions

- 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?

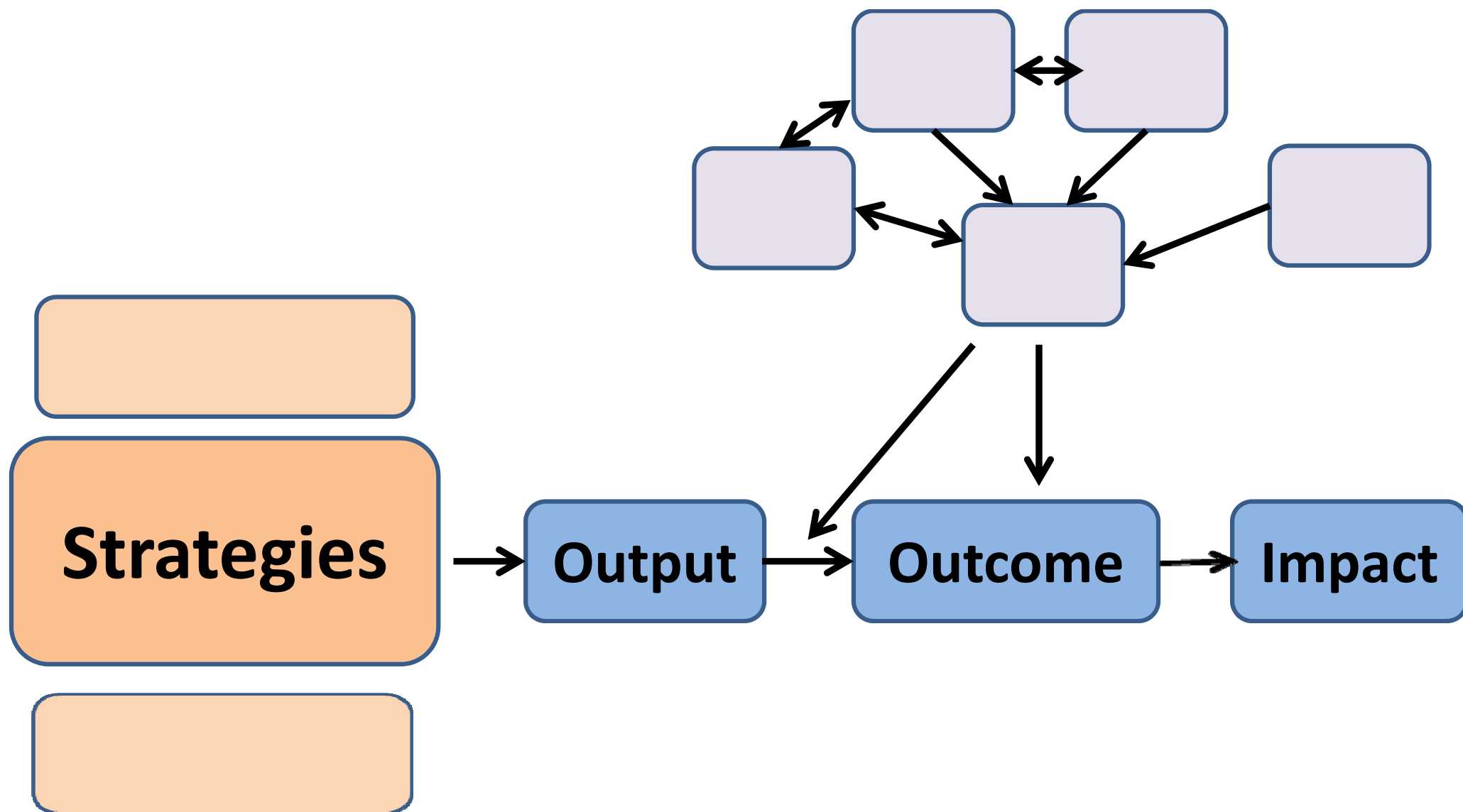


EXERCISE

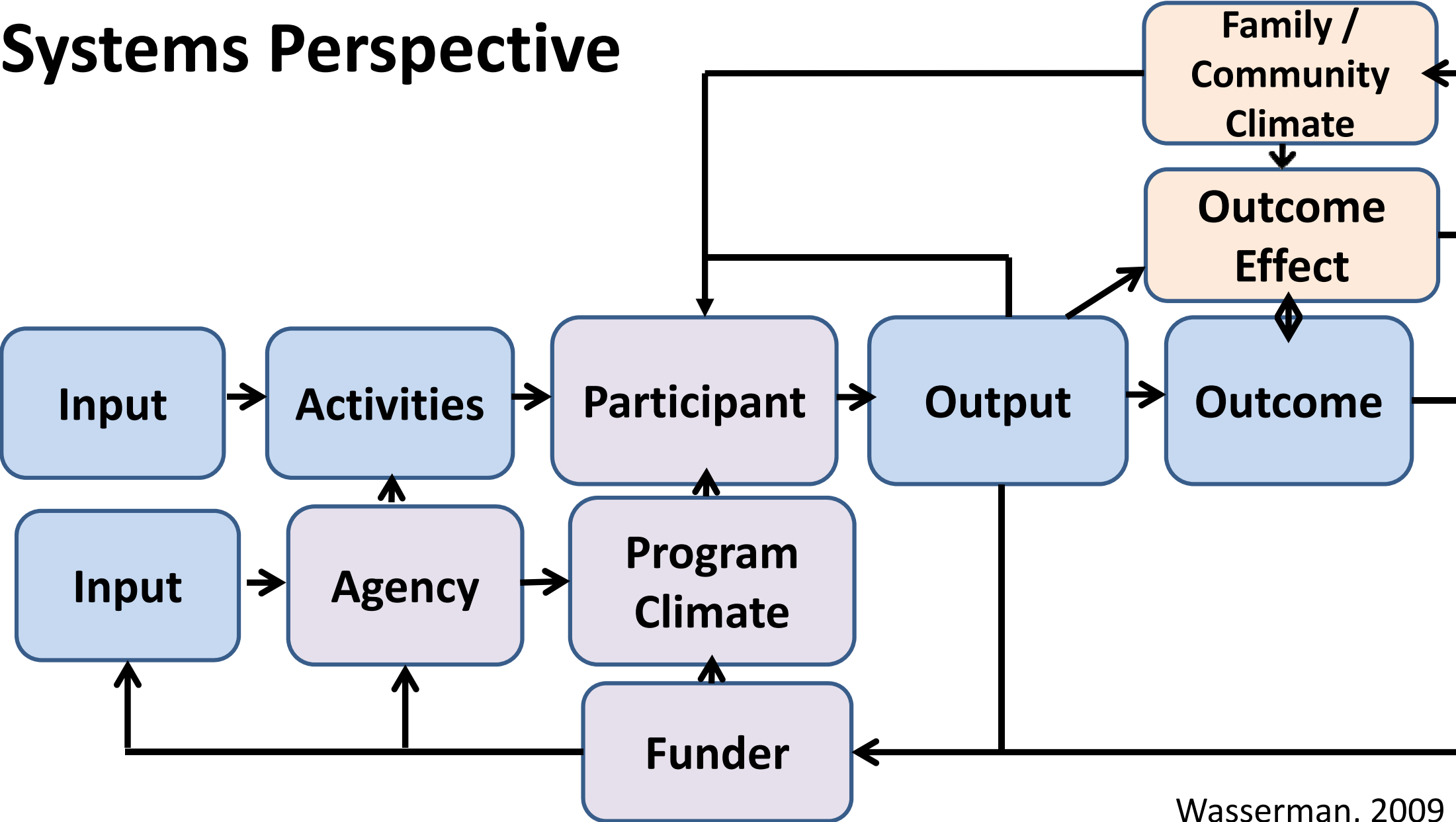


Some solutions

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

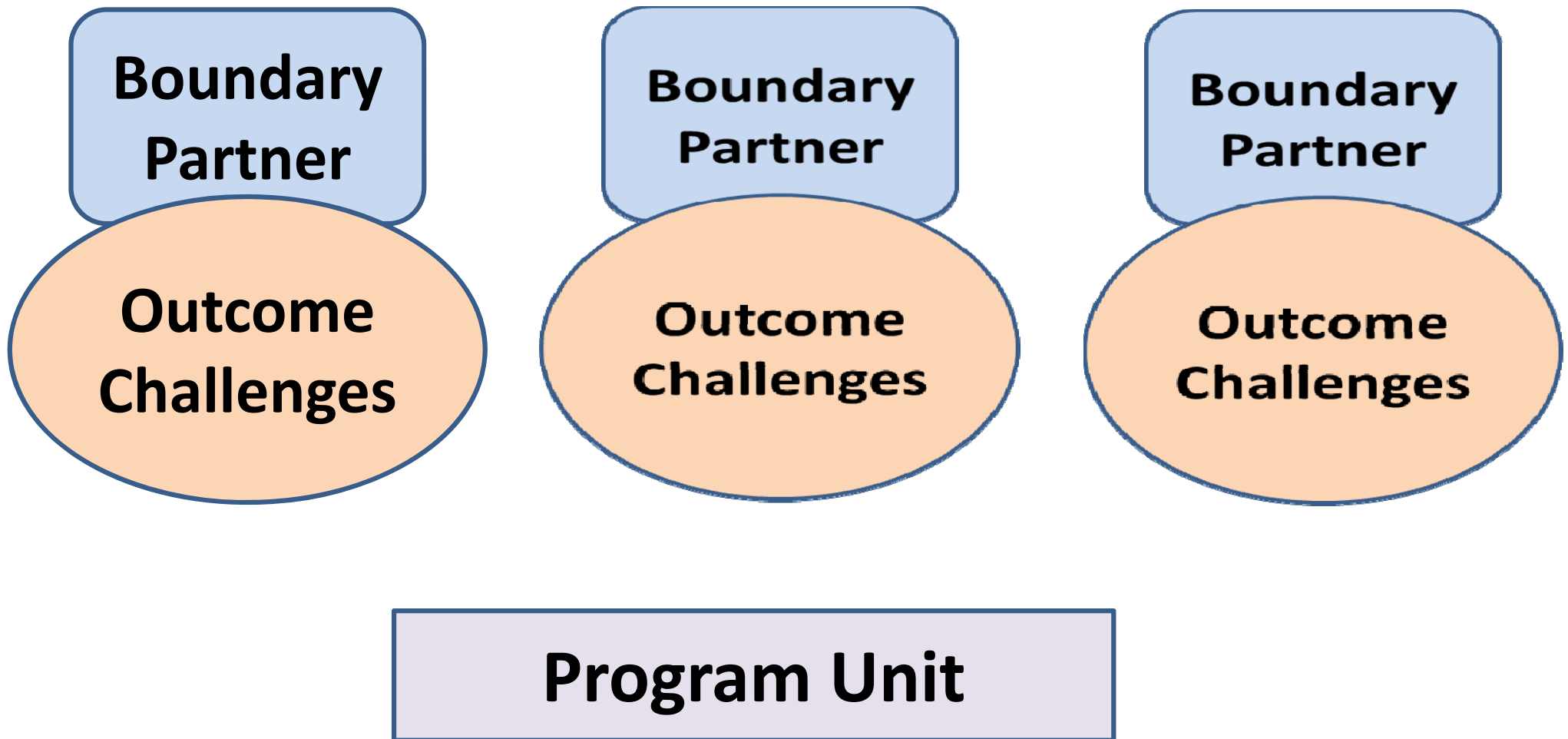


Systems Perspective

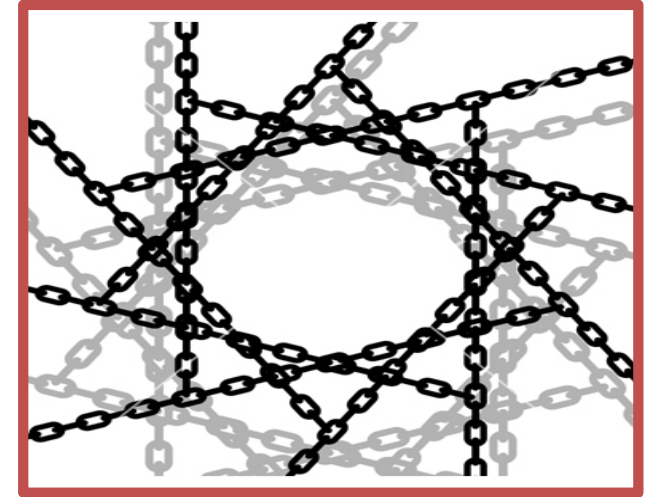


Wasserman, 2009

Outcome Mapping



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