

# Formulating the theoretical framework for my Master thesis

**Seminar for Master of Global Health students  
February 10-11, 2020**

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# Conceptual Frameworks and Conceptual Maps

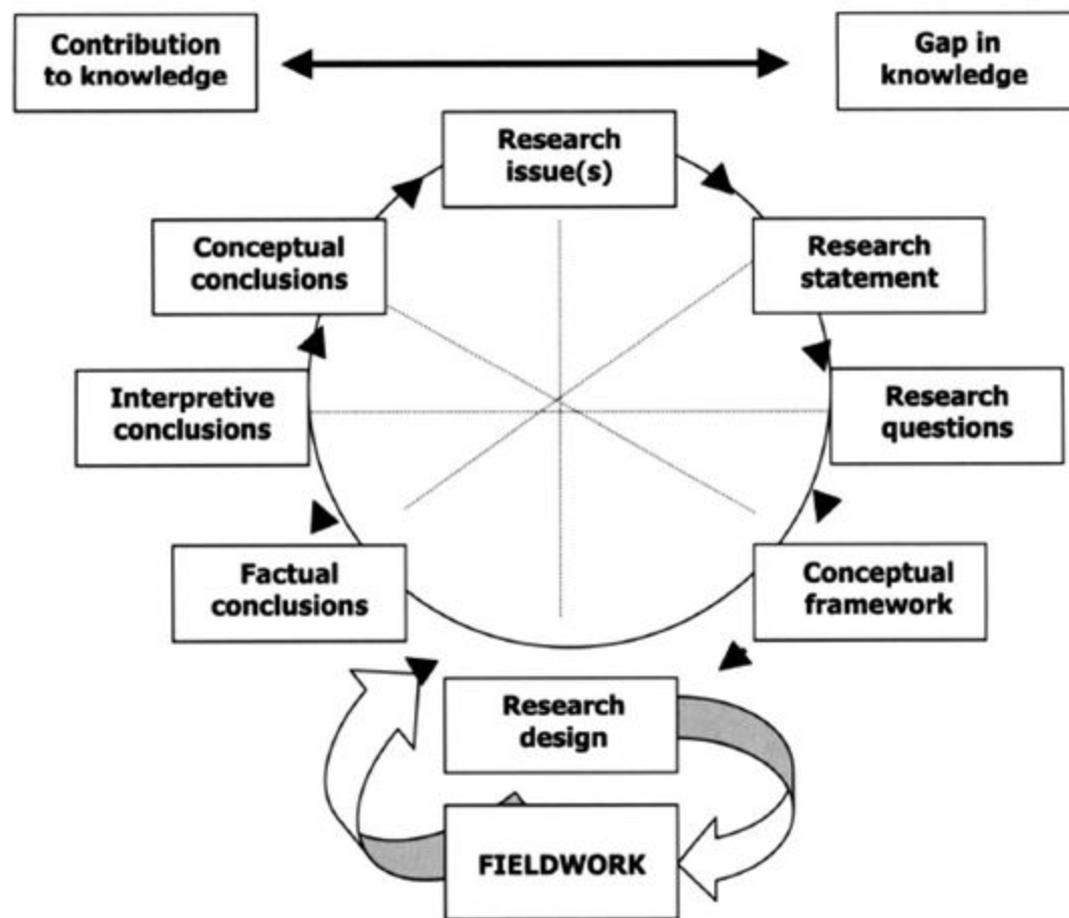
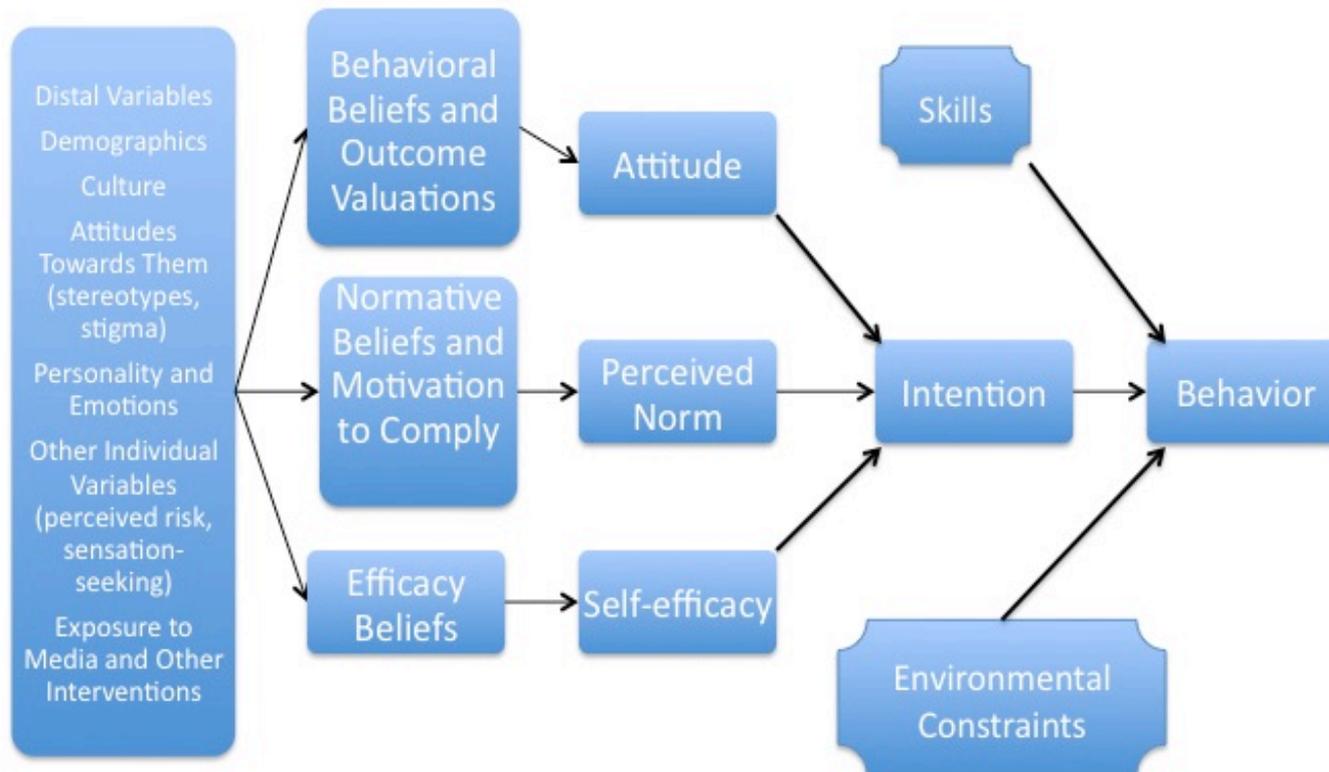


Figure 2. Visualising the doctoral research process

# Why bother with a theoretical framework?

- Explains and predicts relationships, events, behaviour
- Provides a context for examining a problem
- Provides an overview of interrelated concepts
- Provides a rationale for developing hypotheses
- Serves as a guide to systematically identify relationships between variables

# An Integrative Model of Behavior Prediction



Fishbein, M. & Yzer, M.C. (2003). Using theory to design effective health behavior interventions. *Communication Theory*;13:164-183.

## Framework = Big picture

- ✓ Rationale for predictions about relationships among the variables in your data
- ✓ Simplicity, best as one visual
- ✓ Get feedback from peers, supervisor

# Where do I find my framework?

# Where do I find my framework?

1. In other publications that are part of your background
2. Create your own (harder than it looks)
3. Put in the keywords into a search engine:

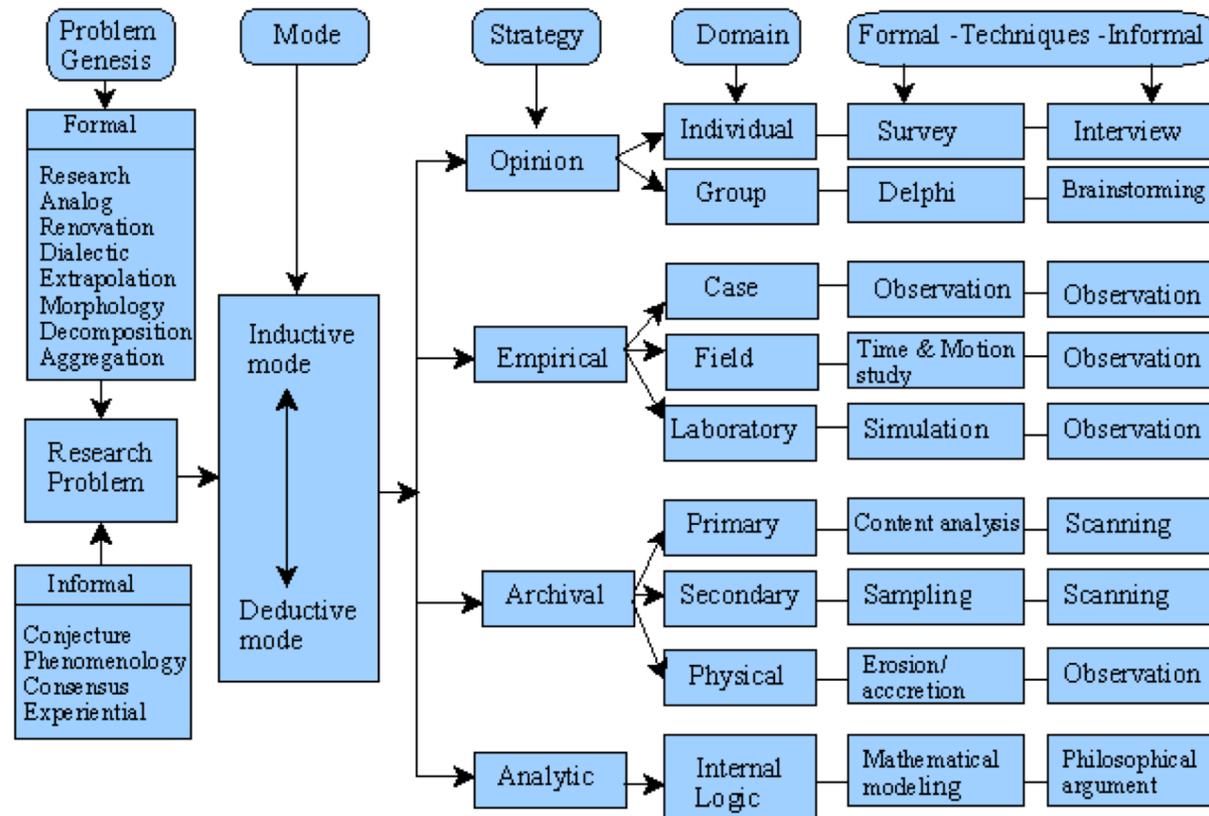


## If you use an existing model/framework...

- Use the original **title** and **reference** the original source
- Do not change or DELETE the parts you are not studying
- Your thesis will not cover the entire model, but a part
- Do not mix and match models or frameworks, stick to one that fits best

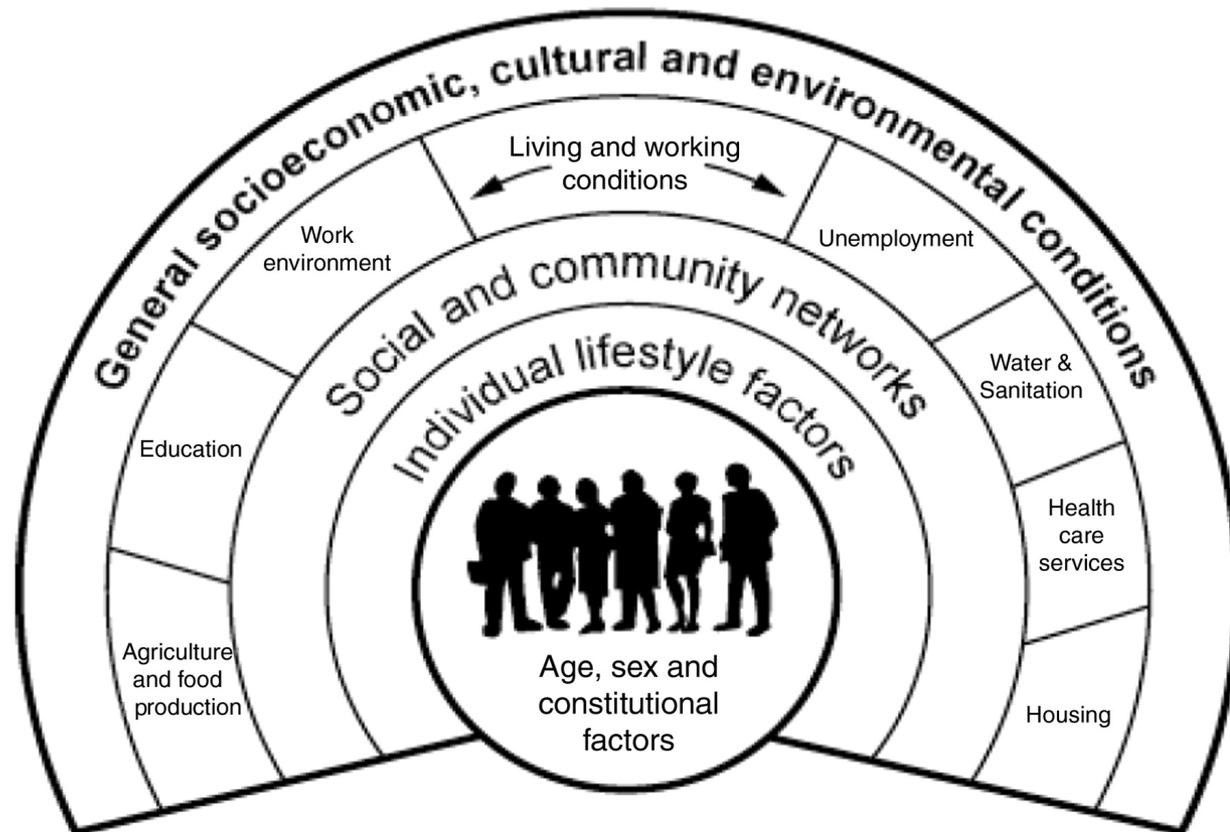
# Example of a poor model/framework

A Framework for Research Methodology\*



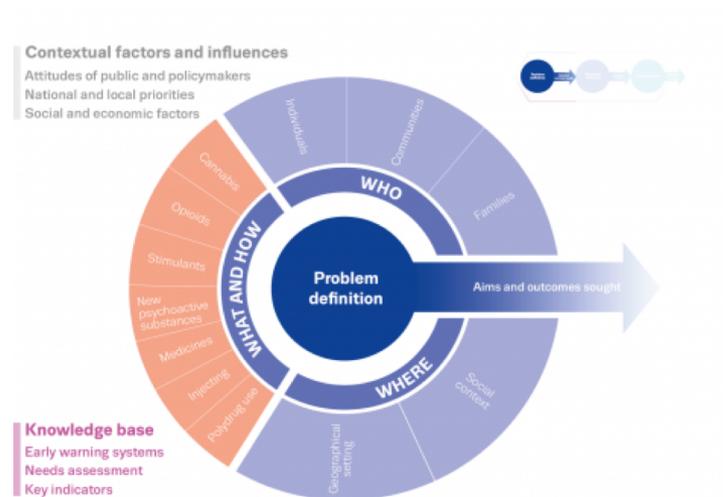
\* Adapted from Buckley, Buckley & Chiang Exhibit 1, p. 15.

# Example of a good choice for a model



**Determinants of Health by Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1992**

# Problems with this framework?



### Contextual factors and influences

Attitudes of public and policymakers  
National and local priorities  
Social and economic factors



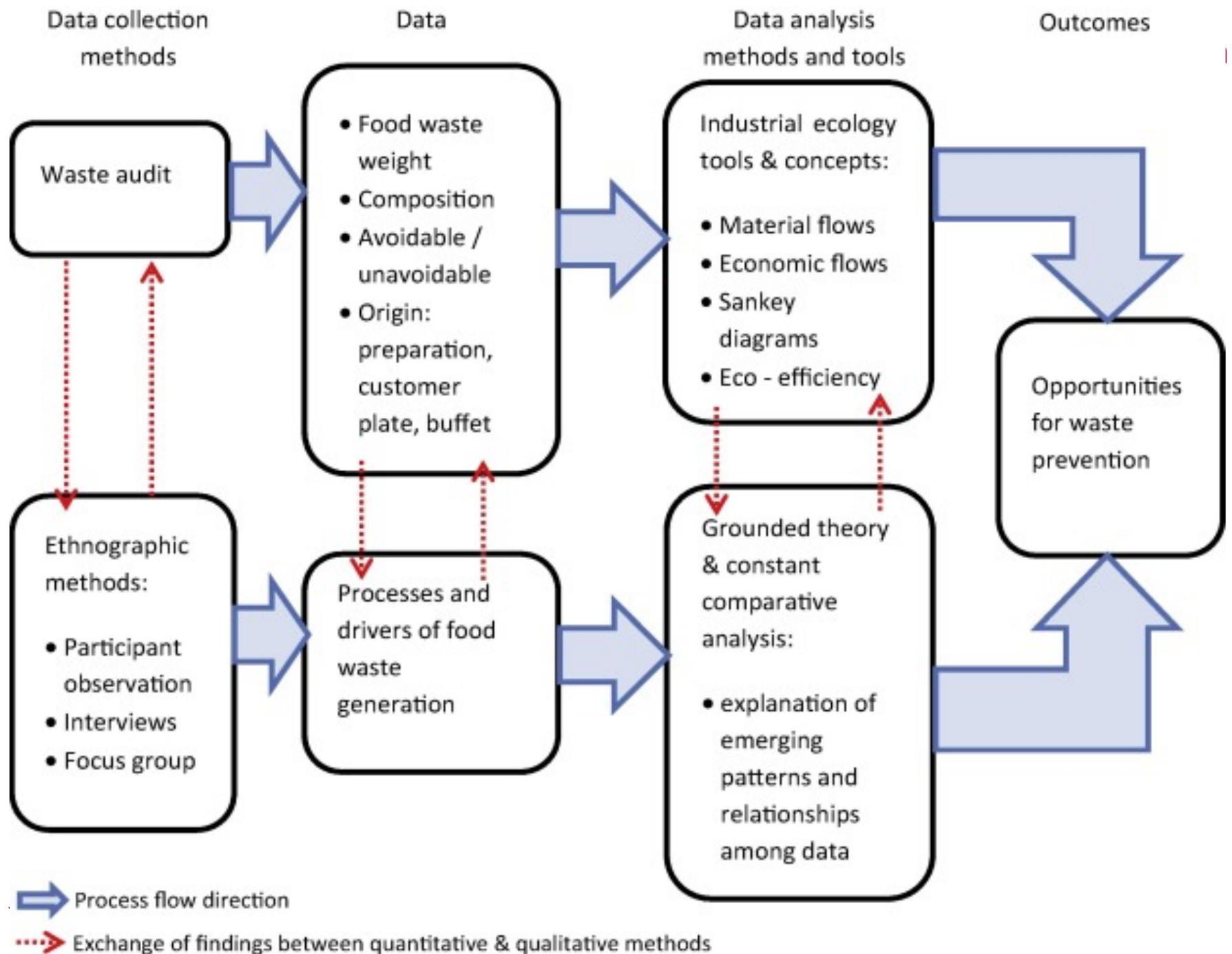
### Knowledge base

Early warning systems  
Needs assessment  
Key indicators

**Do not use in oral presentation if quality is poor when you stretch it so all can see it!**

Figure 1. Factors to be considered in stage 1: problem definition of drug problems by European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, 2017 (REF missing)

**Is the following figure a framework...?**



Question: Is the following figure a framework...?

Answer: includes 'Grounded Theory' but is an overview of the methodology and not a framework about concepts

# Critically assess the frameworks you find

- Assess validity
- Assess visual clarity
- Assess expertise of the authors in the field

Published



100% validity

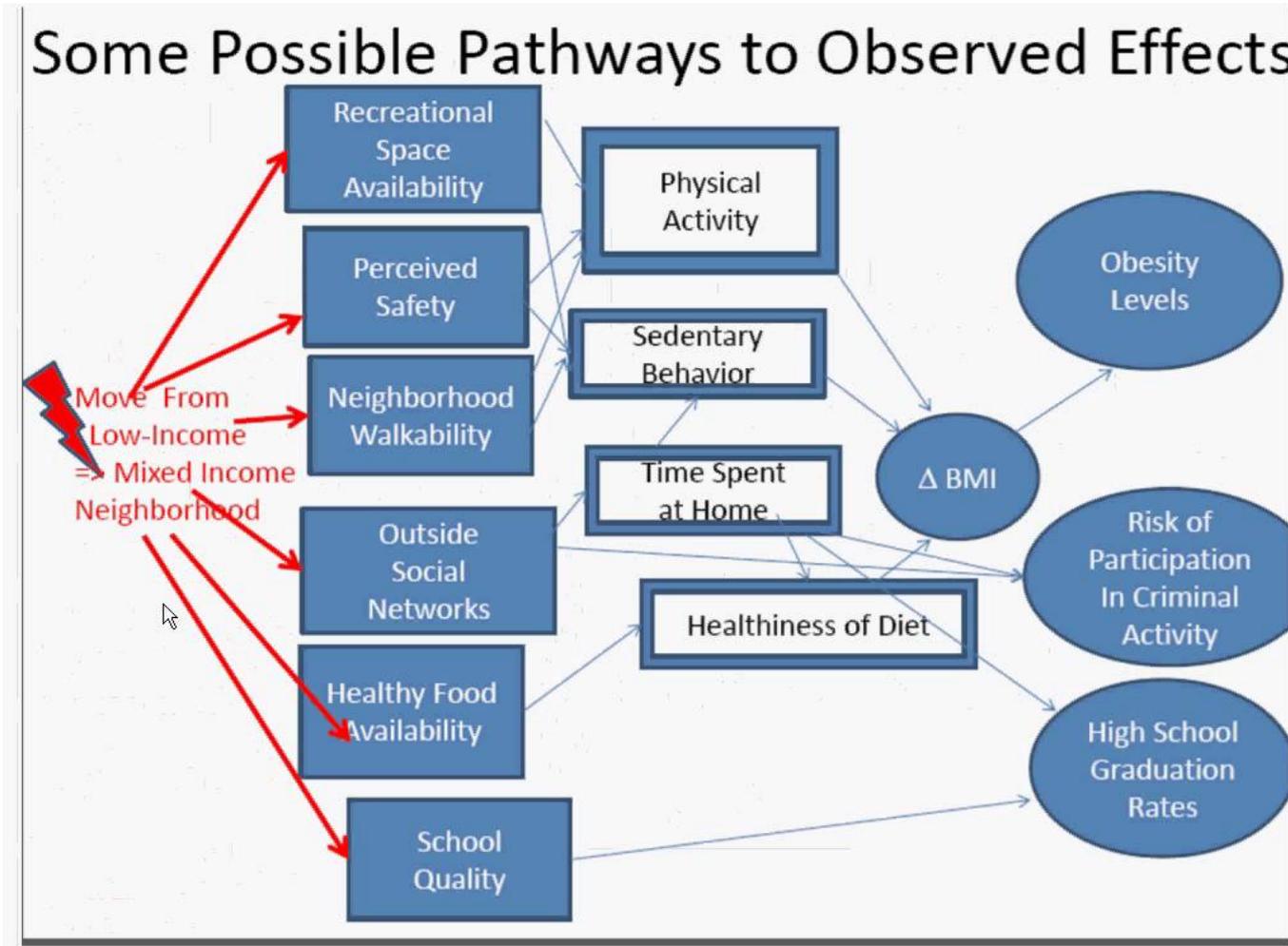
# Framework

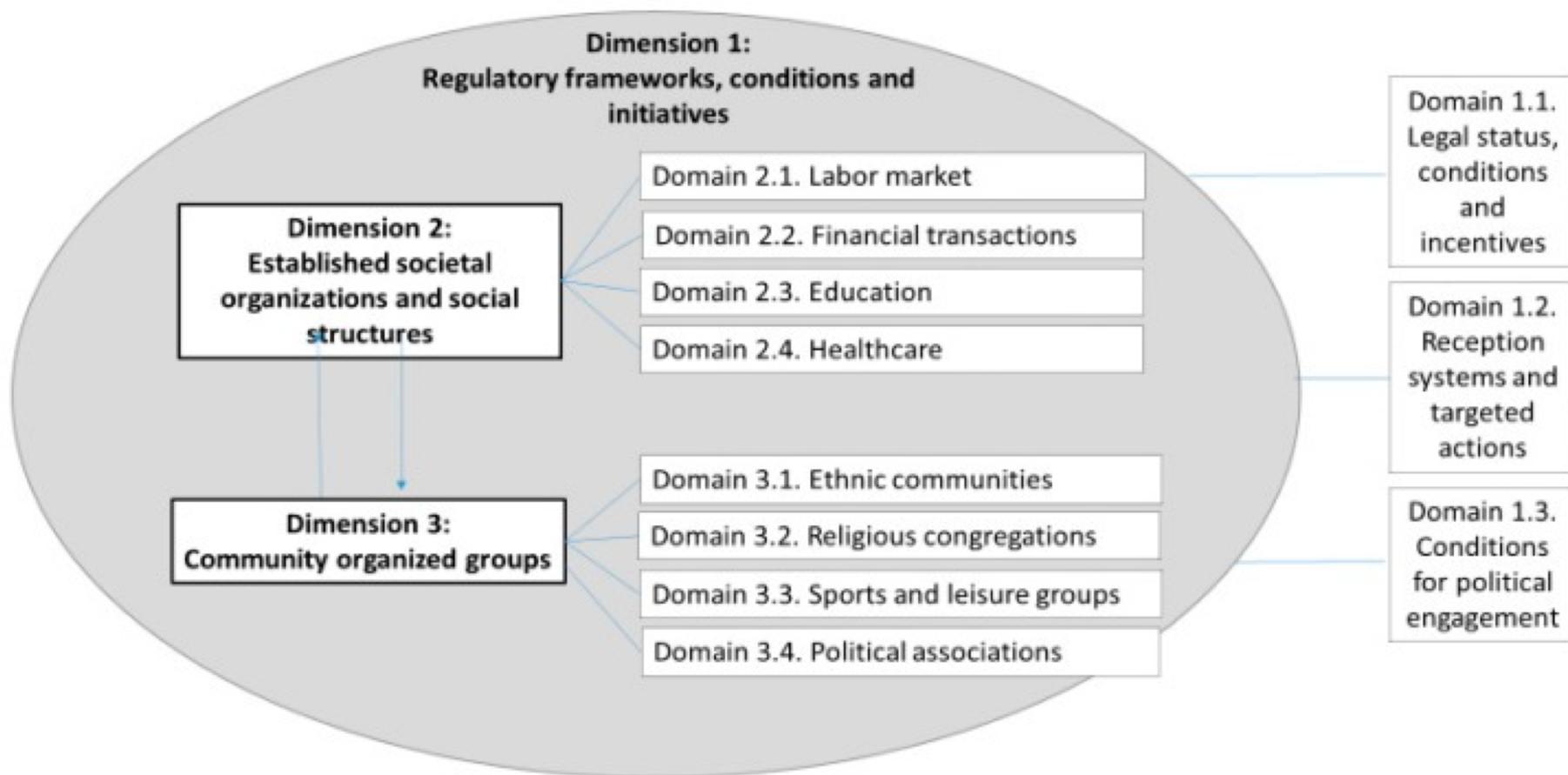


# Causal pathway



Karolinska  
Institutet



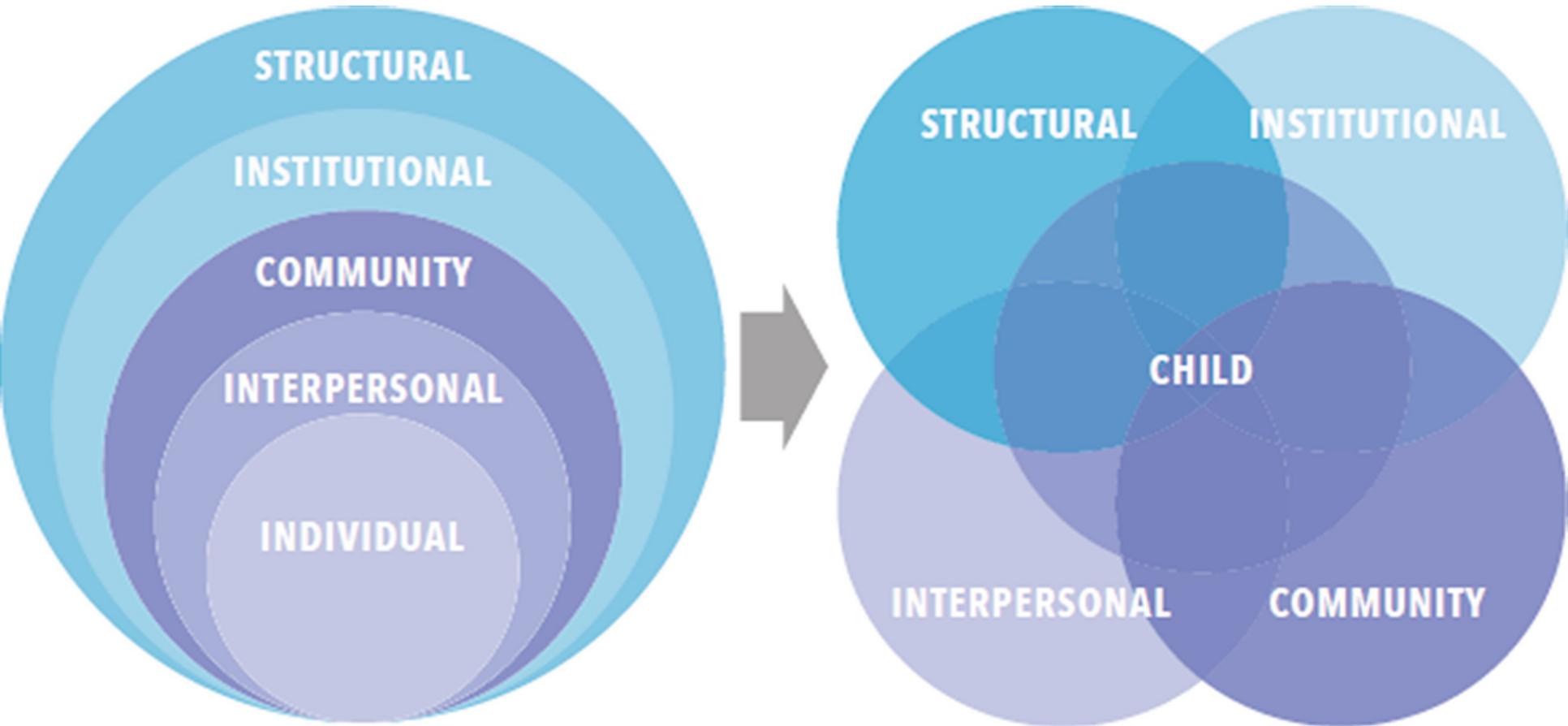


Niemi M. et al. A Scoping Review and Conceptual Model of Social Participation and Mental Health among Refugees and Asylum Seekers. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2019, 16(20), 4027; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16204027>

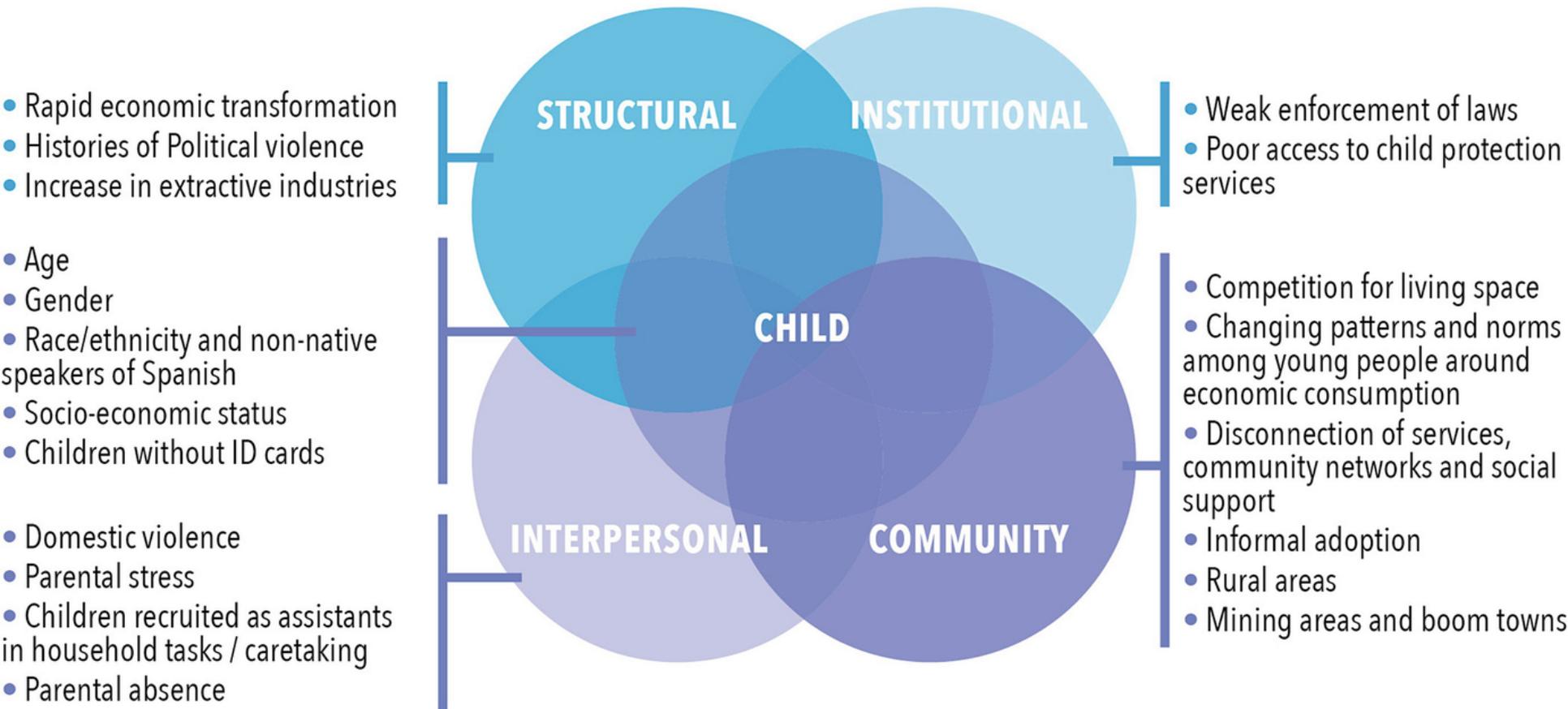


Graphics by Jerker Lokrantz/Azote

Alfvén T. et al. Placing children at the centre of the sustainable Development Goals A SIGHT–Swedish Society of Medicine Road Map on Global Child Health. Stockholm 2019. [https://sightnu.files.wordpress.com/2019/06/roadmaponglobalchildhealth\\_2.pdf](https://sightnu.files.wordpress.com/2019/06/roadmaponglobalchildhealth_2.pdf)



Maternowska M.C., Fry D., Potts A., Casey T. (2020) Beyond Risk Factors: Structural Drivers of Violence Affecting Children. In: Balvin N., Christie D. (eds) Children and Peace. Peace Psychology Book Series. Springer, Cham



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# KI Master Thesis Assessment Criteria

Pass with distinction:

**Important theories/theoretical models are well described and explained.**

**Own results are also discussed in relation to the preferred theory.**

## Example from the literature...

Purpose: Young novice drivers continue to be overrepresented in fatalities and injuries arising from crashes...

Enhancing countermeasures requires a better understanding of the variables influencing risky driving. Psychosocial theory can improve our understanding of contributors to speeding, thereby informing countermeasure development and evaluation.

This paper reports an application of Akers' social learning theory (SLT), augmented by Gerrard and Gibbons' prototype/willingness model (PWM)...

Source: Scott-Parker B et al. Accident Analysis and Prevention 50 (2013) 242– 250.

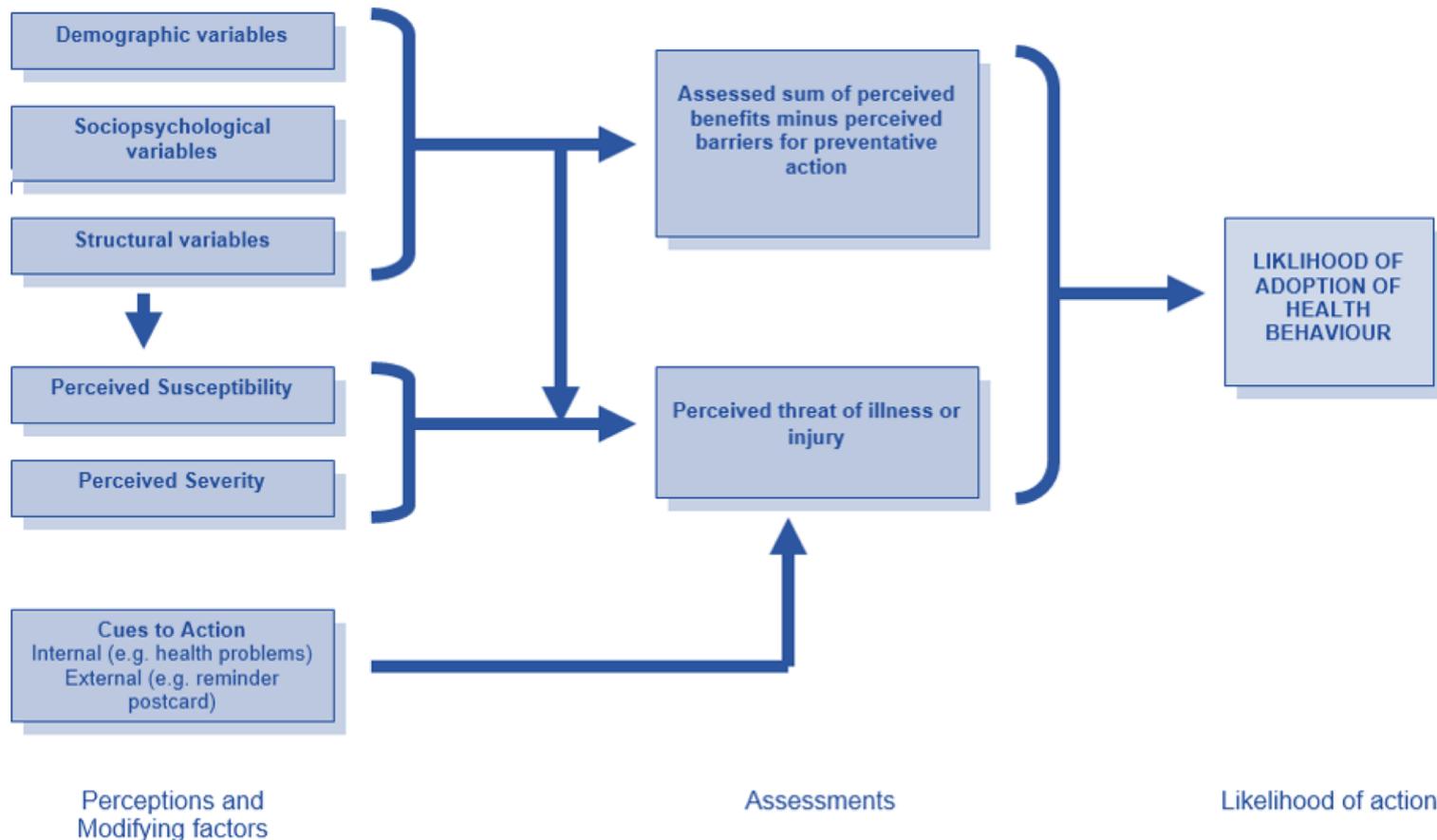
## Example from the literature con't...

### Abstract

Background: The No Germs on Me (NGoM) Social Marketing Campaign to promote handwashing with soap to reduce high rates of infection among children living in remote Australian Aboriginal communities has been ongoing since 2007. Recently three new television commercials were developed as an extension of the NGoM program. This paper reports on the mass media component of this program, trialling an evaluation design informed by the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB).

Source: McDonald et al. Evaluating a handwashing with soap program in Australian remote Aboriginal communities: a pre and post intervention study design. BMC Public Health (2015) 15:1188

# How to reference the framework in a presentation

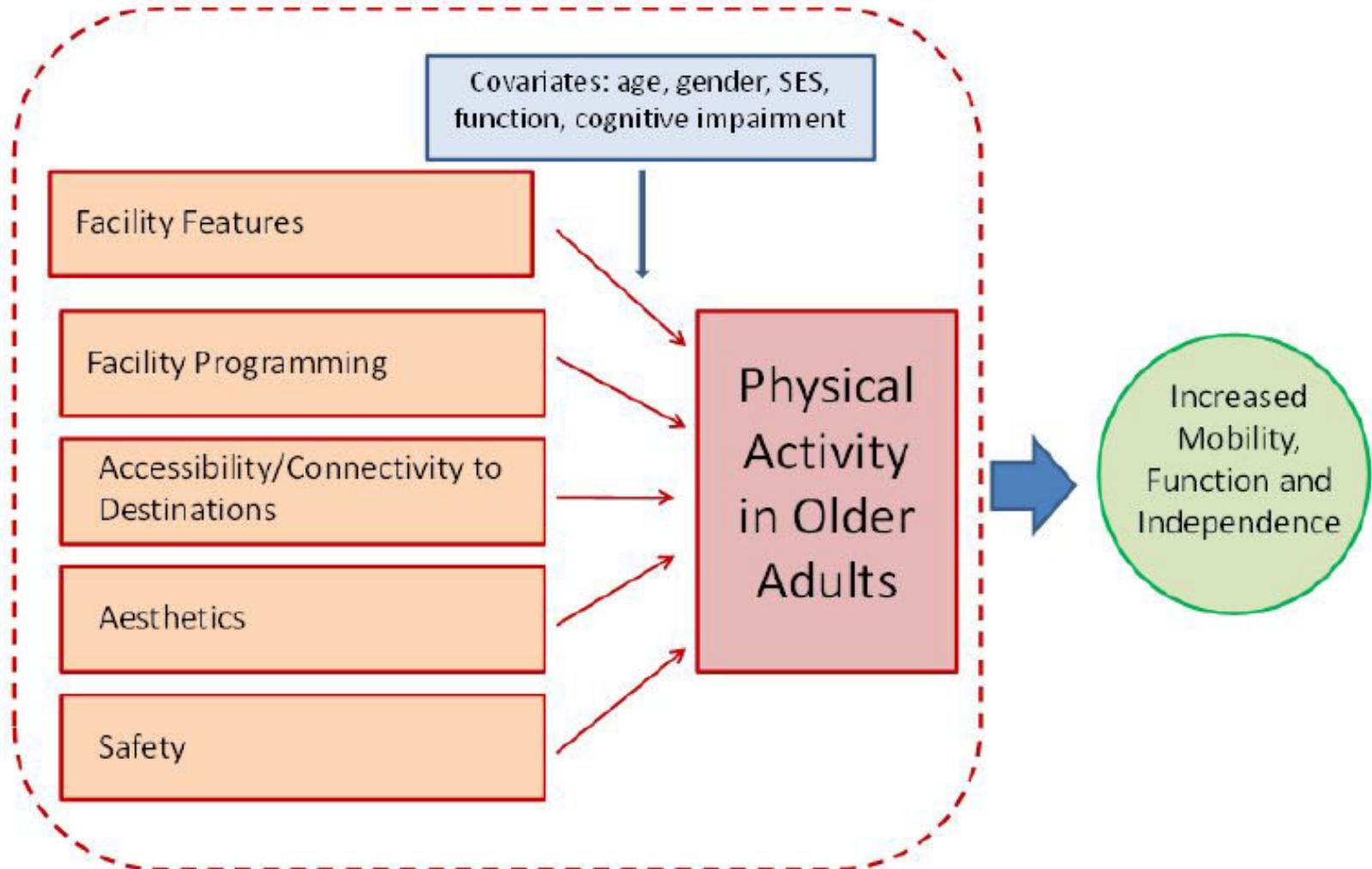


## The Health Belief Model

(adapted from Becker and Rosenstock, 1984, and Stroebe, 2000)

# What is missing?

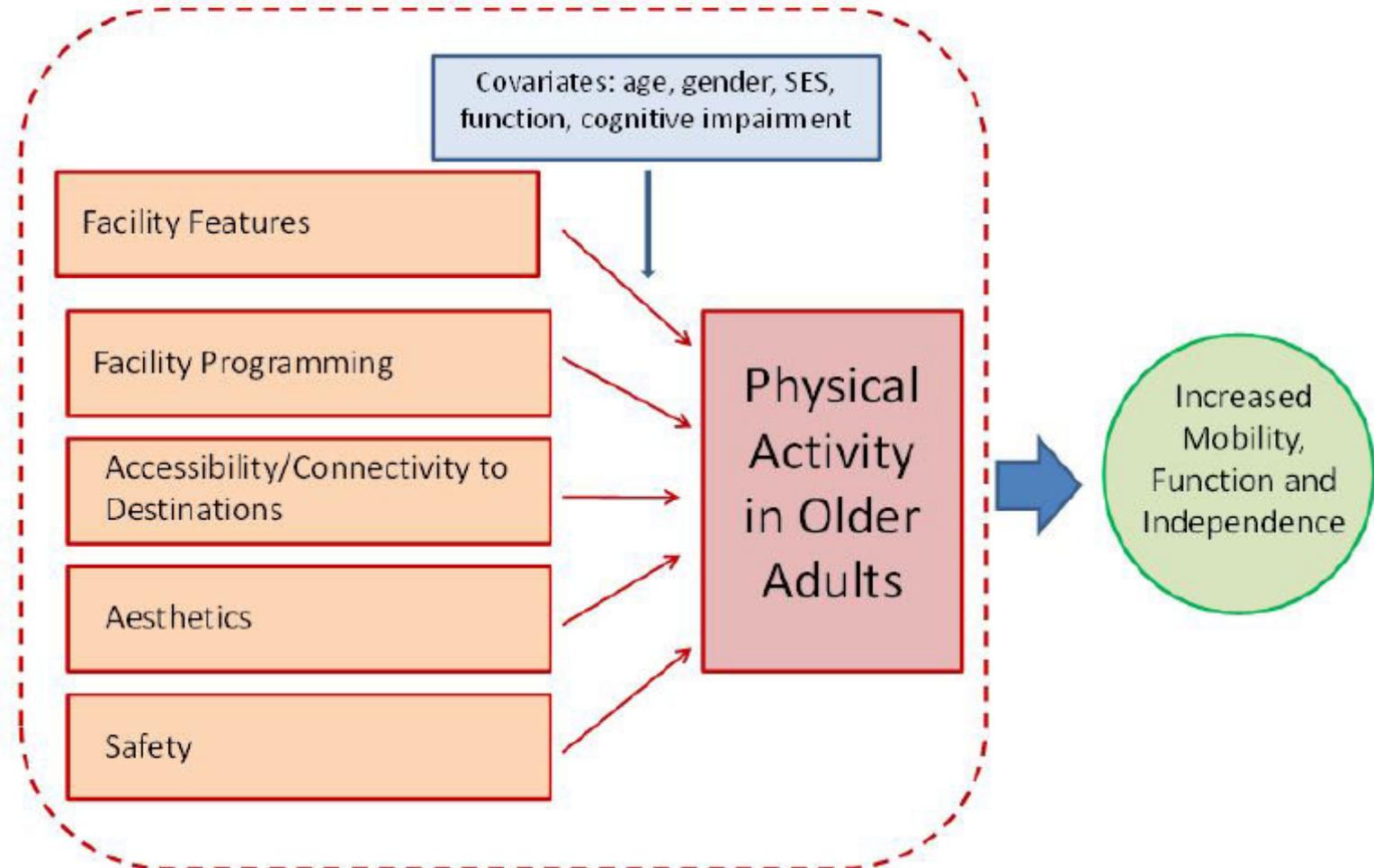
## Conceptual Framework: Influence of the Built Environment on Physical Activity Participation in Older Adults



# Add the full reference as footnote on slide



## Conceptual Framework: Influence of the Built Environment on Physical Activity Participation in Older Adults



# How to reference the framework in your thesis

Option 1: Figure 1 shows a framework that has been developed to visualise the factors specific to senior housing and assisted living facilities (5).

Option 2: Haselwandter et al. (2015) have proposed a framework specific to senior housing and assisted living facilities (see Figure 1).

Then in 'References' section:

5. Haselwandter EM, Corcoran MP, Folta SC, Hyatt R, Fenton M, Nelson ME. The built environment, physical activity, and aging in the United States: a state of the science review. *J Aging Phys Act.* 2015 Apr;23(2):323-9.

