

The background of the slide is a vibrant, artistic sky. The top half is a deep teal color, while the bottom half is a lighter, hazy teal. Large, billowing clouds are scattered throughout, with some catching the light of a low sun or moon, creating a warm orange and pink glow. A thin, white crescent moon is visible in the upper right quadrant, partially obscured by a cloud.

Let's get REAL:
**the utility of realist economic evaluation
in health and social care decision-making**

Dr. Angela Bate

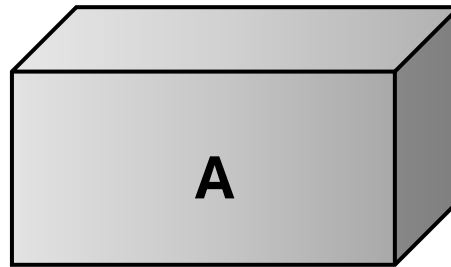
Economic evaluation and HTA

INPUTS

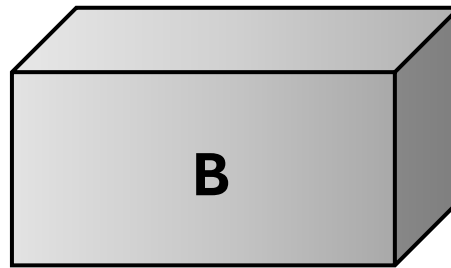
Staff
Time
Materials
Capital



INTERVENTION



VS.



OUTPUTS

Health outcomes
(QoL/wellbeing)
Productivity gains
Health service
resource use

Health outcomes
(QoL/wellbeing)
Productivity gains
Health service
resource use



$$\Delta\text{Costs}/\Delta\text{Benefits} = \text{ICER}$$

We implemented
the same program
in two locations.
For some reason,
we had very different
results.

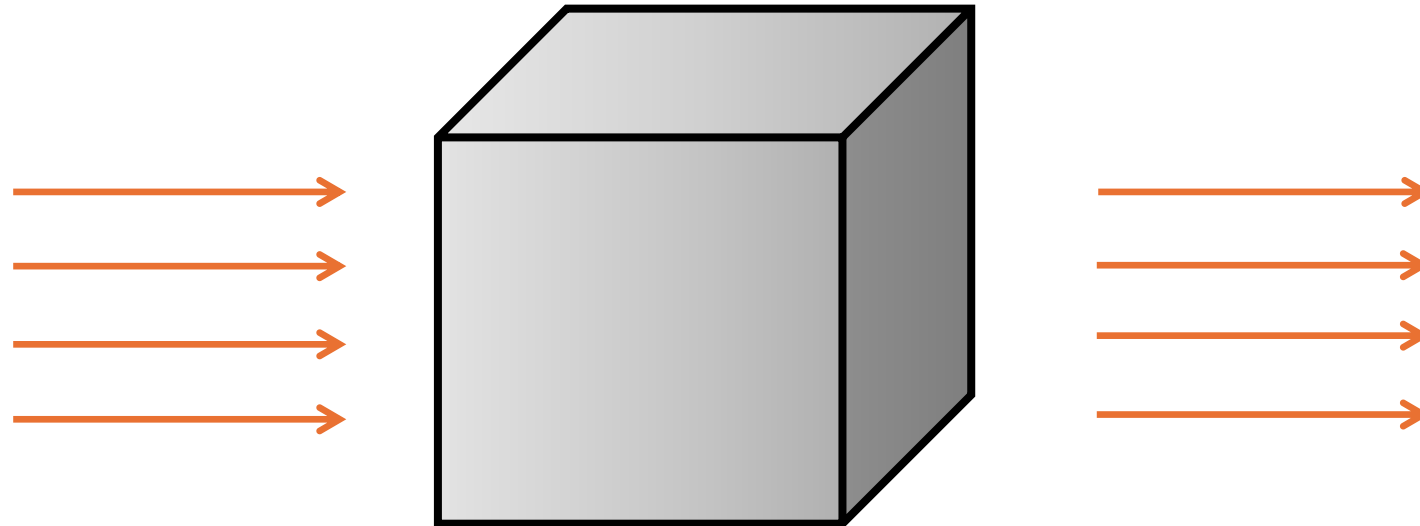


The REAL world = complex

INPUTS

INTERVENTION

OUTPUTS

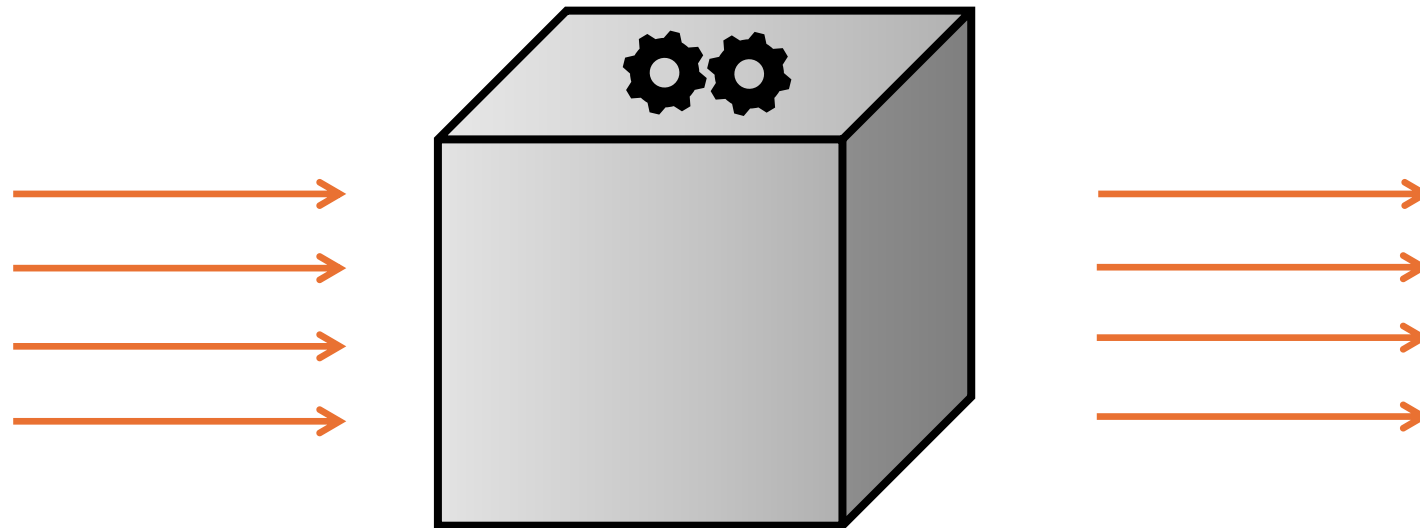


The REAL world = complex

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INTERVENTION

OUTPUTS

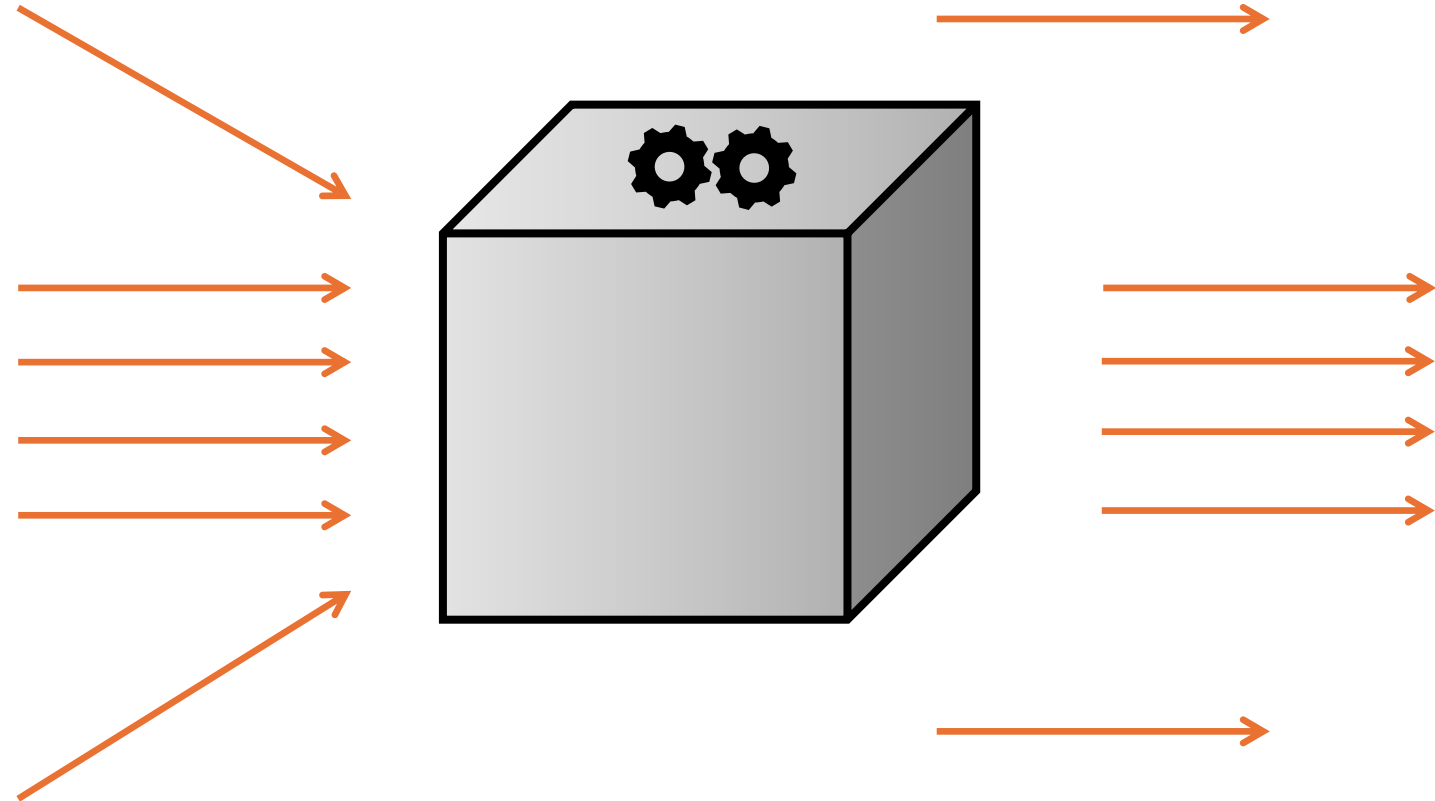


The REAL word = complex

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INTERVENTION

OUTPUTS

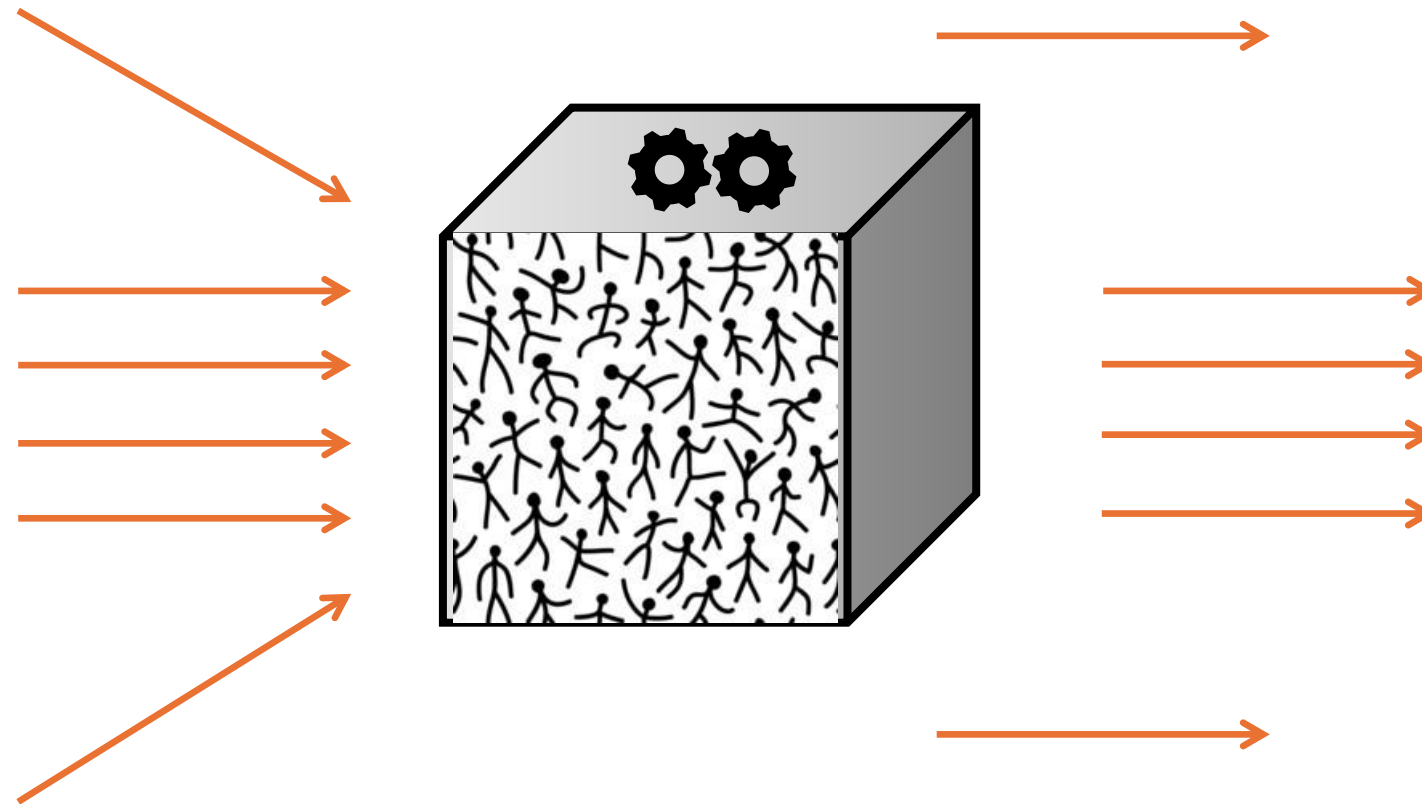


The REAL word = complex

INPUTS

INTERVENTION

OUTPUTS

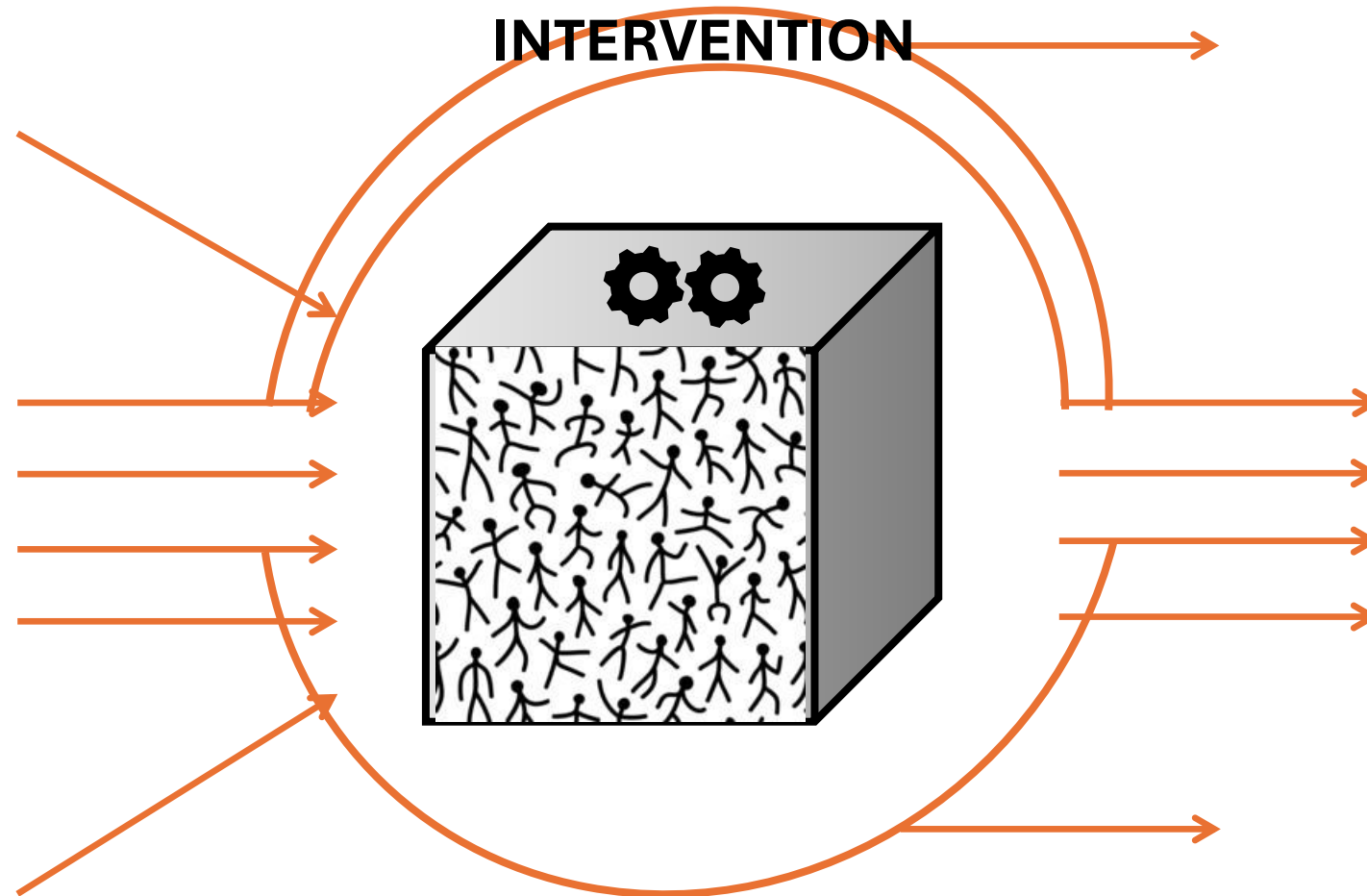


The REAL world = complex

INPUTS

INTERVENTION

OUTPUTS

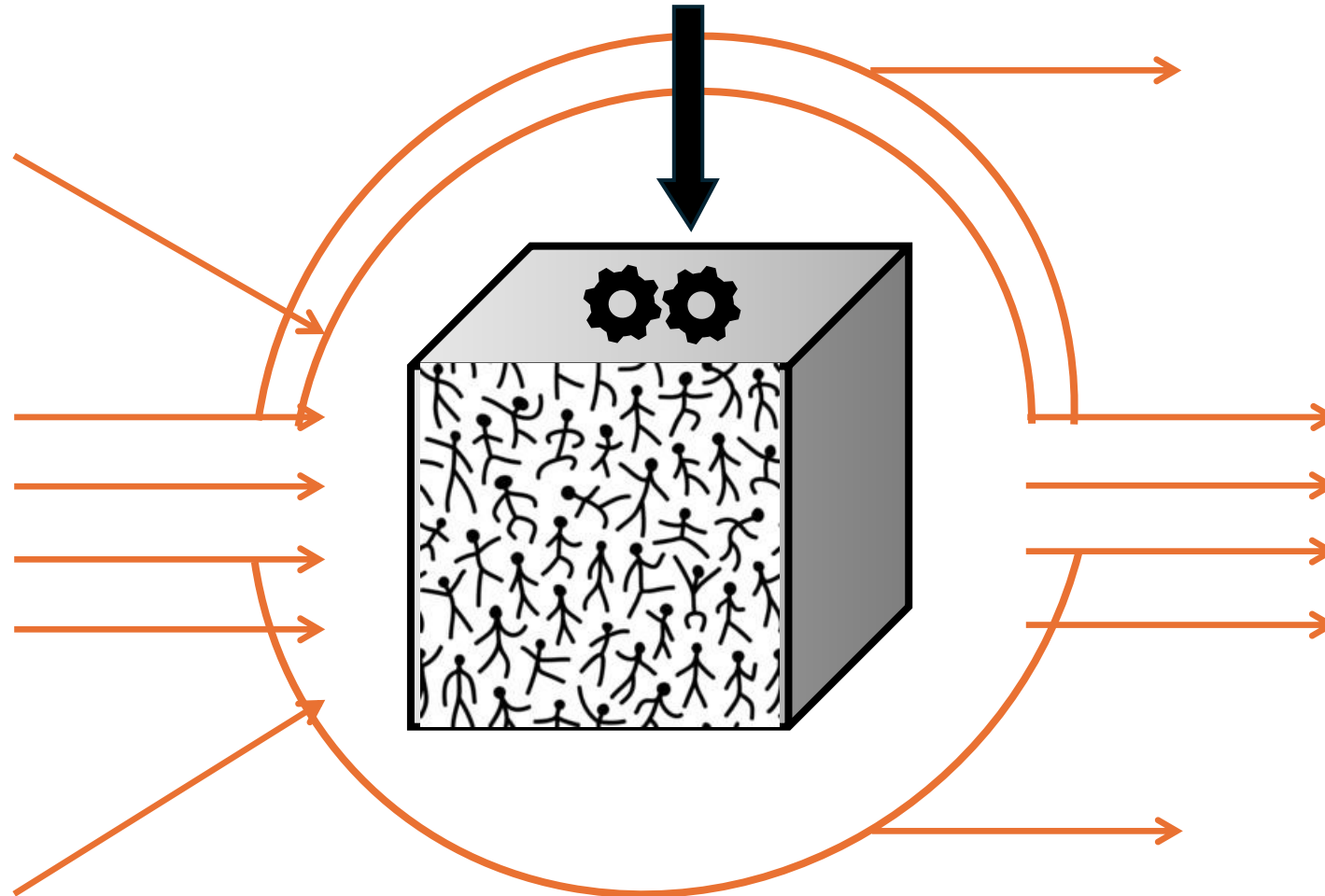


The REAL world = complex

Something happens here!

INPUTS

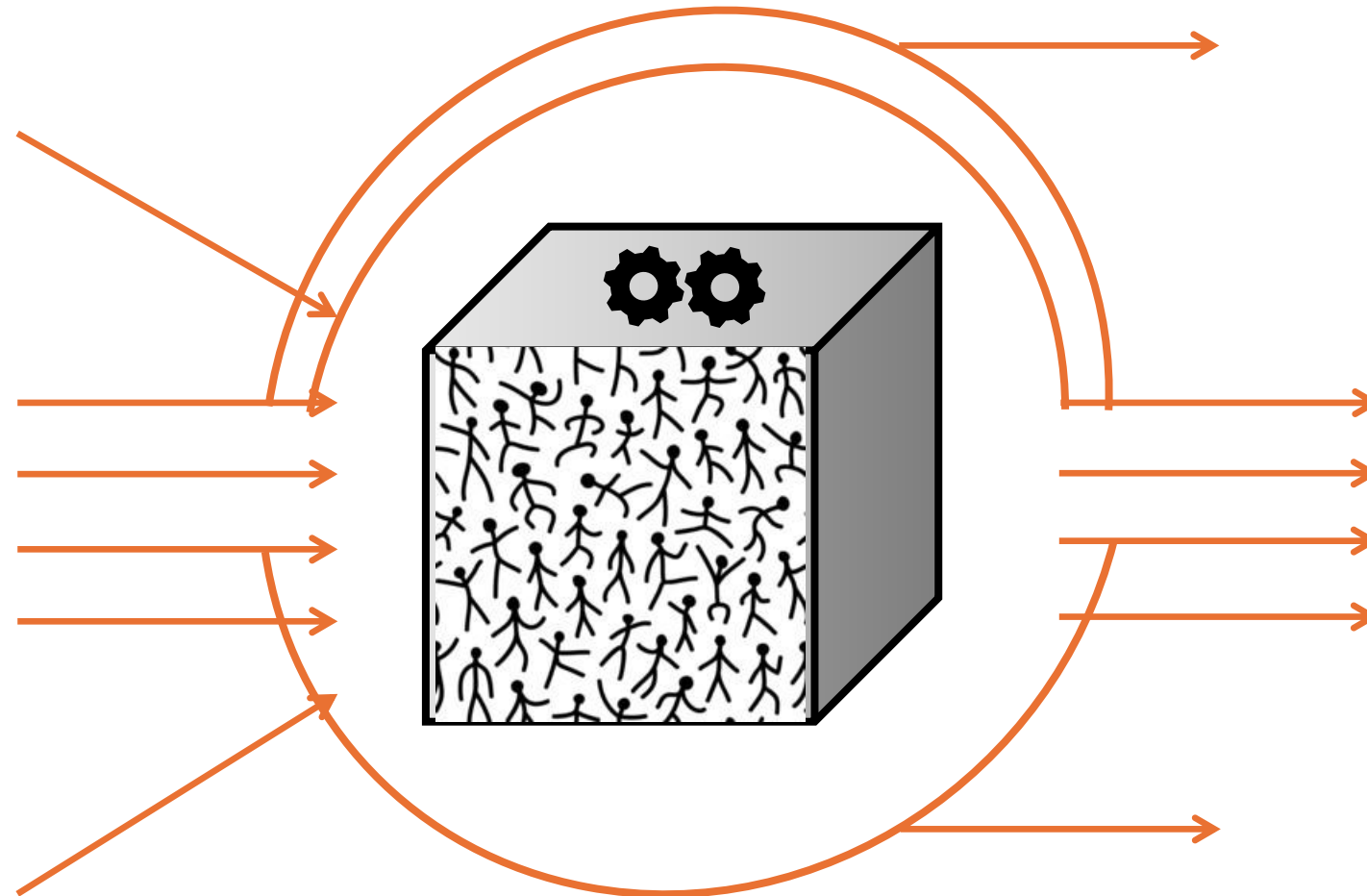
OUTPUTS



Economic evaluation and complexity

INPUTS

- Societal perspective
- Activity based/time-driven AB costing
- Resource mapping
- Volunteer and carer time

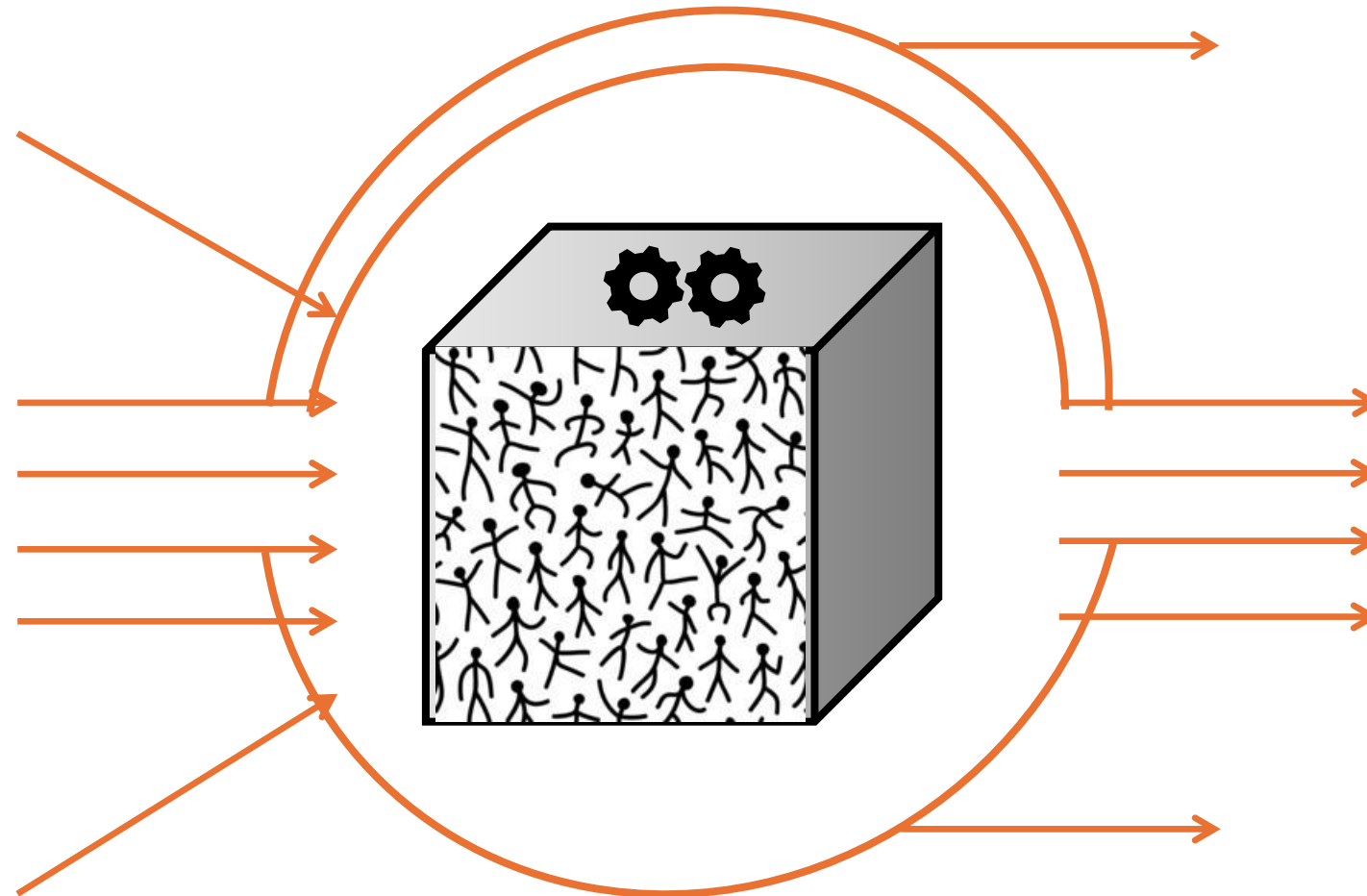


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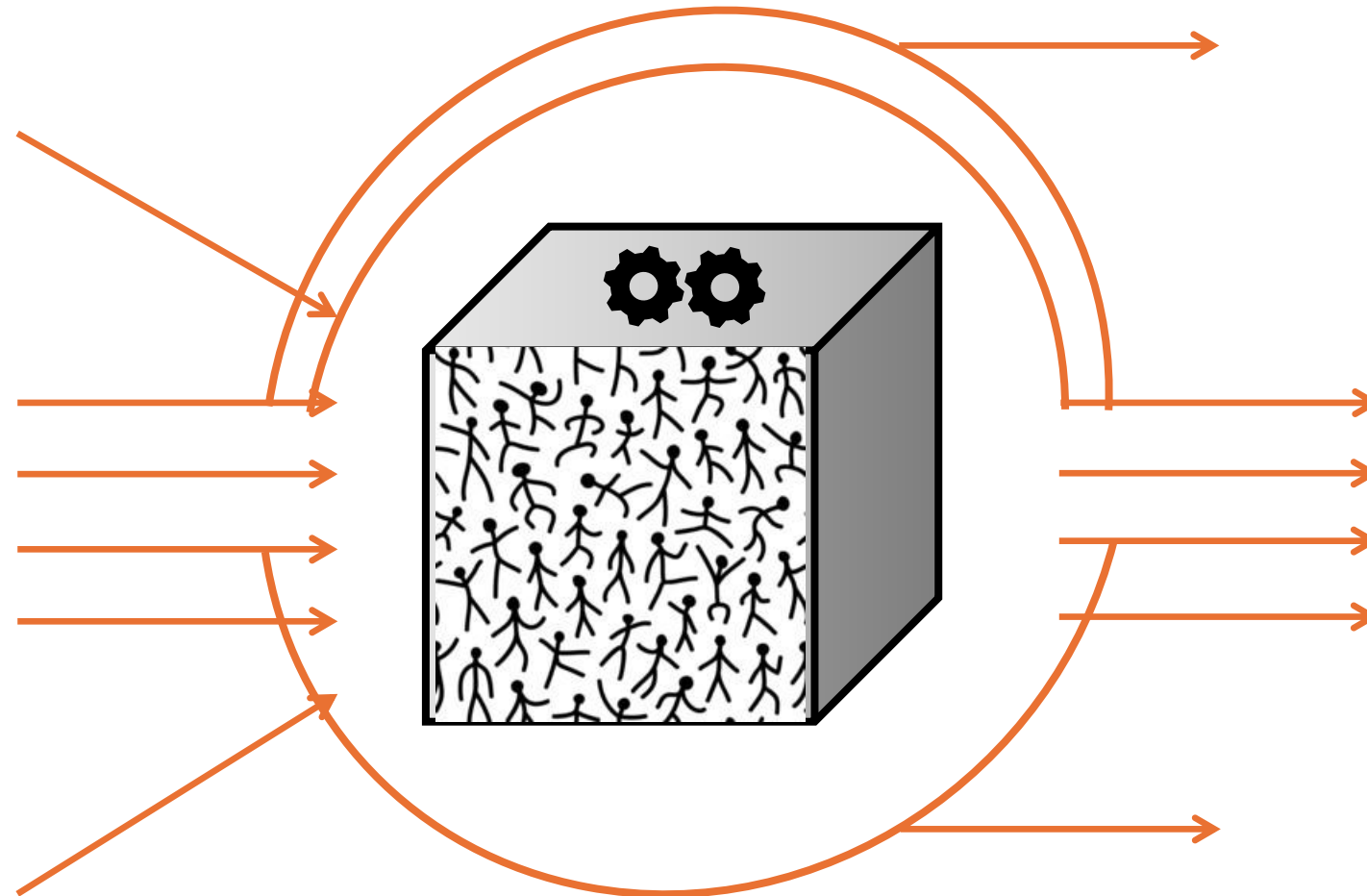
OUTPUTS

- Sub-group analysis, stratification
- Broader measures of benefit (capabilities, WELBY)
- Spill-overs (extended impact inventories)
- Weighting outcomes

Economic evaluation and complexity

INPUTS

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- Activity based/time-driven AB costing
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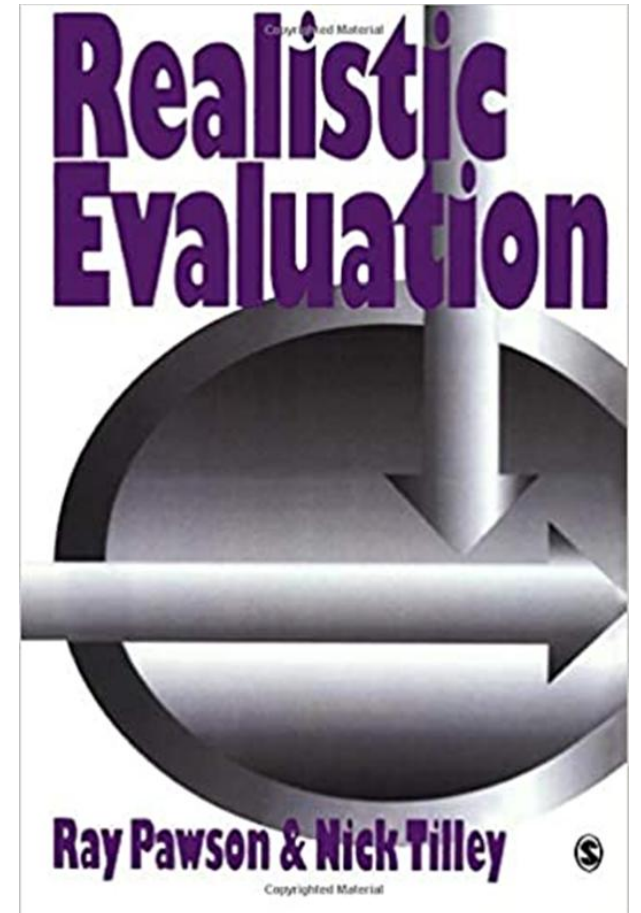
Complex system modelling (e.g. agent based modelling, structural equation modelling)

Economic evaluation and the black box



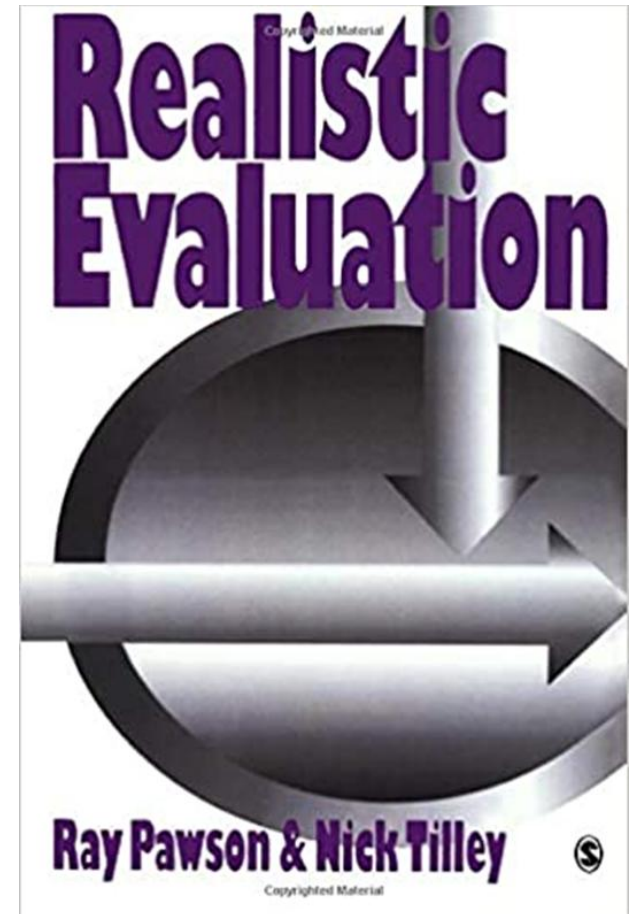
The REAL world requires REALISTIC Evaluation

- Theory driven form of evaluation which focuses on understanding complex social interventions or initiatives (programmes).



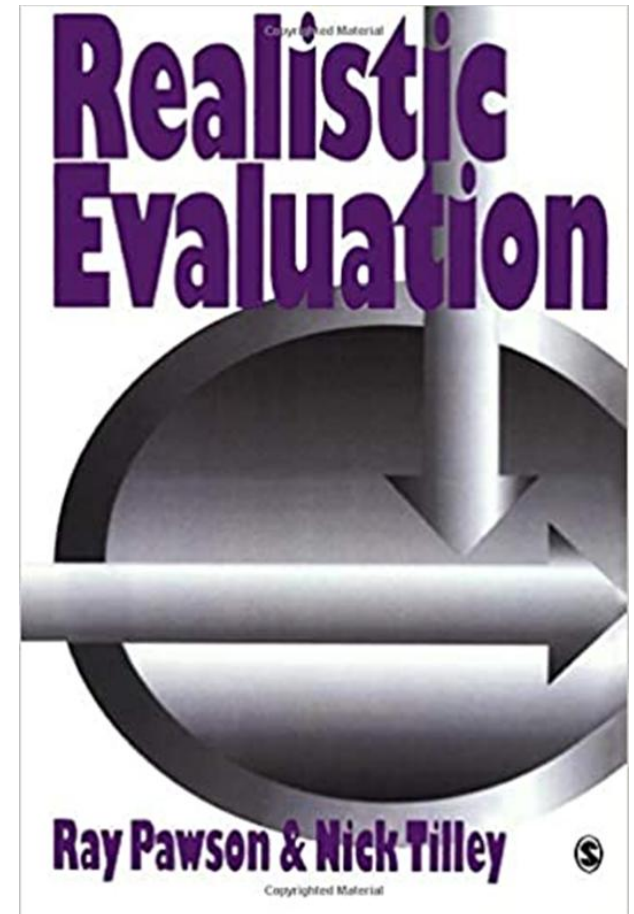
The REAL world requires REALISTIC Evaluation

- Theory driven form of evaluation which focuses on understanding complex social interventions or initiatives (programmes).
- A realist approach recognises that programmes are not universally successful and work better in some circumstances than in others.



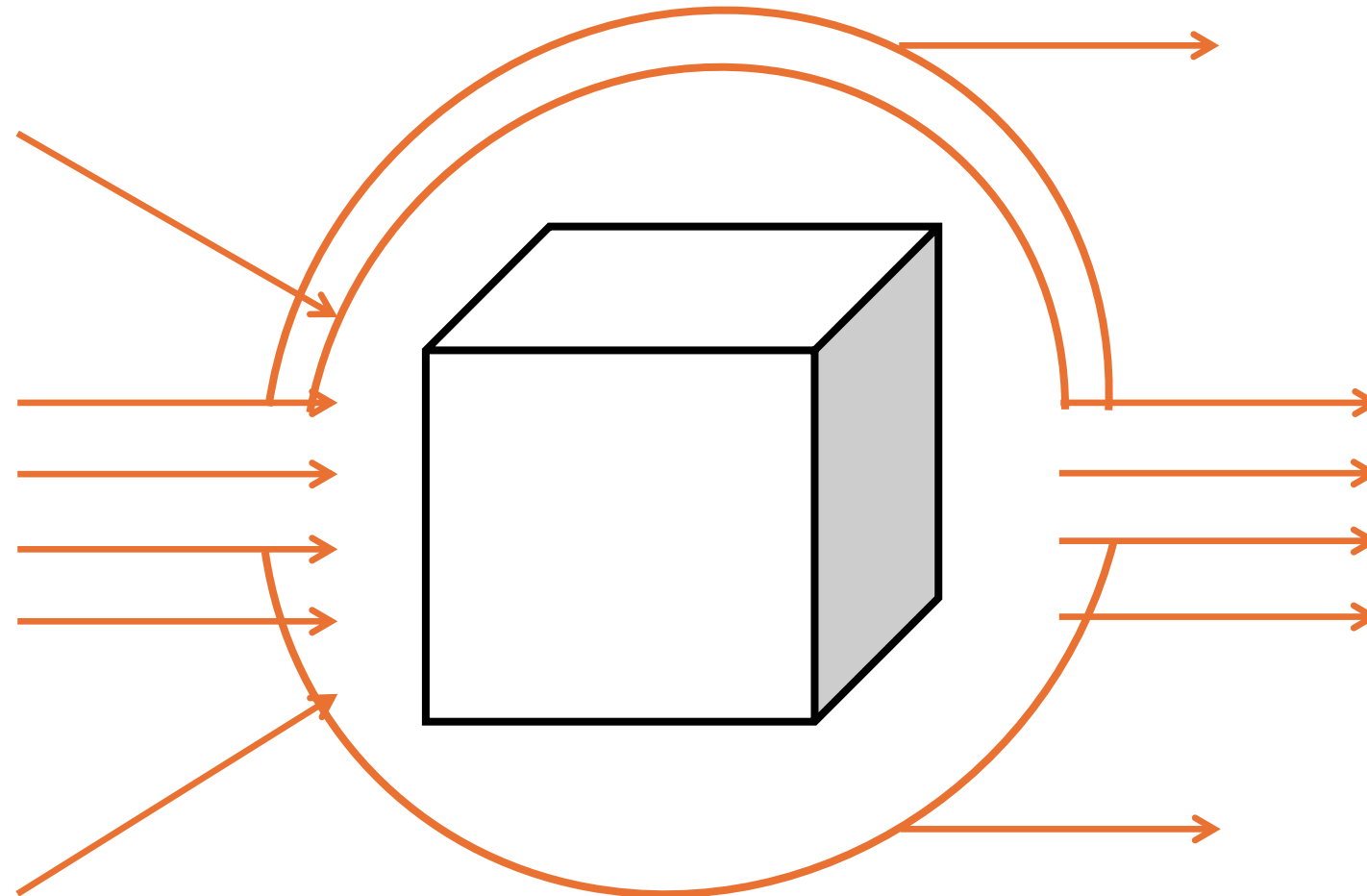
The REAL world requires REALISTIC Evaluation

- Theory driven form of evaluation which focuses on understanding complex social interventions or initiatives (programmes).
- A realist approach recognises that programmes are not universally successful and work better in some circumstances than in others.
- The aim is to answer *'in what respects, for whom, in what circumstances and why a programme or policy works'* (RAMESES II Project, 2017)



Realist evaluation and the white box

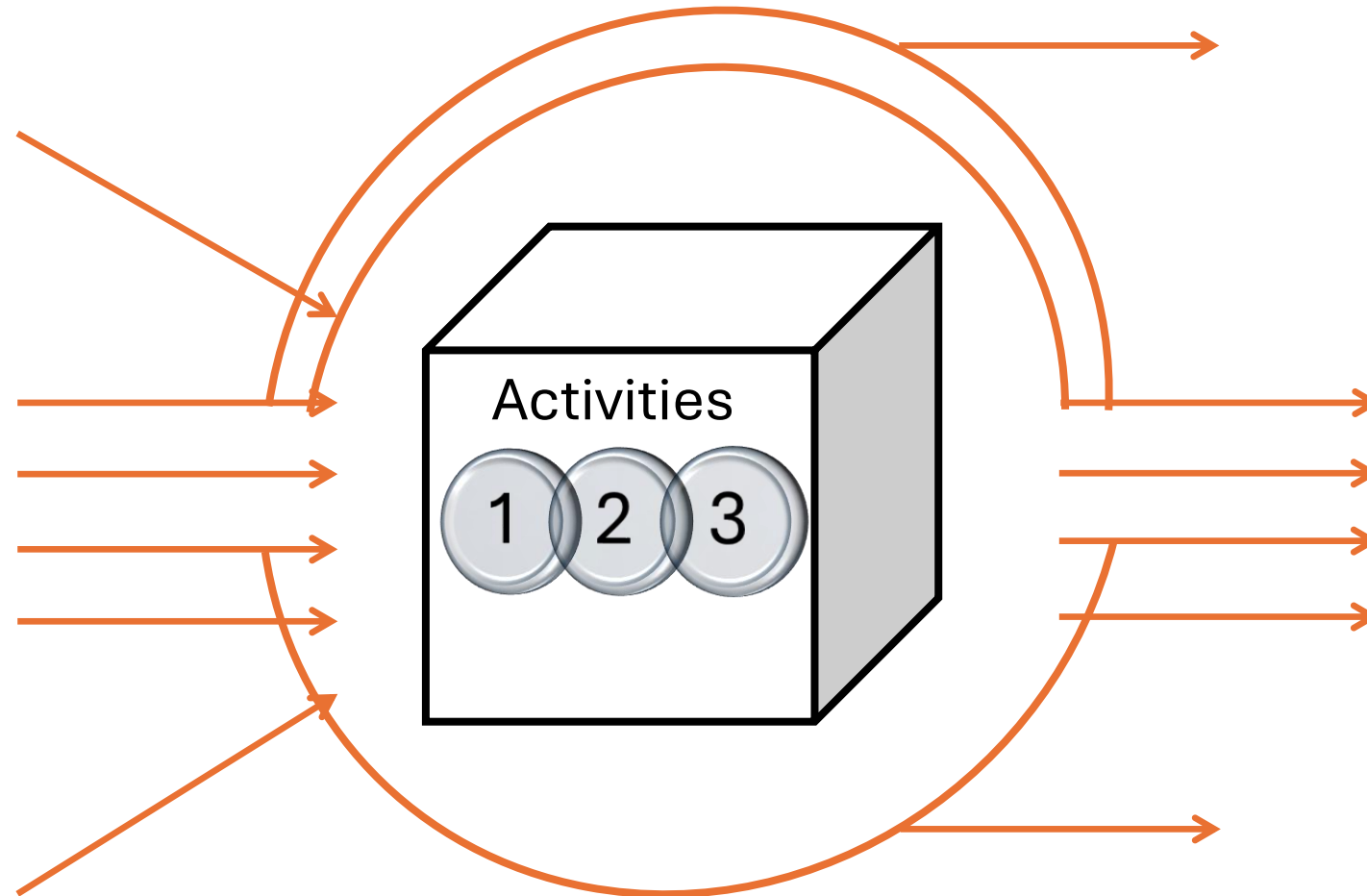
INPUTS



OUTPUTS

Realist evaluation and the white box

INPUTS

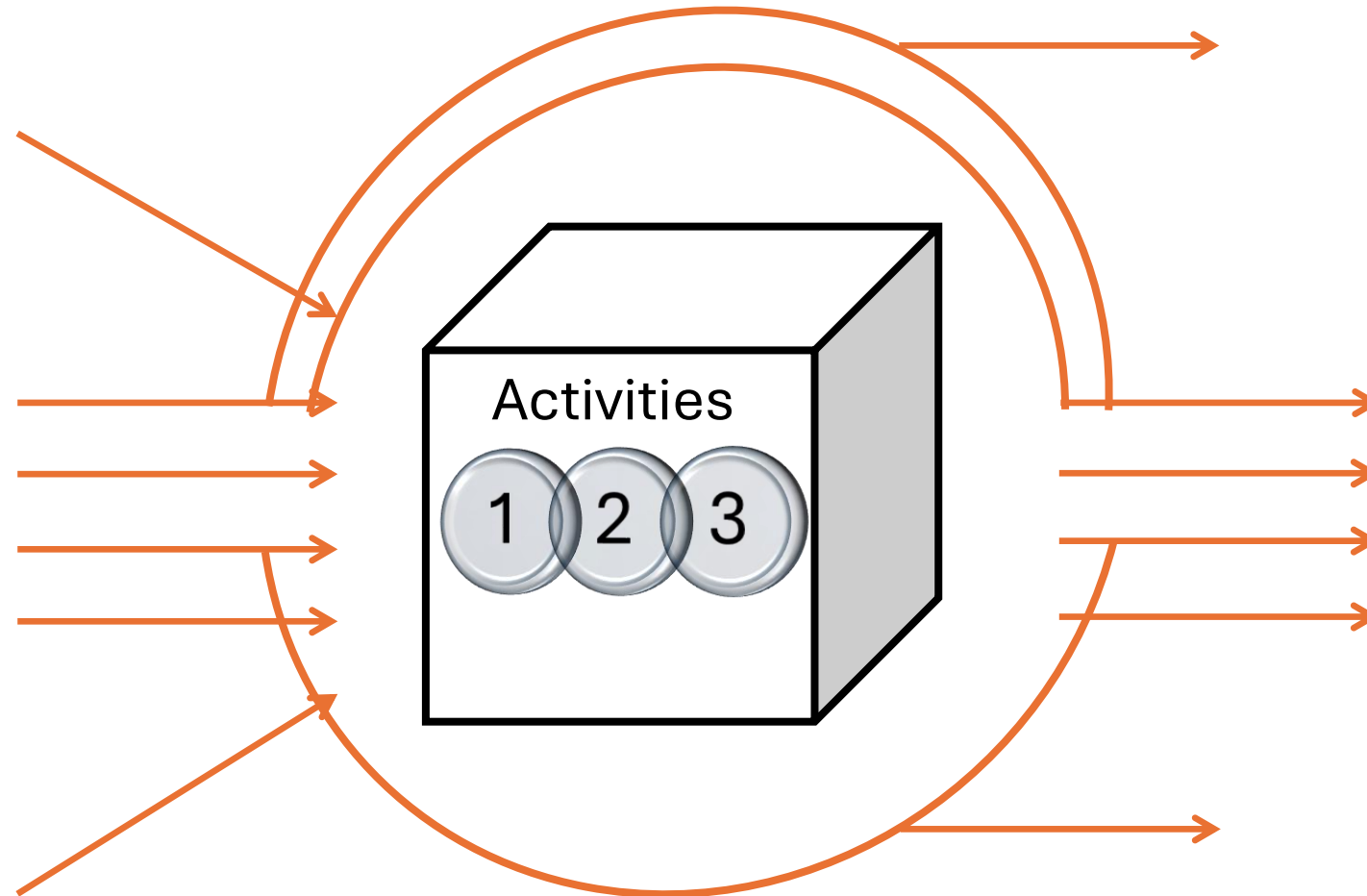


OUTPUTS

OUTCOMES

Realist evaluation and the white box

INPUTS

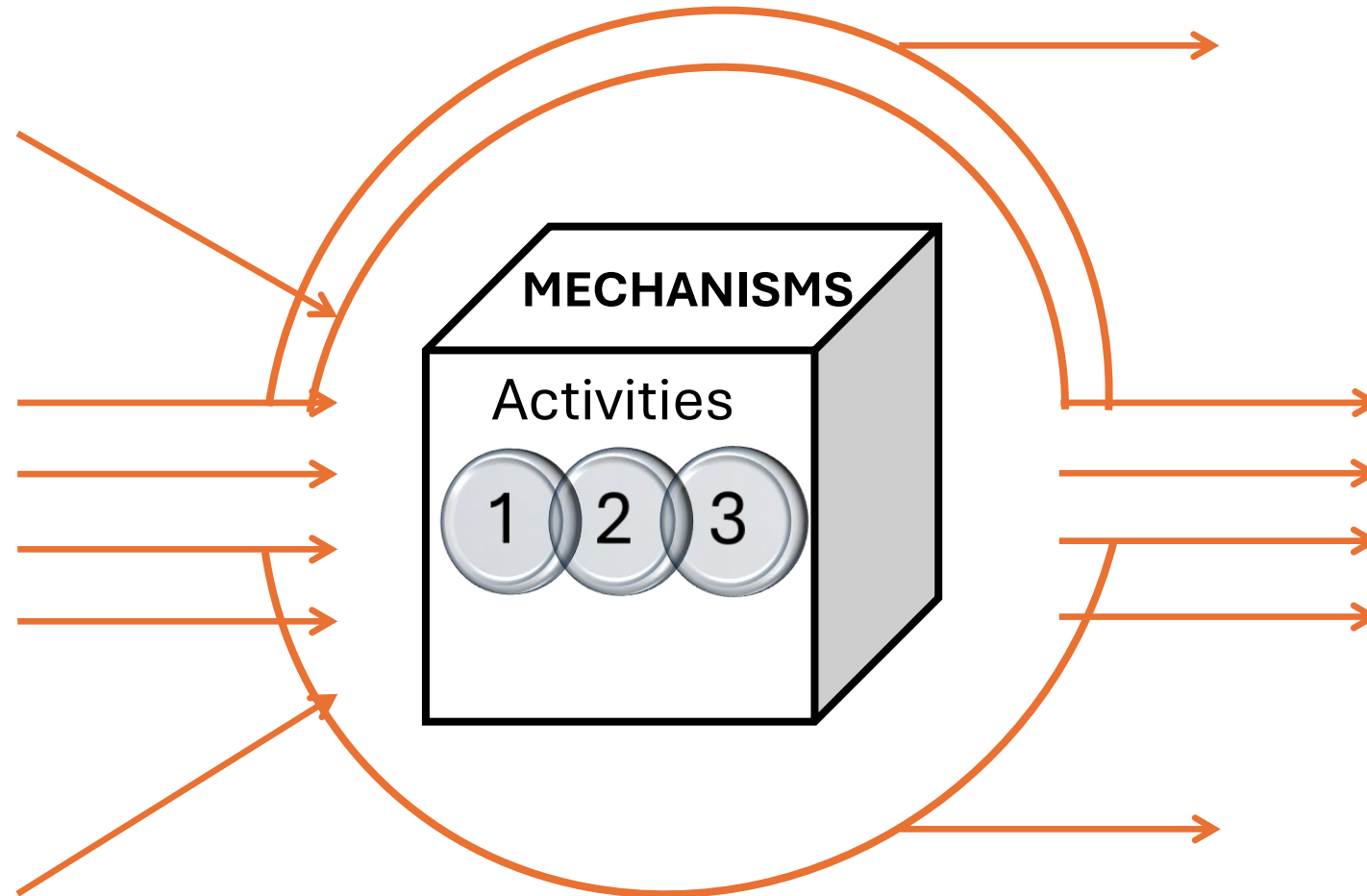


OUTPUTS

OUTCOMES

Realist evaluation and the white box

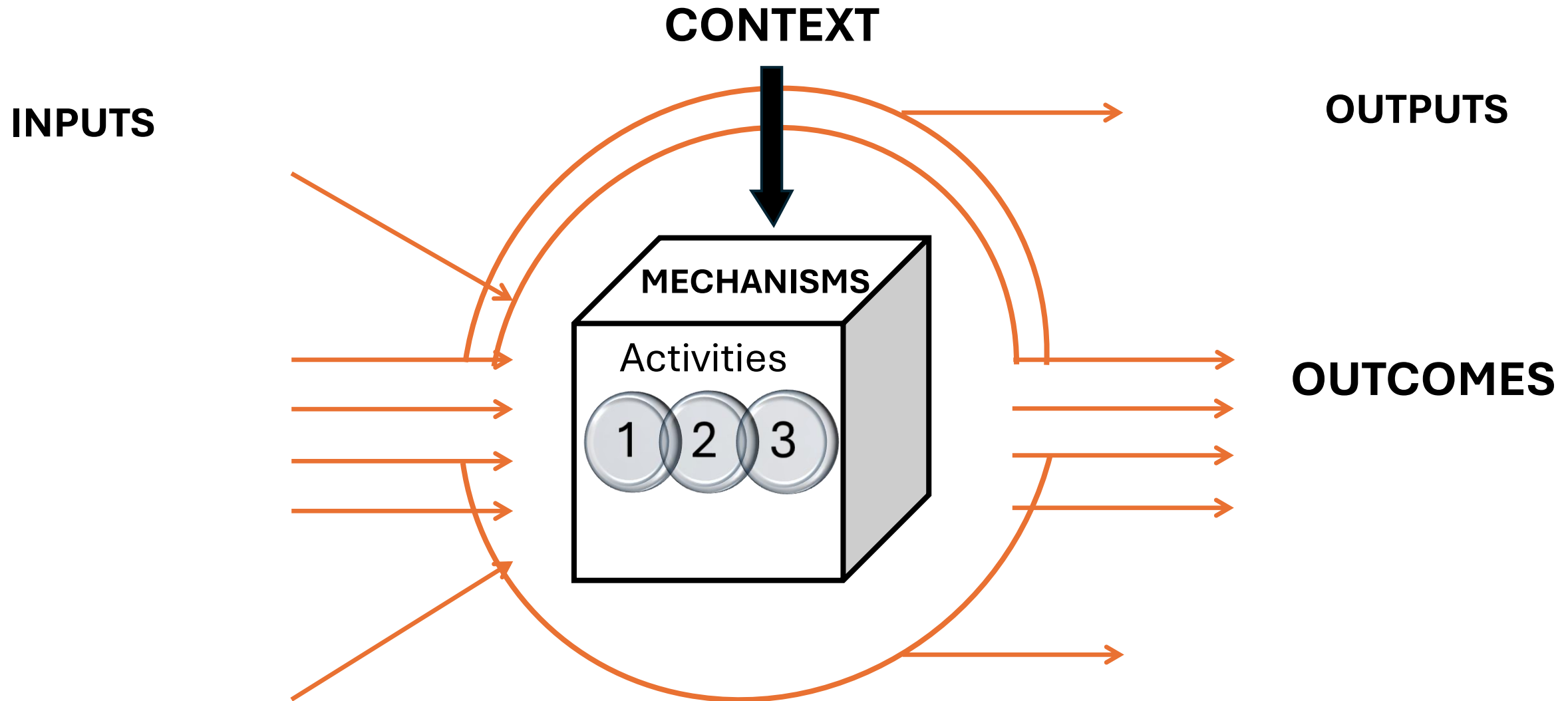
INPUTS



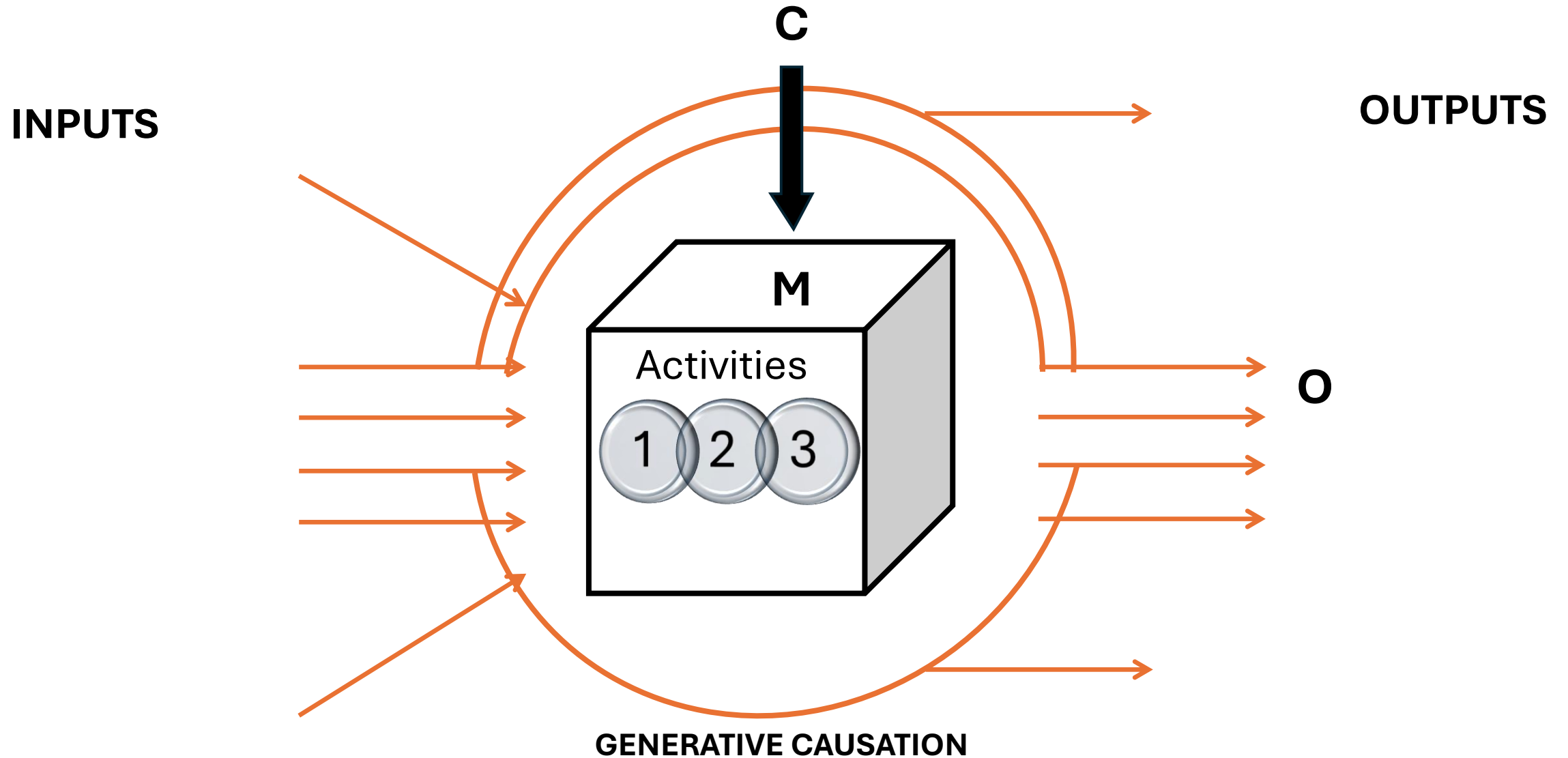
OUTPUTS

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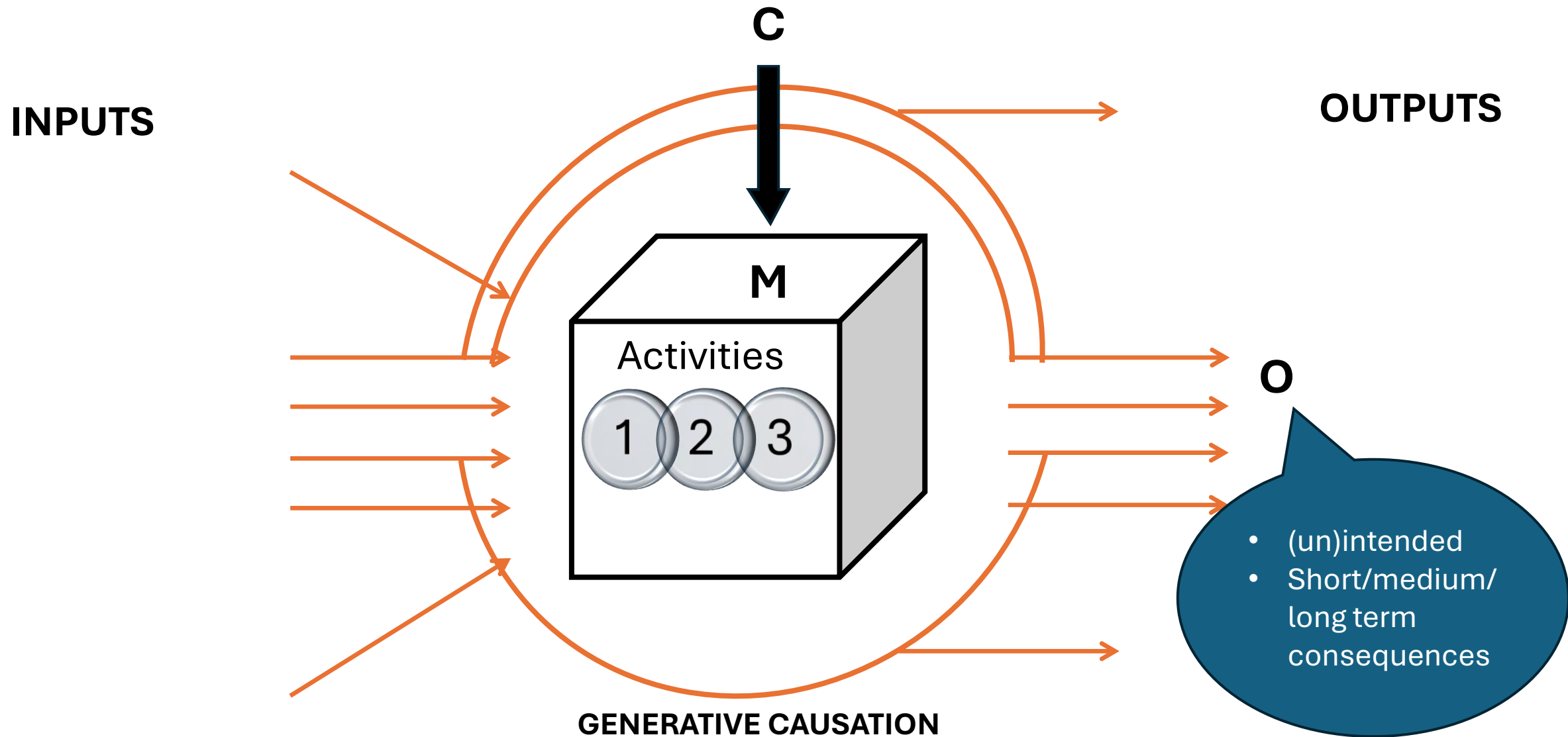
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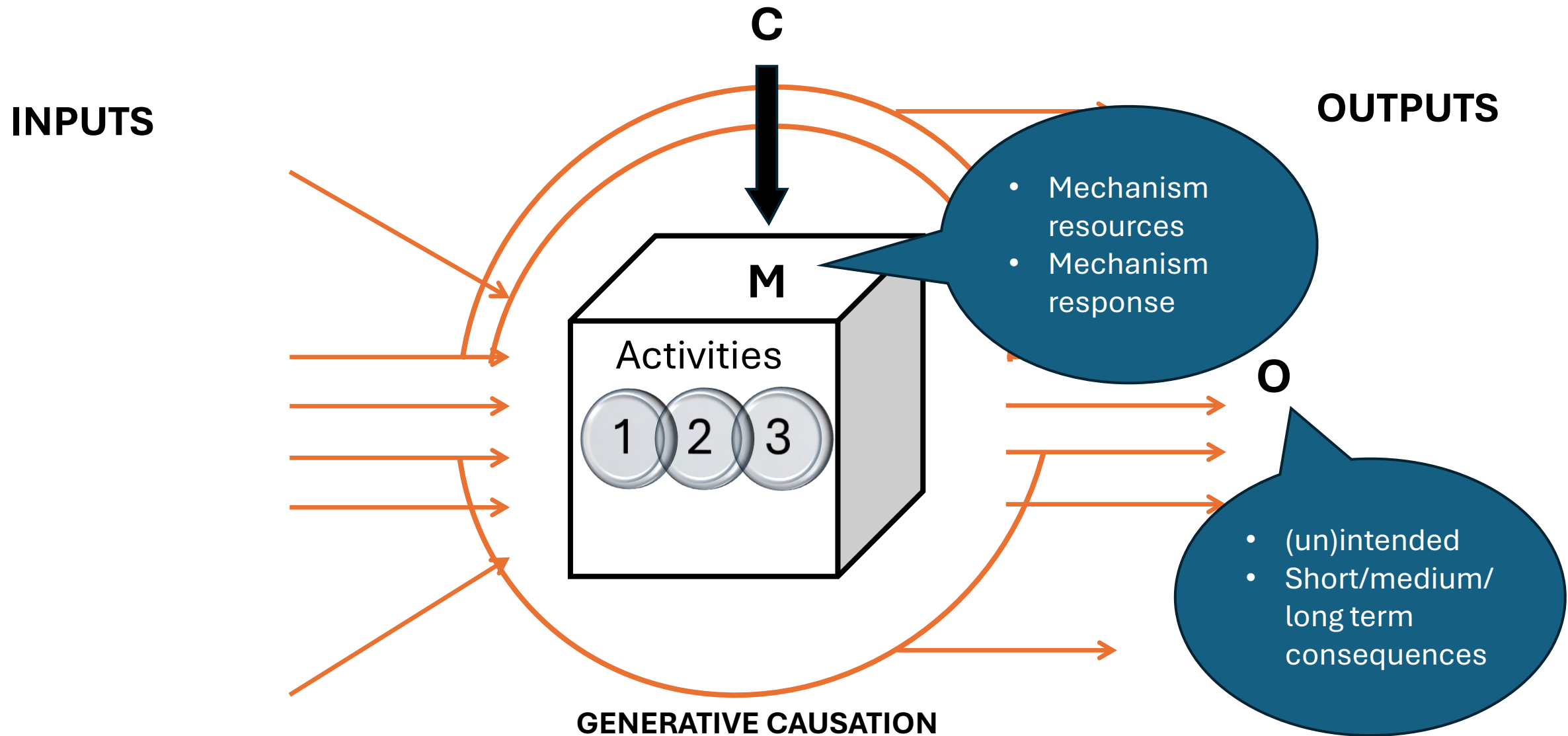
Realist evaluation and the white box



Realist evaluation and the white box



Realist evaluation and the white box





Decision-Evaluation Gap

- Realist evaluation - establishes what works, for who, in which circumstances and why, but does not examine the marginal costs and benefits.
- Economic evaluation – establishes clinical cost-effectiveness but does not examine for who, in what circumstances, and why.
- Decisions are less concerned with the simple yes or no wholesale implementation of interventions but in how much, for who and where.
- Decision-makers need practical but contingent economic evaluations.
- Requires a range and combination of research perspective and methods.



Developing realist economic evaluation methods (REEM) and guidance to evaluate the impact, costs, and consequences of complex interventions

Co-Principal Investigators: Angela Bate and Sonia Dalkin

Project Team: Rob Anderson, Rachel Baker, Cam Donaldson, Andy Fletcher, Vivienne Hibberd, Meghan Kumar, Felicity Shenton, Gill Westhorp, Geoff Wong, Judy Wright

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The Research

- **Phase 1:** To understand and develop REEm, principles, and applications
 - What are the theoretical, methodological and practical similarities and differences between realist and economic evaluations?
- **Phase 2:** To apply and evaluate REEm, and underlying principles in practice
 - What lessons can we learn from using REEm in practice to improve it?
- **Phase 3:** To refine REEm and principles, and develop guidance for wider application and further development
 - How can we use empirical and expert knowledge to produce consensus REEm guidance?



What?

- Comprehensive approach to evaluation that draws on principles and methods from Realist Evaluation and Economic Evaluation
- Grounded in realist philosophy of science and generative causation
- Comparative assessment of resource impacts and outcomes alongside realist programme theories of how those outcomes are generated (through what contexts and mechanisms).
- Promotes the identification, measurement and valuation of the resources (costs) and (dis)benefits (outcomes) to explain what works, in what circumstances and how, and the relationships between resources, contexts, mechanisms and outcomes.

How?

- Stage 1: Scope and set-up
 - deciphering the best way to investigate the decision problem, focusing on identifying and understanding the evaluative question, and bringing together a team with appropriate expertise.
- Stage 2: Identify (theory development)
 - identify programme theories about how the intervention works (compared an alternative/counterfactual) theorising the context, outcomes and generative causal links (mechanisms), and resource inputs and outputs aligned to these; and generate realist comparative pathway maps.
- Stage 3: Measure (theory testing)
 - select a study design and methods to allow the measurement and testing of causal links in the realist comparative pathway maps, iteratively refining understanding and gathering further evidence.
- Stage 4: Valuing (theory valuation)
 - Refine the realist causal pathway maps and value and compare the costs and outcomes aligned to the refined realist comparative pathway maps. Report and present the causal conditions.
- Stage 5: Report



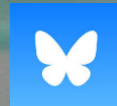
Thank you.



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REEM

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