

guest wireless

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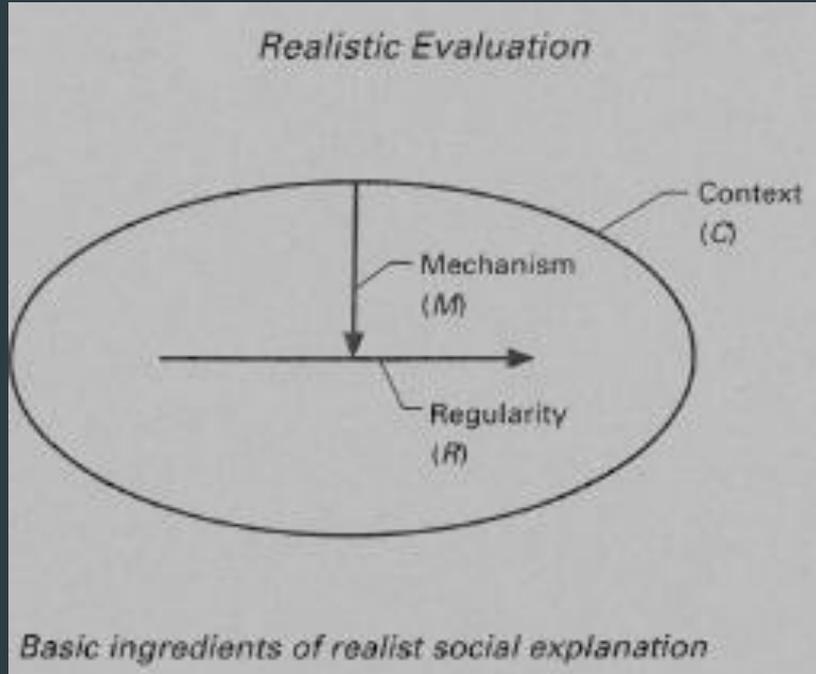
#realism2015

The State of the Art



RealismLeeds

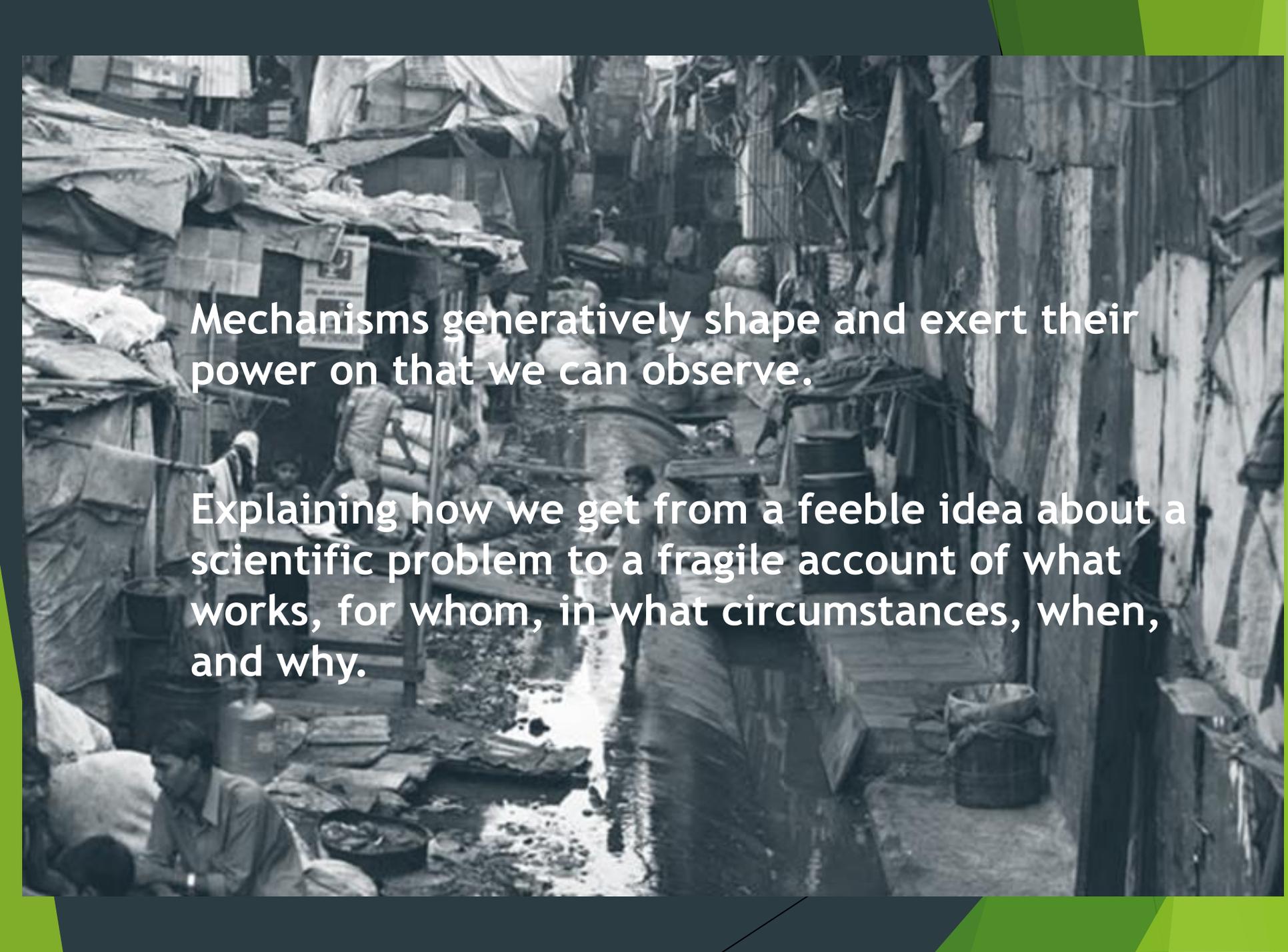
of Realist Methodologies



Our concern
is to reflect
backwards
into the
future of
realist
methodology

You have been told to go grubbing in the library, thereby accumulating a mass of notes and liberal coating of grime. You have been told to choose problems where you can find musty stacks of routine records based on trivial schedules prepared by tired bureaucrats and filled out by reluctant applicants for the aid of fussy do-gooders or indifferent clerks. This is called 'getting your hands dirty in real research'. Those who thus counsel you are wise and honourable: the reasons they offer are of great value. But one thing more is needful: first-hand observation. Go and sit in the lounges of the luxury hotels and on the doorsteps of the flophouses; sit in the Orchestra Hall and the Star and Garter Burlesque. In short [...] go get the seat of your pants dirty in real research





Mechanisms generatively shape and exert their power on that we can observe.

Explaining how we get from a feeble idea about a scientific problem to a fragile account of what works, for whom, in what circumstances, when, and why.



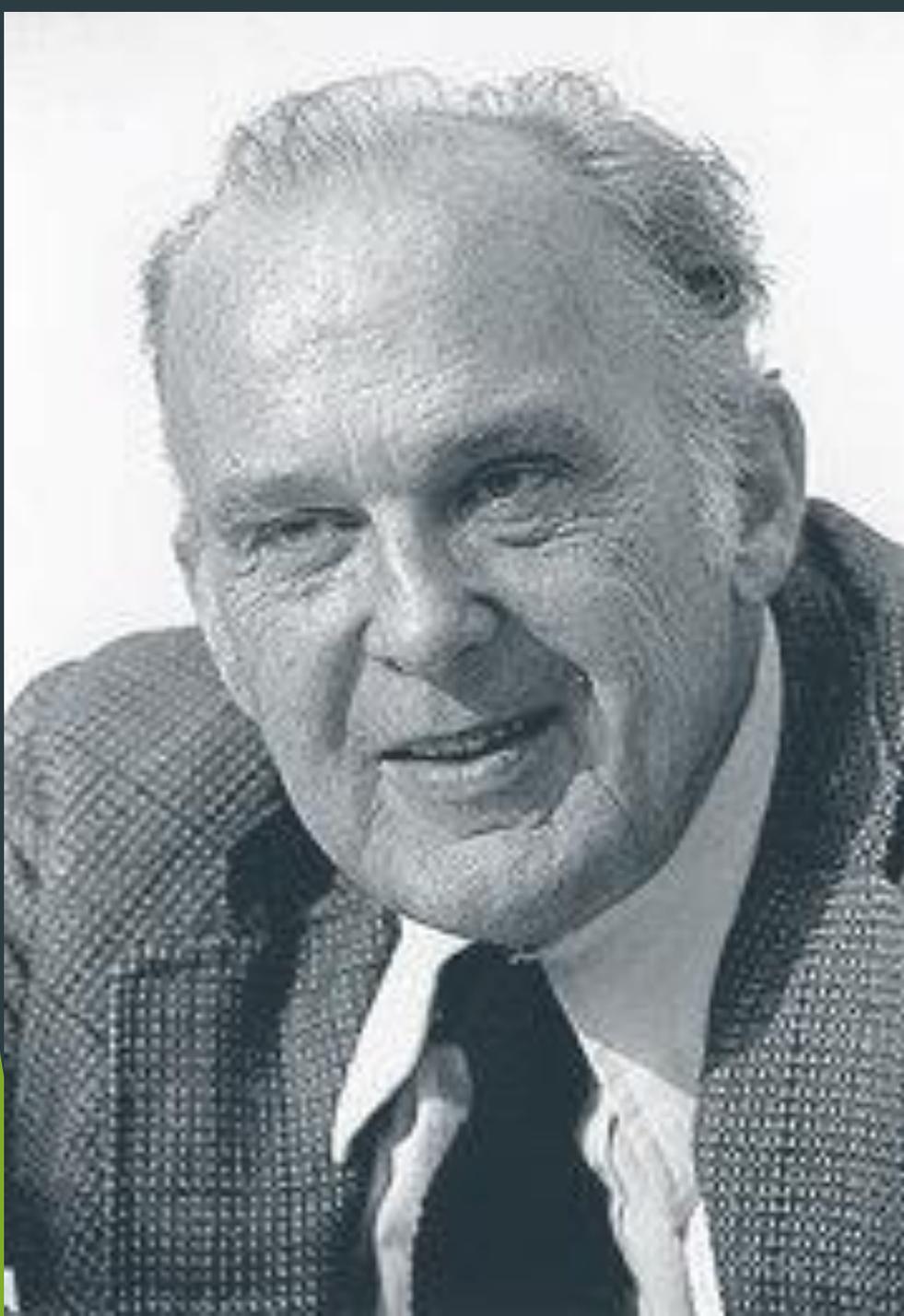
The CMO configuration—an ‘ugly circumlocution’



We cannot do very much, but we can seem to be busy—and that is half the battle nowadays

Such a nursery of statesmen had the Department become in virtue of a long career of this nature, that several solemn lords had attained the reputation of being quite unearthly prodigies of business, solely from having practised, How not to do it, as the head of the Circumlocution Office. As to the minor priests and acolytes of that temple, the result of all this was that they stood divided into two classes, and, down to the junior messenger, either believed in the Circumlocution Office as a heaven-born institution that had an absolute right to do whatever it liked; or took refuge in total infidelity, and considered it a flagrant nuisance.





**A disputatious
community of
scholars**



Discovery does not go up or down, but follows a zig-zag path, prodded by counterexamples, it moves from the naïve conjecture to the premises and then turns back again to delete the naïve conjecture and replace it by the theorem. Naïve conjecture and counter examples do not appear in the fully fledged [inferential] structure; the zig-zag of discovery cannot be discerned in the end-product.

The schema of the zigzag of realist (qualitative) research

Searching a flat hierarchy of evidence—
proposing theories of the middle
range—a bundles of hypotheses to test

Fragile ideas

—To choose cases, choose methods

Brought into relation
with

Evidence

To test, judge, refine

Ideas

Creatively re-describe /
re-contextualise
ABDUCTION

Propose the internal relations
(mechanisms) that makes
experiences what they are
RETRODUCTION

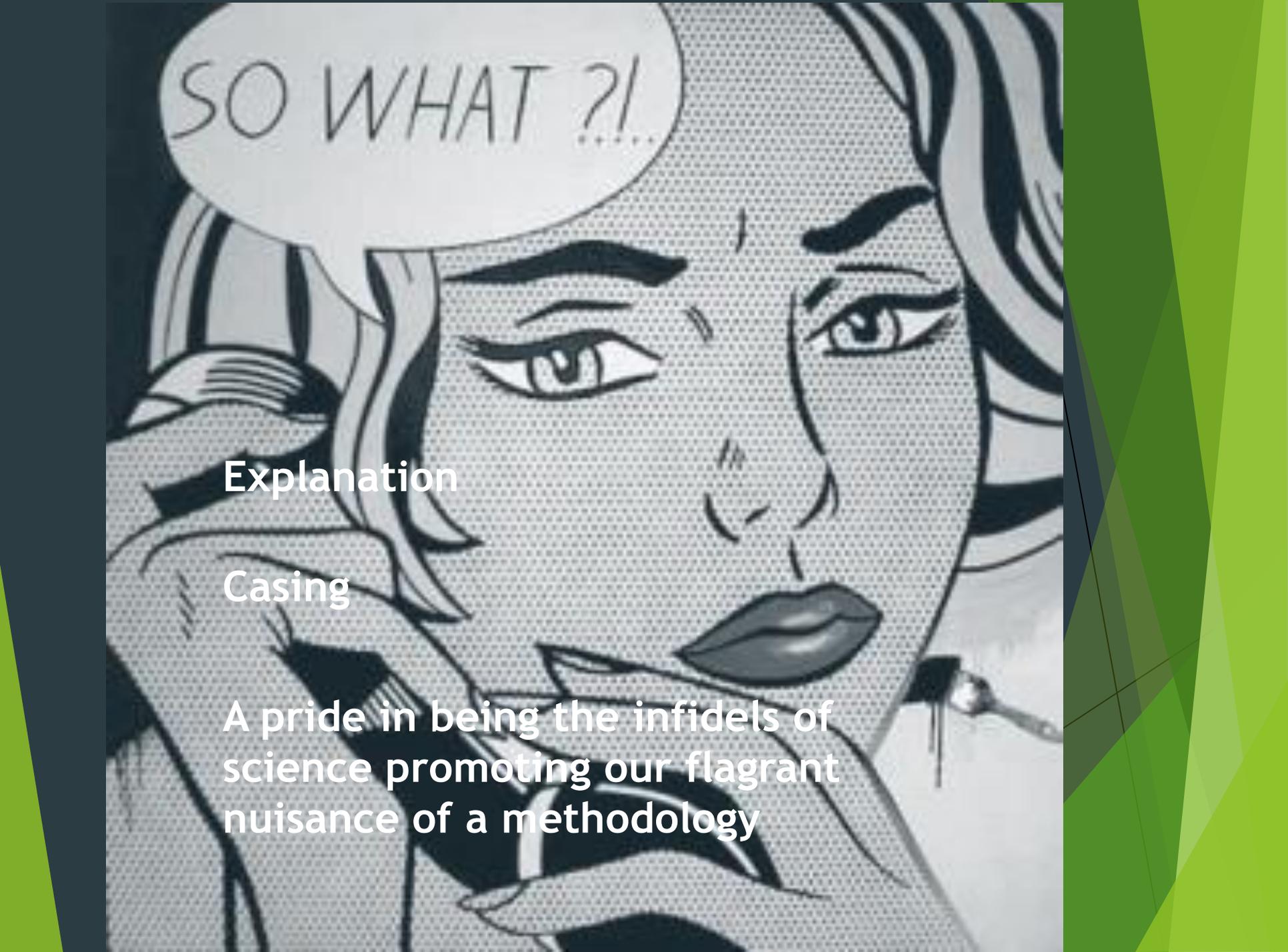
Fallible
model

RESOURCES



Concepts, meaning, and intentions are as real as rocks; they are just not as accessible to direct observation and description as rocks. In this way they are like quarks, black holes, the meteor impact that supposedly killed the dinosaurs, or William Shakespeare: we have no way of directly observing them, and our claims about them are based on a variety of sorts of indirect evidence.





SO WHAT ?!

Explanation

Casing

A pride in being the infidels of science promoting our flagrant nuisance of a methodology

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