

Theoretical & Conceptual Framework

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School of Thoughts

- **Reasoning-based** (Liehr & Smith, 1999; Strauss & Corbin, 1998; de Vos et al., 2005; Borgatti, 1999; Creswell, 2009)
- **Process-based** (Bryman, 2012; Kumar, 2005; Ravitch & Riggan, 2012' Silverman, 2000)

Guiding Principles

- Stimulus elicits response (TF)
- Input – process- output (CF)
- Theory-based
- Boundaries of research
- Research paradigm i.e. prototype

Basic Terms

- **Framework**

- described as abstract, logical structure of meaning that guide the development of the study.
- All frameworks are based on identification of key concepts and relationships among those concepts.

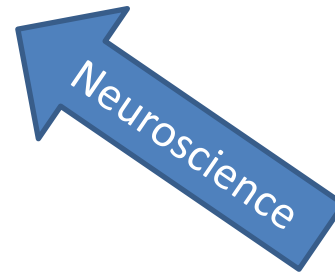
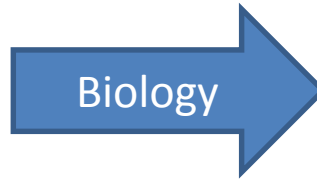
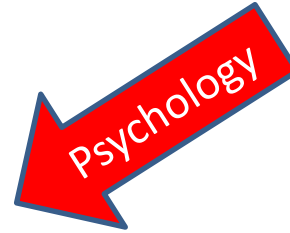
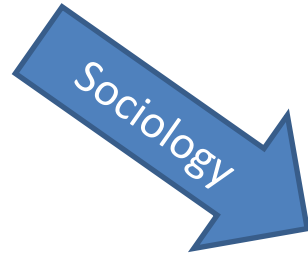
- **Concept**

- abstractly describes and names an object or phenomenon, thus providing it with a separate identity and meaning.
- An intellectual representation of some aspect of reality that is derived from observation made from phenomenon.

- **Theory**

- an explanation of a phenomenon or an abstract generalization that systematically explains the relationship among given phenomenon, for purposes of explaining, predicting and controlling such phenomenon.

Example 1



Deci & Ryan's
Self-Determination
Theory (1987)

Weiner's
Theory of
Attribution
(1984)

Atkinson's
Theory of
Emotions
(1964)

Student
Learning
Motivation

← Psychology

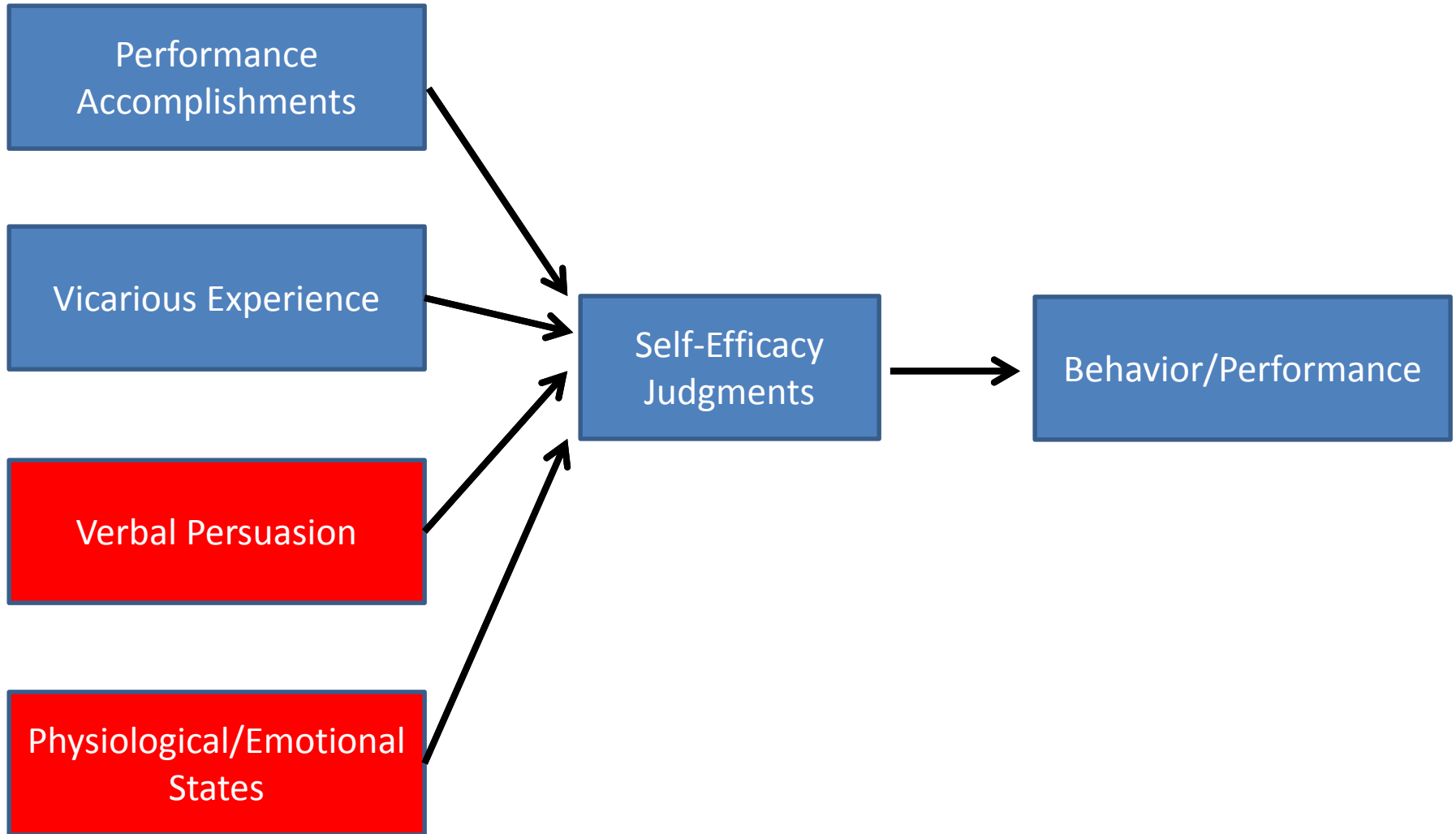


Dweck's Goal Theory
(1986)

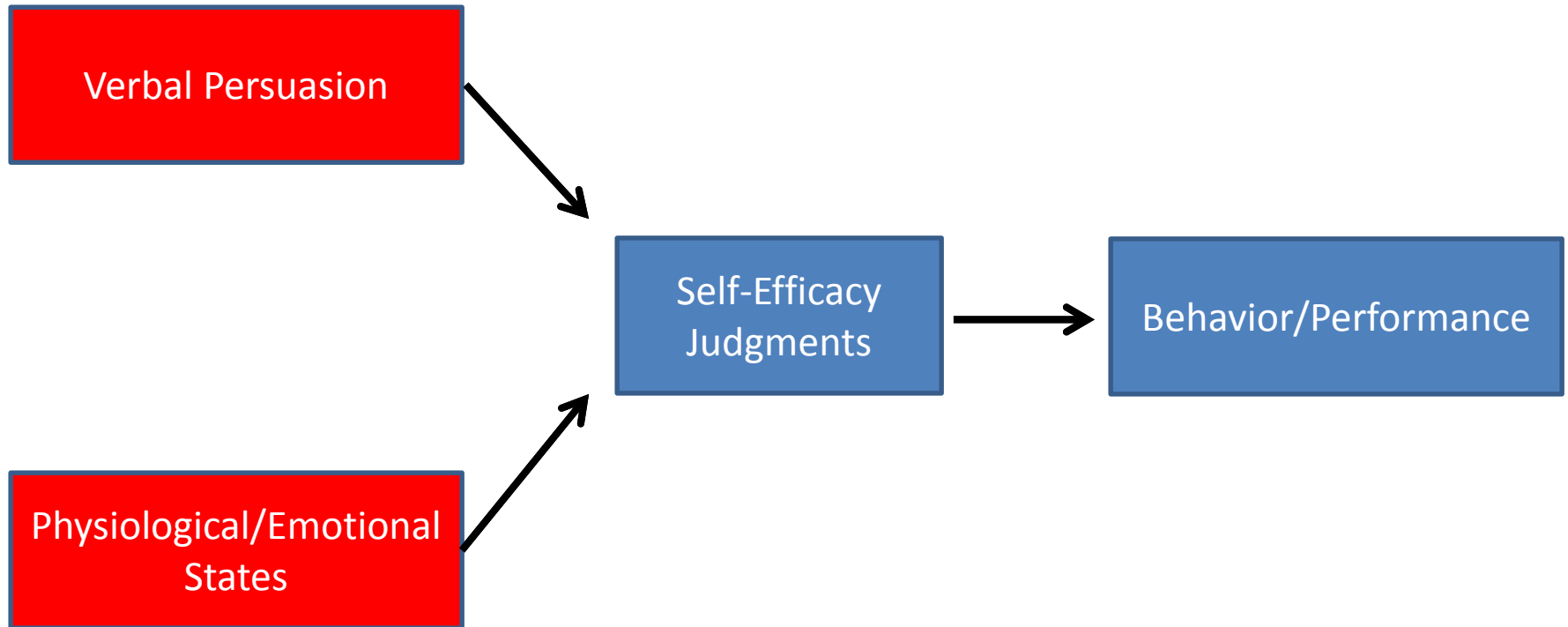
Covington's
Self-Worth
Theory (1984)

Bandura's Self-
Efficacy Theory
(1977)

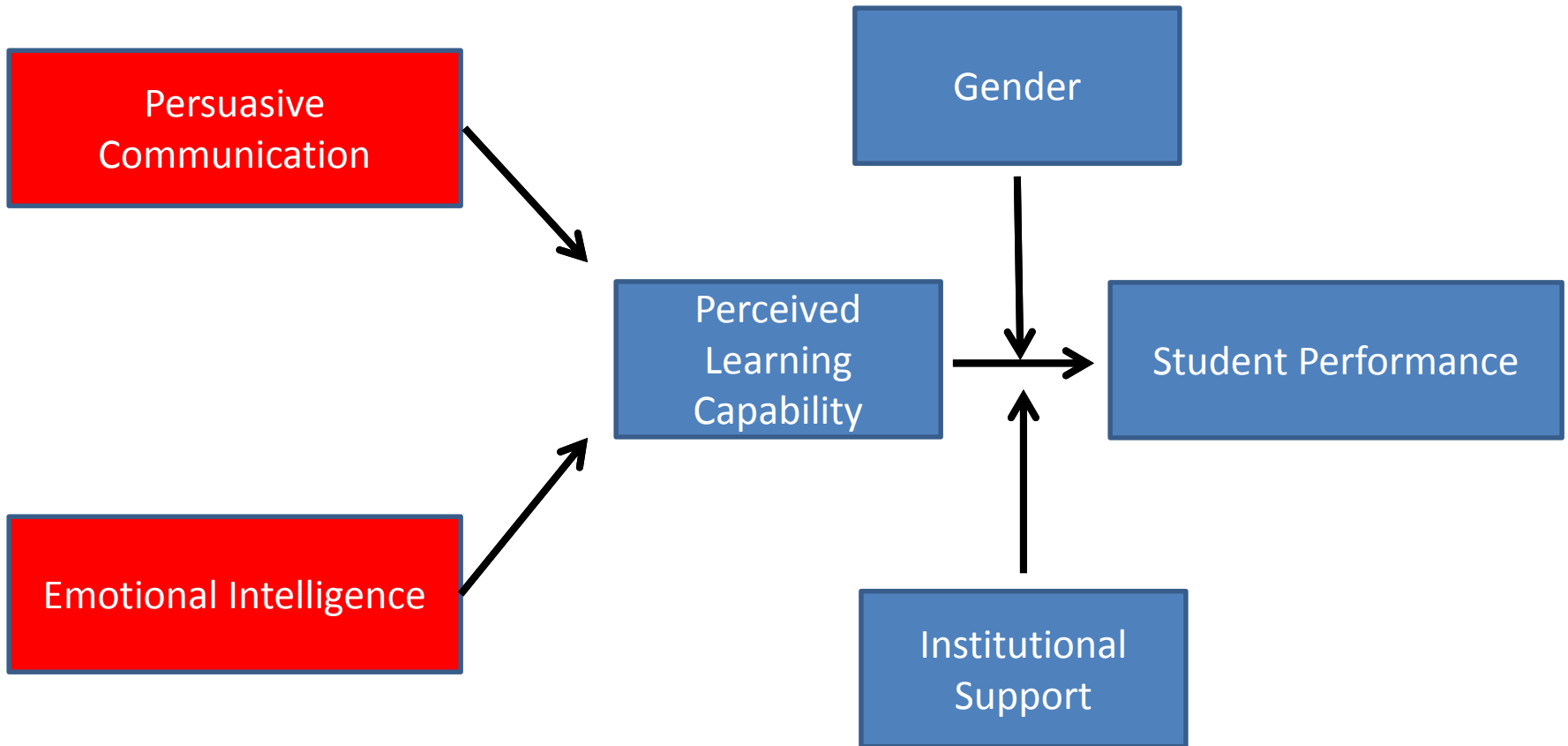
Bandura's Self-Efficacy Theory



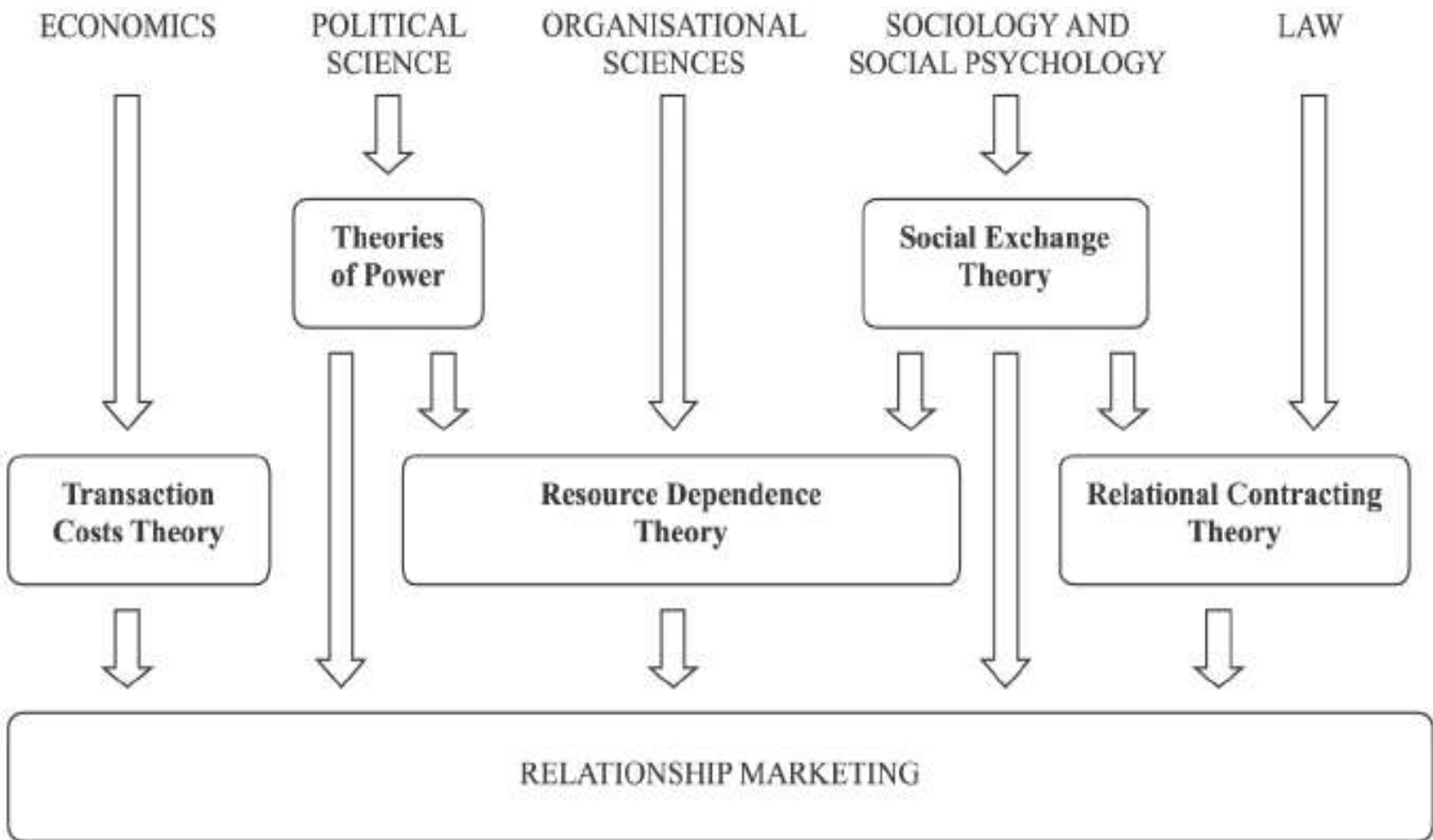
Developing Theoretical Framework



Conceptual Framework



Example 2

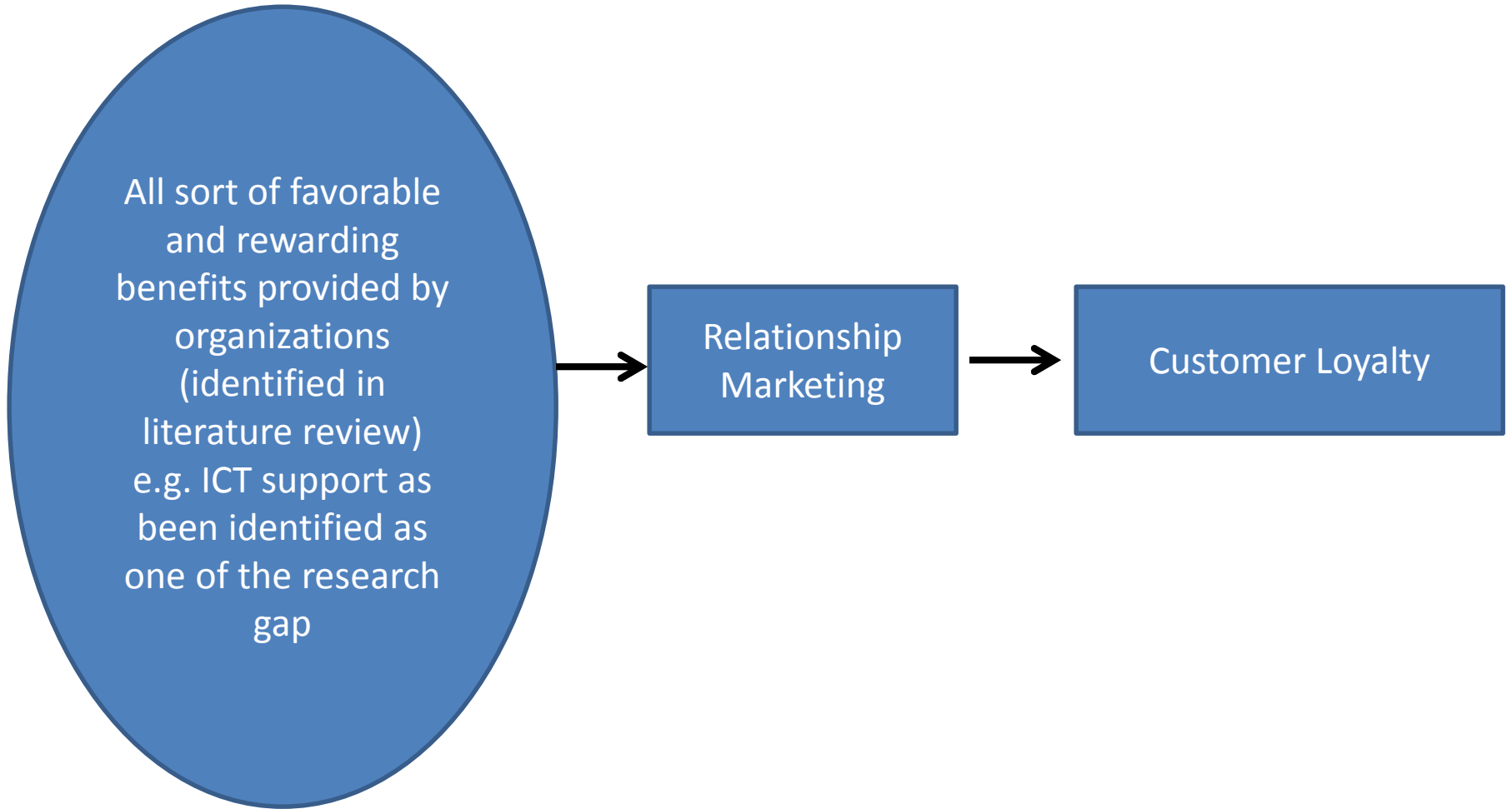


Social Exchange Theory (SET)

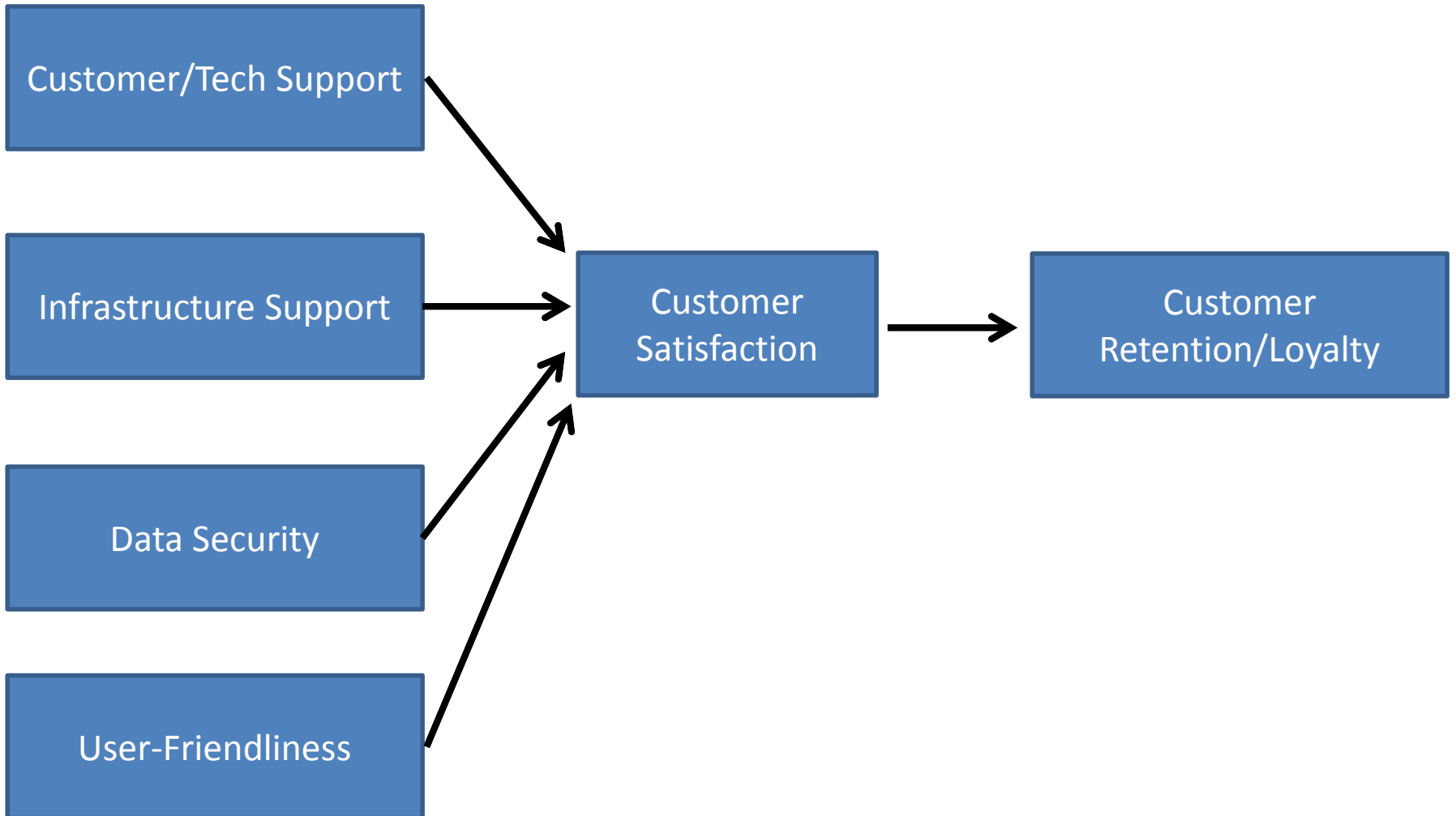
- We form a relationship if it is rewarding
- We attempt to maximise our rewards and minimise our costs
- The rewards minus the costs equals the outcome
- We commit to the relationship if the outcome is profitable



Theoretical Framework



Conceptual Framework



TF and CF

- A conceptual framework is the researcher's idea on how the research problem will have to be explored.
- This is founded on the theoretical framework, which lies on a much broader scale of resolution.
- The theoretical framework dwells on time tested theories that embody the findings of numerous investigations on how phenomena occur.
- As you start reading the literature, you will soon discover that the problem you wish to investigate has its roots in a number of theories that have been developed from different perspectives.
- The theoretical framework provides a general representation of relationships between things in a given phenomenon.
- The conceptual framework, on the other hand, embodies the specific direction by which the research will have to be undertaken.

TF and CF (ctd.)

- Statistically speaking, the conceptual framework describes the relationship between specific variables identified in the study. It also outlines the input, process and output of the whole investigation.
- The theoretical framework describes a broader relationship between things. When stimulus is applied, response is expected.
- The conceptual framework is much more specific in defining this relationship. The conceptual framework specifies the variables that will have to be explored in the investigation.
- The conceptual framework stems from the theoretical framework and concentrates, usually, on one section of that theoretical framework which becomes the basis of your study.
- The variables make clear the kind of statistical treatment that will have to be used to analyze the relationship.

<u>Theoretical Framework</u>	<u>Conceptual Framework</u>
Broader Scope	Narrower Scope
General, Less structured, Loosely defined	Very Specific, Definite structure, no ambiguity in definition
Derived from theories that already exist	Derived from concepts, specific variables that maybe identified in the study itself.
Provide the basic foundation for a research study	Provide the structure, paradigm for a research analysis.
It is the starting point of the discussion, makes readers aware of what follows	It lies in the entire commencement of the study

How?

- **Review literature** pertaining to your chosen research topic.
- Read a lot and find out what has been studied so far in your own respective fields and come up with your own synthesis of the literature.
- Look for gaps in knowledge and identify what questions need to be answered or what problems need to be given solutions.
- Put things into diagram (mind map).

Thank you