

# Health impact assessment and public policy workshop 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Pacific HIA conference: Dunedin, New Zealand

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## **Aims of the workshop:**

1. to identify and discuss issues underpinning HIA as a public policy intervention, based on your experience
2. to incorporate these critically into designing programs of work to progress HIA as a public policy intervention – the ‘do’s and don’t’s of HIA for HPP
3. to provide some collective wisdom from round the world to inform my PhD on the topic

## **Overarching PhD question:**

**What is the relationship between HIA and (healthy) public policy?**

## The problem

- Public health interest in public policy since the 1800's. Since the 1970's - intersectoral action for health, healthy public policy and most recently, health in all policies
- Since the 1990's HIA is one of the main HPP action arms
- But not much action to date – particularly at central government or macro level policy
- For some, HIA has become an end in itself rather than a means to an end. Attention for these people is shifting back to HPP (or HIAP). Where HIA sits in this is not yet clear.

## The problem extended to research

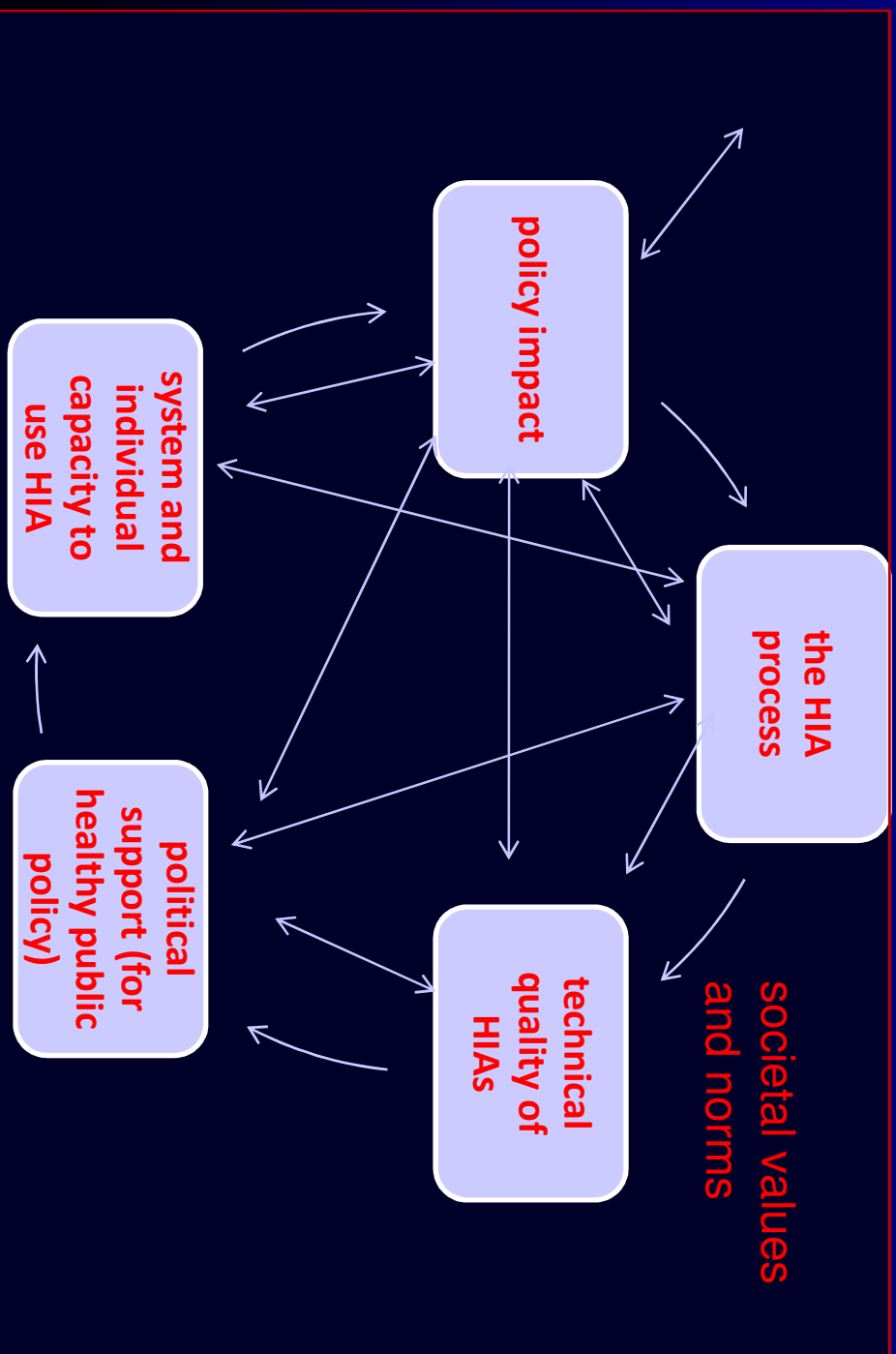
- The literature is normative ('should' rather than 'did') or descriptive - limited research into actual practice
- HIA is a pragmatic and developing approach, so supporting theory has yet to be well developed in the literature

- **For example**

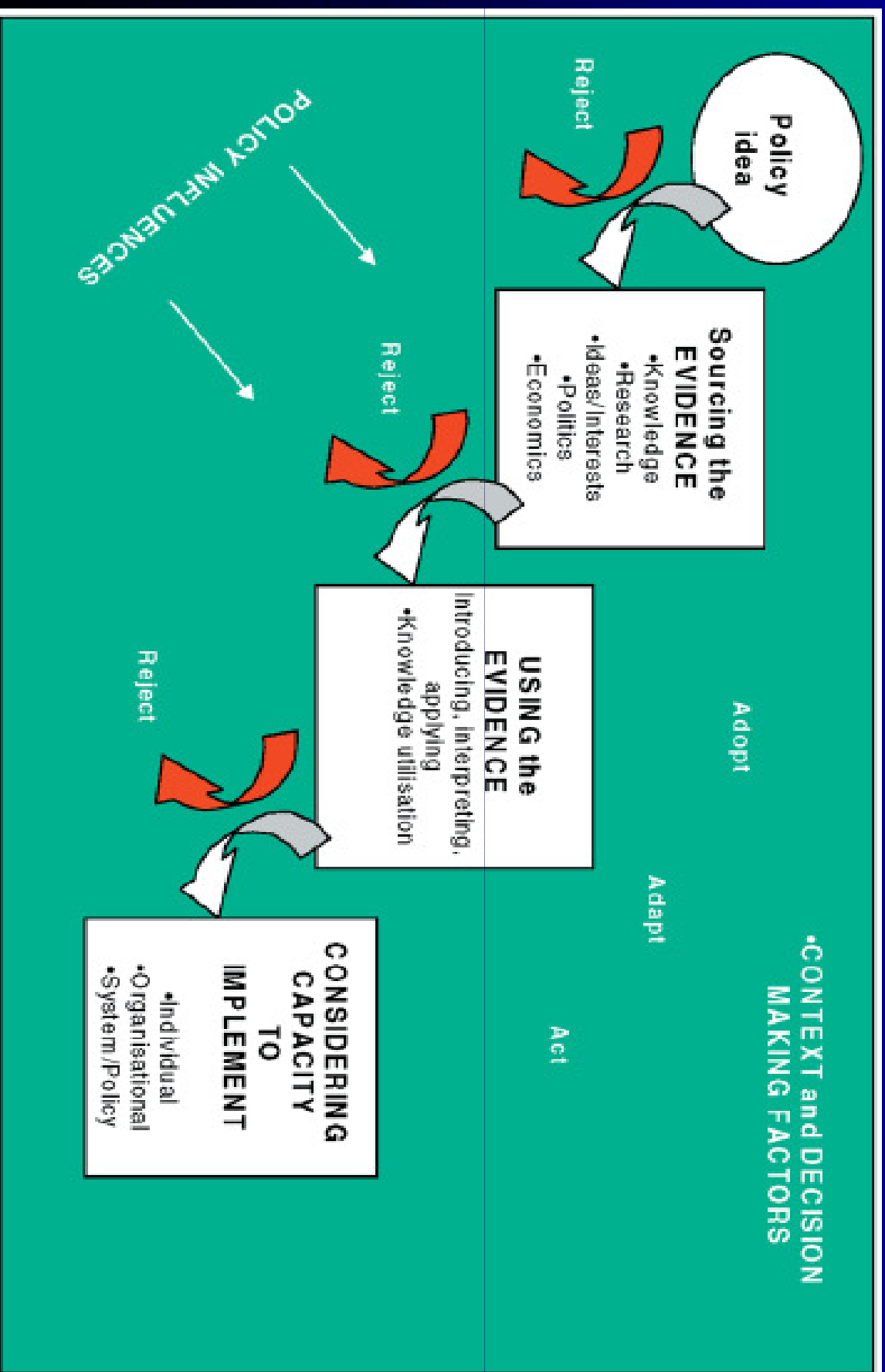
“If not institutionalized, HIAs will depend on proactive political leadership, administration and communities, but these circumstances cannot be expected everywhere...However, there is currently no established conceptual framework for analysing either implementation or institutionalization of HIA”  
(Wismar et al, 2006; p. 89)

# Some ideas about what happens in practice

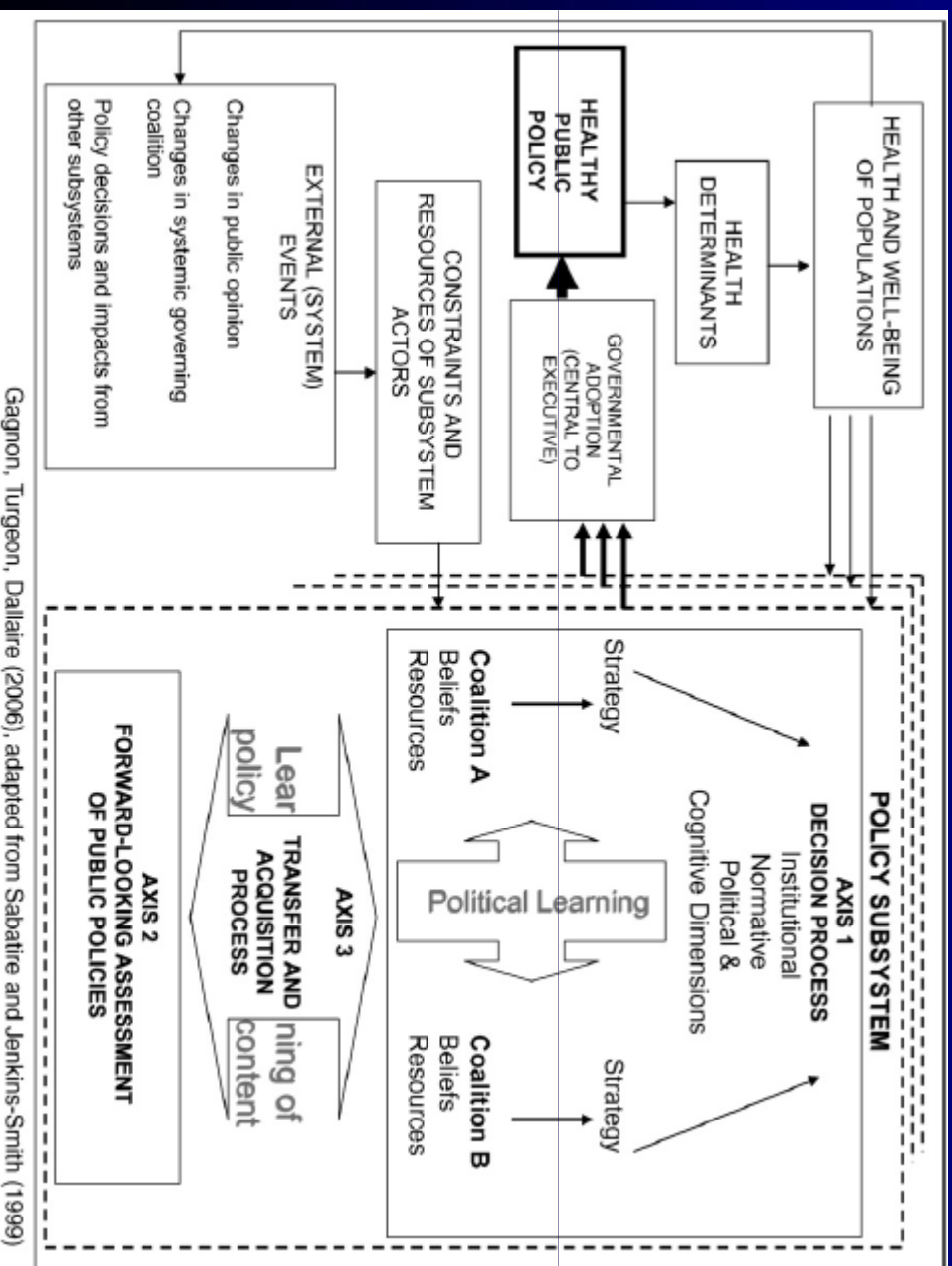
HIA for public policy programs have been developed all over the world. However, the success of these is subject to a feedback 'loop' (or 'mess'!) of factors, some of which are shown here.



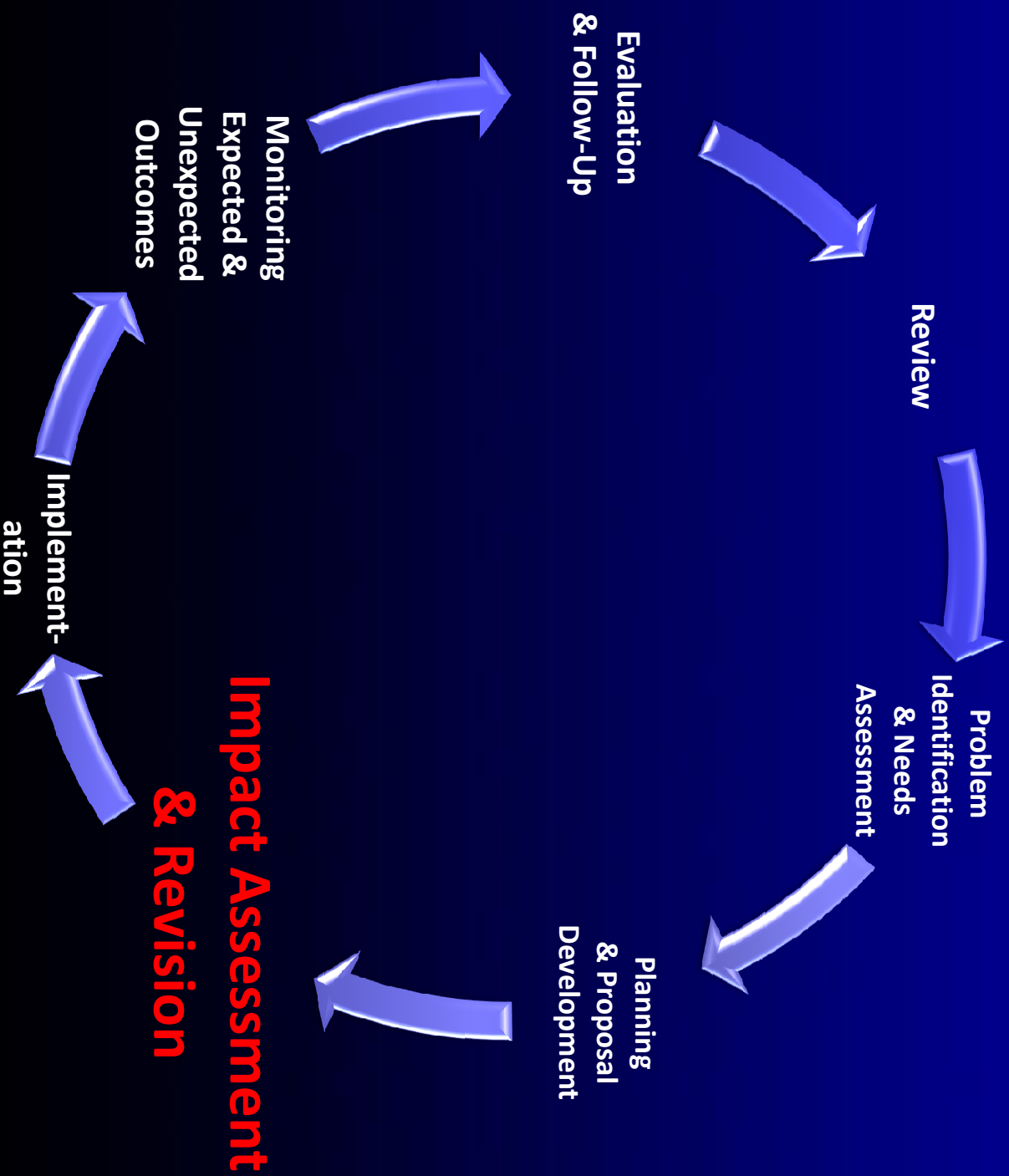
# Another way of looking at the mess (Bowen and Zwi, 2005)



# OR - Advocacy coalition framework for healthy public policy (Gagnon et al 2007)



# The traditional planning cycle

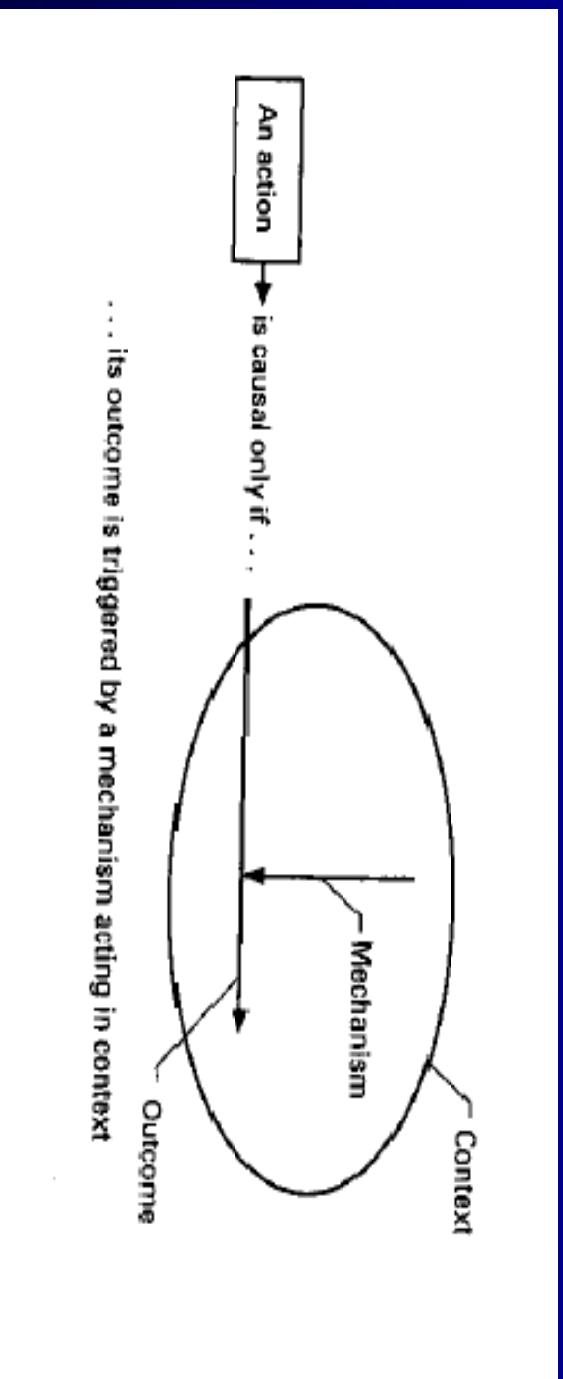




# PHD approach

- Two phases
- *Phase one:* develop a framework through interviews, other qualitative approaches, documentary analysis, and theory
- *Phase two:* test and further refine the framework in actual case studies

# The bare bones of the framework



This configuration is called:

- ‘**Context + mechanism = outcome**’

(Pawson and Tilley, 1997)

Or

- ‘**Context + ‘trigger’ = achievement**’

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