

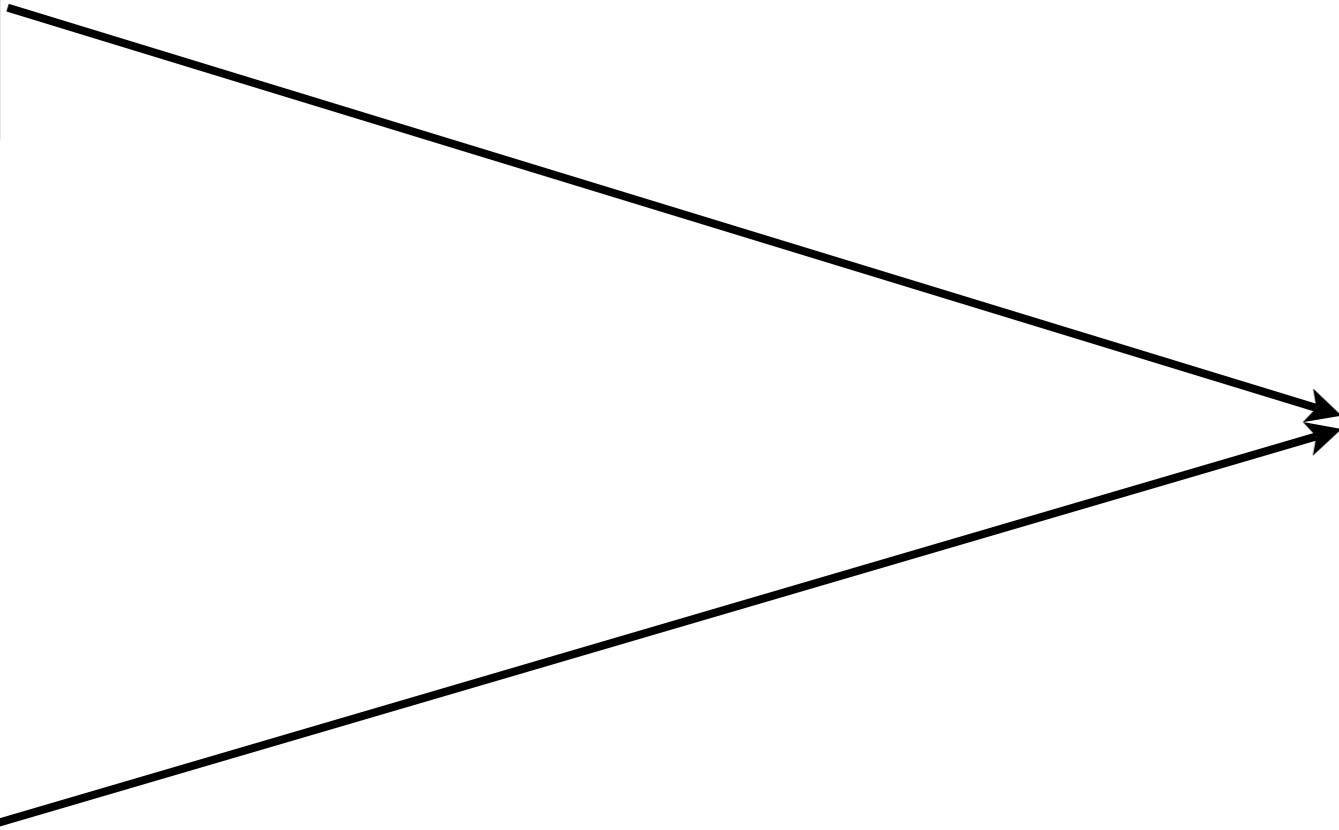
From attitudes to actions: implications for policy

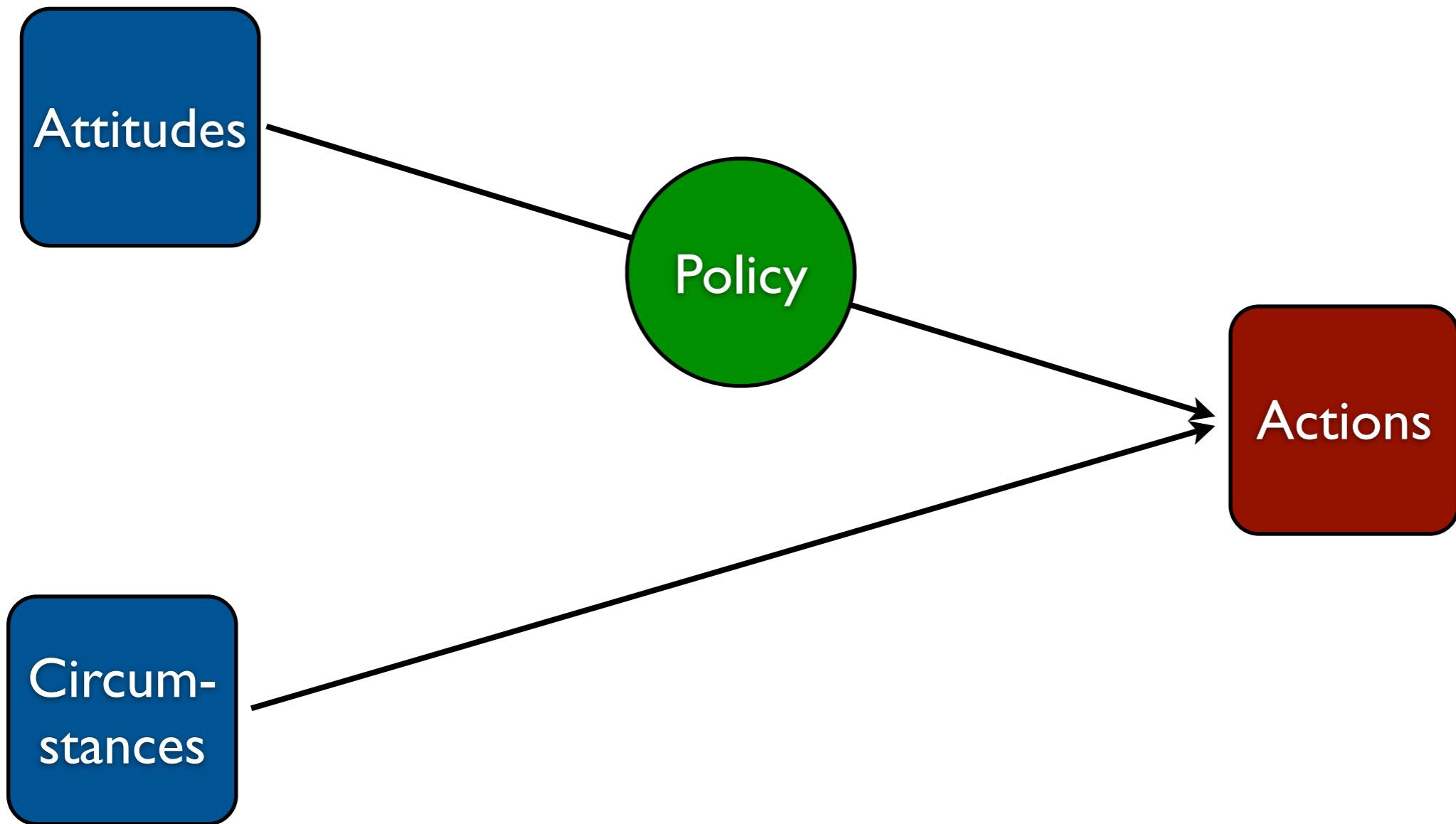
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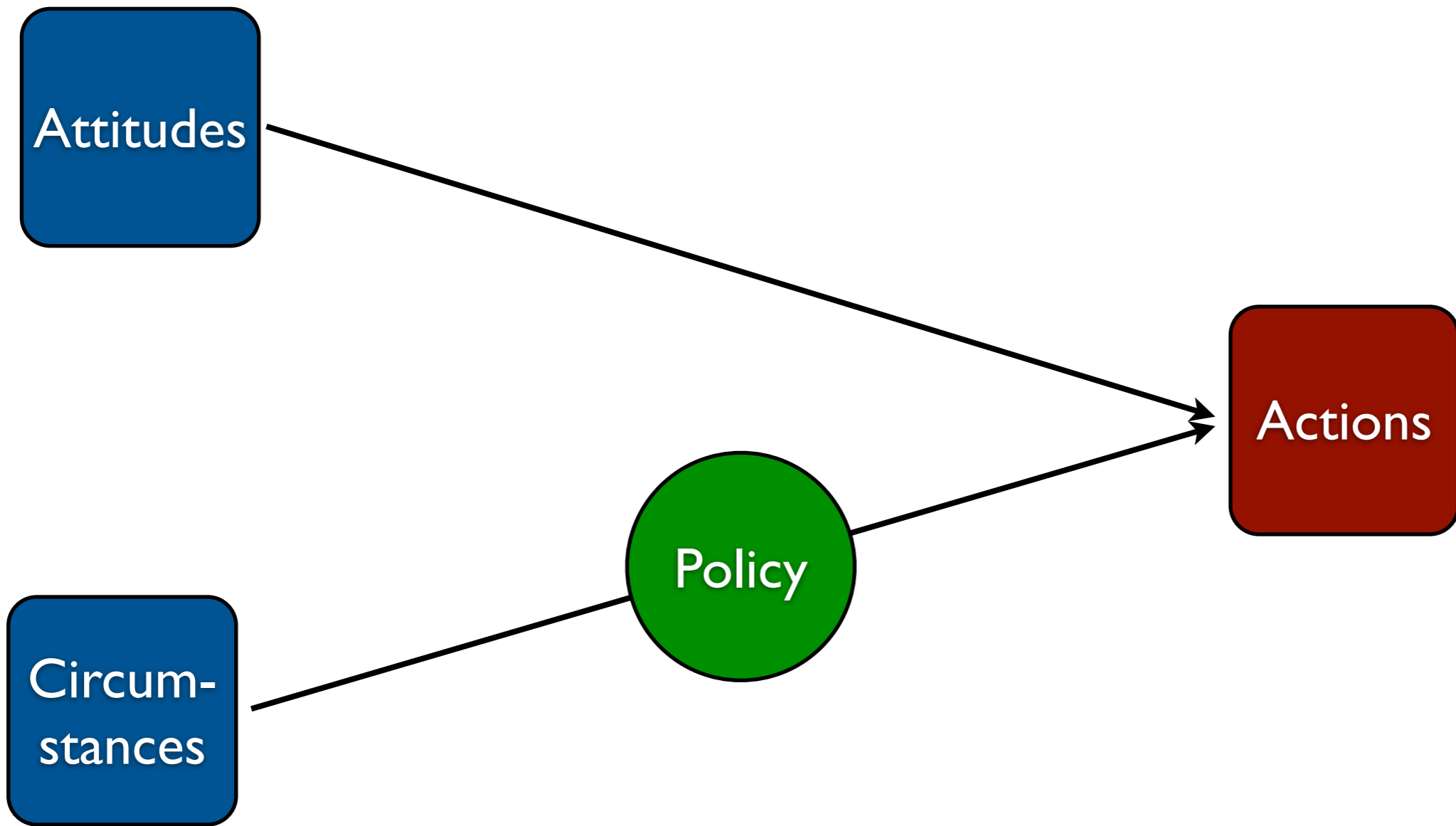
Attitudes

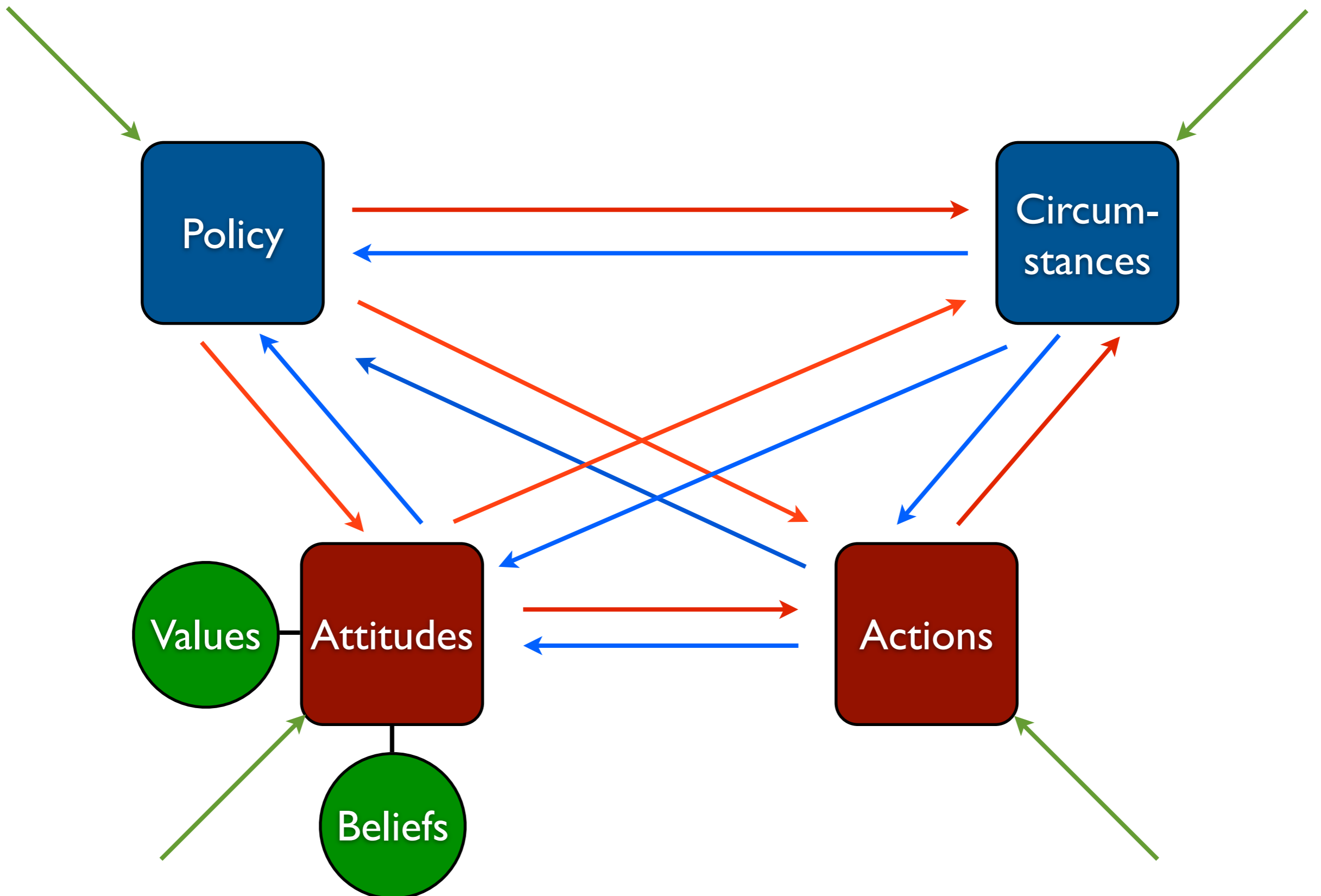
Circum-
stances

Actions









Data

- International Social Survey 2002
- A Replication of International Social Survey in Iceland 2005

Gender role attitudes - measured by 10 items

- To what extent do you agree or disagree...
 - A working mother can establish just as warm and secure relationship with her children as a mother who does not work
 - A preschool child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works
 - All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job
 - A job is alright but what most women really want is a home and children
 - Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay
 - Having a job is the best way for a woman to be an independent person
 - Both the man and the woman should contribute to the household income
 - A man's job is to earn money; a woman's job is to look after the home and family
 - Men ought to do a larger share of childcare than they do now
 - Men ought to do a larger share of the household work than they do now

Scale

- The 10 items are often combined to form a scale (some rescaled so all go in the same direction traditional - > liberal)
- In this case, it works for Sweden and Norway (with Cronbach's alpha above 0.7) and marginally so for Denmark and Finland (with Cronbach's alpha about .69) but not for Iceland (.63).
- So for comparative purposes we tried:
 - A scale of 7 questions
 - A scale of 5 questions
 - And ended up with 2 scales, one of 3 questions and another of 2.

The scales

- Working women (Cronbach's alpha: .72 - .81):
 - A working mother can establish just as warm and secure relationship with her children as a mother who does not work
 - A preschool child is likely to suffer if his or her mother works
 - All in all, family life suffers when the woman has a full-time job
- Men and the house (Cronbach's alpha: .75 - .85):
 - Men ought to do a larger share of childcare than they do now
 - Men ought to do a larger share of the household work than they do now

The sample

- Cohabiting and married people in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Iceland

Hours spent in paid labour per week

	Norway	Sweden	Denmark	Finland	Iceland
Men	44,2	40,4	42,6	40,1	52,8
Women	32,9	35,3	35,9	35,8	36,1
Total	77,1	75,7	78,5	75,9	88,9

Hours spent in housework per week

	Norway	Sweden	Denmark	Finland	Iceland
Men	13,3	9,4	12,4	7,3	7,4
Women	12,7	15,1	14,7	13,7	14,3
Total	26	24,5	27,1	21	21,7

Total workload (housework+paid work)

	Norway	Sweden	Denmark	Finland	Iceland
Men	57,5	49,8	55	47,4	60,2
Women	45,6	50,4	50,6	49,5	50,4
Total	103,1	100,2	105,6	96,9	110,6

Regression analysis: Do attitudes influence the division of housework?

- Dependent variable: The ratio between respondent's hours spent in housework and the hours the couple spend in housework in total
 - Housework hours/ total housework hours of the couple
- Independent variables:
 - Education at secondary level (dummy), University degree (dummy), Absolute hours spent weekly in paid labour, ratio of working hours (respondent's/ couple's in total), Relative income (whether spouse or respondent's has higher income), Age, Age squared, Size of household, Number of children in household, Sex
 - Scale 1, Scale 2, plus 5 attitude questions
- DF 17

Regression analysis: Iceland

	β (S.E.)	Sig.
Constant	0.037 (0.14)	0,795
Secondary education	0.044 (0.034)	0,191
University degree	- 0.039 (0.019)	0,040
Absolute hours in paid labour	-0.001 (0.001)	0,221
Relative hours in paid labour	-0.241 (0.085)	0,005
Relative income	-0.002 (0.001)	0,012
Working women	0.001 (0.005)	0,641
Men and the house	0.012 (0.005)	0,021
Age	0.005 (0.006)	0,417
Age squared	-0.000 (0.000)	0,391
Size of home	0.015 (0.010)	0,145
Amount of children at home	-0.007 (0.013)	0,589
Sex	0.259 (0.023)	0,000
All women want a home and kids	-0.016 (0.007)	0,016
Homekeeping as fulfilling	-0.000 (0.007)	0,977
Men's job is to earn	0.013 (0.006)	0,026
Earning and women's independence	0.002 (0.007)	0,723
Both should contribute	0.004 (0.008)	0,607
<i>R squared</i>	<i>0.597 (.15062)</i>	

Regression analysis: Norway

	β (S.E.)	Sig.
Constant	0.219 (0.122)	0,074
Secondary education	0.009 (0.023)	0,700
University degree	0.010 (0.023)	0,649
Absolute hours in paid labour	-0.000 (0.001)	0,797
Relative hours in paid labour	-0.118 (0.106)	0,269
Relative income	0.000 (0.002)	0,836
Working women	0.000 (0.004)	0,964
Men and the house	0.003 (0.006)	0,630
Age	-0.005 (0.004)	0,142
Age squared	0.000 (0.000)	0,193
Size of home	0.0103 (0.012)	0,827
Amount of children at home	-0.000 (0.008)	0,977
Sex	0.242 (0.020)	0,000
All women want a home and kids	0.001(0.009)	0,913
Homekeeping as fulfilling	-0.016 (0.009)	0,058
Men's job is to earn	0.033 (0.012)	0,005
Earning and women's independence	0.009 (0.008)	0,267
Both should contribute	-0.001 (0.011)	0,909
<i>R squared</i>	<i>0.291 (0.22189)</i>	

Regression analysis: Sweden

	β (S.E.)	Sig.
Constant	0.138 (0.144)	0,338
Secondary education	-0.013 (0.023)	0,577
University degree	0.007 (0.019)	0,703
Absolute hours in paid labour	-0.001 (0.001)	0,693
Relative hours in paid labour	-0.270 (0.127)	0,034
Relative income	-0.015 (0.007)	0,026
Working women	0.007 (0.004)	0,060
Men and the house	0.013 (0.006)	0,022
Age	0.009 (0.0045)	0,084
Age squared	-0.000 (0.000)	0,116
Size of home	0.002 (0.011)	0,844
Amount of children at home	-0.007 (0.006)	0,292
Sex	0.246 (0.019)	0,000
All women want a home and kids	-0.017 (0.009)	0,058
Homekeeping as fulfilling	0.003 (0.008)	0,701
Men's job is to earn	-0.005 (0.012)	0,679
Earning and women's independence	-0.008 (0.009)	0,364
Both should contribute	-0.004 (0.011)	0,716
<i>R squared</i>	<i>0.493 (0.15761)</i>	

Regression analysis: Finland

	β (S.E.)	Sig.
Constant	0.240 (0.173)	0,166
Secondary education	0.008 (0.031)	0,798
University degree	-0.028 (0.034)	0,406
Absolute hours in paid labour	-0.002 (0.001)	0,158
Relative hours in paid labour	-0.244 (0.133)	0,067
Relative income	-0.00 (0.007)	0,026
Working women	0.000 (0.004)	0,932
Men and the house	0.011 (0.006)	0,073
Age	-0.002 (0.008)	0,782
Age squared	0.000 (0.000)	0,739
Size of home	0.033 (0.014)	0,021
Amount of children at home	-0.019 (0.008)	0,021
Sex	0.277 (0.020)	0,000
All women want a home and kids	-0.017 (0.009)	0,058
Homekeeping as fulfilling	0.003 (0.008)	0,701
Men's job is to earn	-0.005 (0.012)	0,679
Earning and women's independence	-0.008 (0.009)	0,364
Both should contribute	-0.004 (0.011)	0,716
<i>R squared</i>	<i>0.535 (0.15239)</i>	

Regression analysis: Denmark

	β (S.E.)	Sig.
Constant	0.530 (0.128)	0
Secondary education	-0.053 (0.028)	0,056
University degree	-0.036 (0.027)	0,192
Absolute hours in paid labour	-0.000 (0.001)	0,785
Relative hours in paid labour	-0.453 (0.134)	0,001
Relative income	-0.000 (0.001)	0,649
Working women	-0.002 (0.003)	0,425
Men and the house	0.001 (0.004)	0,772
Age	-0.002 (0.004)	0,651
Age squared	0.000 (0.000)	0,761
Size of home	-0.016 (0.014)	0,235
Amount of children at home	0.010 (0.007)	0,156
Sex	0.204 (0.019)	0,000
All women want a home and kids	-0.003 (0.007)	0,685
Homekeeping as fulfilling	0.006 (0.006)	0,306
Men's job is to earn	-0.006 (0.009)	0,523
Earning and women's independence	-0.009 (0.007)	0,169
Both should contribute	0.005 (0.008)	0,516
<i>R squared</i>	<i>0.305 (0.19859)</i>	

Do attitudes have anything to do with it?

- The only variable affecting one's proportion of the hours spent in housework is sex
- None of the attitudinal measures showed having an effect in all the nordic countries

Implications for social policy

- If we could create policies in one country that were successful in changing the attitudes towards the gender roles and thereby the division of labour between men and women in one country, those policies might not necessarily be effective in other countries
- In fact, the division of household labour is characterized by causal heterogeneity (i.e. the division of household labour not affected by the same factors in different countries). Causal heterogeneity makes the exportation of policies highly problematic in any policy area. Any policy rests on a number of assumptions (e.g. about motivation and human behavior) and if these assumptions don't hold the effects of the policy are unlikely to be as expected
- Using cross-sectional macro-level correlation studies to evaluate the effects of policy is not valid when causal heterogeneity obtain