



CONNECT!

REBUILDING FOR WELL-BEING: A COHERENCE-BASED POLICY LEARNING STUDY OF THE POST-DISASTER ENVIRONMENTS IN WILMINGTON AND KINSTON, NORTH CAROLINA.

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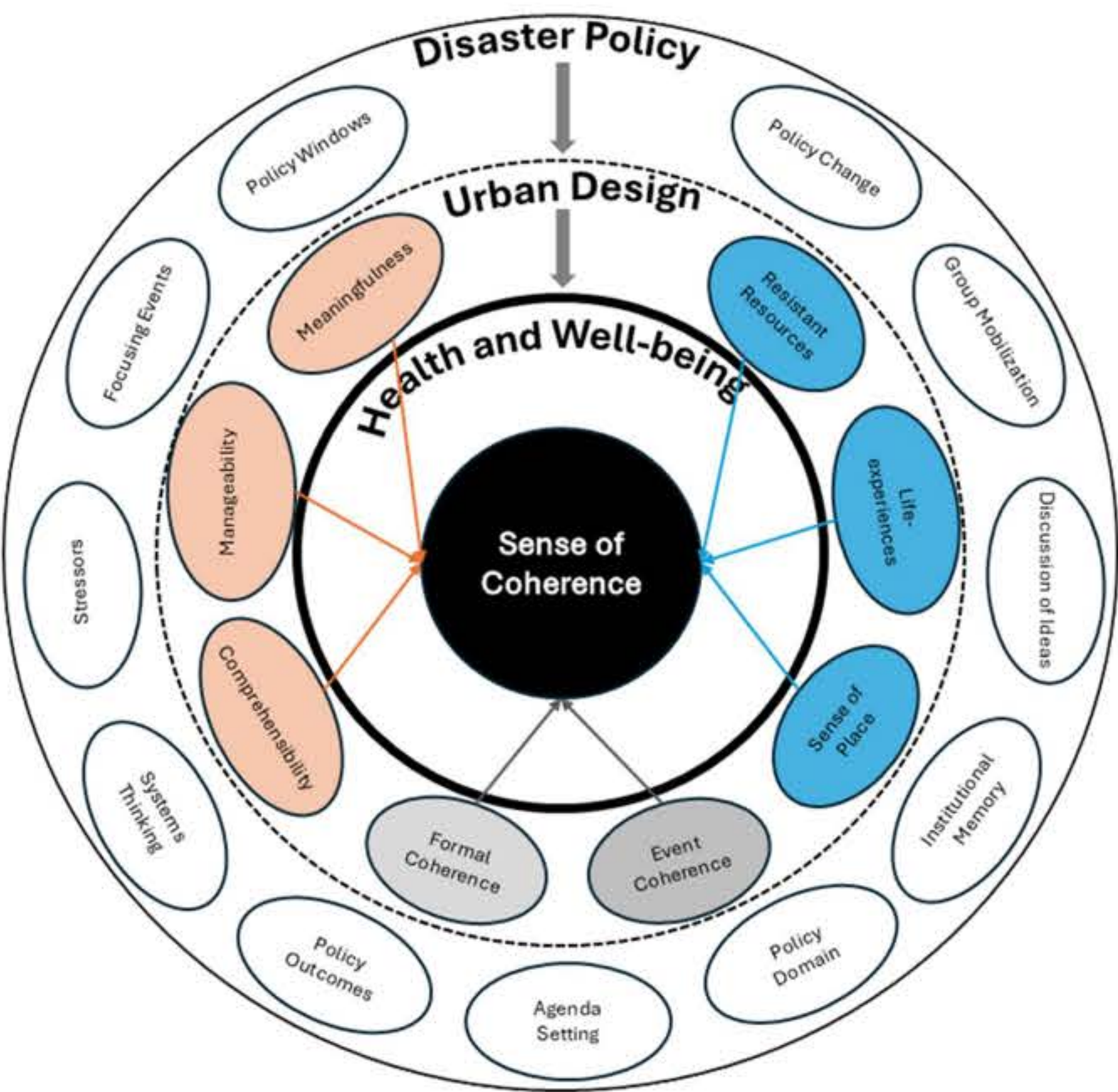


INTRODUCTION

Humans are fundamentally meaning-making and resource-seeking beings, seeking coherence in the face of pervasive life's stressors and instinctively reaching for whatever makes life worth living [1], [2], [3]. After major disruption, survivors do not merely need relief, they seek to make sense of what happened, how to keep going, and why life still matters. These are essential to long-term well-being. This research proposes the Coherence-Based Policy Learning Evaluative Model (COPLEM) to assess post-disaster environment through a psychosocial lens, centering the most human question of all: Do people feel confident in living a wholesome life in an environment routinely disrupted by hurricanes?



Bounded by three major buckets: Disaster Policy, Urban Design, and Health and Well-being, this research examines how disaster-induced policy changes manifest physically through the built environment, and in turn shapes the wellbeing of affected communities.



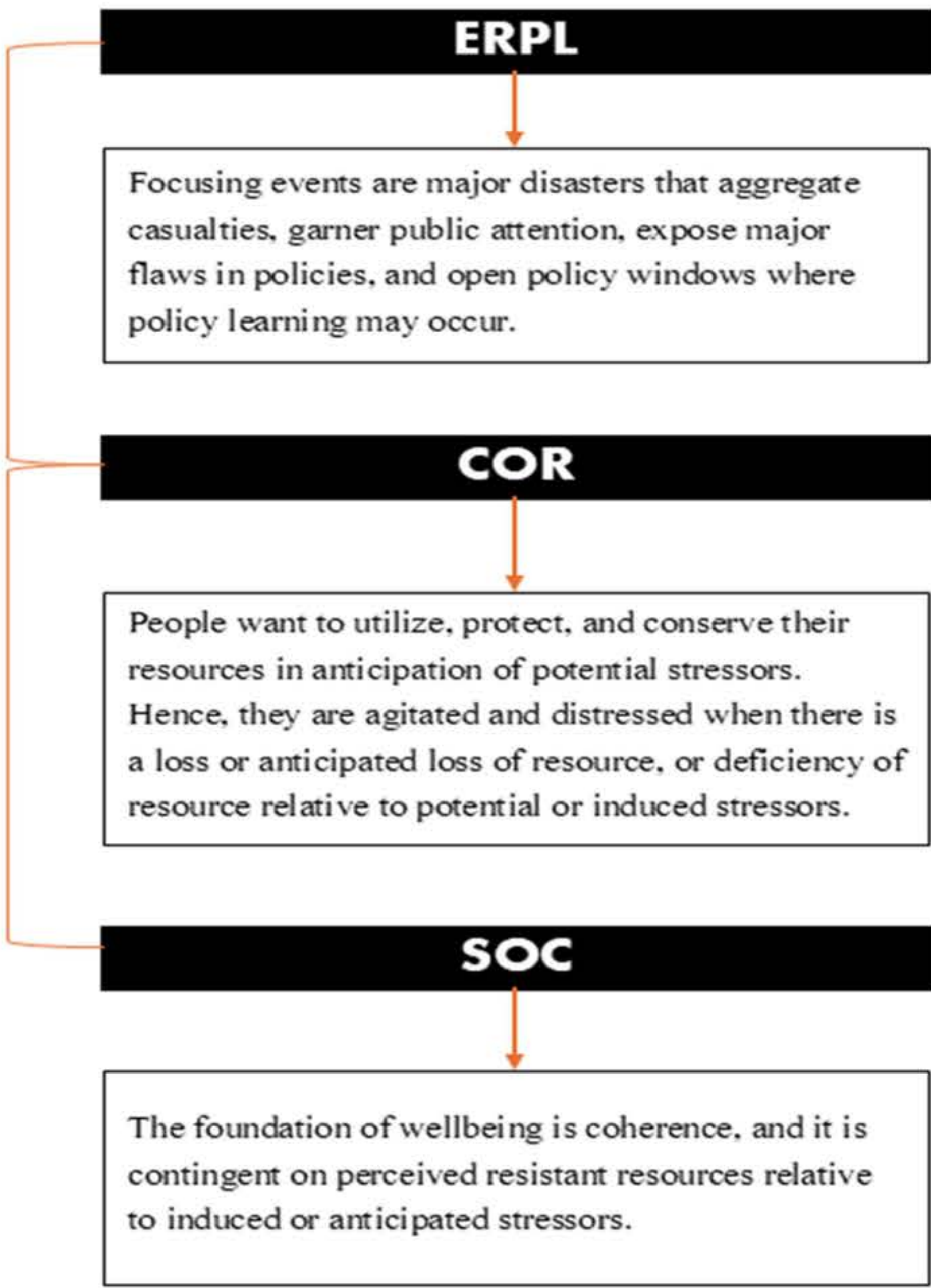
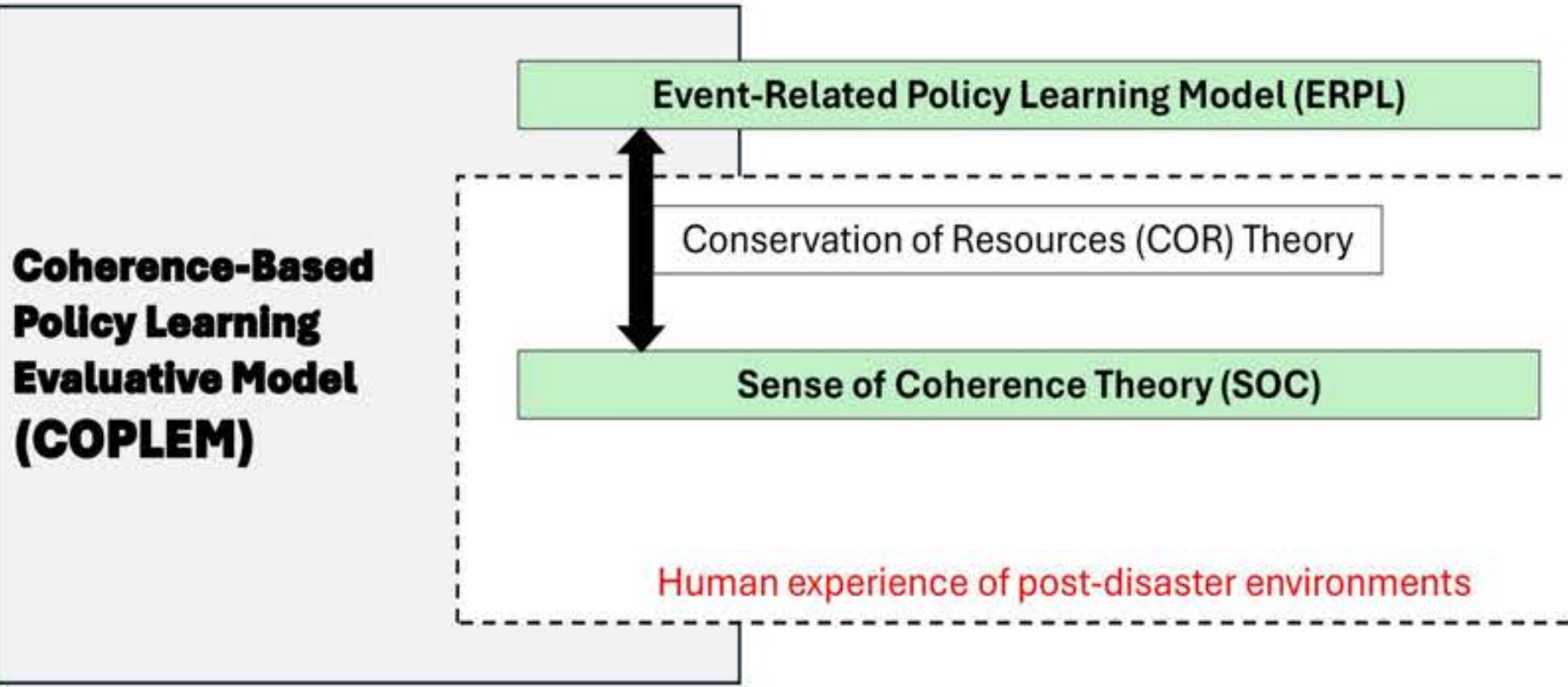
It positions the **“strengthening of coherence”** as the ideal outcome of disaster policy change.

RESEARCH QUESTION

How do **the lived experiences of current Wilmington and Kinston residents** reflect coherence-promoting policy learning across **Hurricanes Floyd, Matthew, and Florence**, particularly in the creation of coherent environments that support recovery and enhance long-term wellbeing?

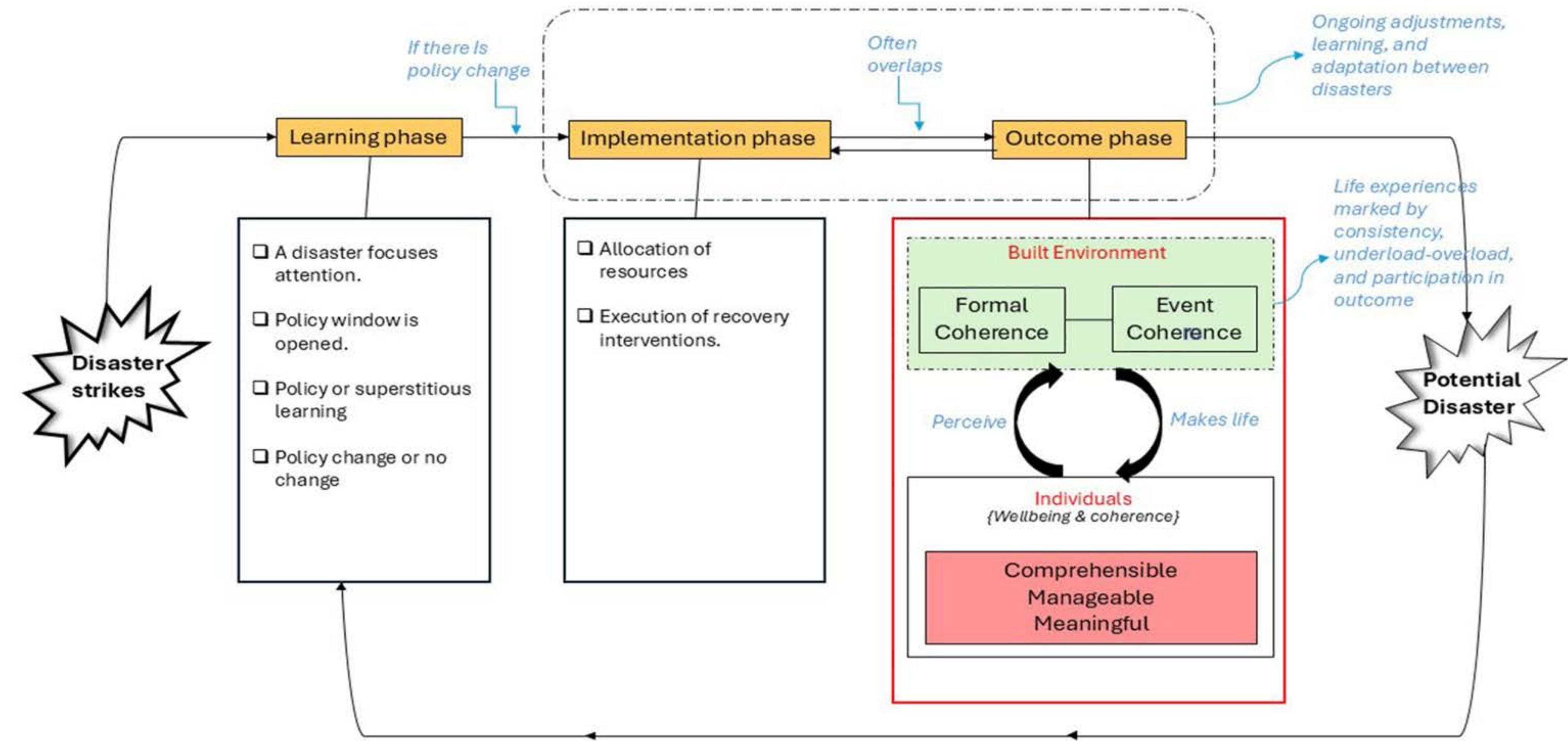
THEORETICAL CONTEXT

Grounded in Antonovsky's Sense of Coherence [2], [3]; Hobfoll's Conservation of Resources [4], and Birkland's Event-Related Policy Learning frameworks [5], COPLEM assesses whether disaster-induced policy changes help to create environments that enhance people's perception that life is comprehensible, manageable, and meaningful.



COPLEM

This is designed to assess whether disaster-induced policy changes contribute to environments that promote a sense of coherence — a key determinant of long-term well-being

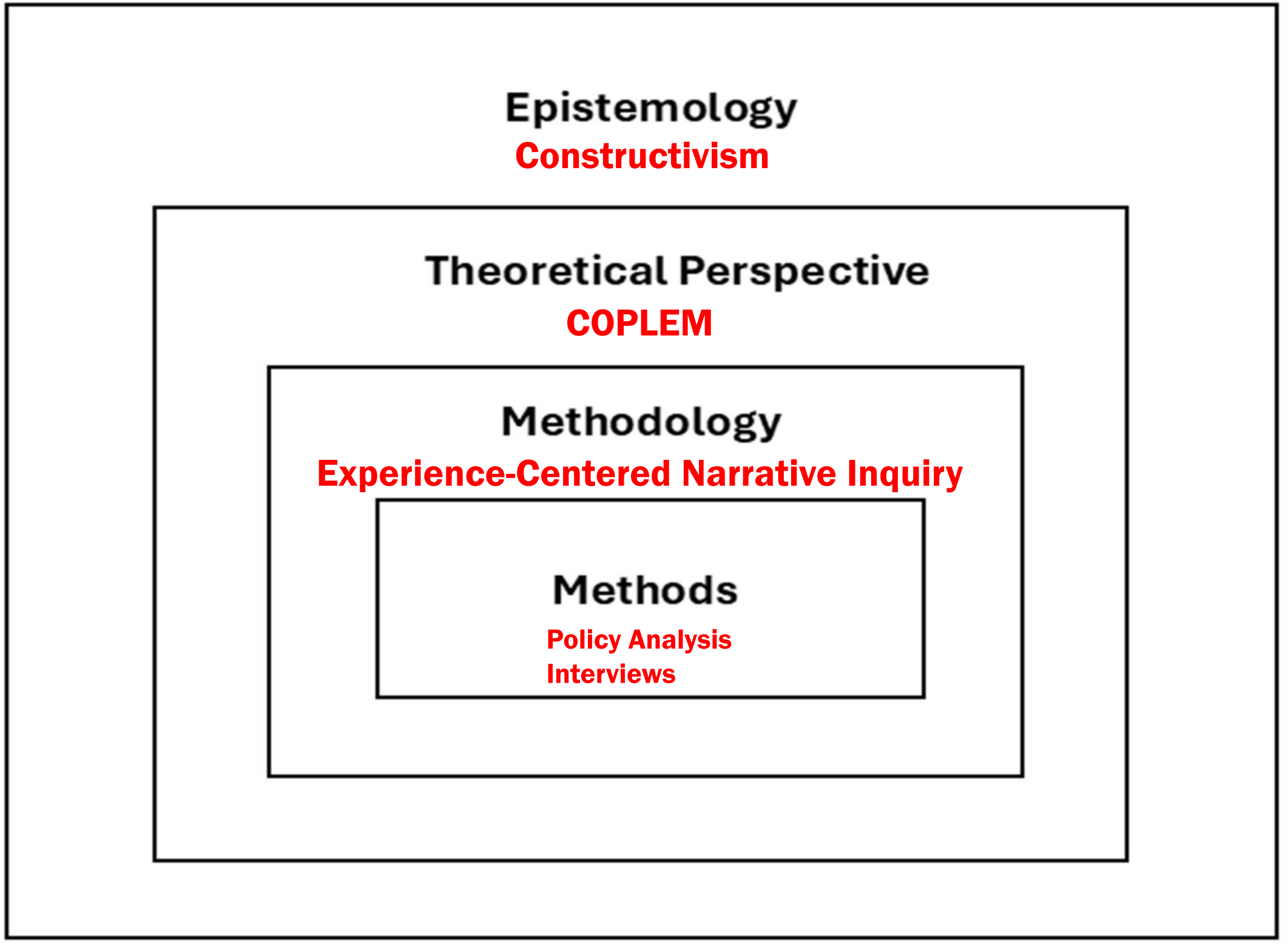


Formal coherence relates to the spatial-visual attribute of the built environment that enable people to construct mental model of the physical structure, geometry, and organization of their environment [6].

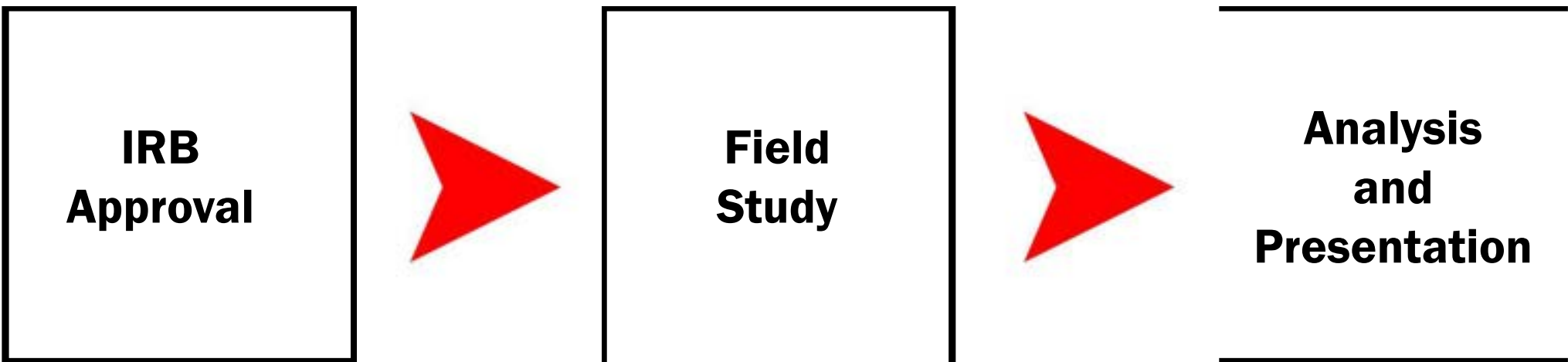
Event coherence is the temporal-functional attribute of the built environment that captures the lived reality of how places work - the rhythms, patterns, and social ecologies that make environments meaningful and functional for people [6].

Disasters can disrupt event coherence and my research is digging at the fact that we should be learning about how to rebuild event coherence into post-disaster environments, and doing so will help to strengthen the sense of coherence of people, and consequently, wellbeing.

RESEARCH DESIGN



NEXT PHASES



REFERENCES

