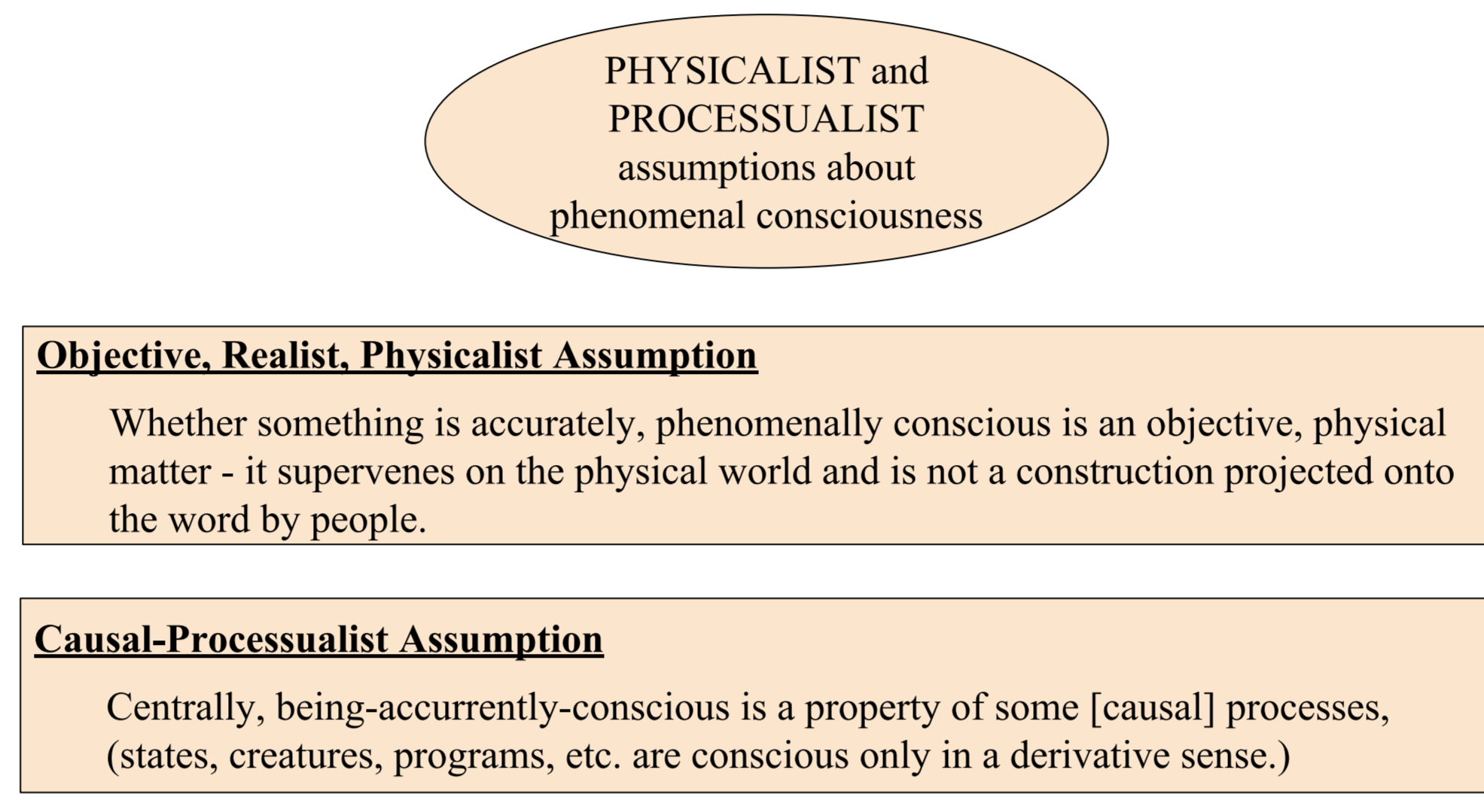
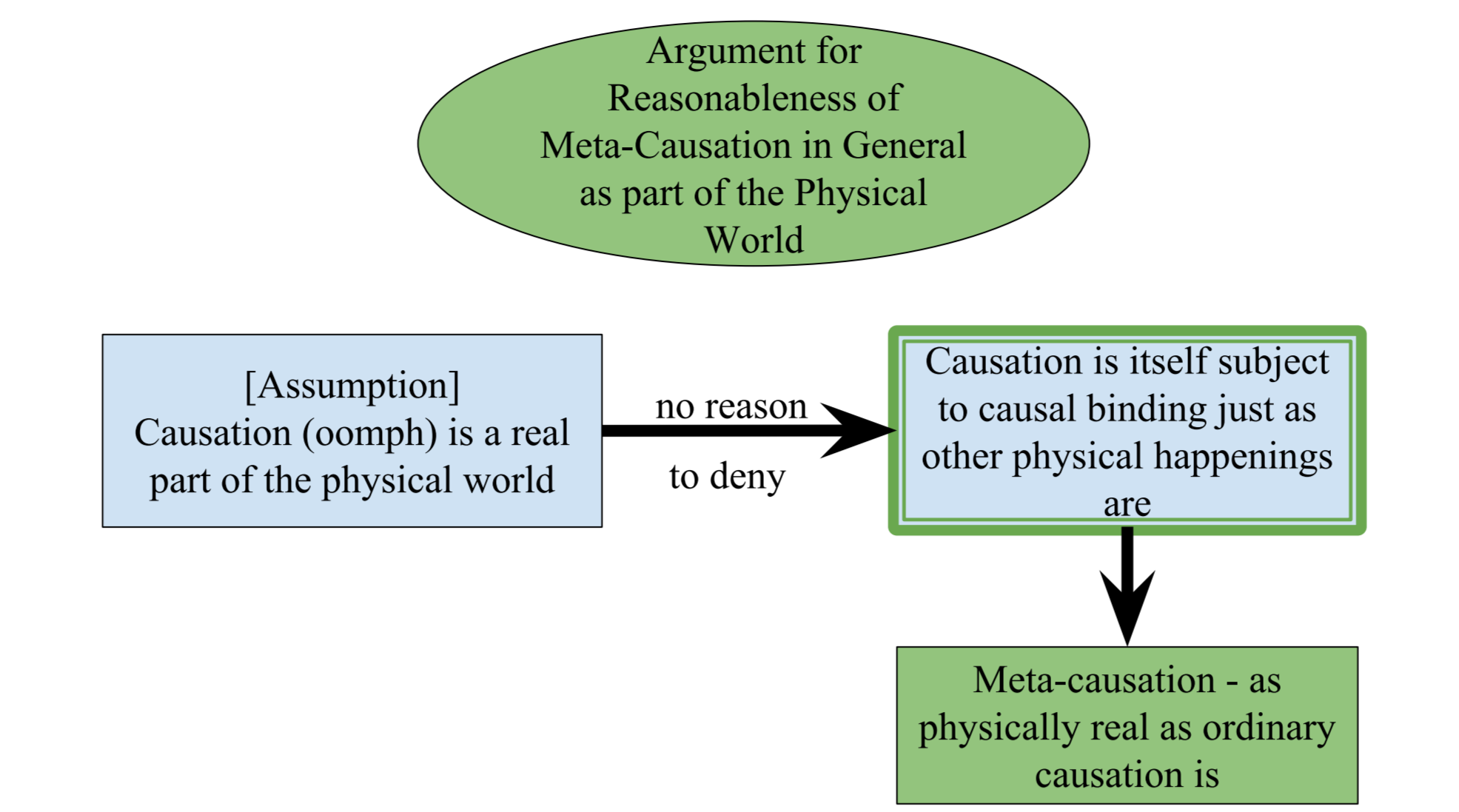
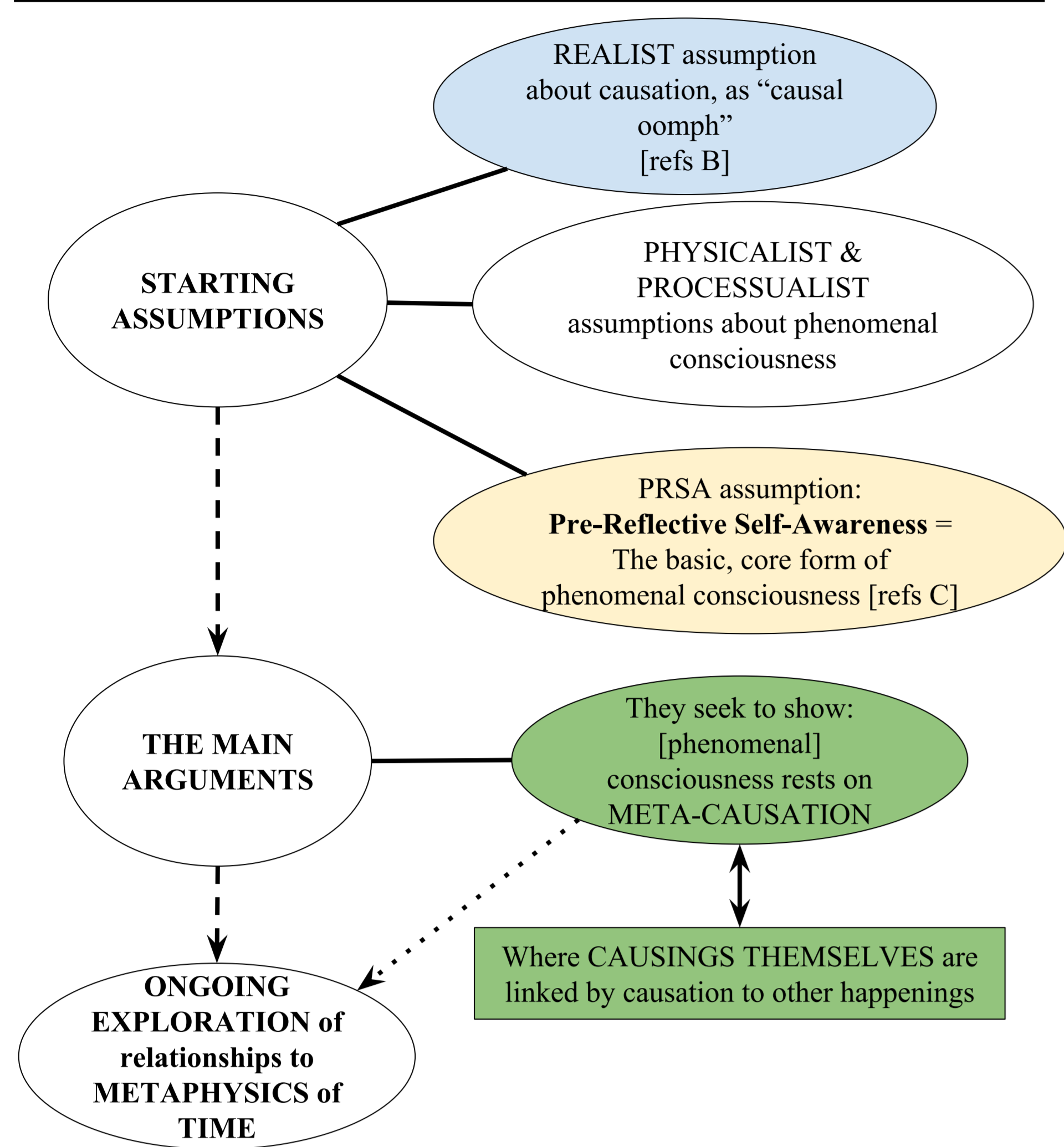


Skeleton of the Ideas



**1st Argument for involvement of META-CAUSATION in CONSCIOUSNESS.**

**Reasonable additional assumption of Awareness of Own Processuality**

The PRSA of a conscious process includes reacting to its own coherent processuality and not just to its own state trajectory.

- Overview of the Argument:**
- Processuality rests on causation
  - So the process reacts to its own causation, directly or indirectly.
  - This reaction is itself a causal matter.
  - Thus, direct reaction to own causation is META-CAUSATION.
  - The indirect option has major problems:
    - Presumably involves representing previous states and their causal links.
    - Difficult to make this naturalistic & objective.
    - Threatens to violate pre-reflectiveness
  - META-CAUSATION → SIMPLER, MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD account.

**2nd Argument for involvement of META-CAUSATION in CONSCIOUSNESS.**

As a more natural alternative to above Awareness of Own Processuality, I propose:

**Assumption of Awareness of Own PRSA**

The PRSA of a conscious process includes awareness of that PRSA itself.

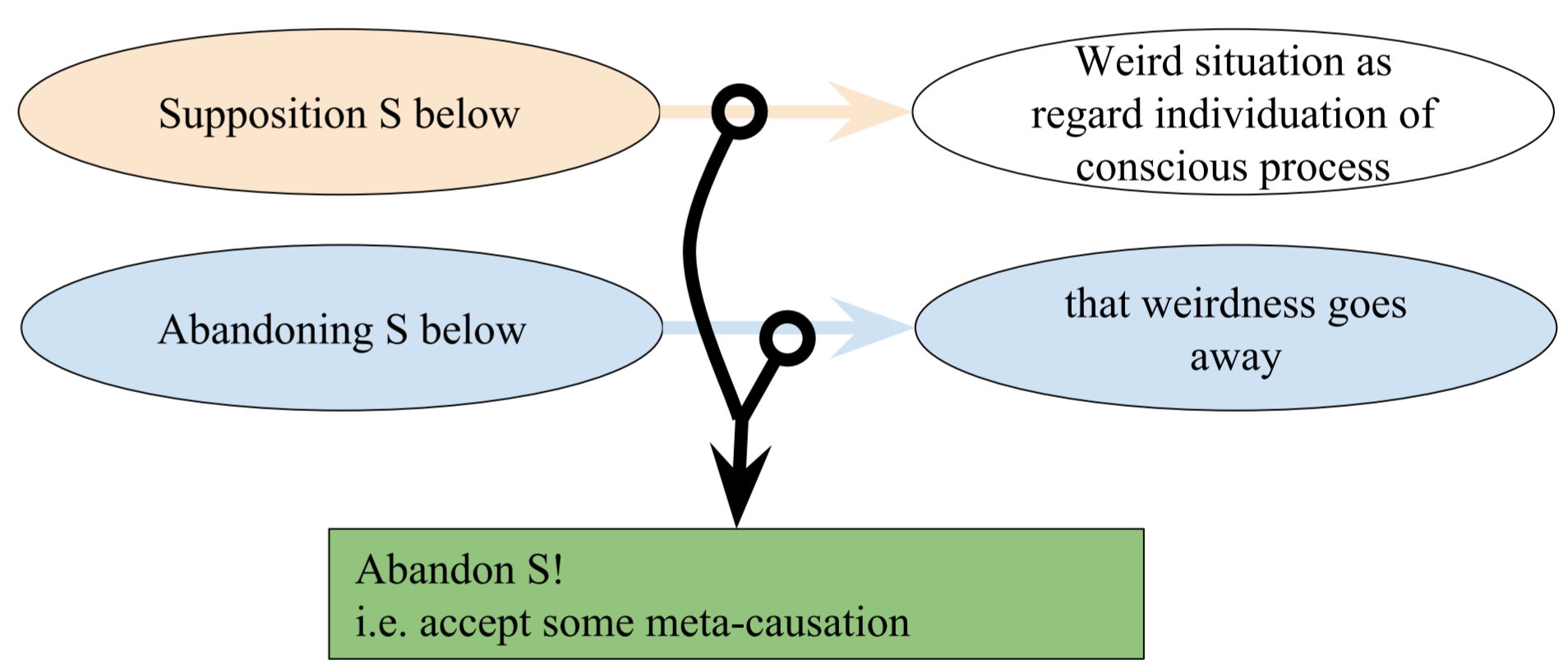
This is reasonable because the "self" in PRSA is the conscious process, and PRSA is essential to the process, so awareness of the self plausibly includes awareness of the PRSA

- Overview of the Argument:**
- The awareness of own PRSA is a matter of causally reacting to it, and the PRSA is itself crucially causal.
  - So we have causal reaction to causation.
  - So now we have just a special case of 1st Argument.
  - But in an especially demanding form, as the process needs to "single out" the causation underlying self-awareness.

- Danger of Infinite Regress:**
- Have argued that PRSA is partially constituted of meta-causation.
  - So awareness of own PRSA involves meta-meta-causation.
  - So PRSA is partly constituted of meta-meta-causation.
  - And so on up: meta-meta-meta-meta- ...

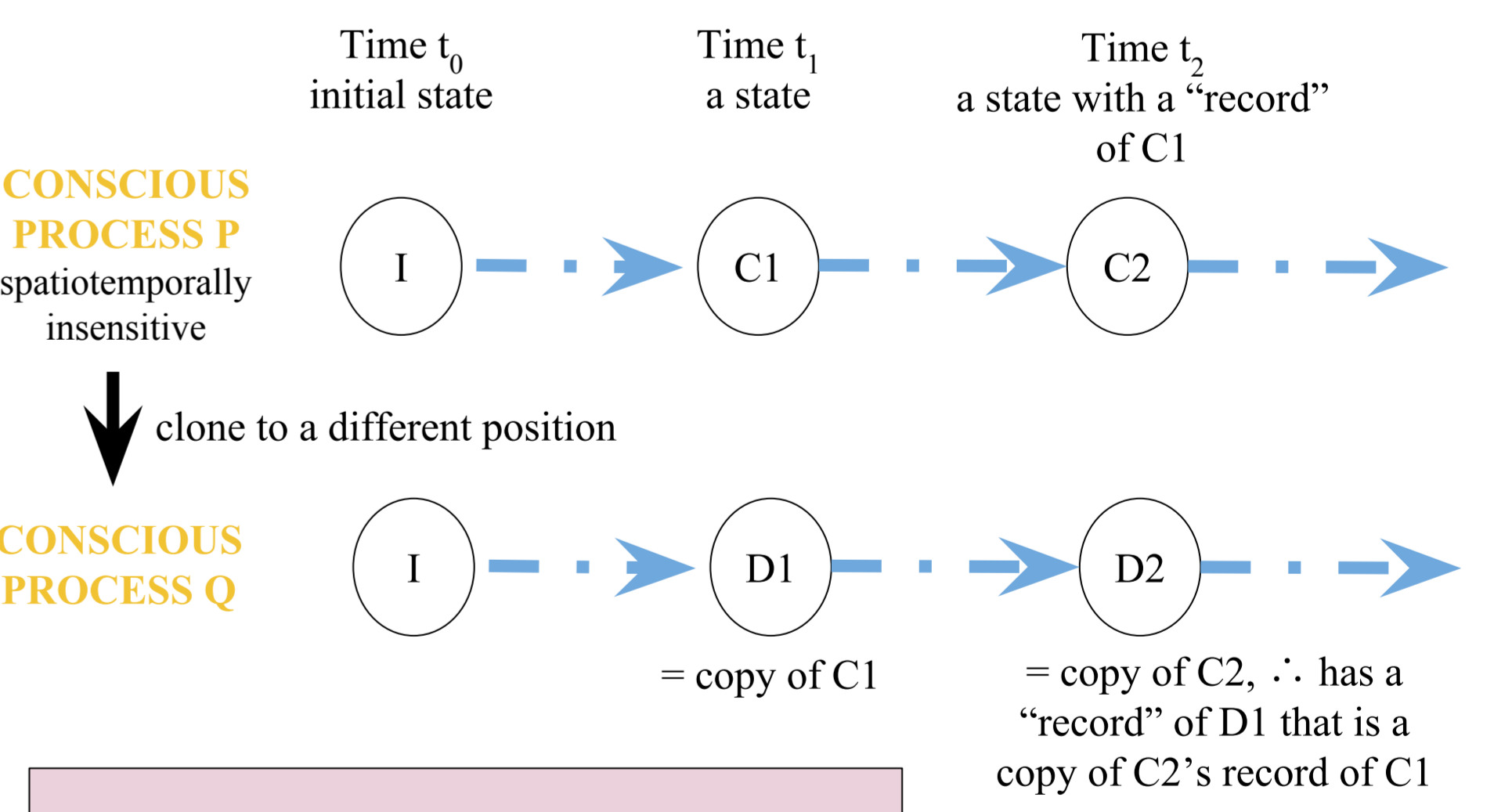
- Avoidance of the Regress:**
- At each level the process needn't have full awareness of its self-awareness.
  - MORE SPECULATIVELY a regress could be prevented by circularity: meta-causation where 'meta' aspect is that it is reacting to itself.

**3rd Argument for involvement of META-CAUSATION in CONSCIOUSNESS.**

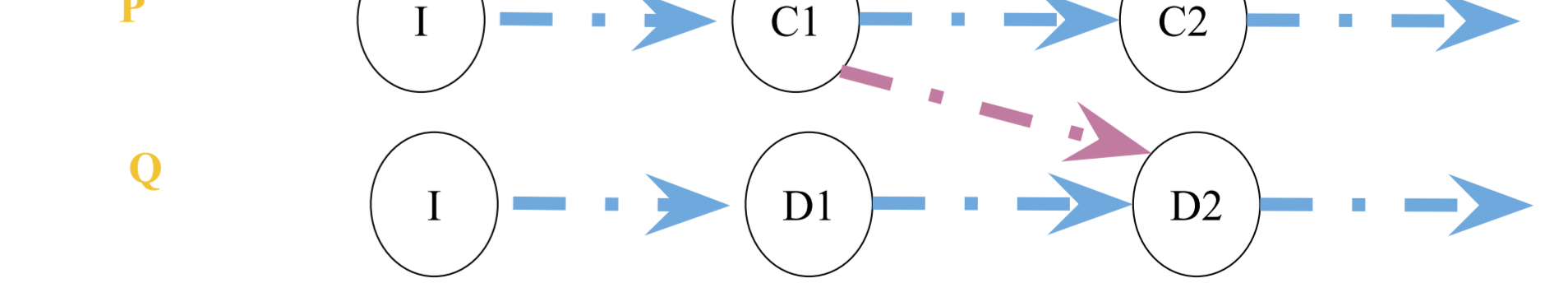


**Supposition S:**

The causal self-reacting in PRSA is fully accounted for by causal reaction to own state trajectory with no direct reaction to the causal linking within the trajectory.



Now add a new "diagonal" process:



The diagonal process is just a moving version of the C1-to-C2 subprocess, and so just "confirms" D2

**Argue that now, D2's record of D1 is equally well a record of C1, HENCE**

- Weird set of alternatives, such as:
- Q is no longer aware of itself from  $t_2$  onwards, but rather of a larger conscious process that also includes P up to C1, even though from Q's point of view nothing has changed and there was no connection to P before  $t_2$
  - Q from  $t_2$  onwards has two selves: Q, and a larger process that includes P up to C1.
  - There is no objective fact as to what particular conscious process exists (contradicting Objectivist assumption above)

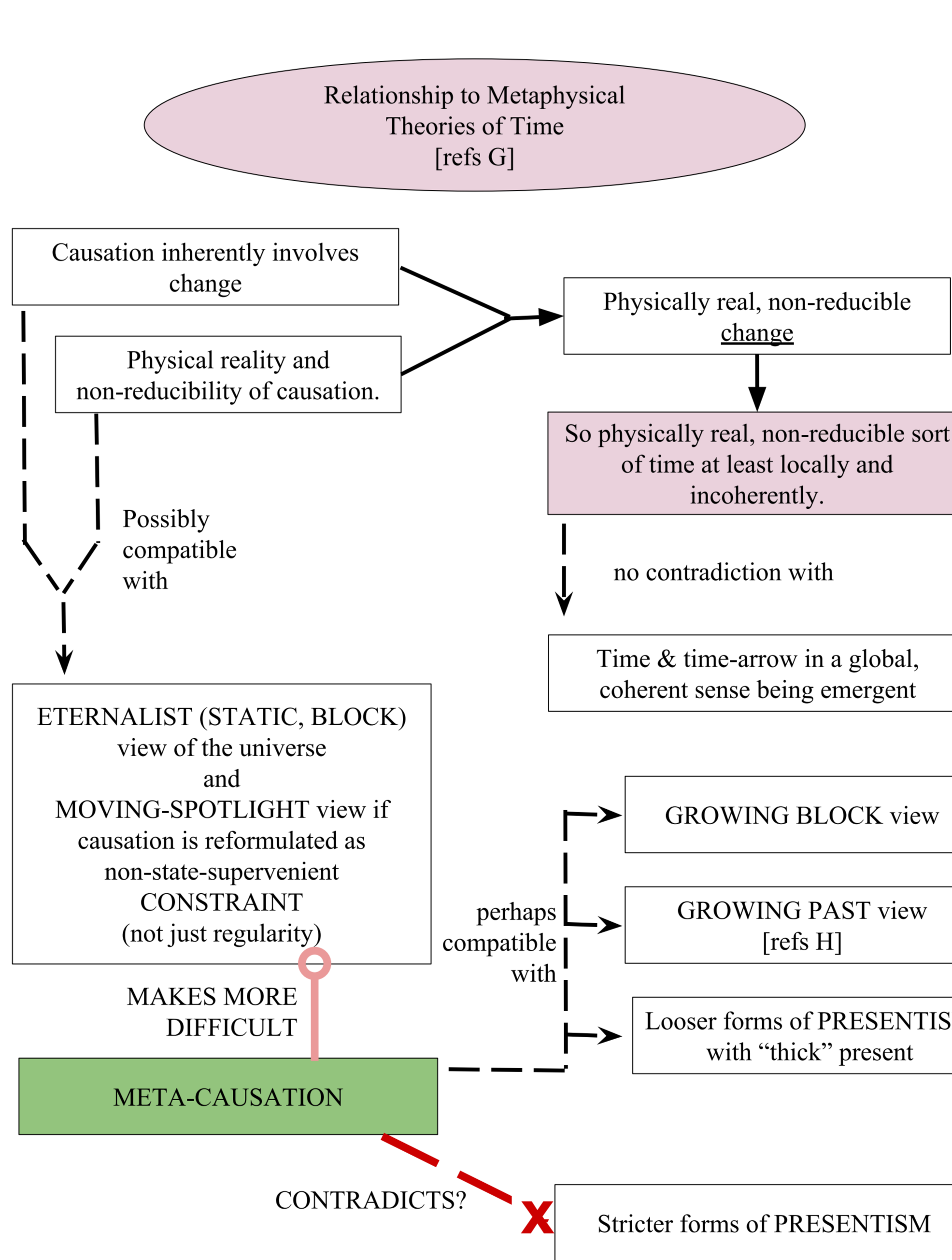
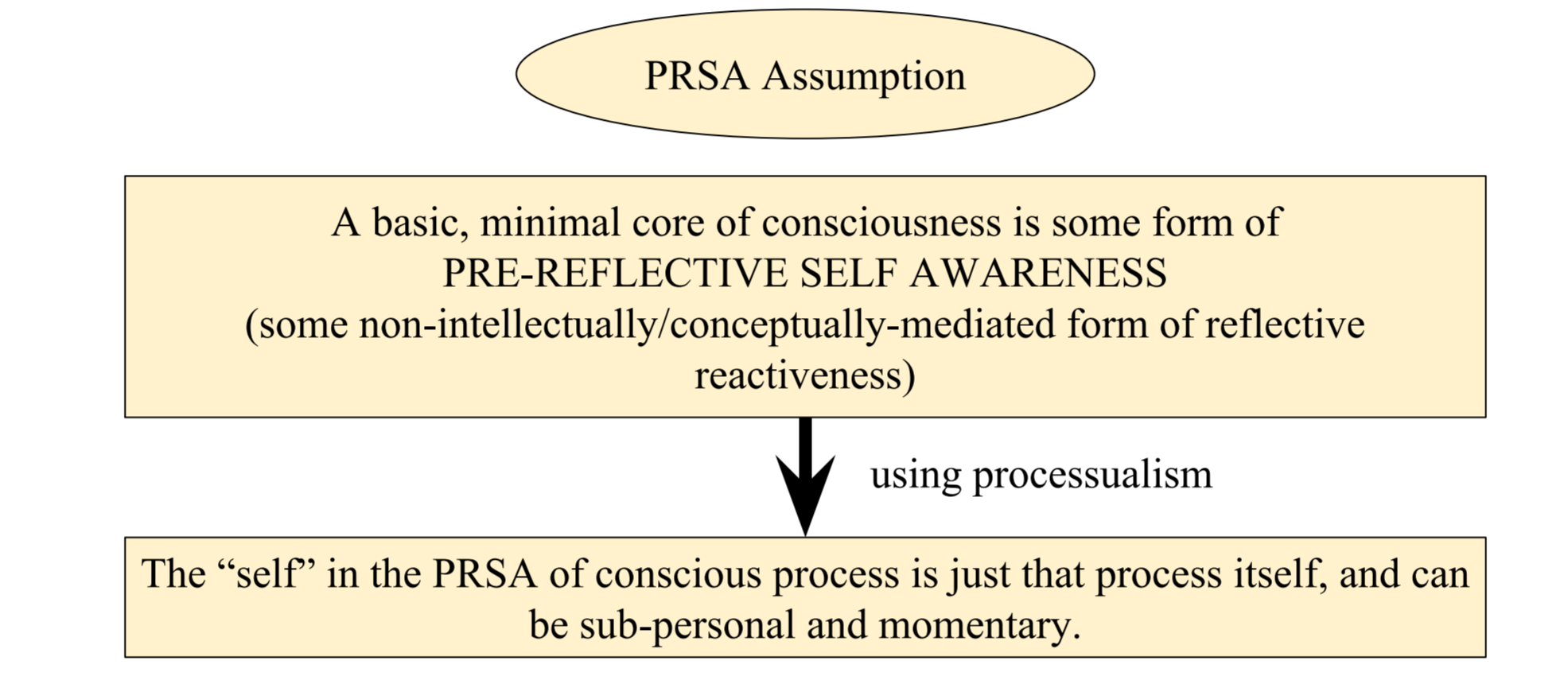
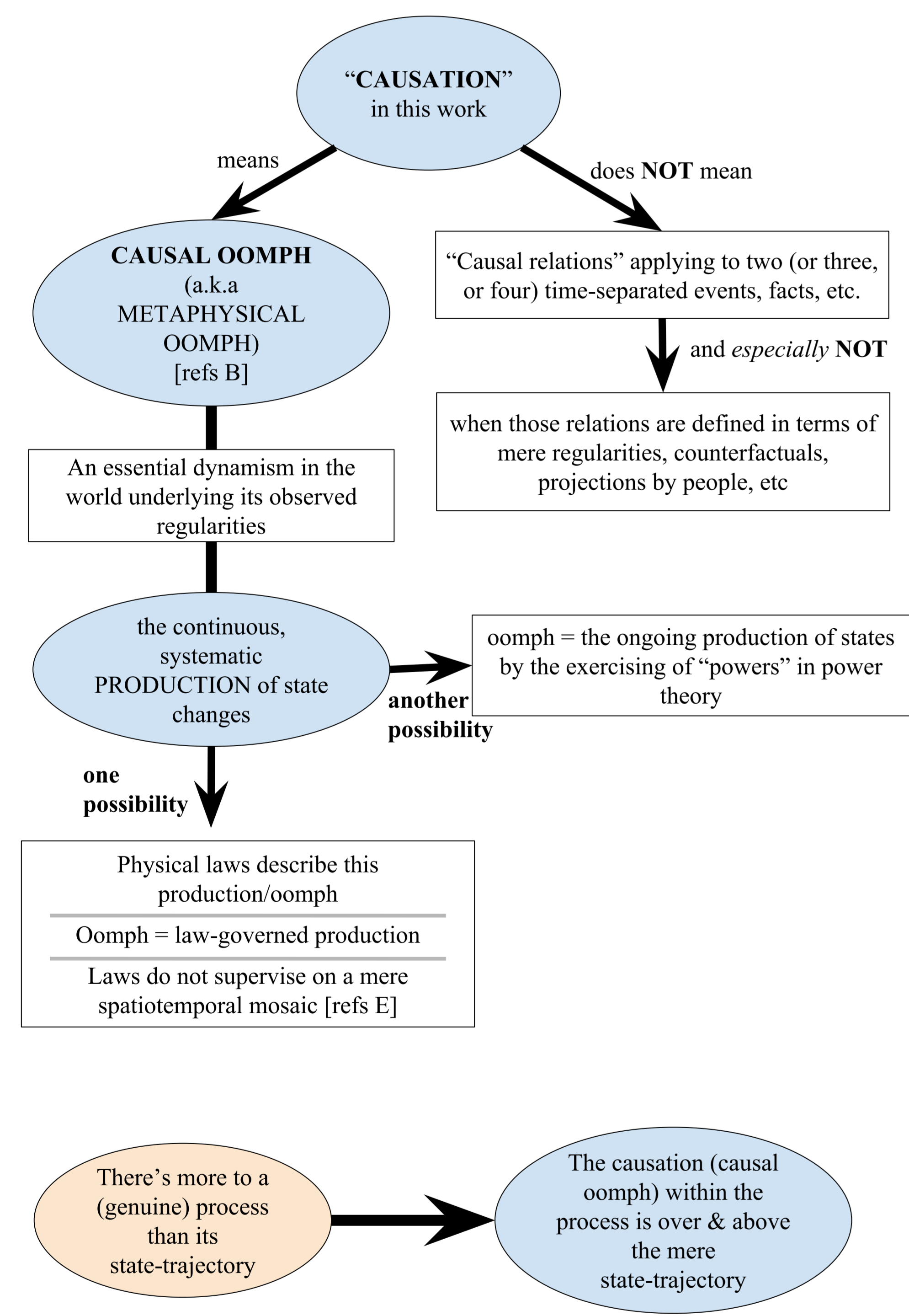
**CAUTION on TERMINOLOGY:**

Meta-causation in this work has also been called

- Iterated causation [refs D: Ehring]
- Higher order causation [refs D: Koons]

Meta-causation in this work is *NOT* other things that have been labelled as meta-causation, e.g.:

- Forms of top-down causation, or setting of parameters of causal models, or as in meta-causal powers [refs F: Ellis]



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For objections to the idea of pre-reflective self-awareness, see e.g.:

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[R] Kastner, R.E. (2013). *The Transactional Interpretation of quantum mechanics: the reality of possibility*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

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