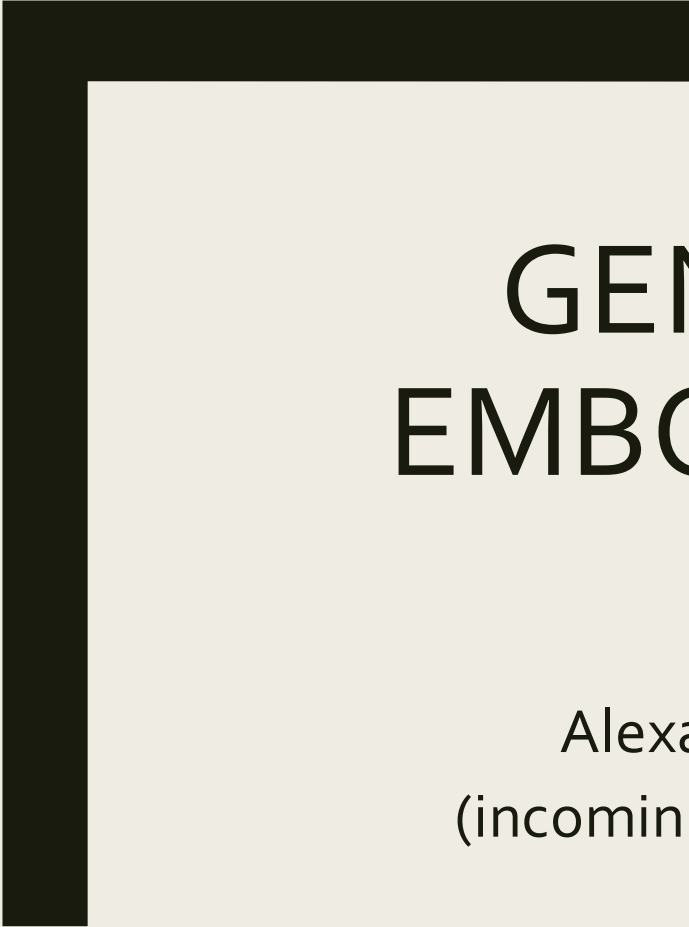
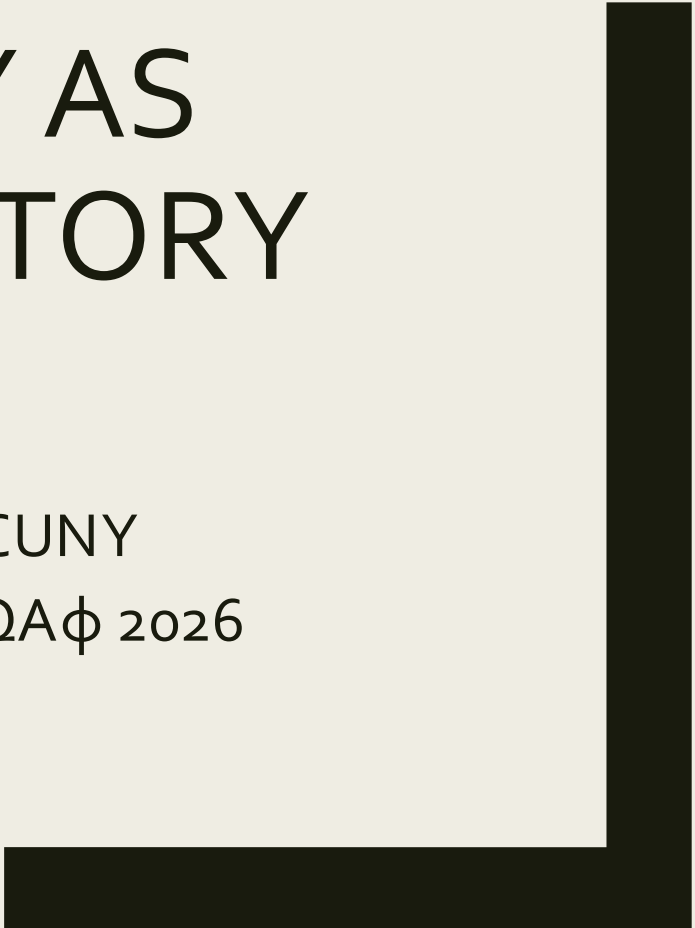




GENDER IDENTITY AS EMBODIED REGULATORY SELF-MODEL

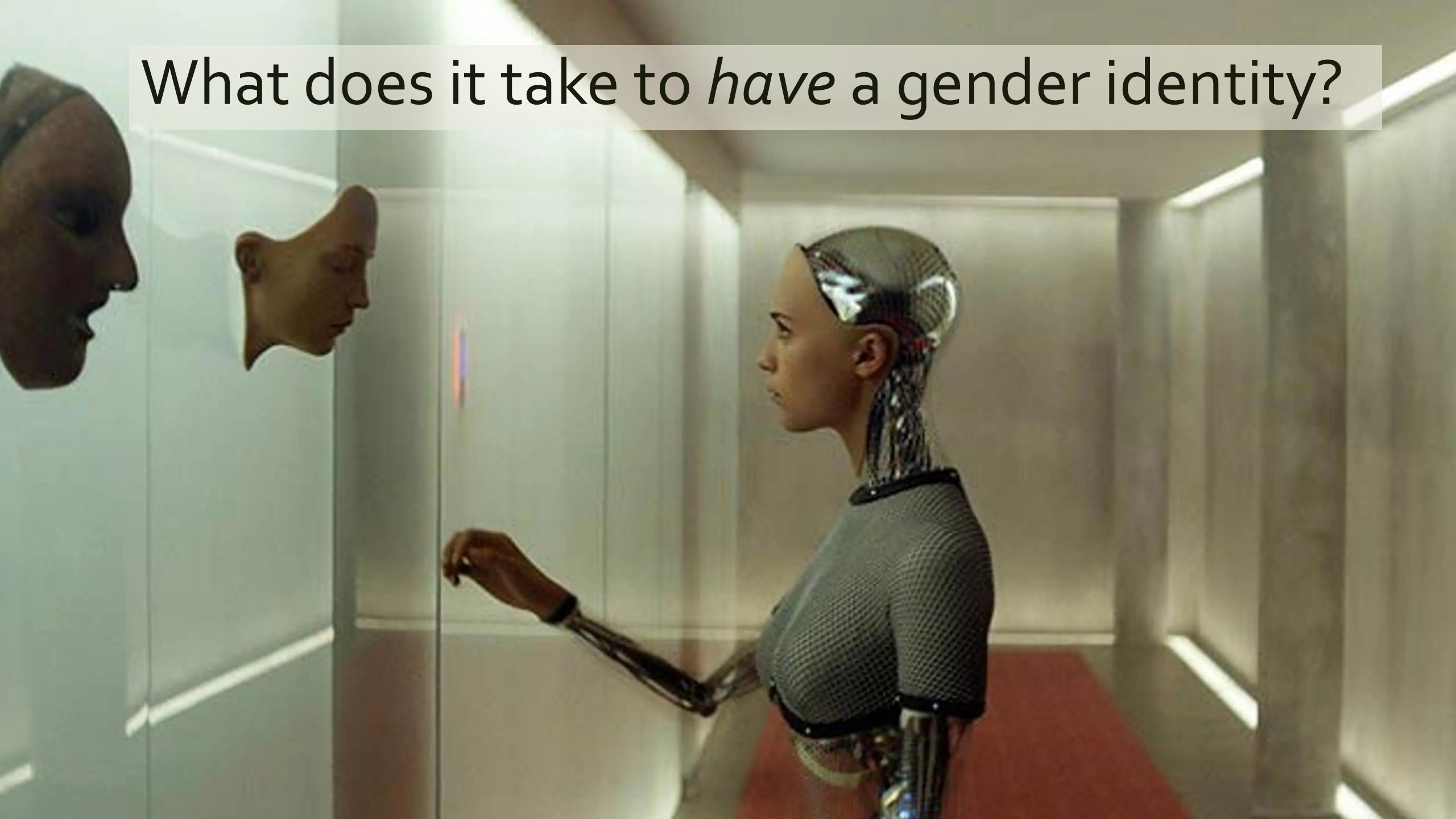
Alexandria Thylane · Hunter College, CUNY
(incoming MA, CUNY Graduate Center) · QAp 2026



The coherence trajectory



What does it take to *have* a gender identity?



Roadmap

- Three demands the coherence trajectory makes
- Why the leading theories fall short
- What gender identity is
- Putting it to work, and a testable prediction
- Back to the machine

Three constraints

1. **Internal** or **Prosser** constraint (1998)
2. **External** or **Bettcher** constraint (2007, 2014)
3. **Individuation** constraint

Haslanger & Ásta: placement, not identity

- Haslanger: social position in a hierarchy (2000)
- Ásta: conferred status (2018)
- Shared limit: *static embodiment*

Jenkins: the closest rival

- *Gender identity: your internal "map" of which gender norms apply to you (2016, 2018)*
- *Stakes still sit outside in social recognition*

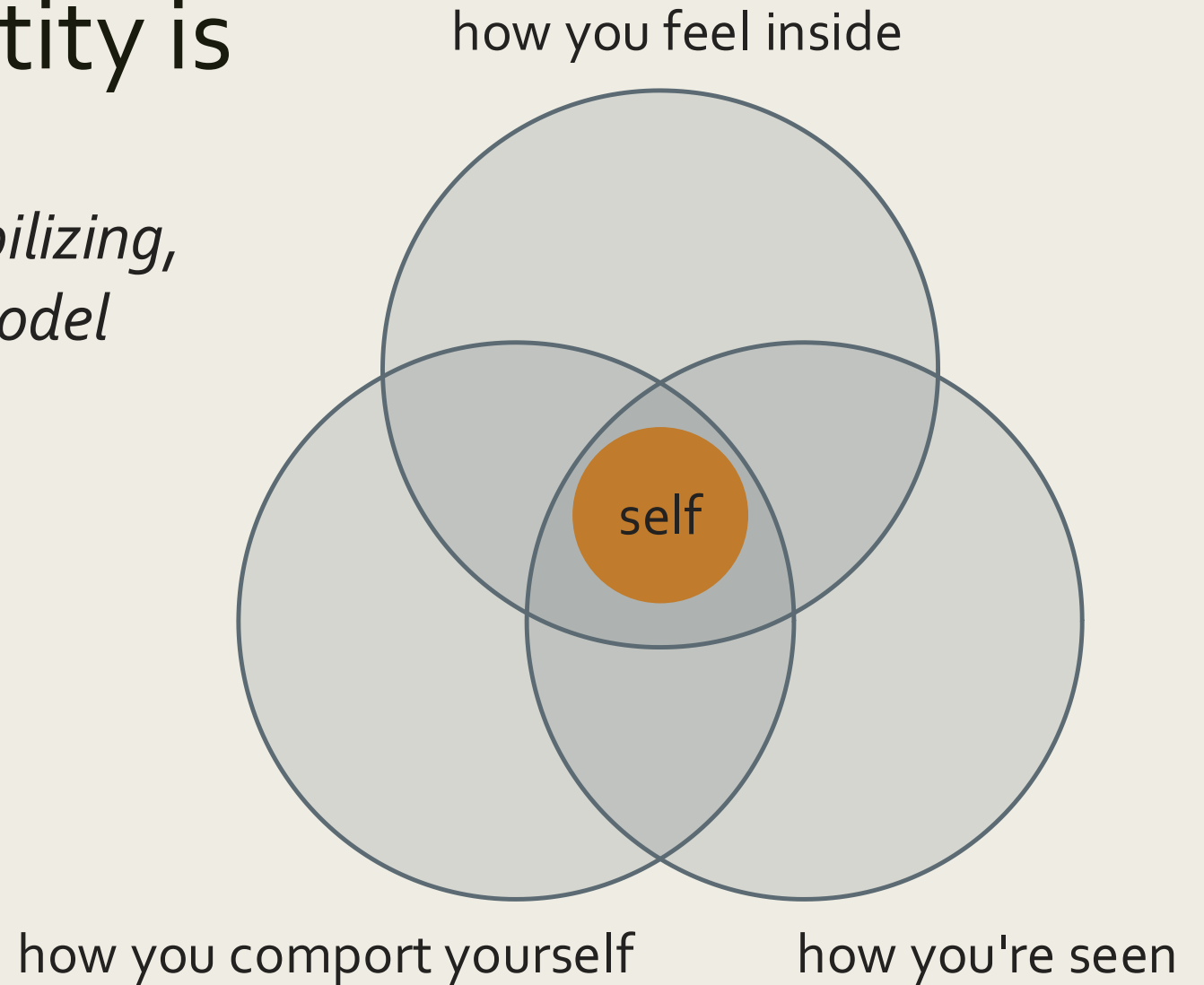
The machine returns

- ✓ Performs the norms of womanhood
- ✓ Treated as a woman
- ✓ Jenkins's map (thin)

...and still no gender identity.

What gender identity is

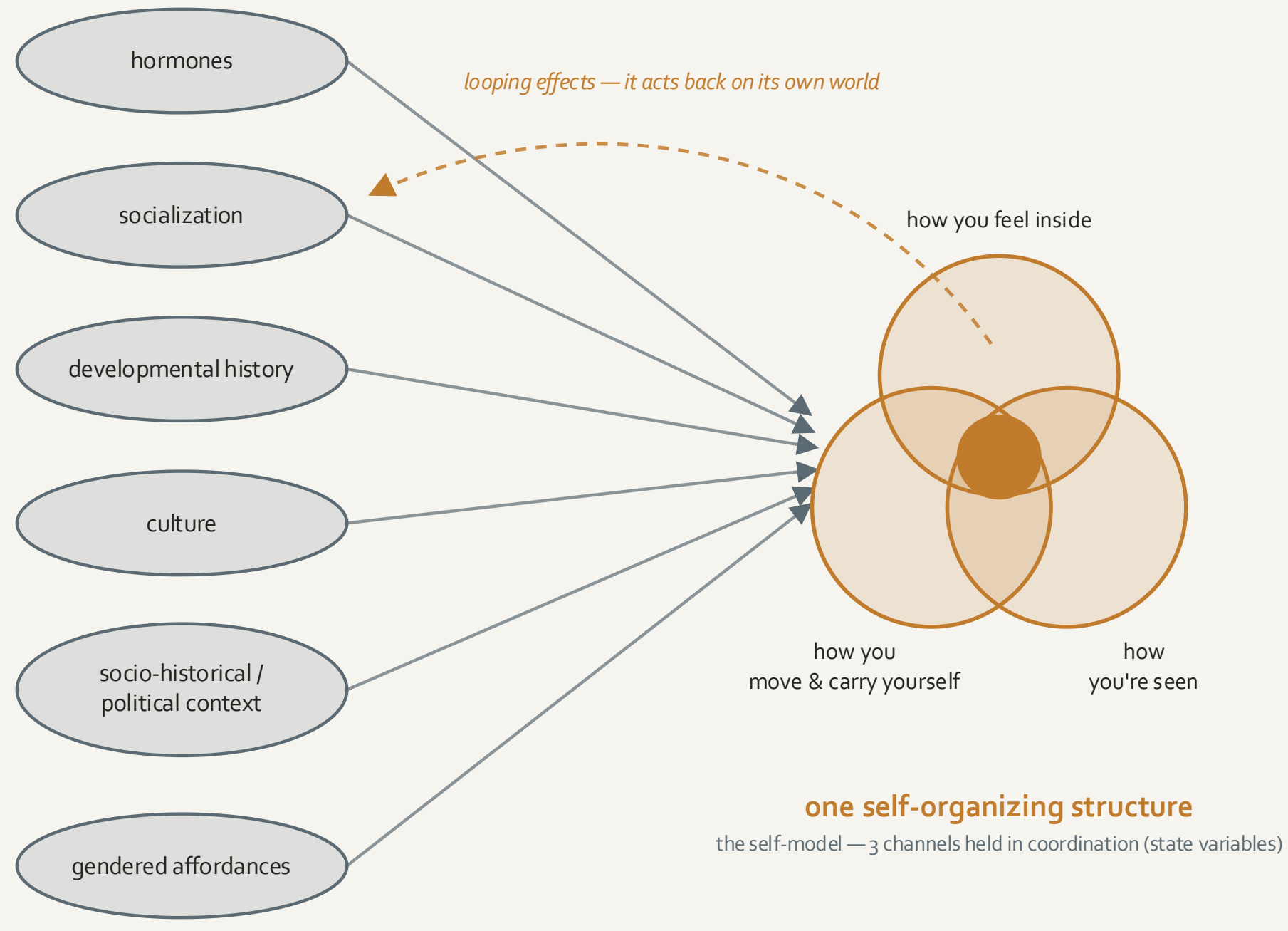
*A developmentally self-stabilizing,
embodied regulatory self-model*



Owned stakes

Its coherence is its own to lose.

- Dysphoria: the signal coordination can't hold
- An explanation of a phenomenon, not a concept-choice

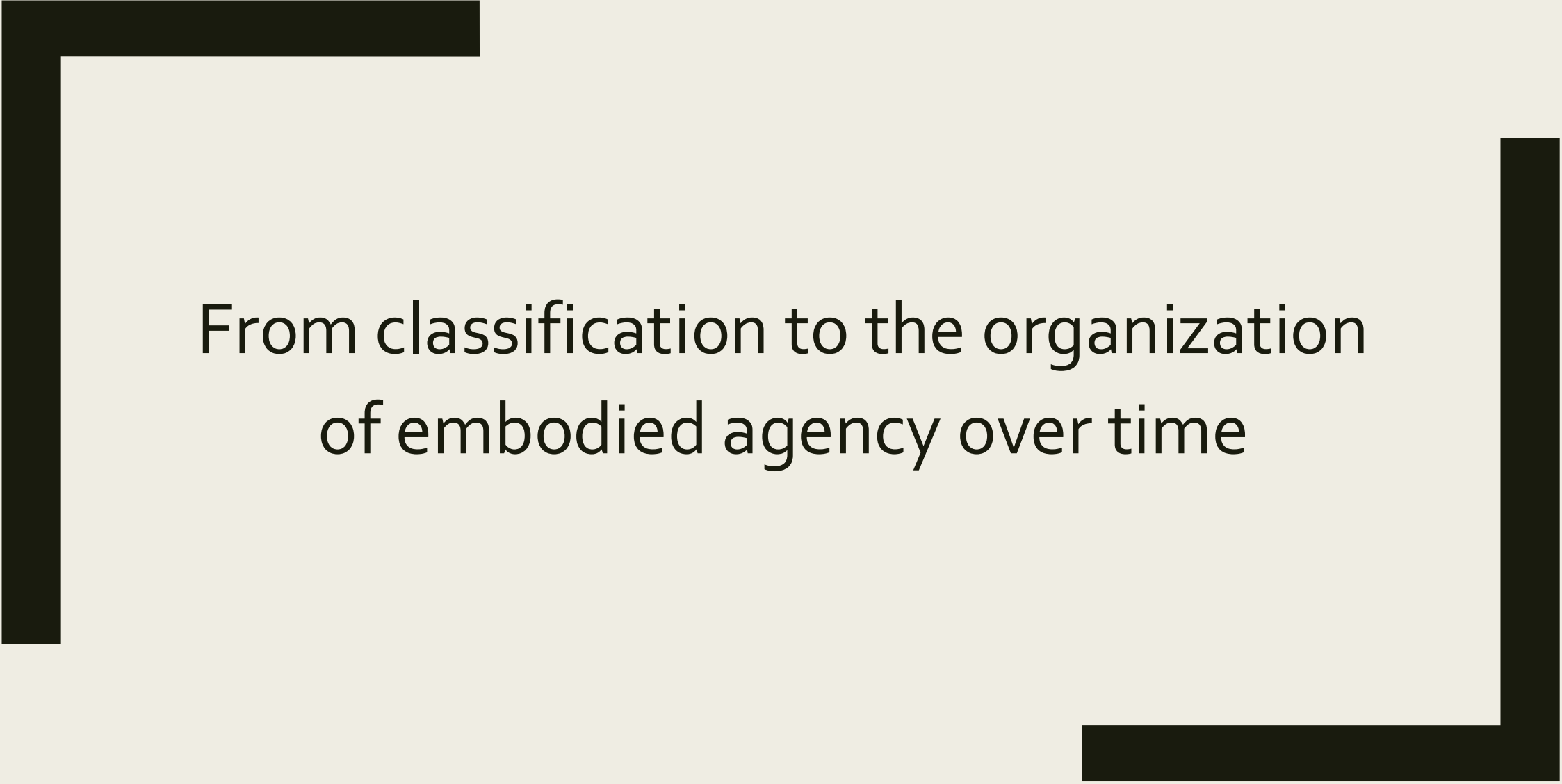


Three falsifiable predictions

- Sustained misrecognition raises fragility even with stated beliefs unchanged — tracks load, not belief.
- A small, well-placed change → nonlinear response.
- Stability → less vigilance

Simulation, not instantiation

- Conditional, not "never" — needs a precarious, self-maintaining organization: adaptivity (Di Paolo & Thompson 2014)
- Draws no lines inside human experience — every human case passes

The image features two thick, black L-shaped brackets. One is positioned on the left side, with its horizontal bar at the top and its vertical bar extending downwards. The other is on the right side, with its vertical bar at the top and its horizontal bar at the bottom. These brackets frame the central text.

From classification to the organization
of embodied agency over time



Thank you



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