

# **Theory and Explanation**

**Professor Robin Matthews**

**Academy of National Economy under the President of the Russian Federation  
Moscow**

**Kingston Business School London**

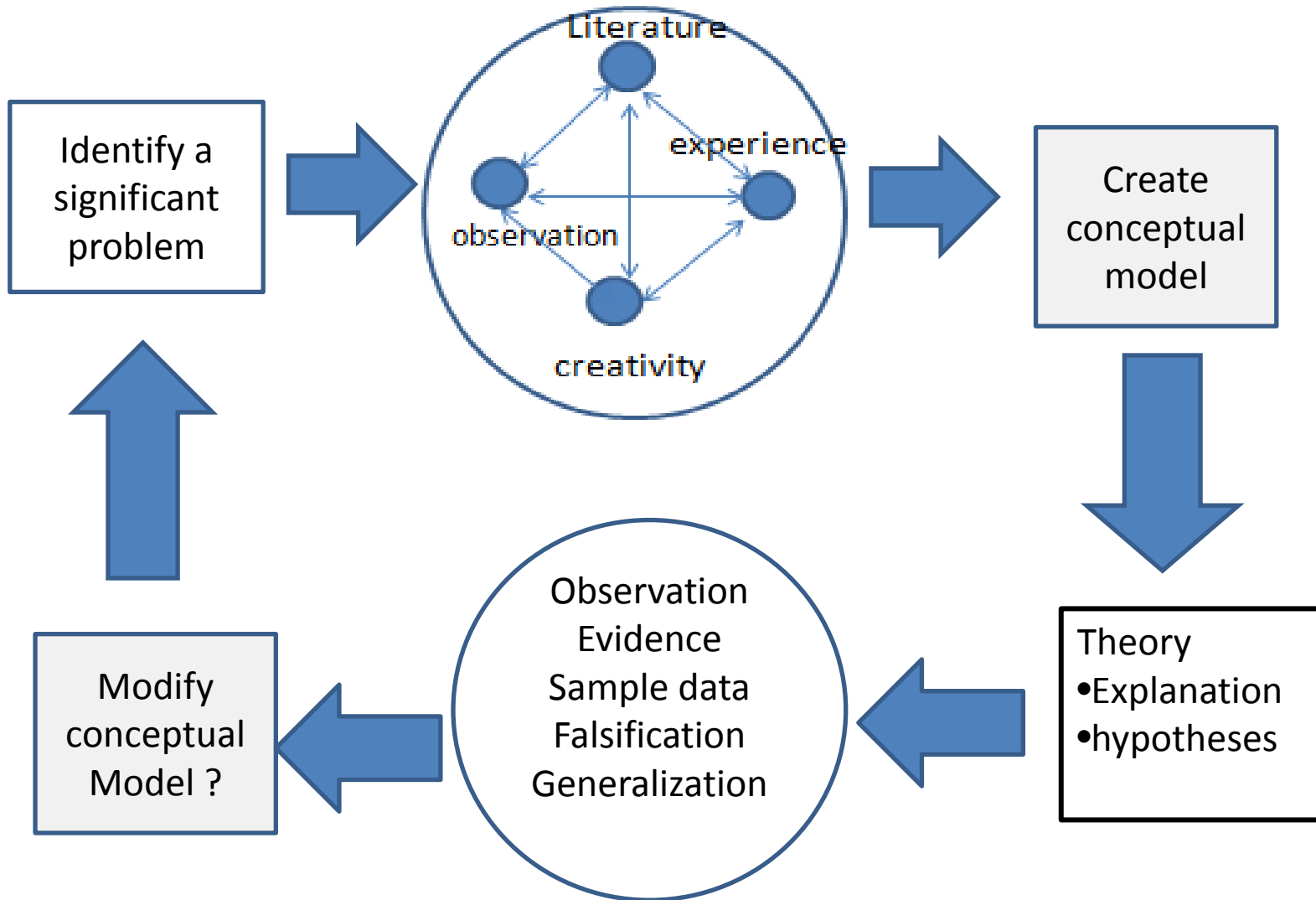
**Lecture at**

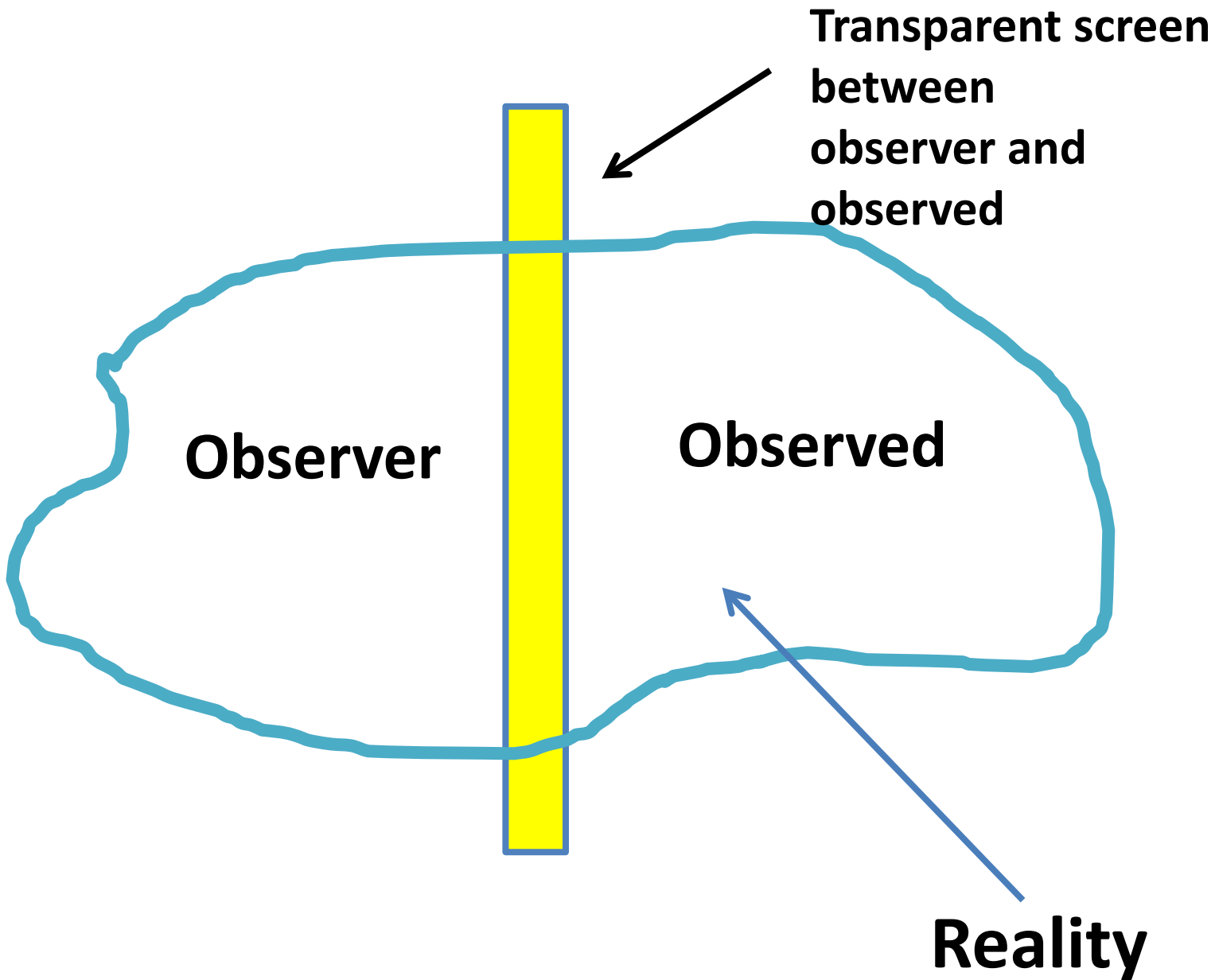
**London School of Commerce**

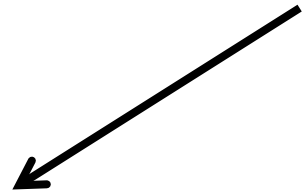
**Trinity St Davids**

# Some distinctions

- **Positive and normative**
- **Postmodernism reason and religion**
  - Ernest Gellner
  - Plantinga



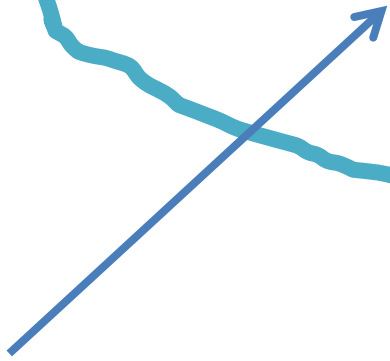




**NO** separation  
between observer and  
observed. Reality is  
the observer's  
perceptions of reality

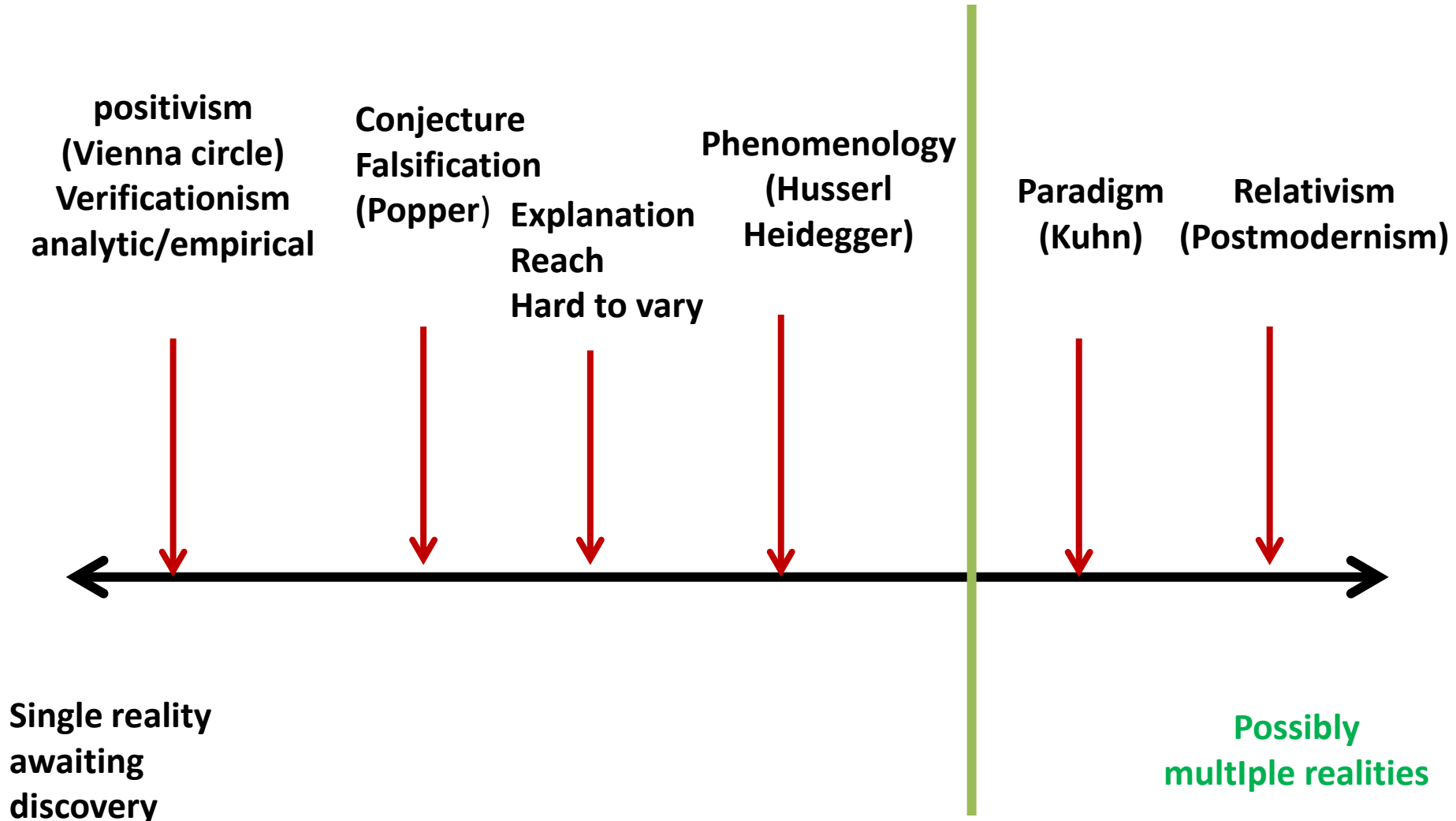


**Observer's perceptions**



**Reality**

# Scientific explanation: A very approximate scale



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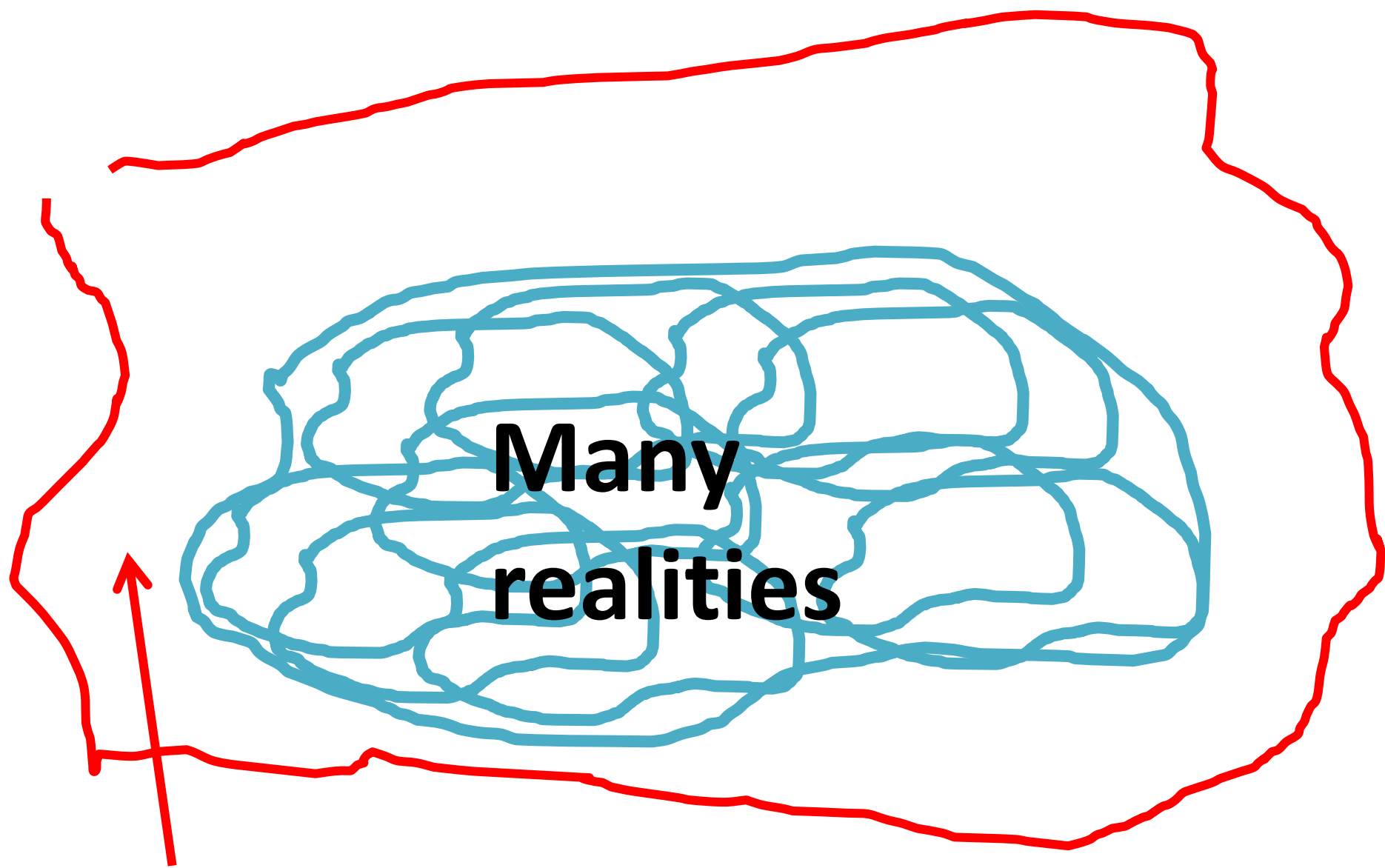
# A note on ethics

- Ethical statements are *meaningless: cannot be verified*
- Ethical statements are meaningful: They can in principle be verified;
  - Communal values: Does the community concerned agree with them or not?
  - Statements about someone's state of mind. *Do you approve of this or that policy?* They express feelings, approval/disapproval, like/dislike.



# Some aspects of business ethics

- **Utilitarianism (Singer)**
  - happiness of all sentient creatures, people, the environment , animal rights, international law, world health.
- **Categorical imperative (Kant)**
  - act as if the underlying principle is a universal law
- **Social contract (Rawls)**
  - Contract decided under a veil of ignorance



**Many  
realities**

**The Other**

