

Varieties of Basic Income

The Political Economy of Unconditional Cash Transfers

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UBI – asking the right kind of question

1. Is basic income a good idea?
2. Under what conditions is basic income a good idea?
3. What variant of basic income is a good idea in a particular policy context?

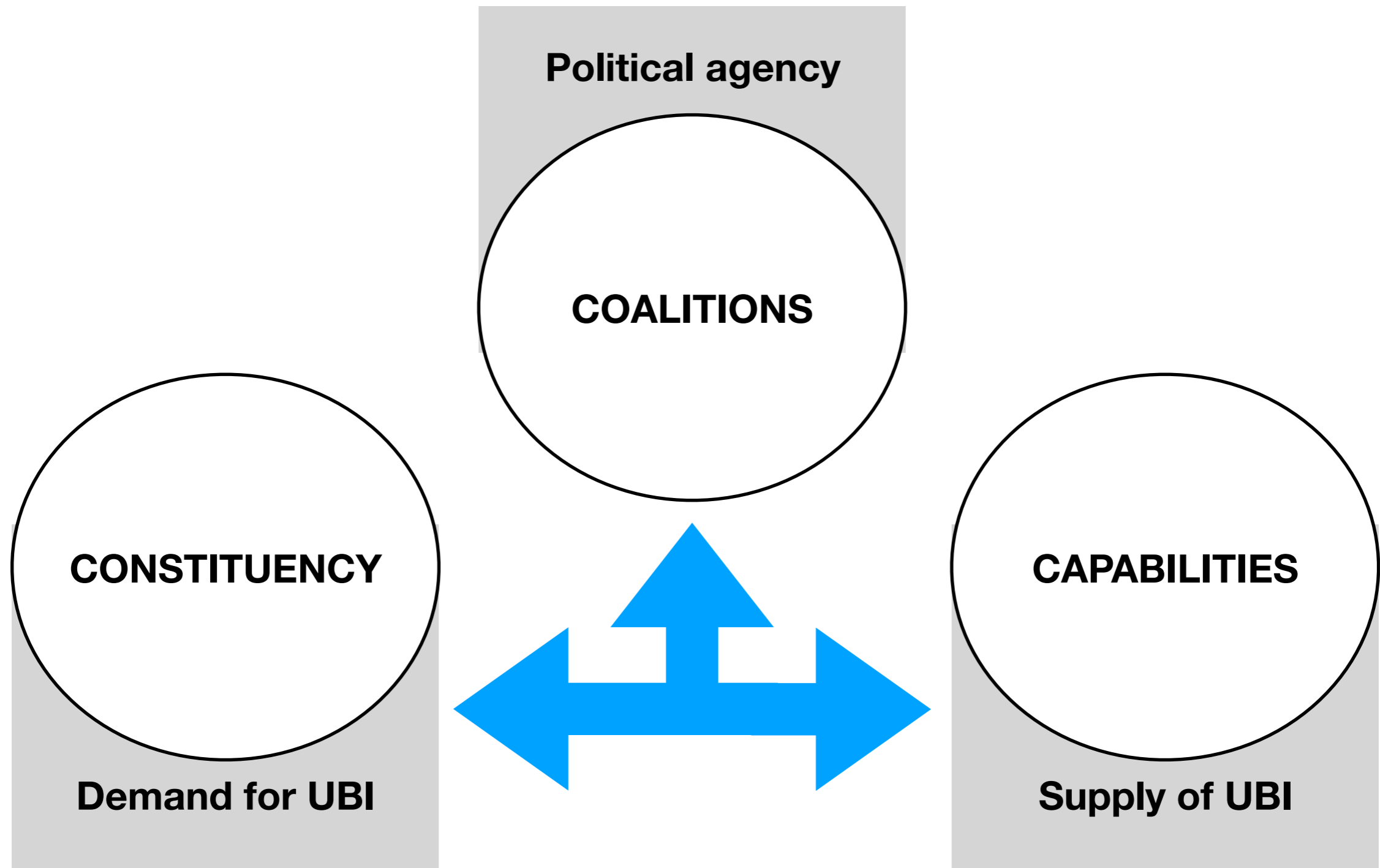
UBI is not a monolith: move away from one-size-fits-all

- Three dimensions of variability
 1. Variation in objectives
 2. Variation in design/
implementation parameters
 3. Variation in background
conditions (demand/supply)

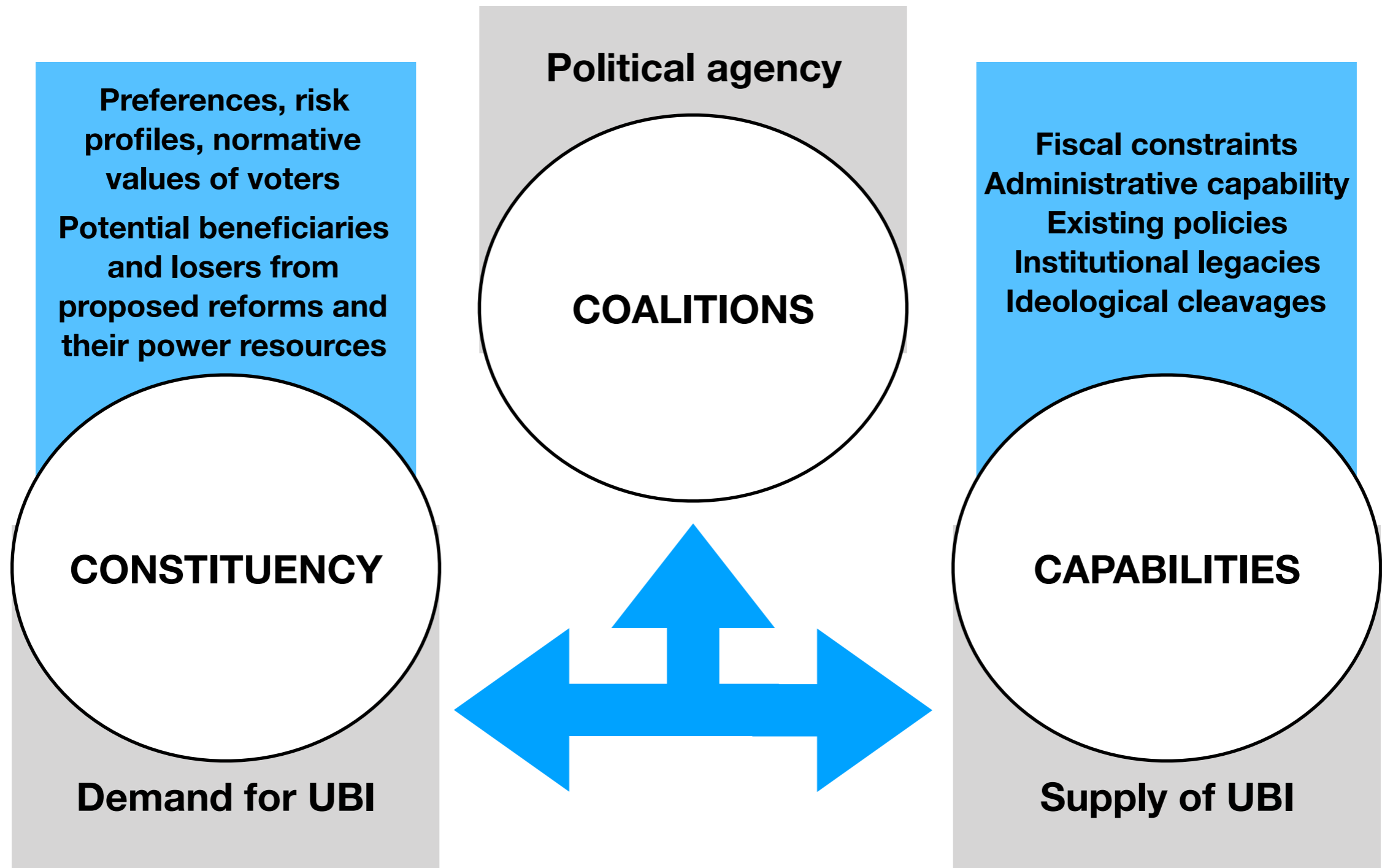
Focus on political economy

- Three core political challenges:
 1. Constituency: who demands UBI?
 2. Coalitions: who moves for UBI?
 3. Capabilities: what delivers UBI?

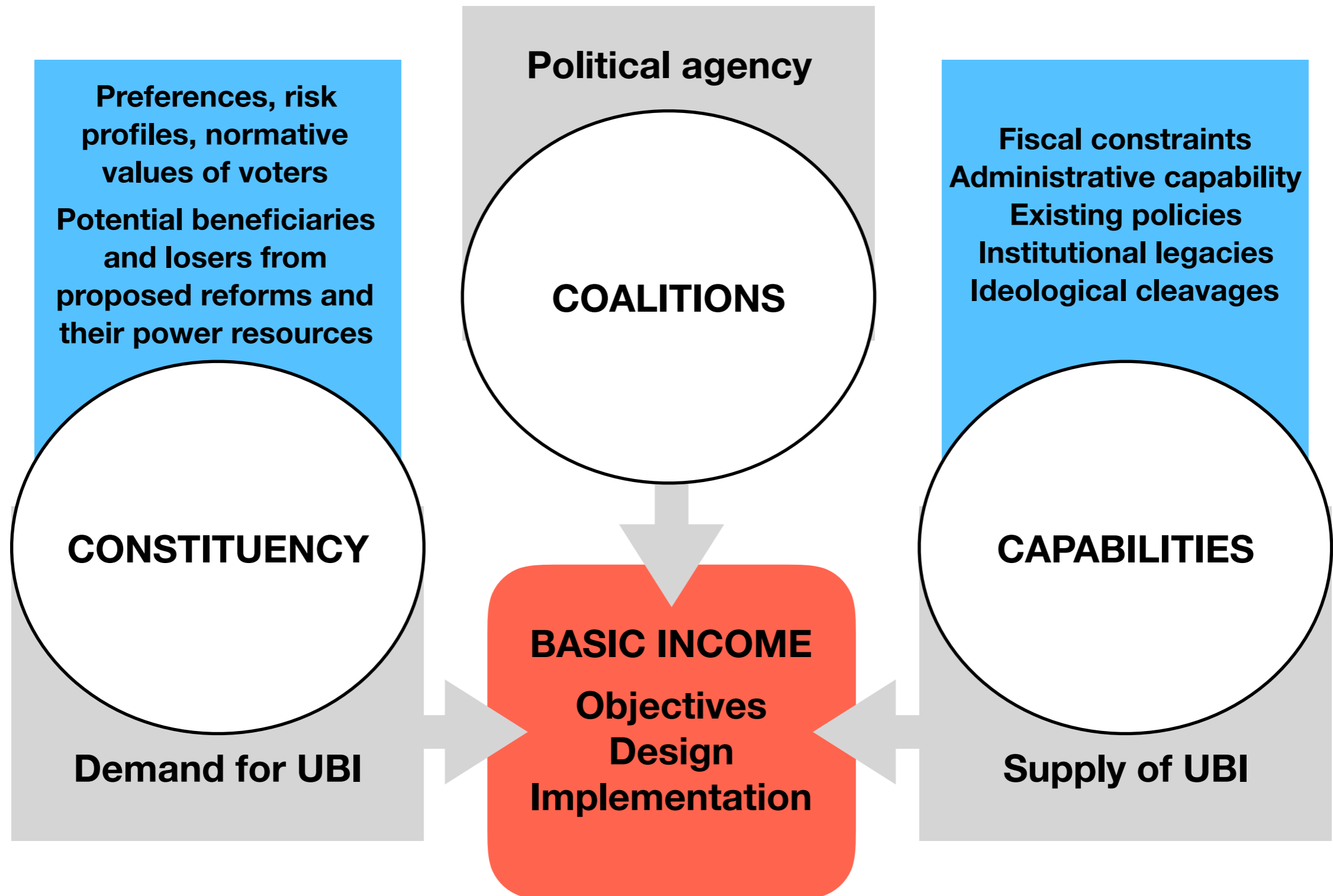
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Using the varieties of UBI framework

- Comprehensive political economy framework focuses on how the politics of UBI needs to account for existing “policyscape” (Mettler)
- Identify demand and supply determinants impacting on UBI politics)and their interaction effects)
- Identify key role of “UBI policy entrepreneurs” in forming robust UBI coalitions, while appreciating such policy entrepreneurs operate in a constrained political environment
- Use the insights to assess feasibility of moving towards a UBI (what challenges need to be overcome and how) but also how the UBI model itself can be adapted to make for an optimal fit, given existing constraints
- Appreciate significant variation in the demand/supply determinants across countries (regions/regimes)
- This framework is being developed in the EU context but could be extended to low income social protection context — applicable to Latin America?

Thank you

- With thanks to my collaborator on the varieties of UBI project, Luke Martinelli (IPR, University of Bath)
- Comments welcome at jurgen.dewispelaere@gmail.com
- Download my research at <https://bath.academia.edu/JurgenDeWispelaere>