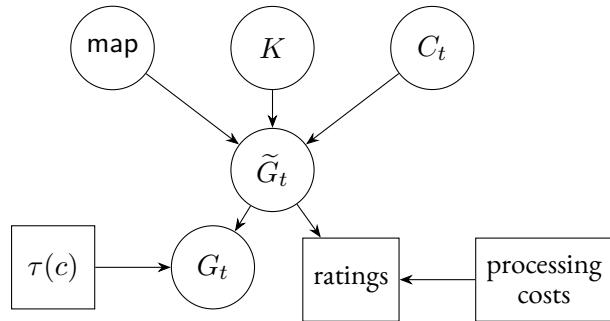
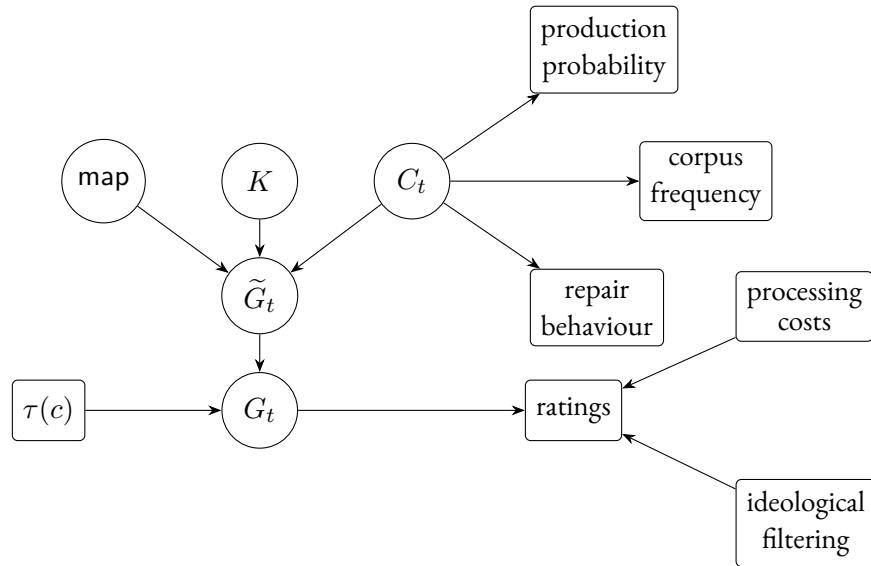


## Option I: Minimal DAG (6 nodes)



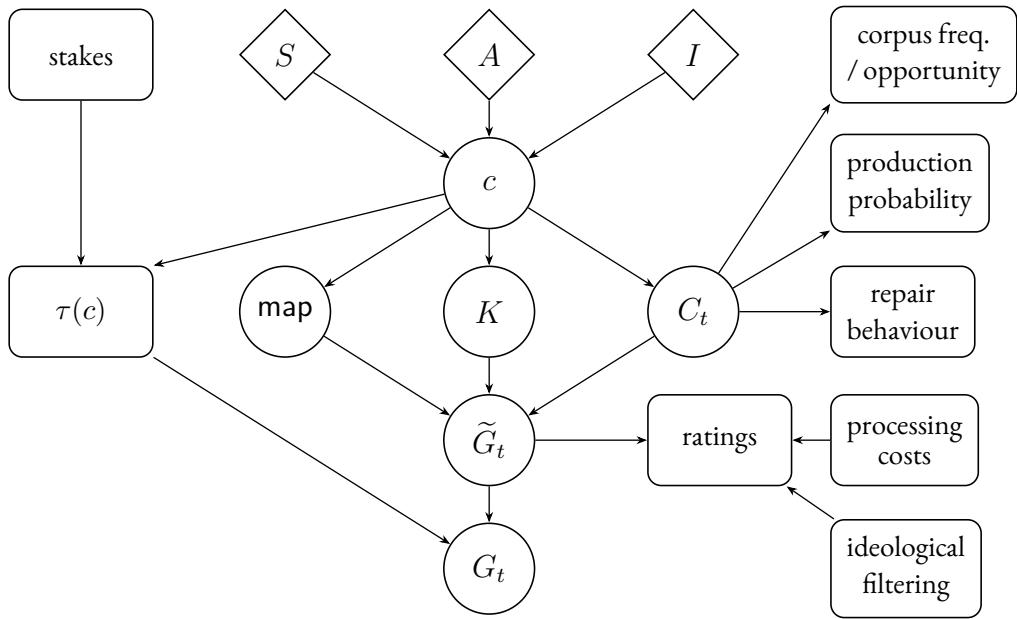
Option I: Minimal. Circles = latent; rectangles = observed/set. Ratings reflect  $\tilde{G}_t$  plus processing costs, not  $G_t$  directly.

## Option 2: Medium DAG (11 nodes)



Option 2: Medium. Adds  $C_t$ 's observable indicators (right) and ideological filtering.  $C_t$  is latent, inferred from converging evidence.

## Option 3: Full DAG - polished



Option 3 (polished). Circles = latent; rounded rectangles = observed/set; diamonds = conditioning anchors. Ratings are downstream of  $\tilde{G}_t$  (stability), not  $G_t$  (membership).  $C_t$  indicators are each direct outputs of  $C_t$ .