Likely Covariate Form

Likely Framework

Covariates

Does the covariate change over time?

No, it is truly a fixed characteristic

No, it might, but it was only measured it once

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Time-Invariant Covariate

Measure-ment error?

Yes, I would like to attenuate error

No, gold standard measurement here!

SEM

Aggregate Effect?

Yes, one effect per predictor please

No, I need time-specific effects

Yes, it is measured repeatedly

Yes, casual effects (probably) only run one direction here!

Does it develop over time?

Time-Varying Covariate

Lagged Effects?

Yes, temporal precedence please

MEM

**

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Is it plausibly exogenous?

No, probably not...
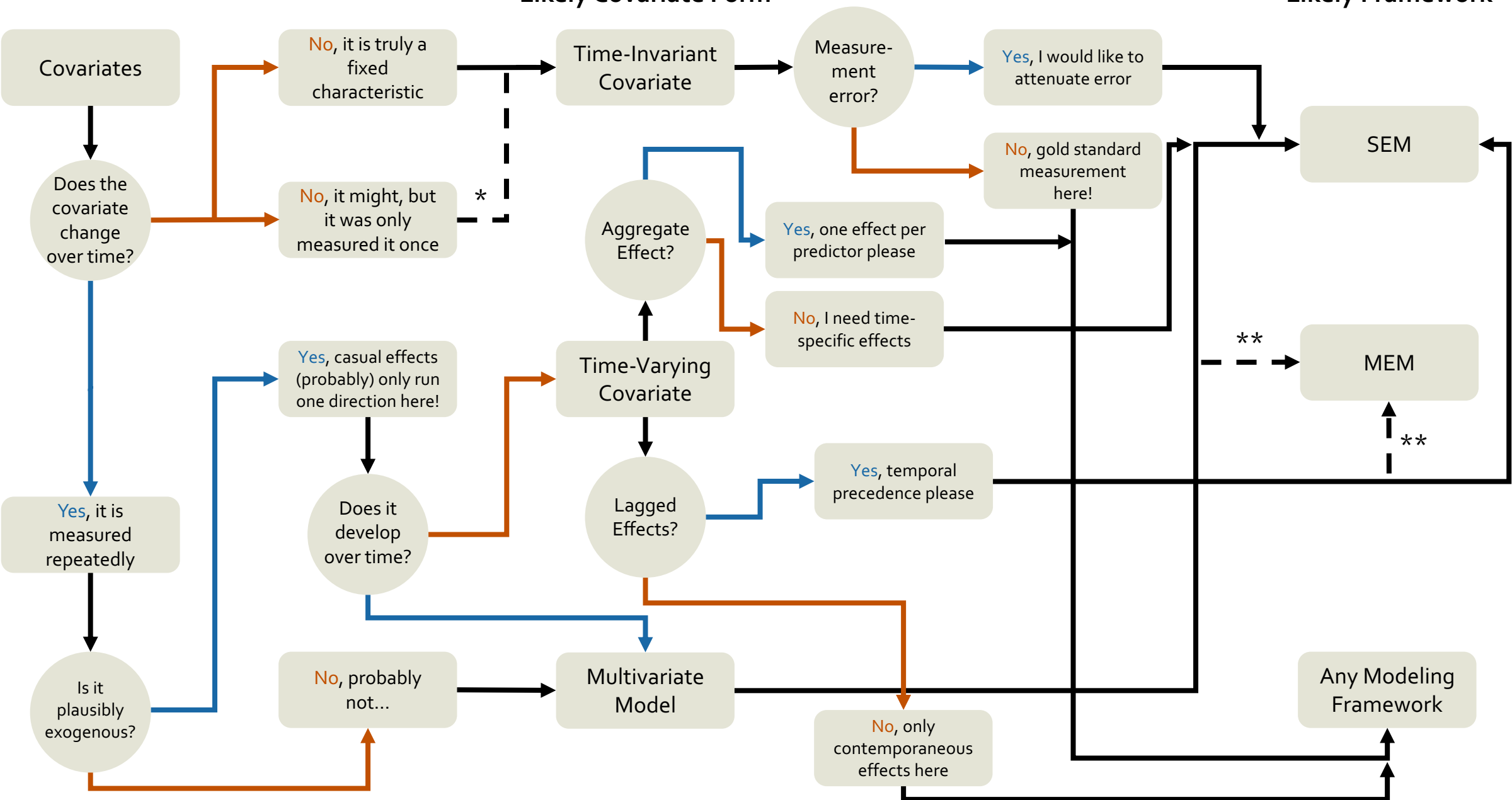
Multivariate Model

No, only contemporaneous effects here

Any Modeling Framework

* this should affect your interpretations

** a more complicated option