



Embedded Ethics:

CSC207

Mini-lecture 2: models of disability

What do disabilities have in **common** with each other?

Wasserman *et al* 2006: a disability is a **physical or mental impairment** that is associated with a **personal or social limitation** on the activities one can perform.

Physical or
mental
impairment

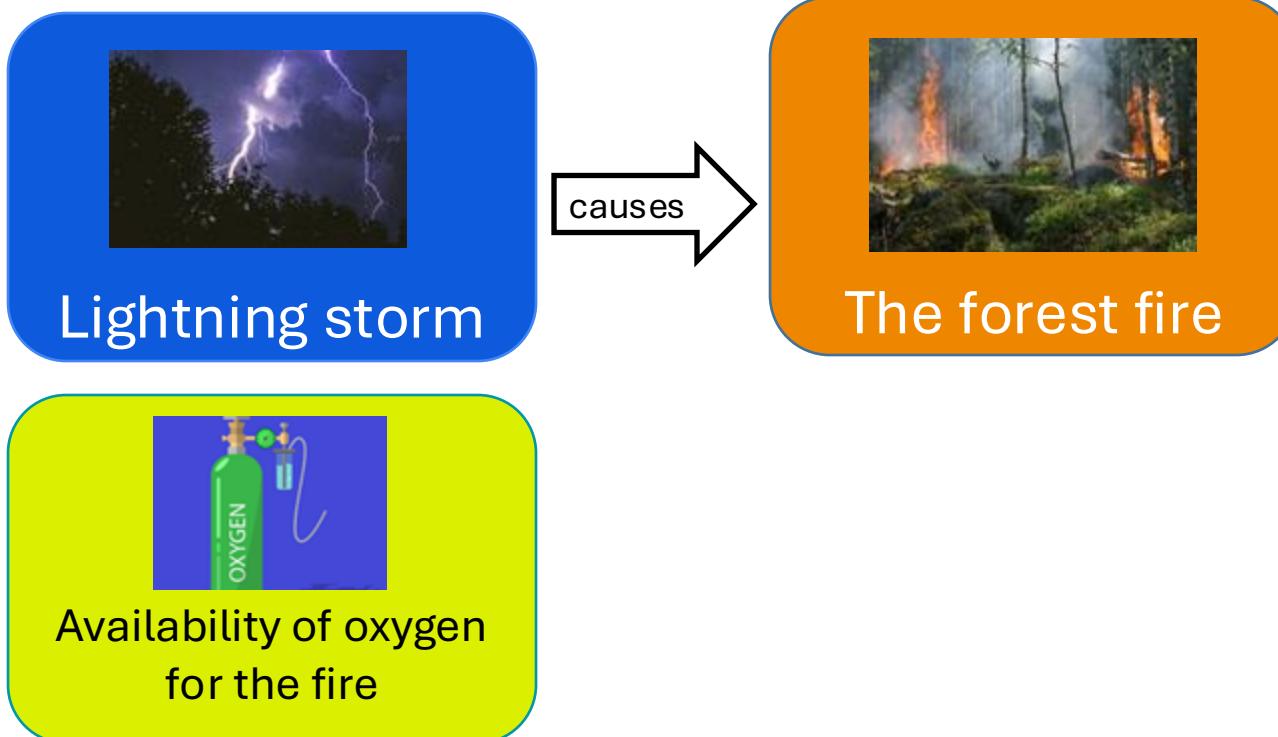
e.g. paraplegia

Personal / social
limitation

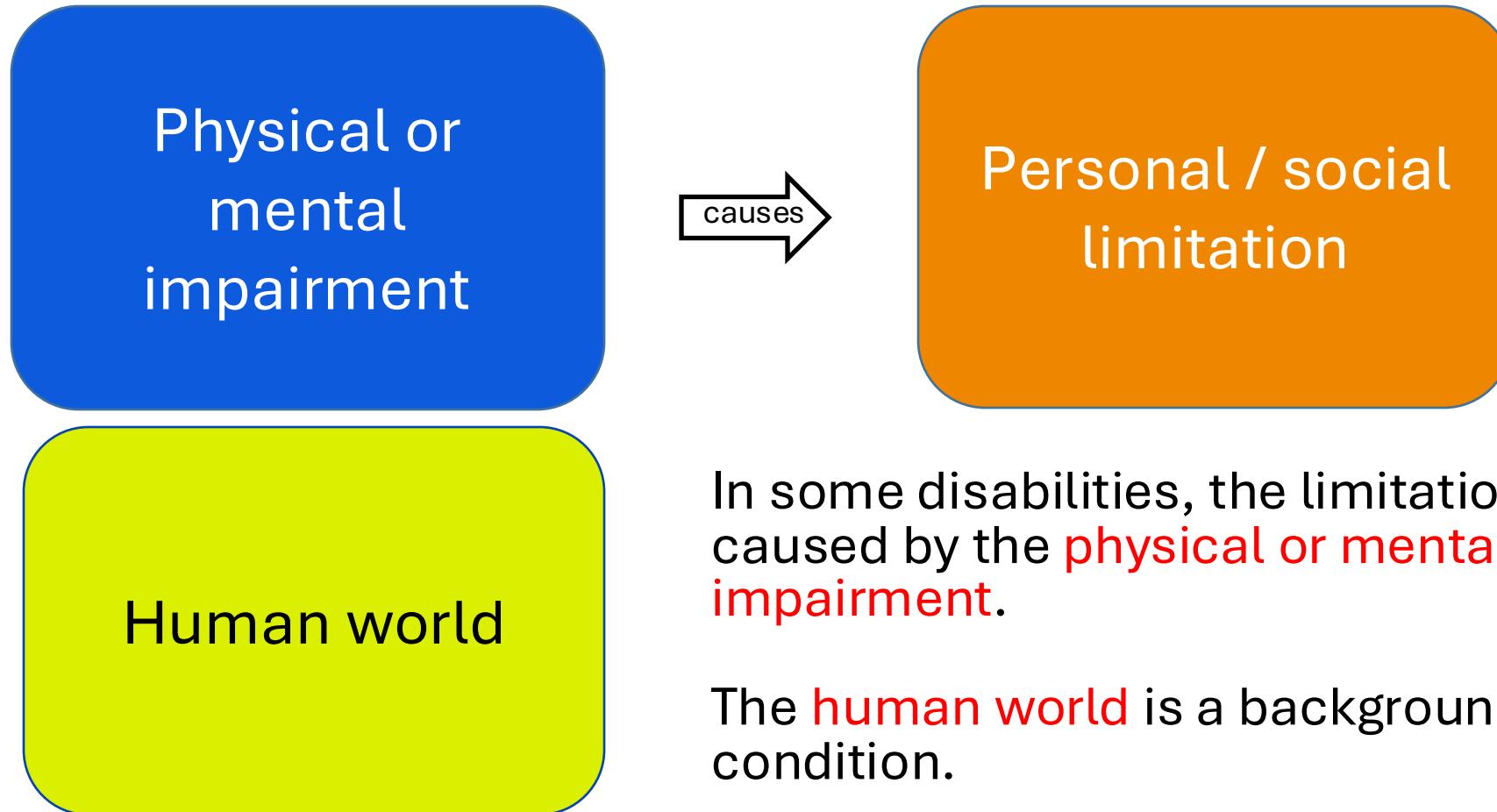
e.g. not being able to
access public spaces

Normally we think of the “**cause**” of an event as another specific event that occurred before it.

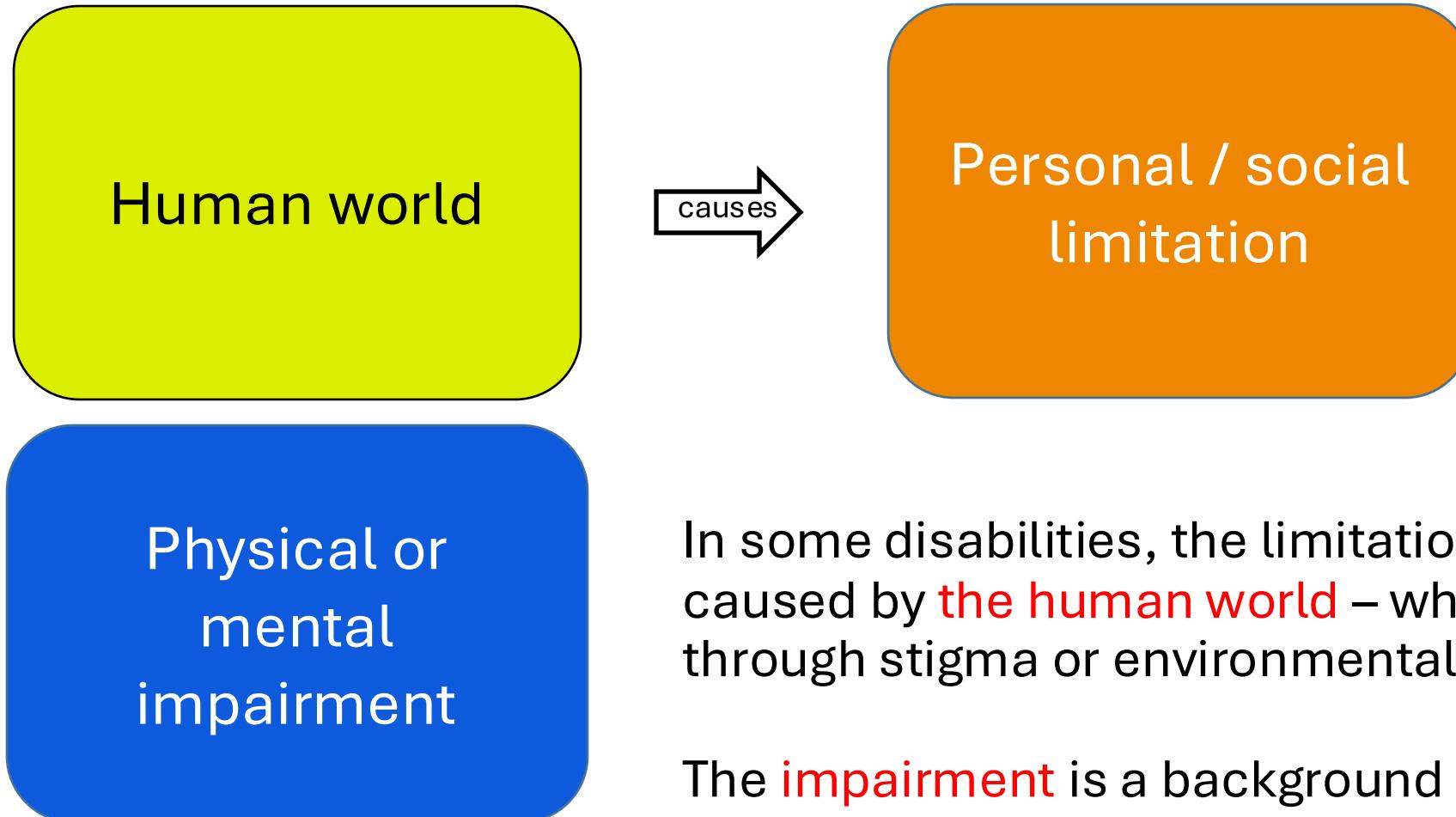
Other factors are simply “**background conditions**” - required for the event to happen, but not part of the “cause”



The Medical Model of Disability



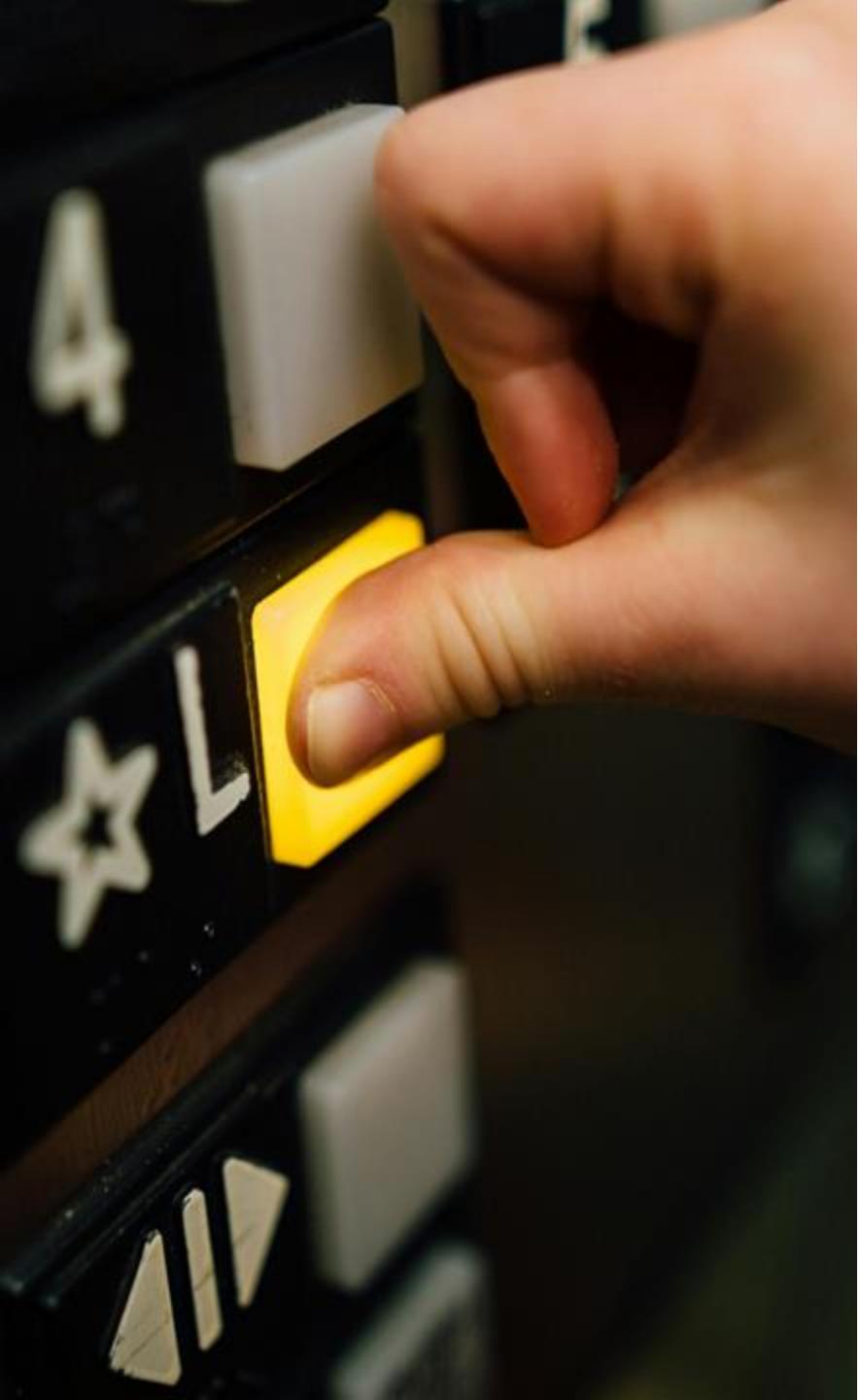
The Social Model of Disability





Medical model: intervention reduces the impairment

- “closer” to the impairment
- Can work for one person without working for everyone
- Need to do something to trigger
- Designed with a particular impairment in mind



Social model: intervention prevents impairment from causing limitations

- “further” from the impairment
- Applies to everyone; cannot apply to just one person
- Requires little work to trigger
- May be designed with a particular impairment in mind or none in particular in mind