

Guns as a Coping Mechanism

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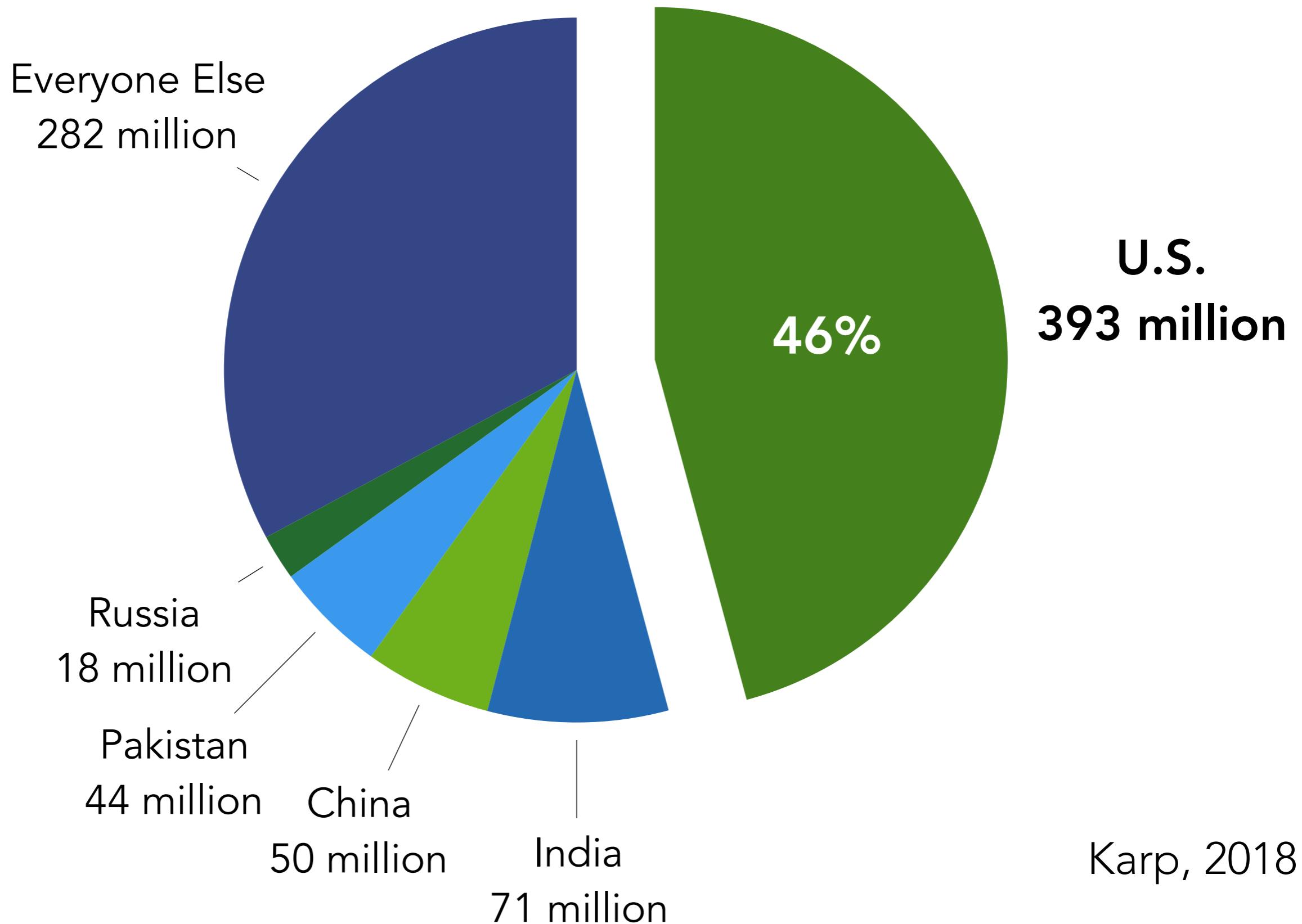
*The Social
Psychology of
Firearms &
Firearm
Ownership*





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Brian Henriquez
Kincaid Youman
Campbell Edwards
Sam Lesemann
Alex Hendel
Ruth Checknoff
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Mathieu Fondin
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Civilian-Owned Guns, Worldwide



Trends in Gun Ownership

	1978	2017
Household Owners	45%	43%
Self-Defense	20%	67%
Hunting	54%	38%
Target Shooting	10%	30%
Collection	7%	13%
Job	3%	8%

Gallup, 2018; Parker et al., 2017; Wright, Rossi, & Daley 1983

Guns are Dangerous

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- Increase in guns, increase in gun-related casualties; decrease in guns, decrease in gun-related casualties
Jena & Olenski, 2018; Levine & McKnight, 2017

Are Guns Protective?

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- In 'active shooter' situations, police recommend that people carrying firearms stay holstered Blair, Nichols, Burns, & Curnutt, 2013

“Since a ‘sense of security’ is inherently a psychological trait, it does no good to argue that the sense of security afforded by owning a gun is ‘just an illusion.’” Wright, 1995, p. 65

A Coping Model of Protective Gun Ownership

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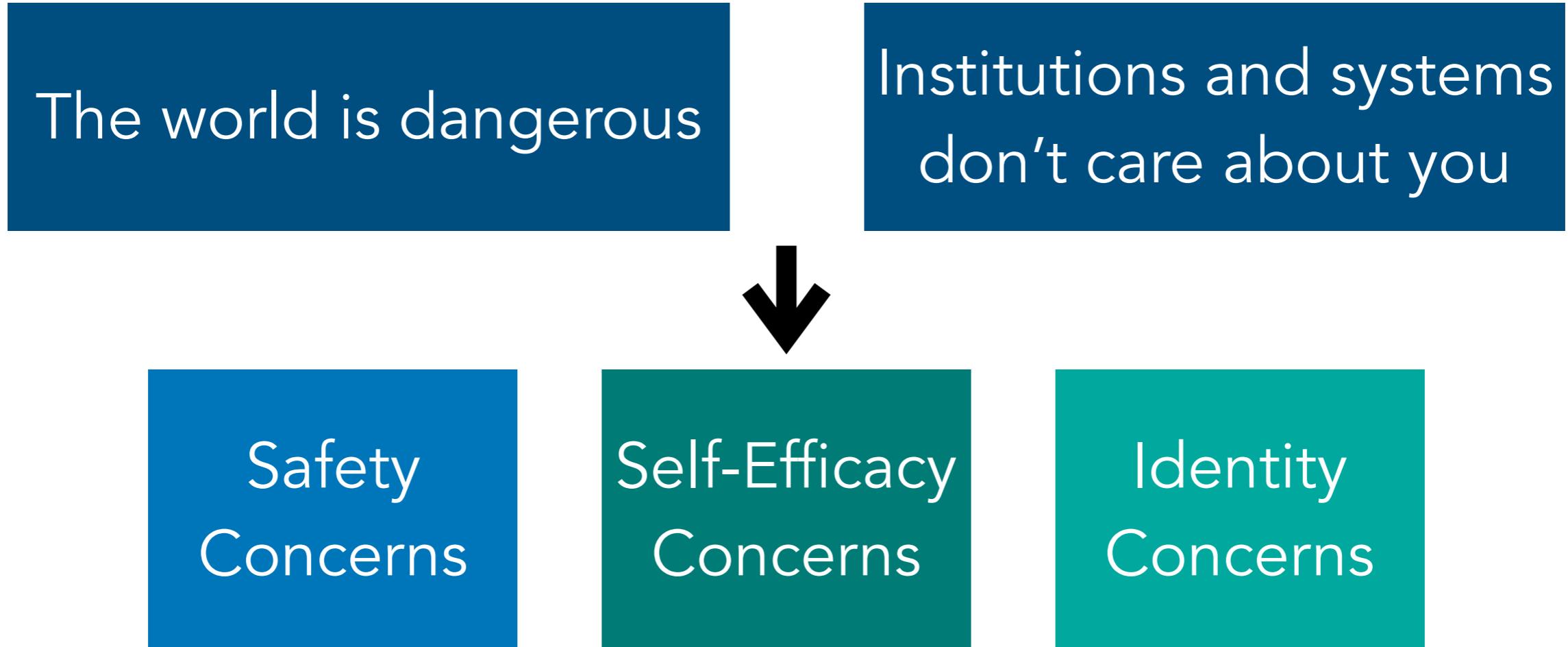
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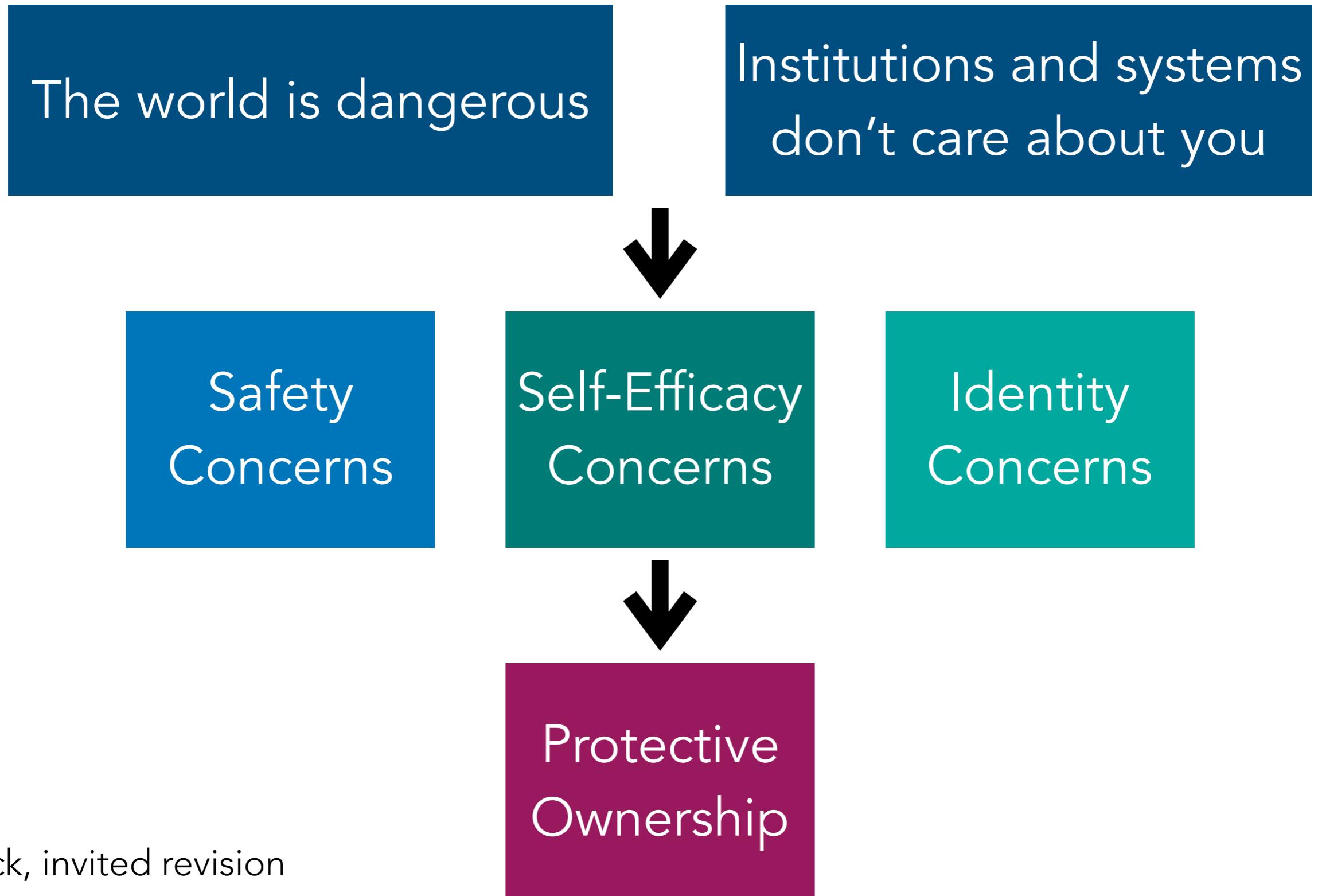
Stroebe, Leander, & Kruglanski, 2017
Wright & Rossi, 1986

Cao et al., 1997; Celinska, 2007;
Glaeser & Glendon, 1998; Jiobu &
Curry, 2001; Lizotte et al., 1981

A Coping Model of Protective Gun Ownership



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- Owners believe that guns make them and their homes safer e.g. Harcourt, 2006; Parker et al., 2017; Strobe et al., 2017



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- Protective owners are more likely to feel safer when they think other members of their community are carrying Shepperd et al., 2018



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- Guns are associated with increased vigilance and a focus on threat-prevention Conley & Higgins, 2018; Stroud, 2012



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- Holding a gun may increase attention to threatening stimuli Biggs et al., 2013; Taylor et al., 2017; Witt & Brockmole, 2012



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- Losing a gun increases fear of victimization Hauser & Kleck, 2013



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- Guns as “equalizers” e.g. Carlson, 2016; Harcourt, 2006; Homsher, 2001; Kohn, 2004

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- Guns as “equalizers” e.g. Carlson, 2016; Harcourt, 2006; Homsher, 2001; Kohn, 2004
- Conservatives believe that guns give them more control over situations and add order to disorderly situations
Shepard & Kay, 2018; see also Kay et al., 2009



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- 'Right to Carry' laws increase violent crime Donohue, Aneja, & Weber, 2018



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- 'Right to Carry' laws increase violent crime Donohue, Aneja, & Weber, 2018
- Guns are far more often used to threaten others than in self-defense Hemenway, Azrael, & Miller, 2000

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- “Citizen Protectors” Carlson 2015

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- White men feeling economic anxiety more likely to affirm the symbolic power of guns Mencken & Froese, 2017

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- More gun ownership in more unequal US states Kennedy et al., 1998

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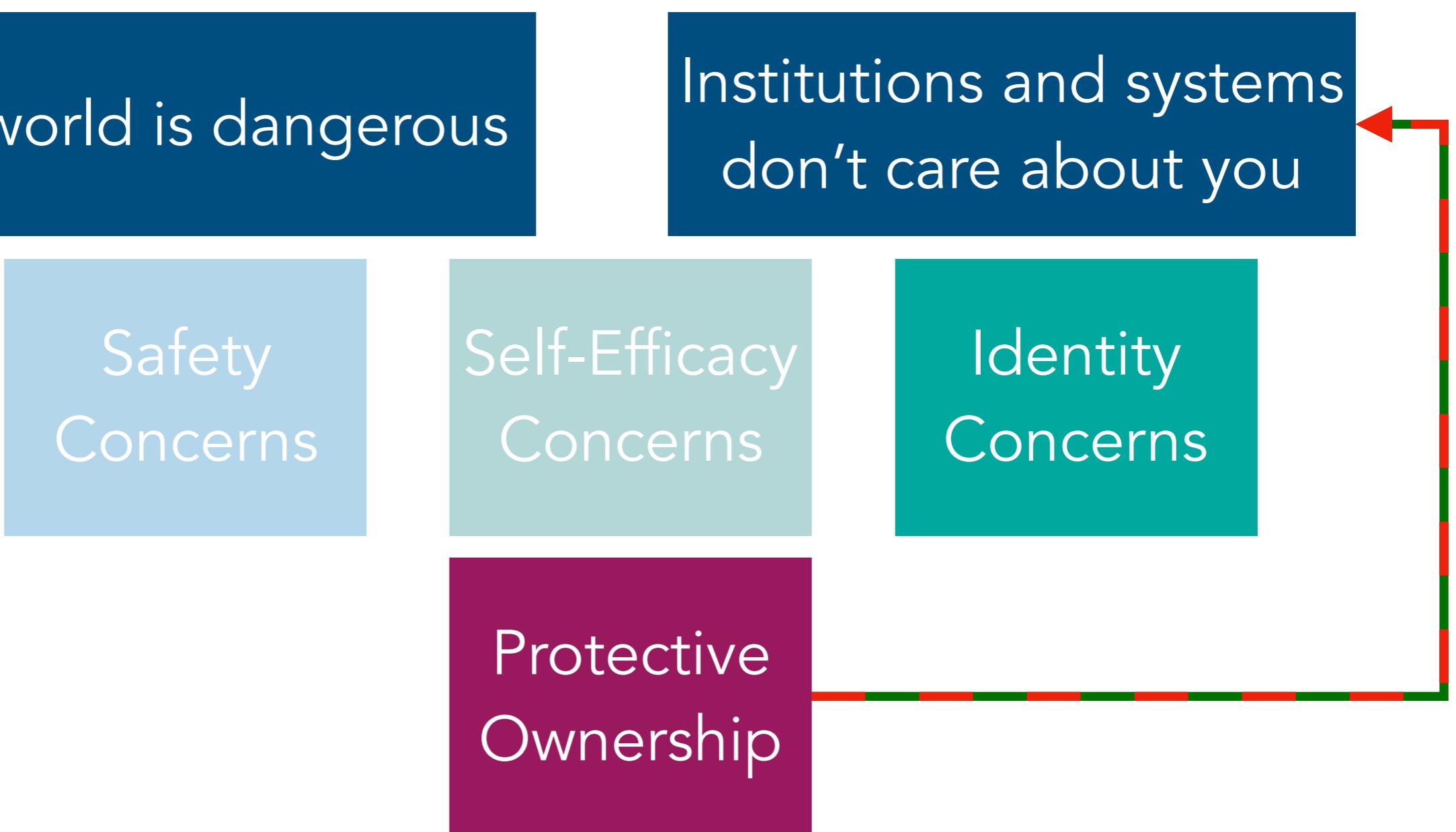
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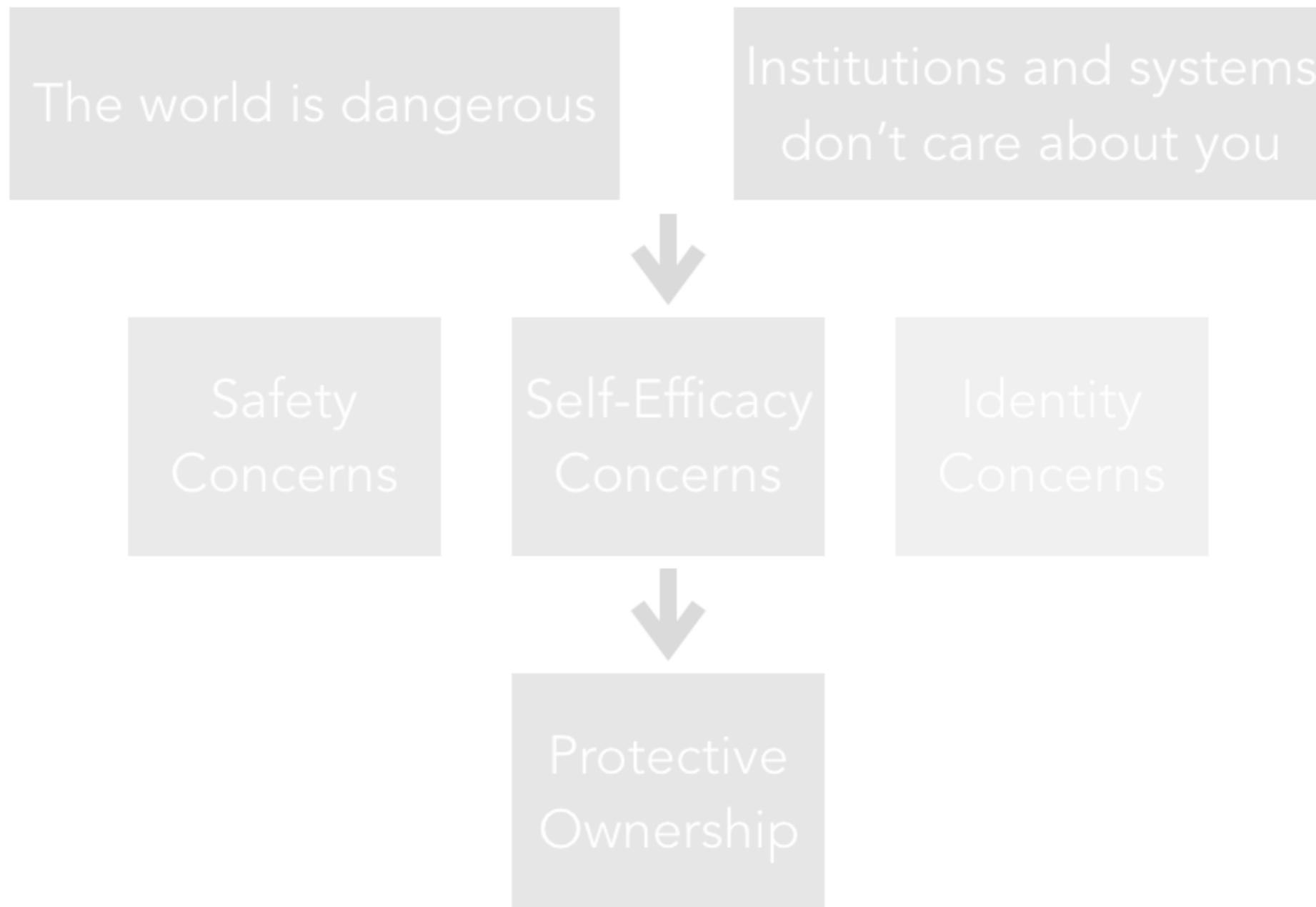
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- Gun control as existential argument e.g. Braman, Kahan, & Grimmelmann 2005; Kahan & Braman, 2003; Kleck, Gertz, & Bratton, 2009; Sears, Lau, Tyler, & Allen, 1980; Whitehead, Schnabel, & Perry, 2018

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- Does holding a gun help manage physical distress?
osf.io/fm4sq/   
- Using big-data approaches to forecast gun sales
