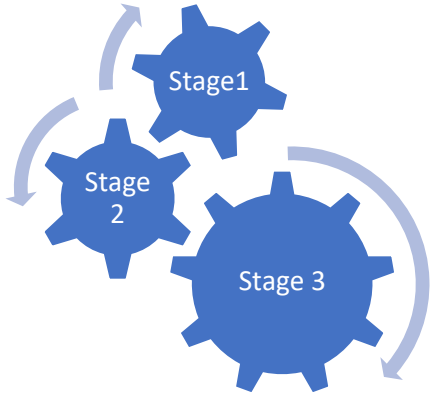
Workshop D:

What makes a good model?

Pete Robertson
Edinburgh Napier University

Julia Yates
City University, London

The problem(s)



Too many ideas

Reinvention of the wheel

Proliferation of terminology

Unfounded assertions of effectiveness

Practitioners need to make choices

Questions to ask of a model

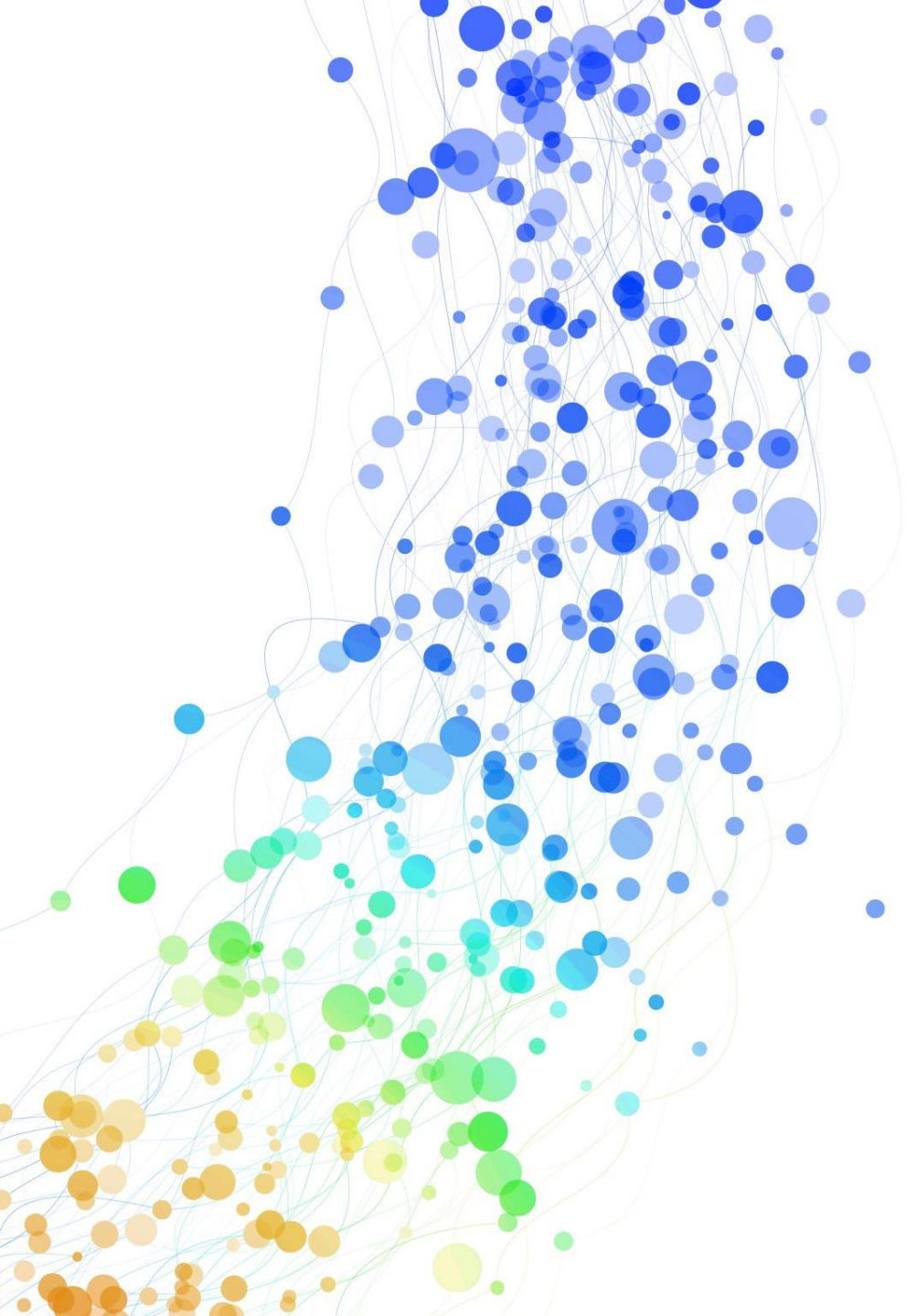
To understand and critique a model

- The nature of the model
- The rationale and the evidence
- Values, ethics, and culture
- Target group

To help you choose a model

- Practicalities
- Resources and logistics
- Working alliance
- The practitioner

A framework for assessing models of guidance



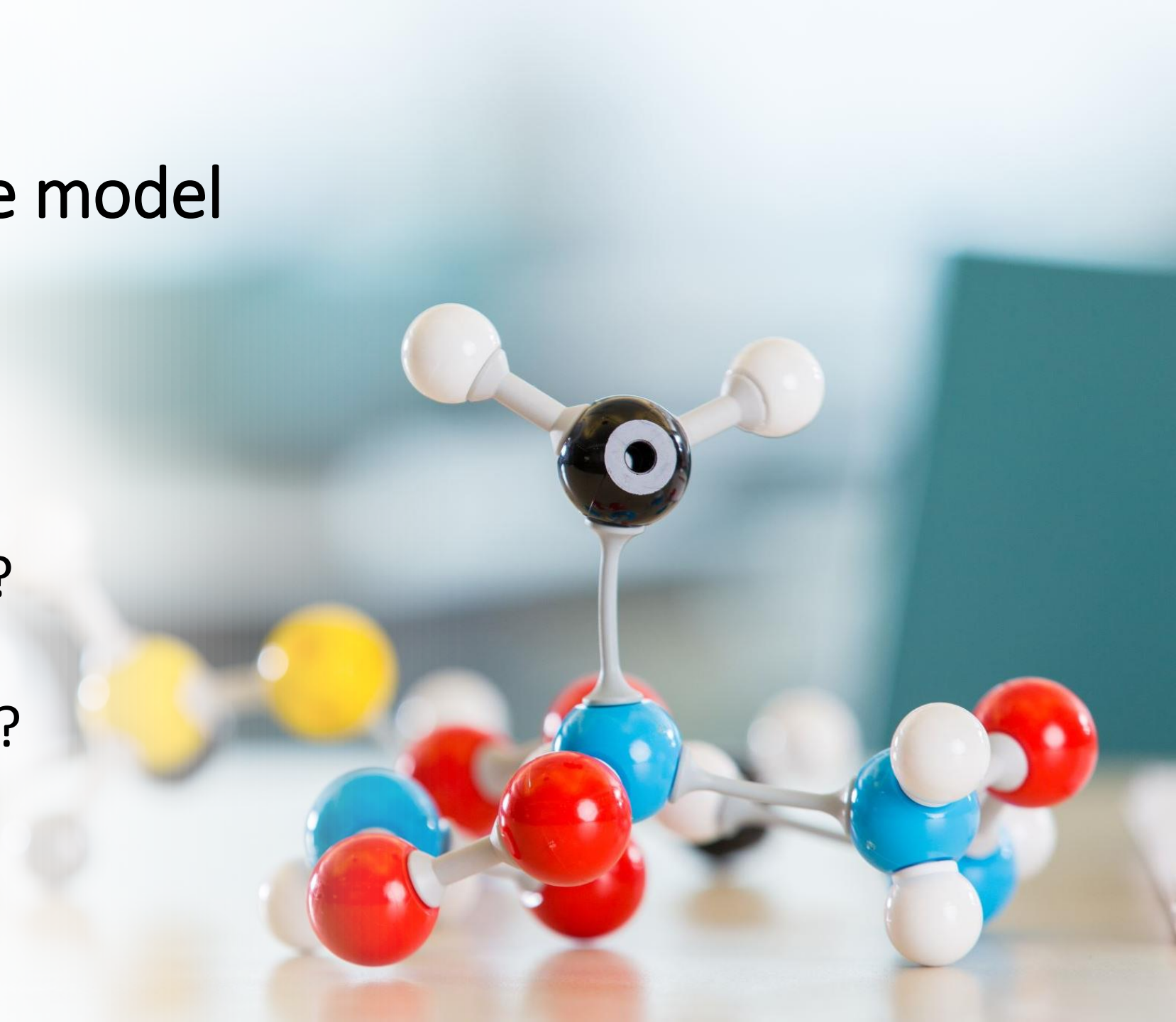
Questions to help you understand and critique a model

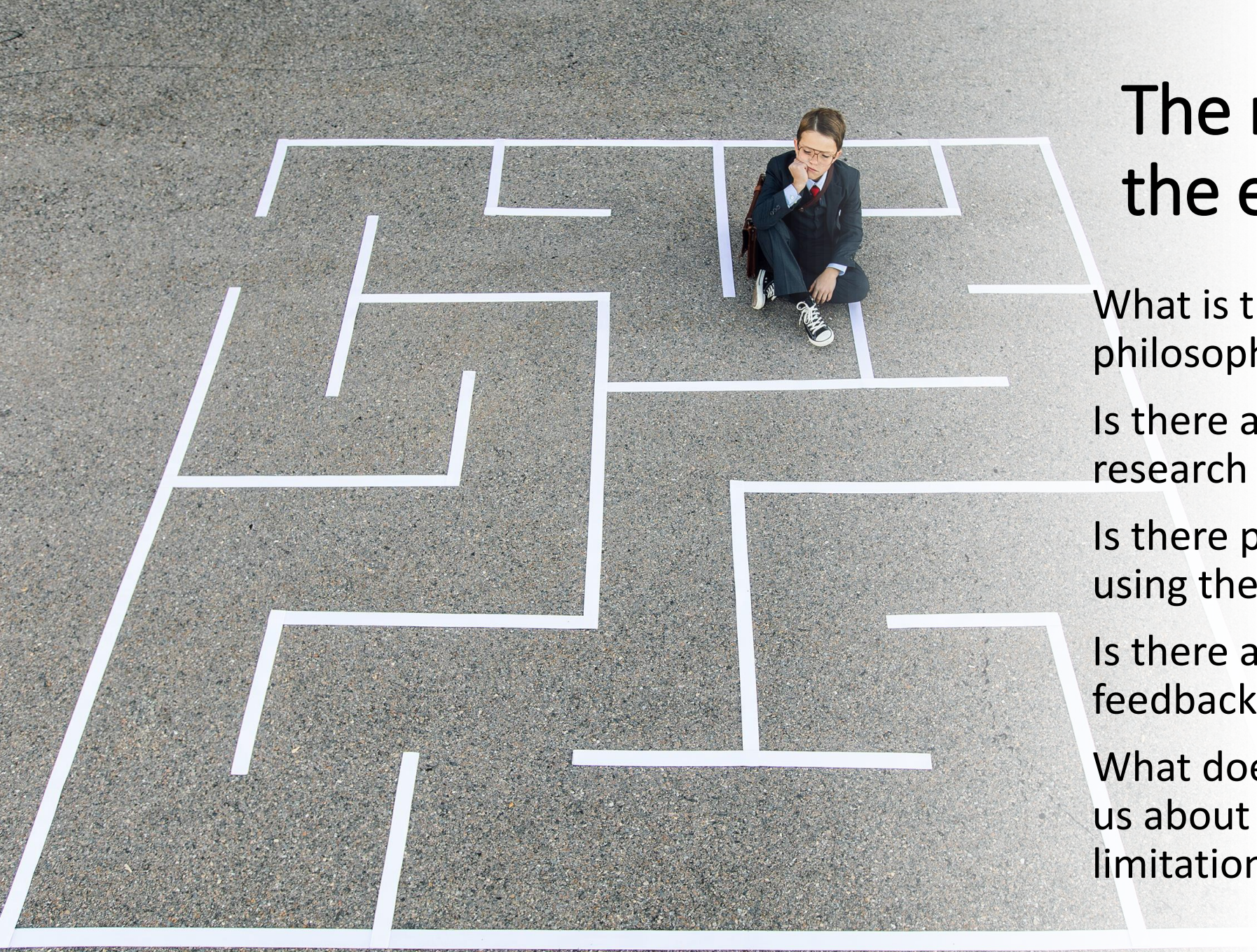
The nature of the model

What is its purpose?

What is it a model of?

Who is the model for?





The rationale and the evidence

What is the underpinning theory or philosophy?

Is there any published evaluative research on the model?

Is there practitioner experience of using the model?

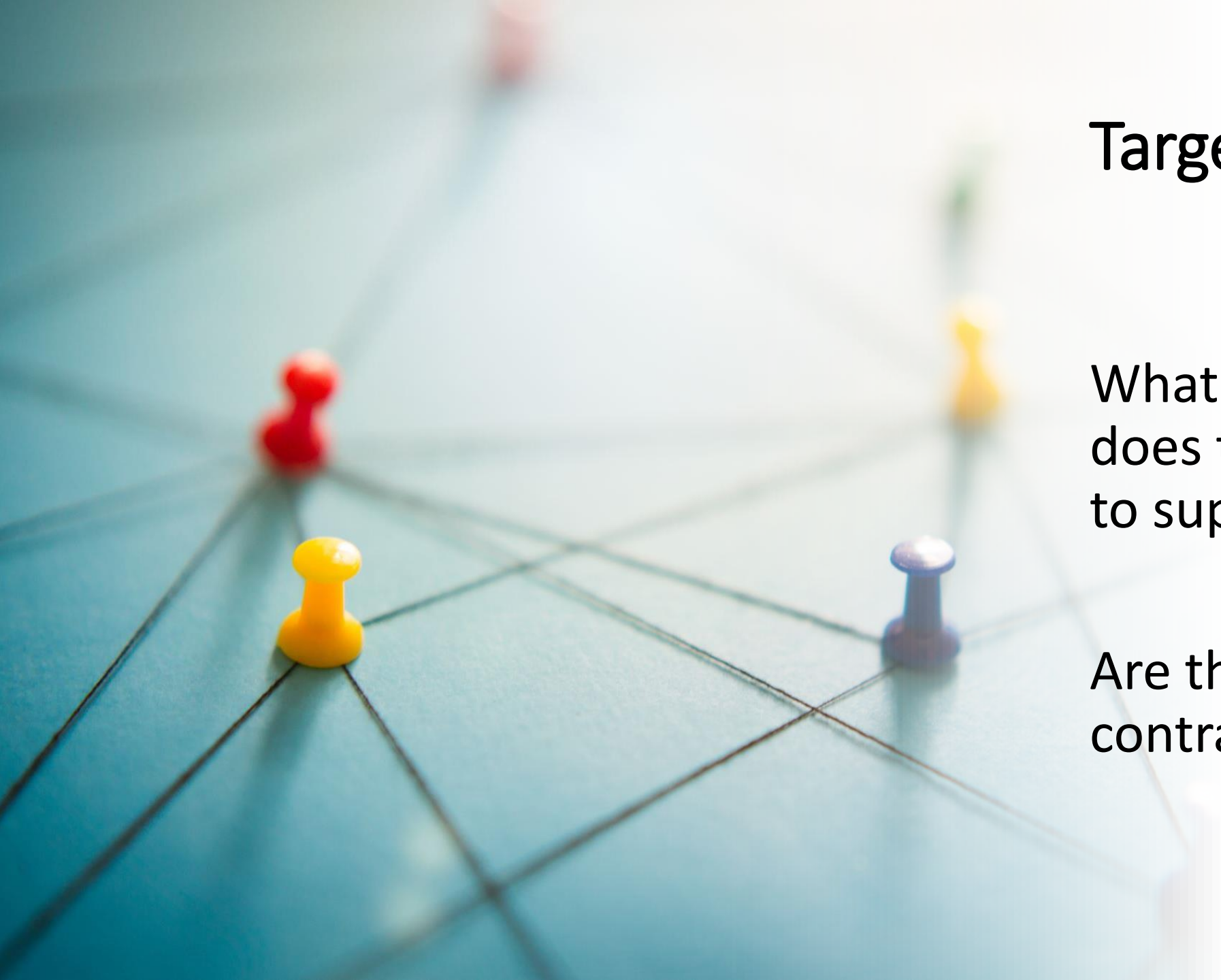
Is there any available client feedback?

What does the body of evidence tell us about its strengths and limitations?

Values, ethics, and culture

Does the model align with your values?

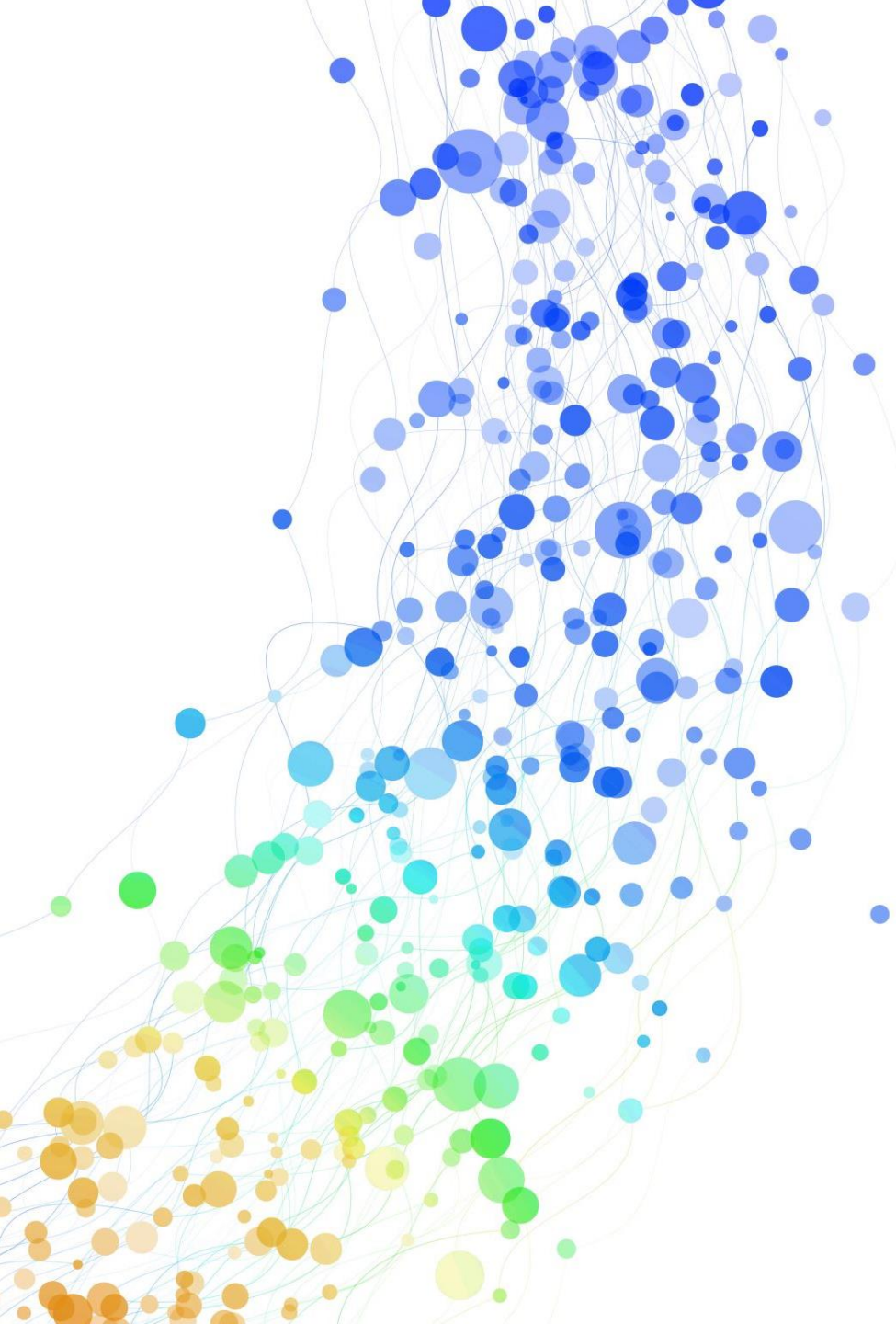
Is the model culturally specific?



Target group

What kinds of clients does this model aim to support?

Are there any contra-indicators?



Questions to help you choose a model

Practicalities

Can the model suit your activity?

Does the model suit your specific client group?

Resources and logistics

Over what time period is the activity expected to take place?

What other resources are needed?

Working alliance

Will the model allow you to develop a suitable relationship with your client?

Is it easy to explain the model to the client?

The practitioner

Are you suitably equipped to use the model?