

EMPIRICAL TAKEAWAYS

CONCEPTUAL MODELS



WHAT IS A VARIABLE?

A variable is simply an attribute on which cases vary (for instance, high or low).

If not, it is a constant.



TYPES OF VARIABLES

Independent variables

Dependent variables

Mediating variables

Moderating variables

Control variables



X

Y



Independent

Dependent

**The presumed cause of change in
the dependent Y.**

This is the response to X.

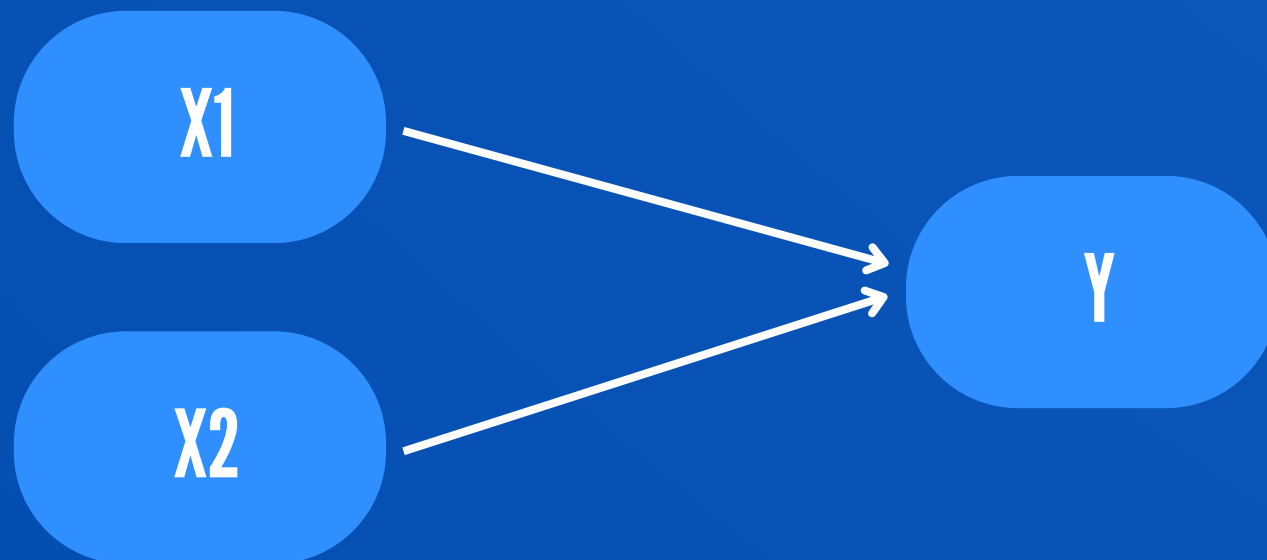
**In an experiment, this is the
variable that you want to manipulate
to observe changes in Y.**

**It is what you want to predict
or explain.**

CONCEPTUAL MODEL

A graphical representation of the relationship(s) you expect to find between your variables.

You can have multiple independent variables and/or dependent variables, for instance:



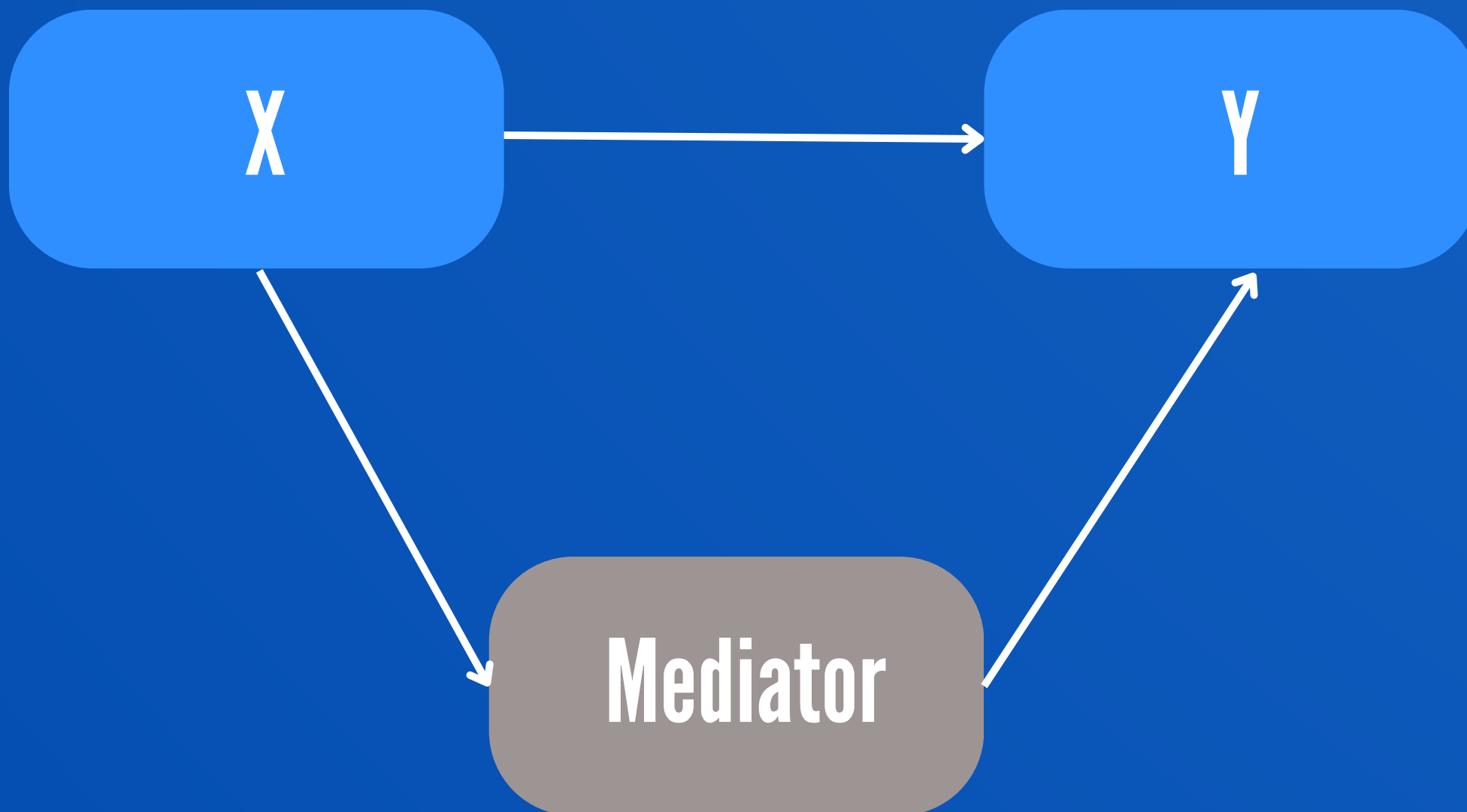
MEDIATOR

**This is a mediating variable
between a predictor (X) and outcome (Y).**

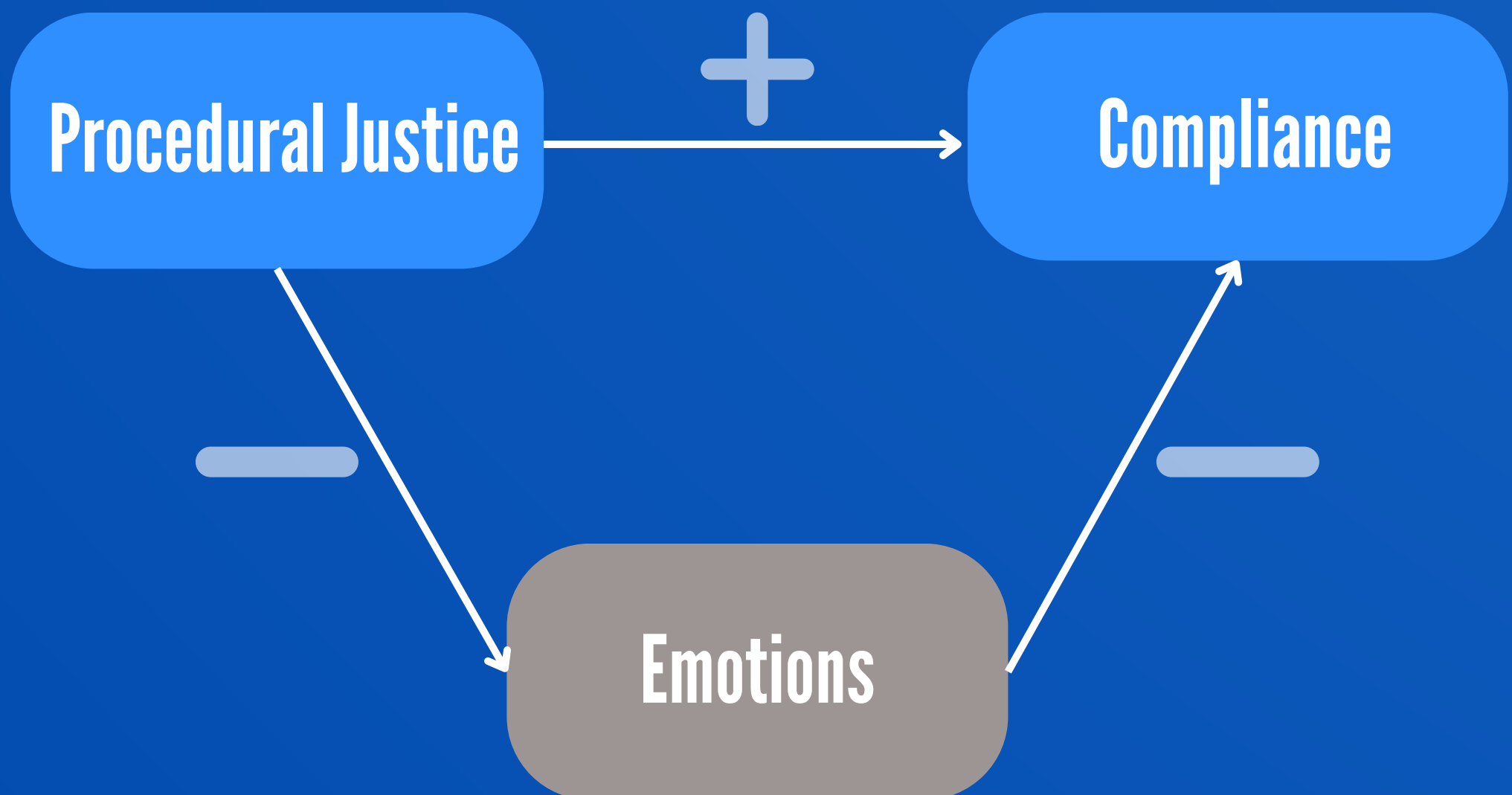
It is an explanation for the cause-effect relationship.

**It helps to better understand the mechanism:
the 'how' or 'why'.**





EXAMPLE OF A PARTIAL MEDIATION MODEL



Source: Murphy, K., & Tyler, T. (2008). Procedural justice and compliance behaviour: The mediating role of emotions. *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 38(4), 652-668.

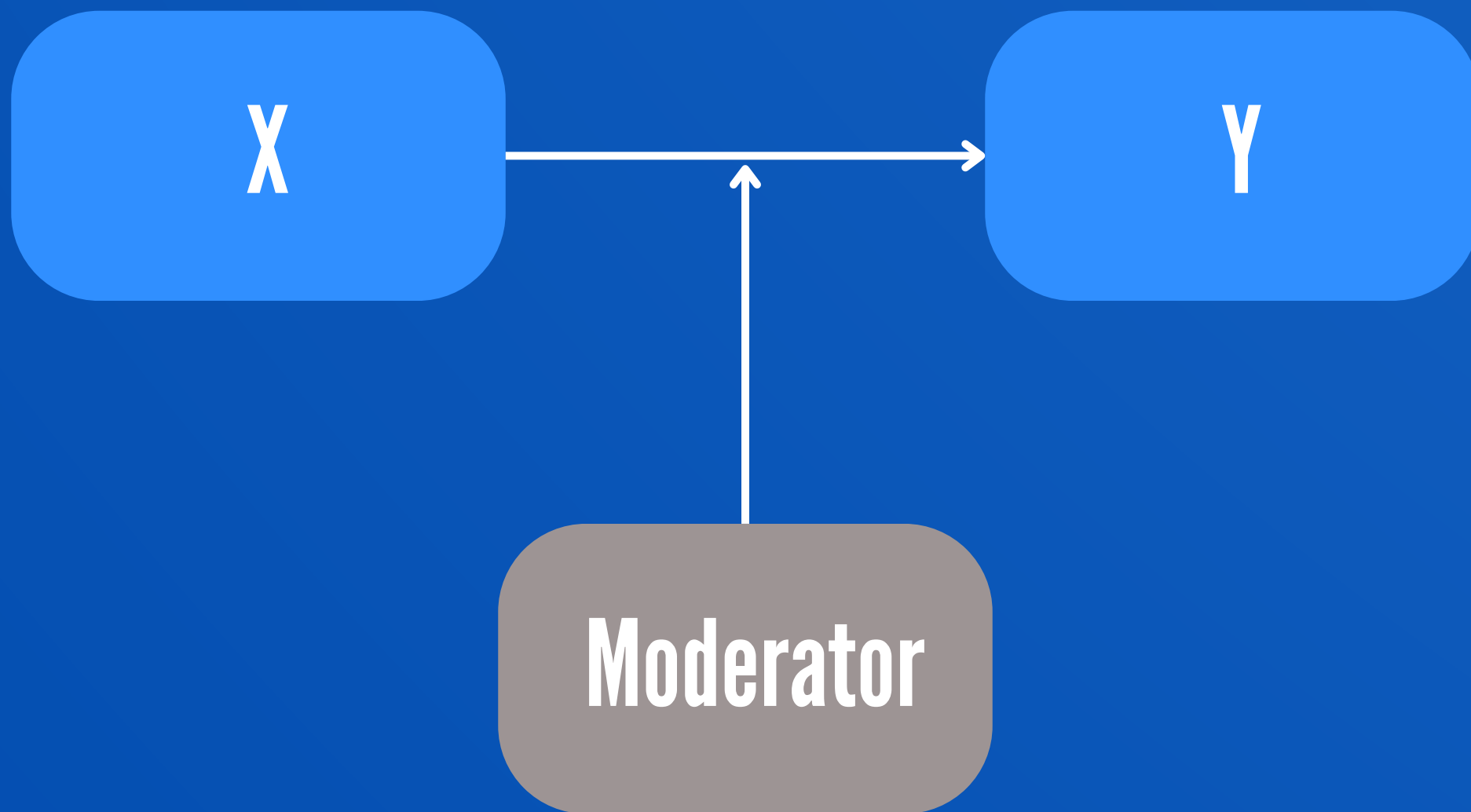
MODERATOR

This is a moderating variable that changes the effect of X on Y, resulting in an interaction effect.

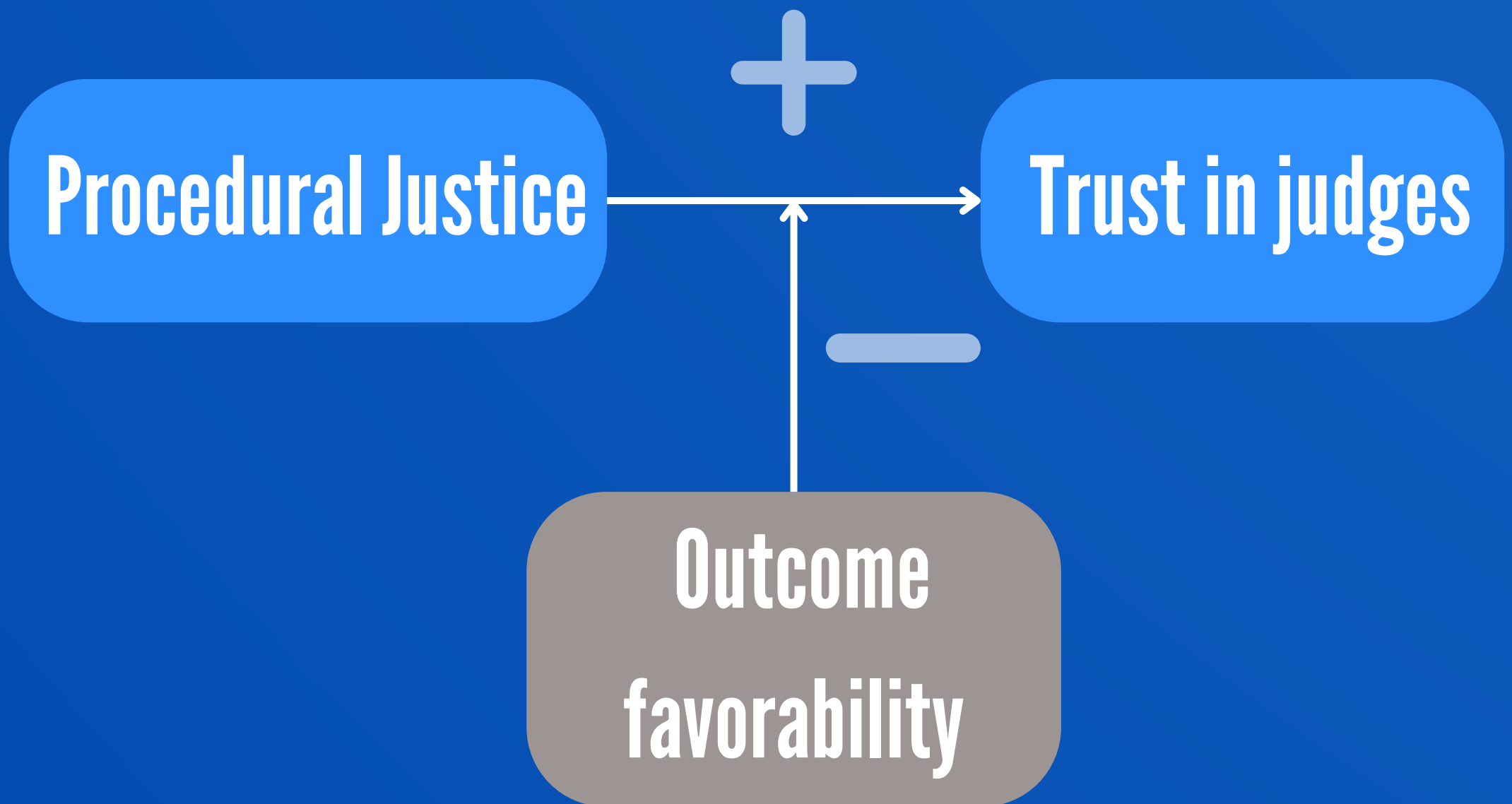
The cause-effect relationship is dependent on the value of the moderator.

It helps to better understand for whom, when, or where the association applies.





EXAMPLE OF MODERATION MODEL

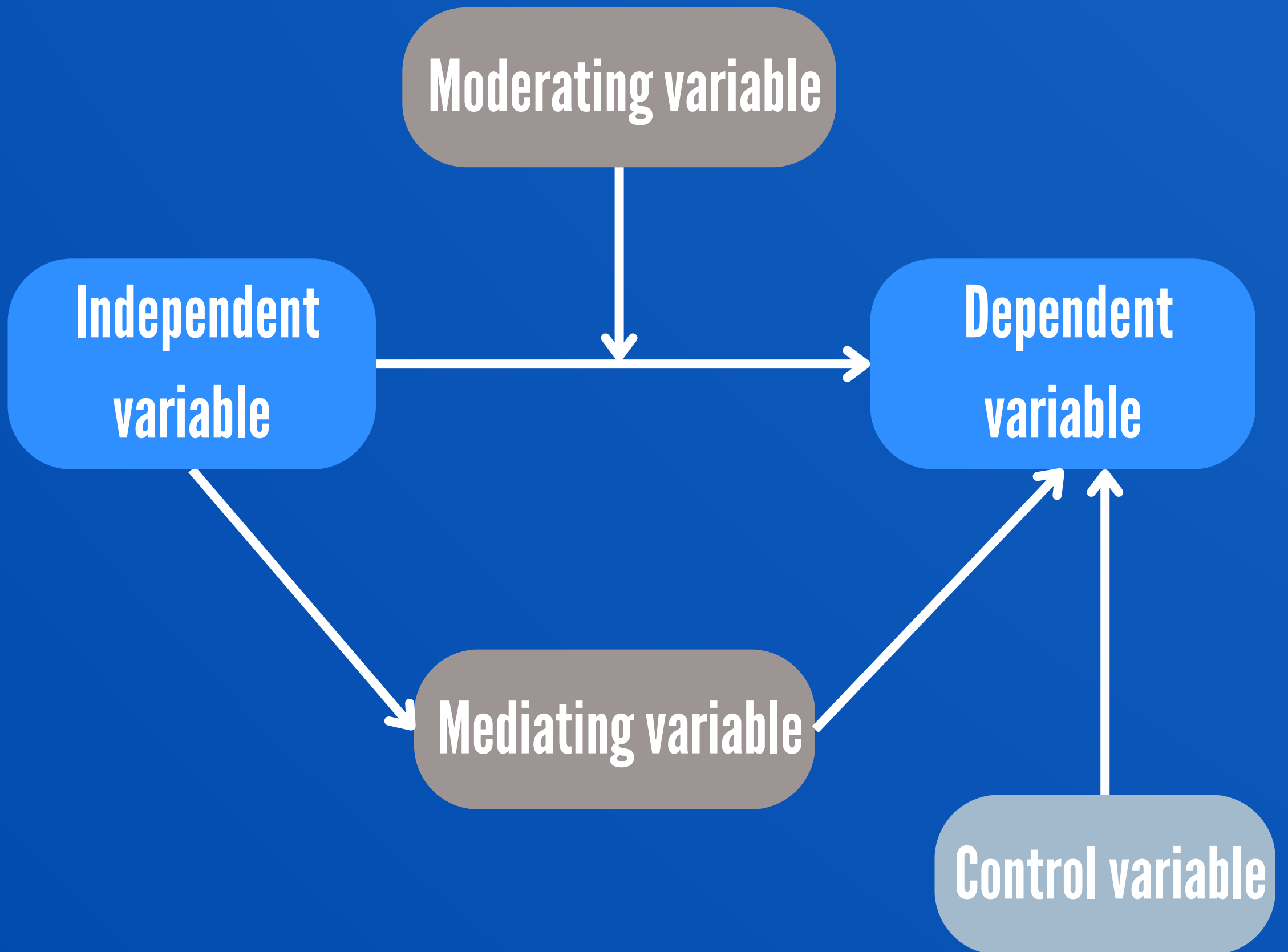


Source: Grootelaar, H. A., & van den Bos, K. (2018). How litigants in Dutch courtrooms come to trust judges: The role of perceived procedural justice, outcome favorability, and other sociolegal moderators. *Law & Society Review*, 52(1), 234-268.

DEPICTING THE INTERACTION EFFECT



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER





WANT TO LEARN MORE?

No doubt, some more examples of conceptual models will feature in presentations during our upcoming Midseason Event, March 7 in Leiden.

You can still register!

