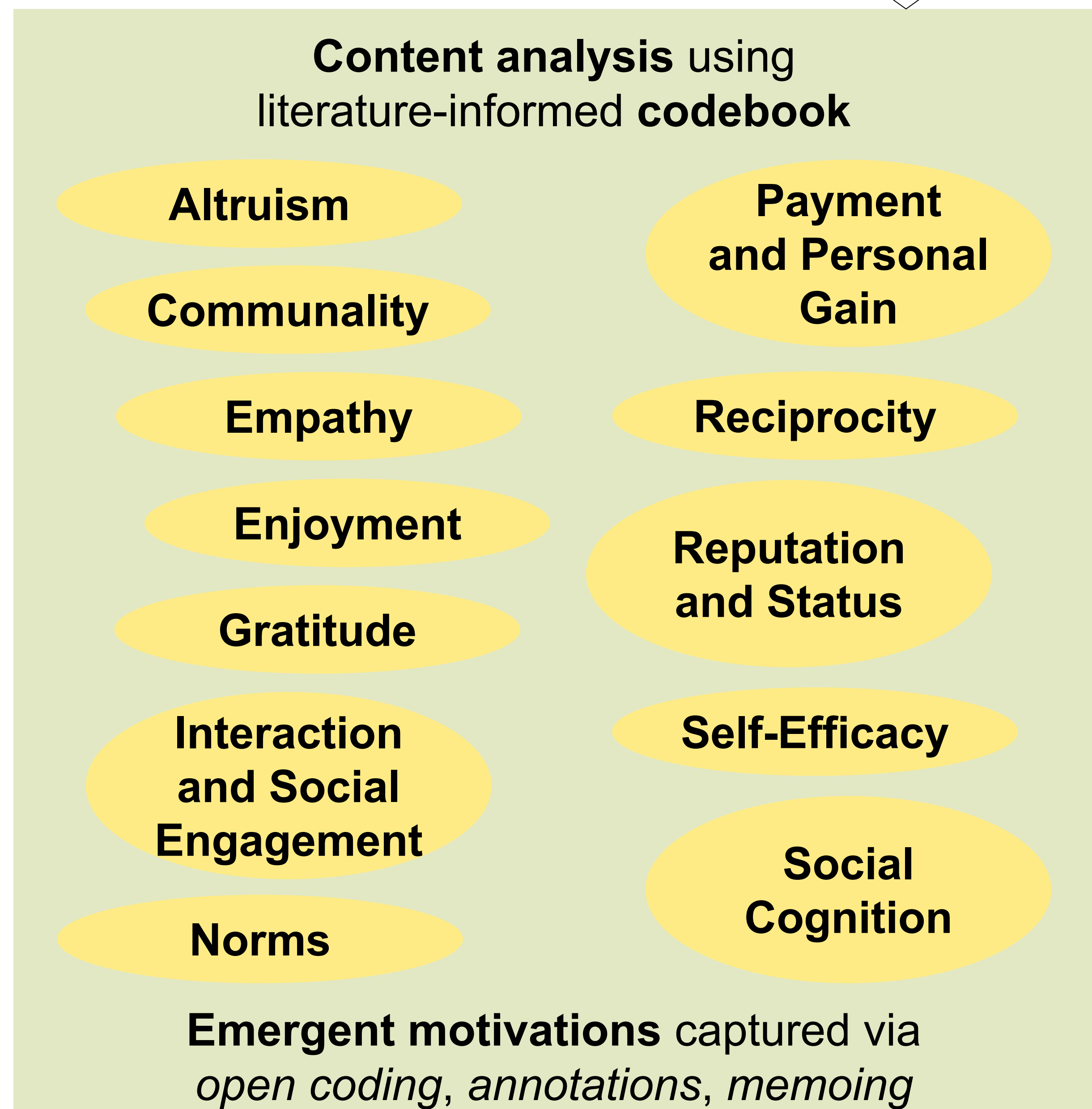
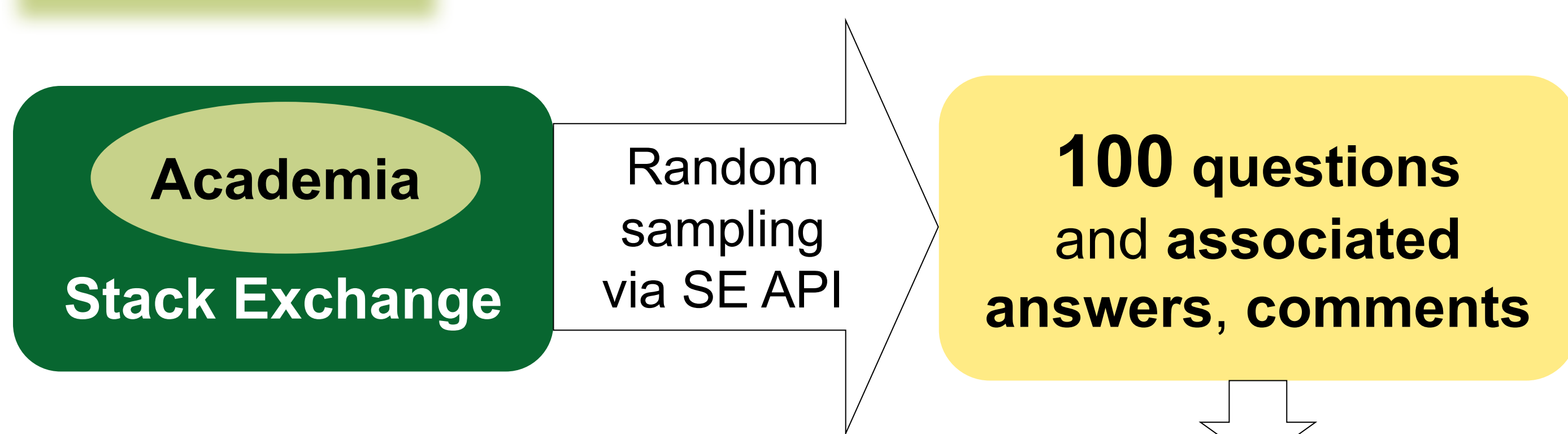


What social and emotional factors motivate users to ask questions, answer questions, & share information with other users on Academia Stack Exchange?

Purpose

- Information sharing a significant element of most users' information behaviour, incl. **online & social media**
- **Social and emotional support factors** are often **important motivations** for users' online sharing and their continued use of **social media** and **social Q&A** sites as informative and social resources
- **Knowledge of socio-emotional motivations** that influence online information sharing still **limited**

Method



Findings

- ### 1. NORMS

 - Guidance on **how to act and behave** in the academic community
 - Is it typical for colleges to cancel a course well into the semester? What options does an instructor have in this case?
76802 – Anonymous Coward
 - Exploration, suggesting of **ethical norms**, their variances in academia
 - Is there a way to ethically hire somebody to write 'rough drafts' / 'extended outlines' for your PhD dissertation?
72148 – Esteban
- ### 2. COMMUNALITY

 - Share to lead to **greater acculturation** into the **Academia SE, academic communities**
 - ...resources regarding the history & meaning of a PhD...
76415 – Marina_ANOVA
 - ...try a second time [to get a PhD]?
75486 – grochmal
 - **Explicit statements uncommon**
 - ...I will share my story as I hope some people might find it insightful.
72784 – Martin Plávala
- ### 3. SELF-EFFICACY

 - **Competency**, but also **egotistical**, with bias towards own expertise
 - My supervisor wants to put someone else as first author ... when I have done most of the work on both. What should I do?
75175 – AngusTheMan
 - Looking for a research-only career in a University can be much more challenging.
77253 – Dmitry Savostyanov
 - In contrast, some well thought out, **evidenced answers** offering **multiple perspectives**
- ### 4. SOCIAL COGNITION

 - Interest in learning more about **social qualities and appearances** in academia, academic relationships
 - Does marrying your PhD supervisor put doubts on your PhD?
76286 – Shahensha Khan
 - Can I look for a new post-doc without informing my current PI?
75680 – acca
- ### 5. REPUTATION and STATUS

 - **Acknowledgements** of needing and wanting to improve reputation
 - I'd really like to get my research into the workshop track in order to get it noticed and more easily obtain funding...
75940 – pir
 - **Known impacts and norms**
 - [Is] using psuedocode examples an act of plagiarism? If so where do I go from here? Shall I email the instructor openly and honestly tell them what happened?
75750 – Braineeee
- ### 6. NEGATIVE MOTIVATIONS

 - Some answers coupled with **lack of empathy**, unnecessary **sarcasm**, and **circumstantial evidence**
 - [Q:] How do I tell my advisor that group meetings may be too time-consuming...?
[A:] Directly, as if they were an adult human being instead of a soul-sucking demon.
76527 – user3052817 and JeffE
 - As it turns out, teaching is actually a teachable skill ... have you every [sic] actually studied the science of teaching?
75876 – eykanal

Conclusions

- Stronger role for **norms, community, self-efficacy**
- Greater **negativity**, concerning **lack of empathy**
- Stronger focus on **socio-informational components**
- Acculturation, learning** similar to **legitimate peripheral participation**

Different **domain, topic** than prev. research

Information seeking vs. empathy seeking

Further work: Clarify whether **coherence** in norms, values, and behaviours is established, explore **implicit empathetic considerations** despite little explicit empathy; **survey**, semi-structured **interviews** ongoing