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Tracking Evidence in Use in the Policy Process

This is the outline of a novel method for tracking evidence use in the policy process.

The aim of this method is that it be practical - for all institutions, both small and large, context relevant, easy to use, and efficient in time and labour resources. The method follows three simple stages:

1. Actors are grouped by policy preferences on a range of issues – those local to the policy issue and wider deep core beliefs;
2. Contingent Valuation Method (CVM) analysis is run of actor evidence source preferences;
3. Actor evidence source and policy preferences are analysed with relation to a set of evidence classification criteria: i) source credibility; ii) expert status; iii) ideology; iv) technical characteristics (presentation, format, methodology etc).

What does this method tell us?

Provides statistical data on evidence source preferences.

Tracks use *and* defines characteristics of those evidence sources with highest preference score.

Focuses on the individual preferences of policy actors, aggregated across the policy system.

Classification criteria can be adjusted to suit the context and concerns of the research impact assessment.

Mr. R.N. Lawton
Doctoral Student
Environment Dept.
University of York
rn1503@york.ac.uk