

# Policy Matters



Your weekly digest of policy reports that matter.  
Edited by [Toby Green](#) and [Gary Price](#) of *Policy Commons*.

**Publish or perish: Special issues and the strain on scientific publishing.** In 2022, the number of journal articles published was 47% higher than in 2016, fueled by special-issue publishers and outpacing the growth in scientists. This, according to a new preprint on arXiv, is [straining the scholarly publishing ecosystem](#).

## Live long and be happy.

- **Education and being an American indicate how long you live.** [New data](#) from Brookings show that Americans with a four-year college degree live, on average, 8.5 years longer than their BA-less peers. But, post-Covid, life expectancy for Americans is now 5 to 10 years less than for citizens of other rich countries.
- **Education** not only extends your life, [it makes you happier—unless you're unemployed](#), says IZA

**Pornocriminology:** A French government committee published a [major new report](#) last week showing that 90% of images and videos produced by the pornographic industry are violent and/or abusive towards women and minorities and that current processes to control it aren't working, not least because of intense lobbying by the industry. (In French.)

**Refugees and asylum seekers.** ONE Campaign's new [analysis](#) shows the UK Home Office (interior ministry) management of refugees and asylum seekers is creating a lose-lose situation; it's bad for refugees and bad for taxpayers.

**Evidence and policy making.** Many of the items we list every week contain evidence on policy matters, yet simply producing evidence doesn't lead to better outcomes automatically. Evidence Institutes are organizations that seek to fix this. The Paul Ramsay Foundation has just [released a report reviewing Evidence Institutes in the UK, USA and Canada](#) for the benefit of those in Australia seeking to break the cycles of disadvantage.

## Climate.

- Reports about climate are often gloomy, so it was refreshing to see an [optimistic update from IEA](#) on the progress of clean energy technologies—so much so that IEA believes limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees is still achievable.
- However, the European Council on Foreign Relations [thinks that forthcoming elections will determine](#) whether the EU is ready to foot the climate bill, and...
- ...the Climate Policy Initiative remains gloomy about the Amazon, [arguing that cattle ranchers should be given revenue from carbon credits to stop farming](#).

**Recruiting terrorists.** A better-paid position in a nearby country is an attractive proposition. So, is it surprising that the World Bank found the same economic opportunity and migration equation applied when they analyzed Daesh personnel records for their report on [transnational terrorist recruitment](#)?

**Google.** Since most of it is being conducted behind closed doors, you may not have heard that the US Justice Department is midway through an antitrust trial against Google. We're wondering if the Department has [noted Markup's report](#) showing that Google dominates the first screen on a search result page; 60% of the page is dedicated to Google-driven outputs.

## Other titles that caught our eye:

- [The State of Global Air Quality Funding 2023](#)
- [Black British Voices Project report](#)
- [UK State of Nature 2023 report](#)

## New organizations added to *Policy Commons* last week:

- [European Association of Environmental and Resource Economists](#)
- [Green Economy Coalition](#)

If you know of an organization or city that you think ought to be included in *Policy Commons*, do [let us know](#).

## GreyNet Conference Call for Posters is closing soon!

GreyNet's Twenty-Fifth International Conference on Grey Literature will be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on November 13th and 14th. The focus is "**Confronting Climate Change with Trusted Grey Resources.**"

The [Call for Posters](#) closes on **October 15th**. The [program](#) has just been published and [registration is open](#). See you there!

## Organizing an event?

If you are organizing an event that jives with Policy Matters, [let us know](#). We'd be happy to share the news with our 90,000+

community.

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