

Policy Matters



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

Many thanks to last week's Guest Editor, [Alexandra Middleton](#), who compiled a fantastic newsletter focusing on policy issues in the Arctic Region. If you missed it, you can find it [here](#). If you would like to share your own passion by serving as a Guest Editor, [please get in touch](#).

We're not happy...

[Edelman's famous Trust Barometer](#), now in its twenty-fifth year, polled 33,000 people in twenty-eight countries. The responses reveal that economic fears have grown into grievance and a belief that government and business harm and serve narrow interests, ultimately benefiting the wealthy. Fear of discrimination has surged ten points to a record high of 63 percent, spanning the majority across all genders, ages, and income levels. The largest jump (fourteen points) was seen among whites in the US.

...whichever way you measure it.

Most studies of American civic attitudes are based around demographics, so the results fail to provide nuanced insights. To correct this, [NORC's new study](#) uses other factors, such as trust in democratic processes and political institutions. It identified five groups of Americans—The Ambivalent, The Disillusioned, The Believers, Mostly MAGA, and Classically Liberal—and found that barely one person in ten thinks the government represents them well.

Brexit—five years on

If you need an informed review of the state of relations between the UK and the EU five years on from Brexit, you need [this new report from UKICE](#). It brings together some of the best scholars in the field to look at Brexit's process, impact, aftermath, and likely future.

OER case studies

Last fall, Ithaka S+R announced a new research project to assess the impact and implementation of open educational resource (OER) initiatives at public institutions of higher education. [The first report](#), drawing on a literature review and twelve case studies, has just been published.

Trump's executive orders and higher education

The American Council on Education [has issued a brief](#) summarizing the likely impact on higher education of the first batch of executive orders signed by President Trump.

Big data, big problems

One of Trump's executive orders called for an AI action plan within 180 days, so this new report from The Public Interest Network on [the surging environmental and consumer costs of AI](#), crypto, and big data is timely. It's also worth noting that Daron Acemoglu, winner of last year's Nobel Prize for Economics, [thinks that AI's impact on productivity will be modest at best](#).

Skewed cities

[An annual health check of the economic performance of urban Britain](#) offers a deep dive into the latest economic data on how UK cities are performing, with a special focus on why wages vary so much from north (low) to south (high).

Are you planning a systematic review?

Last year, we gave Paul Cairney and Claire Toomey from University of Stirling complimentary access to *Policy Commons* to help them with their [systematic review on systems leadership](#). Of the texts that met their inclusion criteria, we were pleased to read that they found almost as many items of grey literature in *Policy Commons* as they did journal articles in Web of Science. If you're planning a systematic review and would like complimentary access to *Policy Commons* to find grey literature, [please apply using this form](#).

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Toby Green & Gary Price
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