

Policy Matters



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

Zero-sum thinking. During periods of weak economic growth, people—especially the young—tend to adopt a zero-sum mindset, the belief that gains for one person or group come at others' expense. The tendency can be traced back to the experiences of both individuals and their ancestors and has a negative impact on motivation. From two fascinating NBER papers:

- [Zero-Sum Thinking and the Roots of U.S. Political Divides](#)
- [Zero-Sum Thinking, the Evolution of Effort-Suppressing Beliefs, and Economic Development](#)

Maybe a solution to **zero-sum thinking** among the young lies in rebalancing schooling?

- [Out of kilter: How to rebalance our school system to work for people, economy and society](#) (IPPR)

Big tech and The Big Lie

- With elections coming up in a number of countries, this is timely: [Seismic Shifts: How Economic, Technological, and Political Trends are Challenging Independent Counter-Election-Disinformation Initiatives in the United States](#) from Center for Democracy and Technology

Climate. [World Weather Attribution](#) is amazing. Within days of an extreme weather event, they publish robust scientific reports on its linkage (or lack thereof) with climate change. Their latest is about the torrential rain that fell in the Mediterranean region on September 3, which broke two Libyan dams and flooded twenty-five percent of Greece's farmland.

- [Interplay of climate change-exacerbated rainfall, exposure and vulnerability led to widespread impacts in the Mediterranean region](#)

Vacations. I know we're only just back from the northern hemisphere's holiday season, but did you know that there's a research group that's been analyzing leave policies across fifty countries for nearly two decades? Their latest report is just out:

- [19th International Review of Leave Policies and Related Research 2023](#)

Constitutional reform. Two reports came out this week looking at constitutional questions in Europe:

- [Sailing on High Seas: Reforming and Enlarging the EU for the 21st Century](#) commissioned by the French and German governments
- [Review of the UK Constitution: Final report](#) by the Institute for Government and the Bennett Institute, Cambridge

Other reports that caught our eye:

- **Transport.** [Development of Transport Infrastructure in Europe: Exploring the shrinking and expansion of railways, motorways and airports](#) from T3 Transportation Think Tank
- **Eating out sustainably.** [No silver bullet: Why the right mix of solutions will achieve circularity in Europe's informal eating out \(IEO\) sector](#) by Kearney

Another classic example of why it's so hard to find grey literature—even when it's in the news. Last week, world leaders gathered for the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), at which the UN Secretary-General released a report on slavery and reparations. As usual, there's not a link to be found in any of the news reports, and one could scan the UN website until the cows come home and never find it. But we've got you covered: [Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent](#) (which was originally released on August 18) is now easy to find in *Policy Commons*.

It's peer review week. So, time for your regular reminder that most grey literature is peer or expert reviewed: [Influence seekers: the production of grey literature for policy and practice](#).

[Listen again to our conversation with the author](#), RMIT's Amanda Lawrence, earlier this month.

New organizations added to *Policy Commons* last week:

- [Explosive Weapons Monitor](#)
- [The Children's Society \(UK\)](#)
- [One Planet Network](#)
- [Center for China and Globalization](#)

Registration is Now Open!

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 [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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