



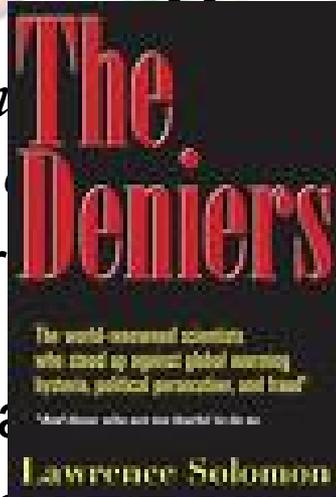
# A New Deal in the governance of climate change: the Delphi Technique and Deliberation.

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Joint Actions on Climate Change

# Climate change & consensus

*Consensus is by definition an agreement not just on a course of action, but also on the reasons for it. (Dryzek, 2002)*



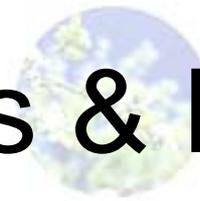
- Consensus on anthropogenic contributions to climate change but debates on the magnitude of the problem, scenario ranges, adaptation, and mitigation, rebound...)
- Impacts the willingness & political consensus on course of action needed
- ∴ Consensus Building is a key dimension, but needs:
- ...stakeholders **accepting diversity** & respecting **differences in perception**. This is the beginning of the **trust building process** that is key to the development of **shared values**. (Benn et al. 2008)

# Forced consensus & deliberation

- Key documents – IPCC 4AR (2007), Economics of Climate Change (Stern 2006) – criticised by Oppenheimer et al. (2007) Yohe et al. (2007) for forced consensus – glossing over qualitative nuances
- If striving for a paradigm shift, or a ‘green new deal’ a new approach to consensus is needed: using transparent & deliberative methods

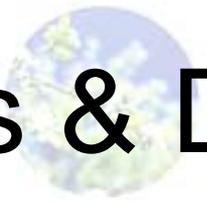
Delphi has been suggested as one tool to capture the range of views and foster deliberation (Benn et al. 2008, Wilenius et al. 1997)





# Findings & Discussion

- Paradigm difference v. traditional forms of climate change research:
  - Relative infancy of social science research in this area could suggest that potential of adopting Delphi has been overlooked
- Use of scenarios were important for deliberating the legitimate governance of climate change.
- Delphi - inherent flexibility in allowing respondents to participate in the design phase
  - Engagement with respondents in early stages could increase knowledge sharing, trust & understanding across disparate groups (upheld by the literature on social capital)
- Majority of respondents felt Delphi is appropriate gathering views & opinions – preferably embracing disensus as opposed to forcing consensus (cf. Nelms & Porter (1985))



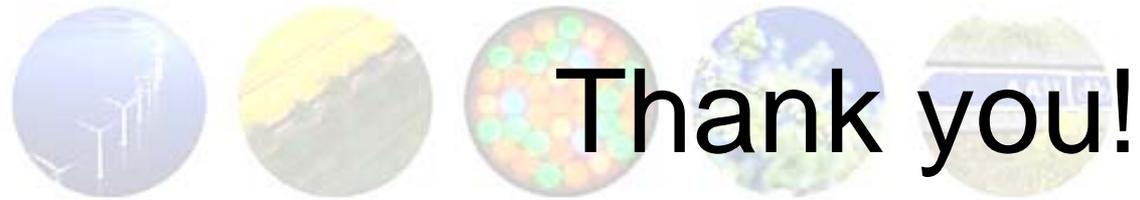
# Findings & Discussion

- Political consensus - useful for legitimising decisions
  - Respondents wary of its pursuit solely for justifying legislation & regulation
  - Supplementary transparency & granularity in the presentation of the consensus so better quality policy decisions were widely understood.
- Sampling transparency in the process & development of outcome required for a deeper understanding & interpretation of final outcomes
- 2/3 three rounds sufficient.
  - Too many - jeopardise legitimacy of outcome through increased attrition
  - Final outcome could be based on too narrow a sample of participants & unreflective of broader range of views existing at outset
- Difficult to observe clear trends whether Delphi is an appropriate tool in the governance of climate change, further research could contribute to deeper exploration of this.



# Conclusions & Implications

- Highlight **legitimacy** of decisions made with **transparent** processes:
  - Will justify courses of action which could otherwise come up against **fierce resistance** attempting to realise ambitious mitigation targets
  - Reach **diverse** facets of society. Don't rely on narrow evidence.
  - Responses shouldn't be shoe-horned by researcher into **'apparent'/shrouded consensus**, in spite of political pressure
- Delphi – potential contributory tool for policy **consultation**, meeting growing demands for democratic **equity & deliberation**.
- Remove **powerful personality** impacts (often if face-to-face)
- Deliberation - not a panacea for climate change challenges - need to **bridge gaps** between natural & social science, policy & strategy implementation
- **Economic crisis** - used by many to delay mitigation action, but also an **opportunity** to depart from 'business as usual' to achieve a 'green new deal'



Thank you!

- Questions?

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