

Policy Influence & Ethical Considerations in the Use of Measurement Data

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Why?

No clear sense the community sees this as a priority... But:

- Measurement data is often used to influence policymaking, either by people that collect data and/or run measurement platforms or by others that use the resulting data.
- Internet measurement data is being used to make billion-dollar decisions – affecting things such as grant programs, regulation, etc.
- Measurement data often can be misused when attempting to influence policymaking.
- Potential confusion between issue advocacy & honest brokering ([see paper](#))?

Current focus in measurement

High effort on:

- Design of platforms, measurements, experiments
- Controlling variables, focusing on reliability & repeatability

Perhaps less on:

- Defining what measurement data expressly can and cannot explain
- Defining or discussing appropriate uses of the resulting measurement data

Are there gaps?

There seems a high degree of informality in how these issues are approached. But this discipline has matured & has significant influence -- perhaps it is time?

Does the community need any of these things?

- Dos and don'ts for influencing policy
- Explicit statements in research papers and/or platform charters on the proper use of specific measurement datasets (incl. what it cannot answer)
- Notion of responsibility for researchers to point out improper uses of their data or platform
- Ethical data use guidelines
- Self-regulatory body to consider problems/complaints