

How to Analyze Environmental Issues to Promote Dialogue, Reconciliation, and Better Solutions

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Workshop Schedule

- The nature and range of beliefs (20 min).
- Creation care beliefs inventory (20 min).
- Discussion of a policy meeting “role play” (20 min).

Imagine a town meeting on water use ...



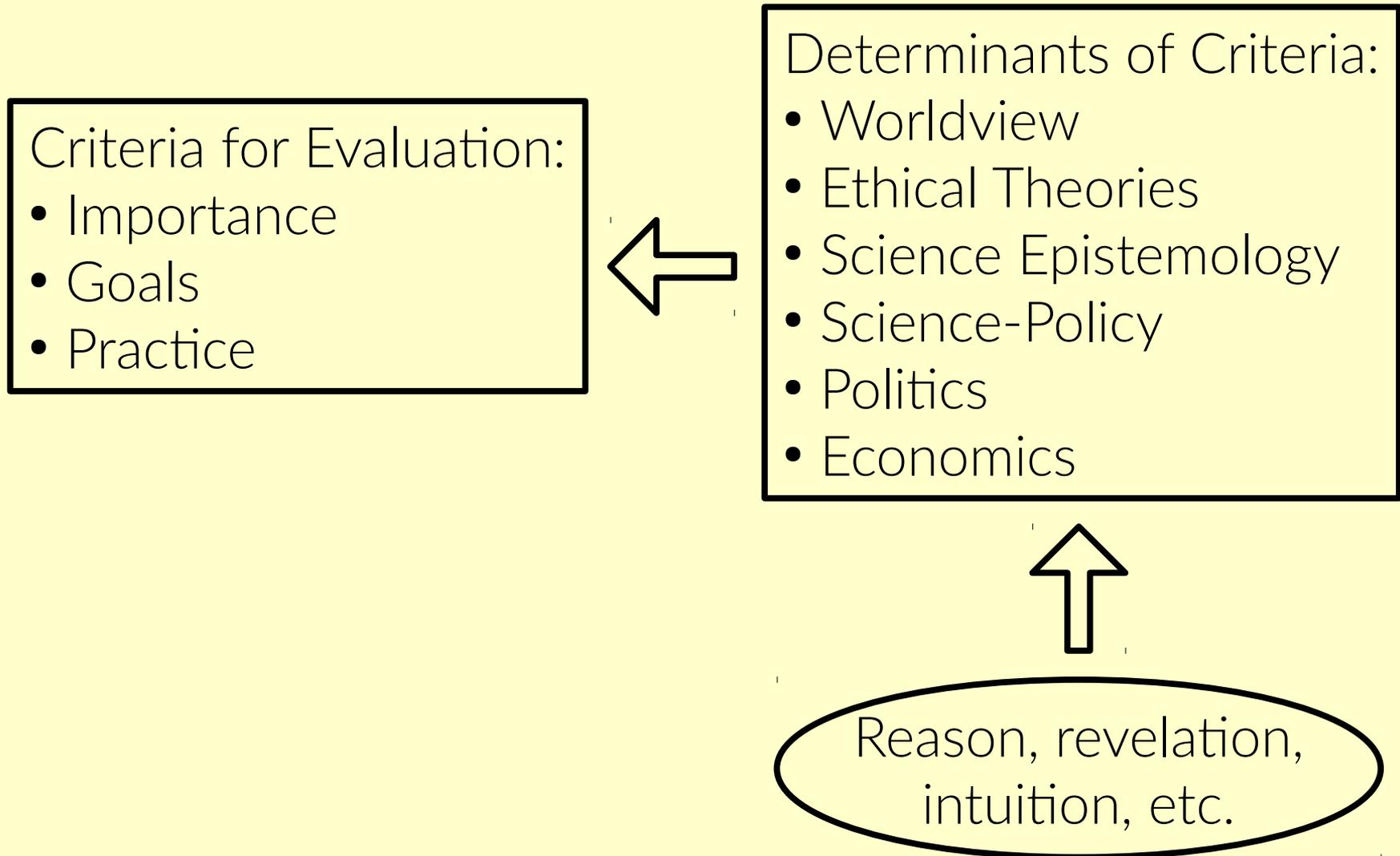
Many different stakeholders ...

Argument

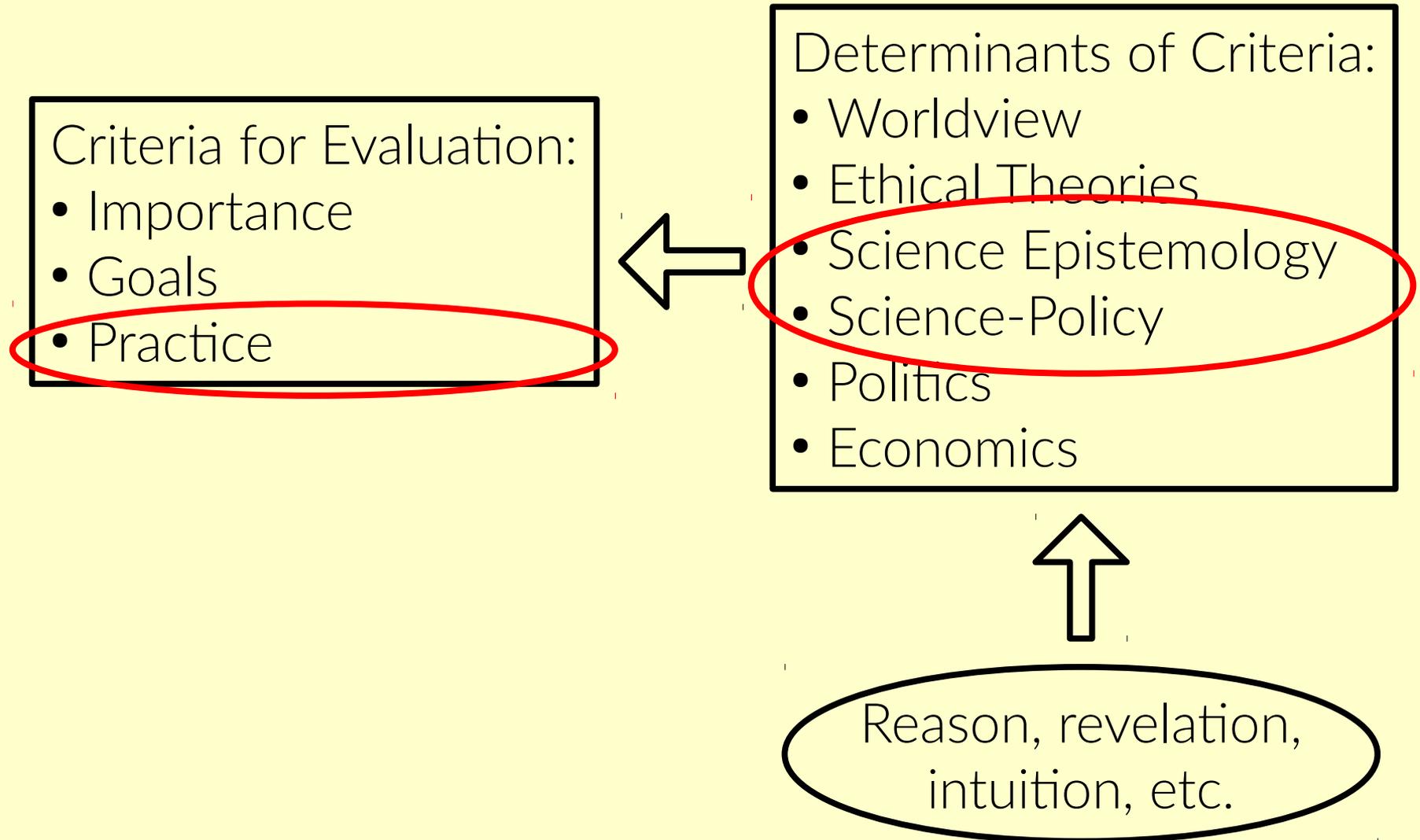
Why?

Framework to understand
each other?

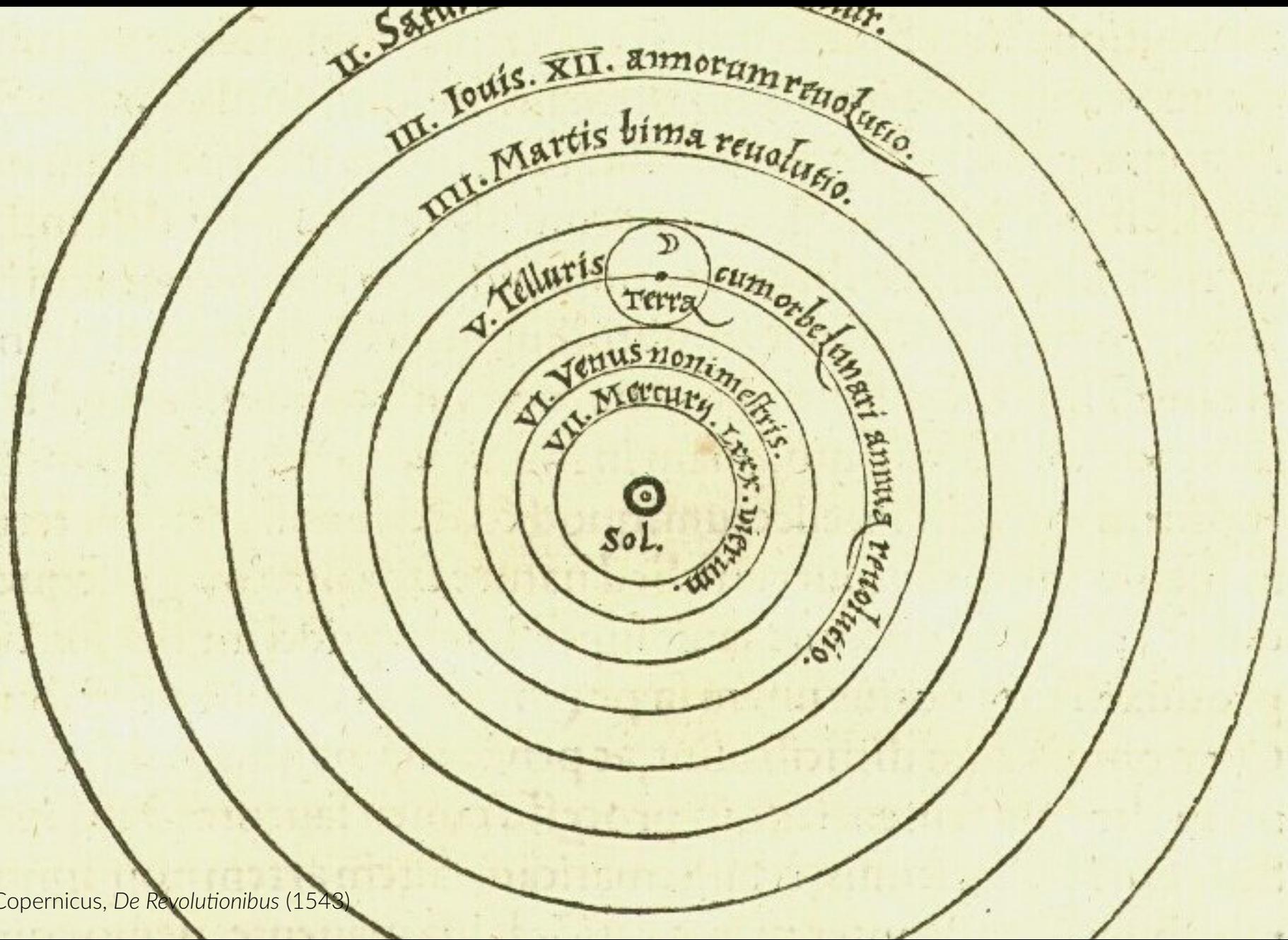
How to Really Understand What Is Good Environmental Stewardship



How to Really Understand What Is Good Environmental Stewardship



Understanding the Nature and Range of Views on What Is Science



- How does science know?
- What authority does scientific knowledge have?

- Science as hypothesis testing:
 - Hypothesis → Test → Confirmed? → Retest
 - Truth is additive. High authority.
- Science works by falsification: Negative results can nullify consensus.
- Social constructionism: Science as practitioners following rules.

Understanding the Nature and Range of Science-Policy Models



- How connect science to policy?
- Is connection related to authority of science?
- Do some models lead to “better” solutions?

- Science has high authority:

- Policy prescriptive

- Fact-value dualism

science → policy
values

- Science unique in certain ways but less than commonly believed:

- Supporting Role (Science is Neutral)

- Honest Broker of Policy Alternatives

science → values → policy

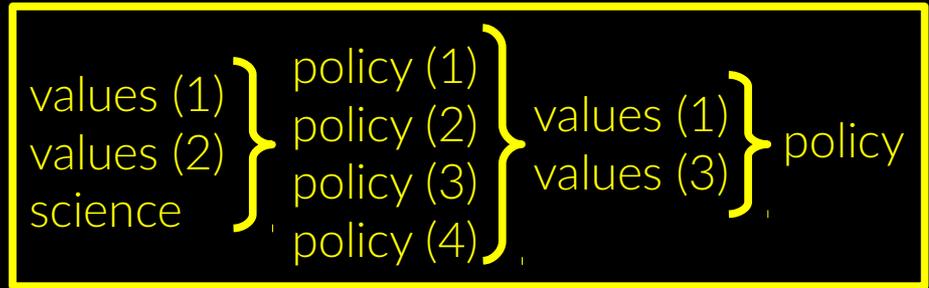
- Science is not unique:

- Supporting Role (Science May Not Be Neutral)

values (1)
values (2) + science → policy
values (3)

- Science has high authority:

- Policy prescriptive
- Fact-value dualism

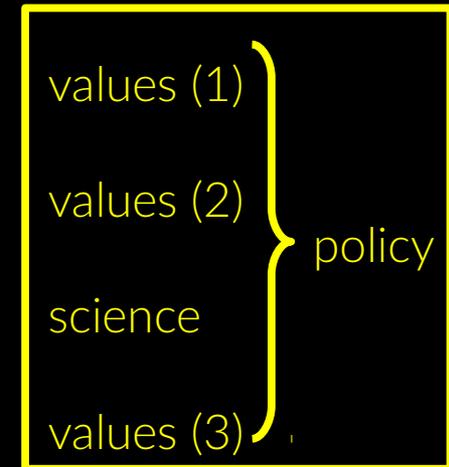


- Science unique in certain ways but less than commonly believed:

- Supporting Role (Science is Neutral)
- Honest Broker of Policy Alternatives (Pielke 2007)

- Science is not unique:

- Supporting Role (Science May Not Be Neutral)



Understanding the Nature and Range of Practices



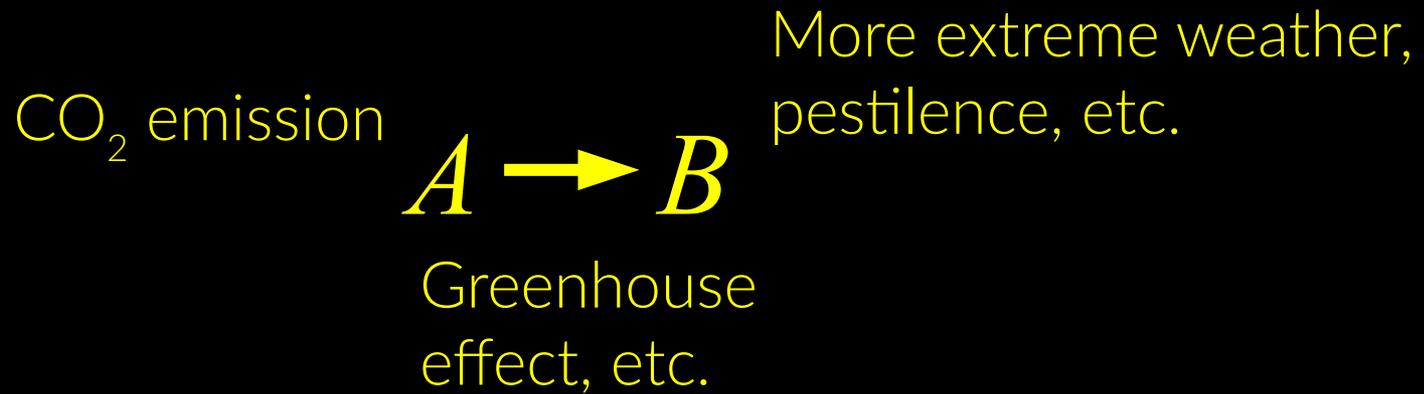
- Is there more than one solution?
- What kinds of solutions exist?
- Why might we prematurely narrow solutions?

$$A \rightarrow B$$

Action or
activity

Undesirable
consequence

- Do nothing
- Eliminate A: $\cancel{A} \rightarrow B$
- Eliminate the connection: $A \cancel{\rightarrow} B$
- Isolate the harmful effects: $A \rightarrow \textcircled{B}$



- Do nothing
- Decrease CO₂ emissions: Renewable energy sources, increase conservation, air capture, etc.
- Disrupt connection between CO₂ emissions and harms: Orbiting parasol at Lagrange point between Sun and Earth.
- Avoid harms: Stricter zoning in floodplains, higher sea walls, etc.

How This Structure Can Help Support Dialogue

- Identify assumptions.
Find common ground.
- Don't prematurely restrict range of responses to consider.
- Social stability → better solutions.

Determinants of Criteria:

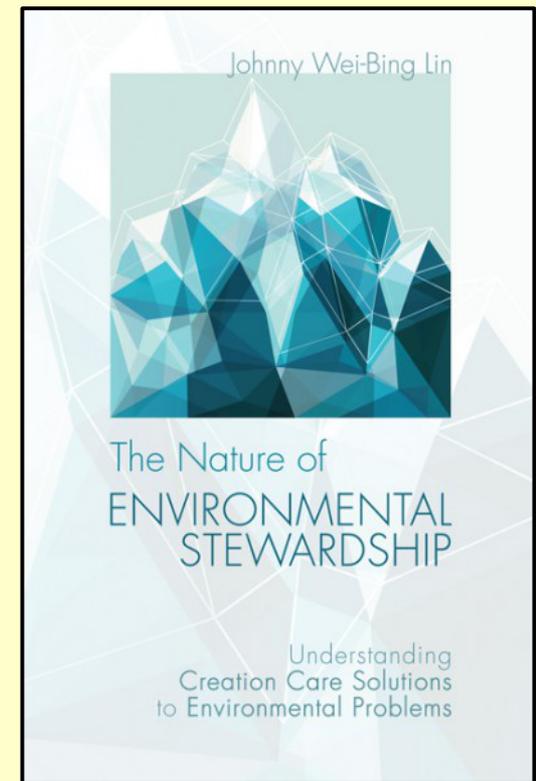
- Worldview
- Ethical Theories
- Science Epistemology
- Science-Policy
- Politics
- Economics

Getting a Handle on the Breadth of Complex Motivations

The Nature of Environmental Stewardship: Understanding Creation Care Solutions to Environmental Problems (Pickwick Publications, 2016)

<http://nature.johnny-lin.com>

- Sample chapter on website
- Amazon: Print, Kindle



Creation Care Beliefs Inventory

<http://johnny-lin.com/nature/inv/>

- What are your beliefs?
- Find someone who has different beliefs. Share why you believe as you do.
- As a large group:
 - Did you find someone with different beliefs?
 - Reactions as they shared? Why?
 - How respond to each other's beliefs?

Policy Meeting “Role Play” Discussion

Discuss in small groups then as a large group:

- What perspectives will various parties have in the unreached people groups God has called you to?
- How can we structure a session to fruitfully engage this range of perspectives?
- What mechanisms can result in dialogue and more stable solutions?

Alternative Structures

- Collaboration (Daniel Kemmis):
 - Start with stakeholder lived knowledge.
 - Agreement on what do we *need* to know we don't already know?
 - Ask science to tell us that.
- Sea-level rise planning in the Town of Nags Head, SC:
 - Lead with shared values, not science.
 - Synthesize group knowledge of all participants.
 - Science related to their situation.
 - <https://ams.confex.com/ams/98Annual/webprogram/Paper336874.html>