



New Technologies for Public Deliberation

Can dialogue be a way in which trust in media can be rebuilt?

Media Literacy, 13 September 2022, LUISS Data Lab



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Adults at Work



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WE MISS THE RIGHT SOCIO-TECHNICAL SPACES TO PRACTICE CRITICAL THINKING AND ENGAGE CITIZEN IN DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY





Current events worldwide show that we miss the right socio-technical spaces to collectively discuss, think critically and make sense of complex situations.

At all societal levels we lack tools for effective large-scale deliberation.

- ❖ **Deliberation** is the careful discussion before decision, and it can be defined as the thorough dialogical assessment of the **reasons for and against a measure** before a decision is made.
- ❖ When **teams, people or organisations** are **geographically distributed** these thorough **conversations cannot happen face-to-face**, with people sitting in the same room.


Problem:



Online Deliberation Support is poor

Social Media are the standard solution for organisations to carry out online deliberation in large distributed groups. Research evidence though shows that those systems are highly inappropriate to achieve effective deliberation, since they are:

- Rudimental in the way they structure online discussion data,
- not designed to support decision making, and
- often produce polarisation, division and conflict.



Public Deliberation on the internet is dispersed, hard to make sense of and often occurs in echo-chambers

- dispersed across different Web- sites and Social Media environments. This makes it difficult for people to make sense of the state and progress of a public debate.
 - Poor summarization and poor visualizations issues have been widely recognized as key detrimental barriers to the quality of online public deliberation
 - An open challenge to effective online deliberation is therefore connecting communities that are "isolated" in different platforms island and allowing cross fertilisation of ideas between community platforms.
-

Technical Problem: The discussion spaces that we see on the Web today are flawed



- are rudimental in the way they ***structure data***
- lack of content quality and variety
- scarcely support **evidence-based reasoning**
- lack features to enhance **personal understanding and situational awareness**



Setting the Problem: Social/Organisational Dimension

- **... and produce well known negative socio-technical effects, such as**
 - ‘echo chambers” and the activation of biased information dynamics (*Ditto & Lopez, 1992; Taber & Lodge, 2006*)
 - Homophily and Lack of content variety (*Huckfeldt & Sprague, 1995, Mutz & Martin, 2001*).
 - polarisation, division and conflict (*Sunstein, 2018; Golbeck et al., 2017; Matias et al., 2015, Binder et al., 2009*)
 - degrade the quality, balance and safety (*Golbeck, 2017; Guntuku, 2017*) of online discourse, up to undermining social tolerance (*Mutz 2002*)
-



We develop in-house ground
breaking technologies to
harvest discourse-based
collective intelligence

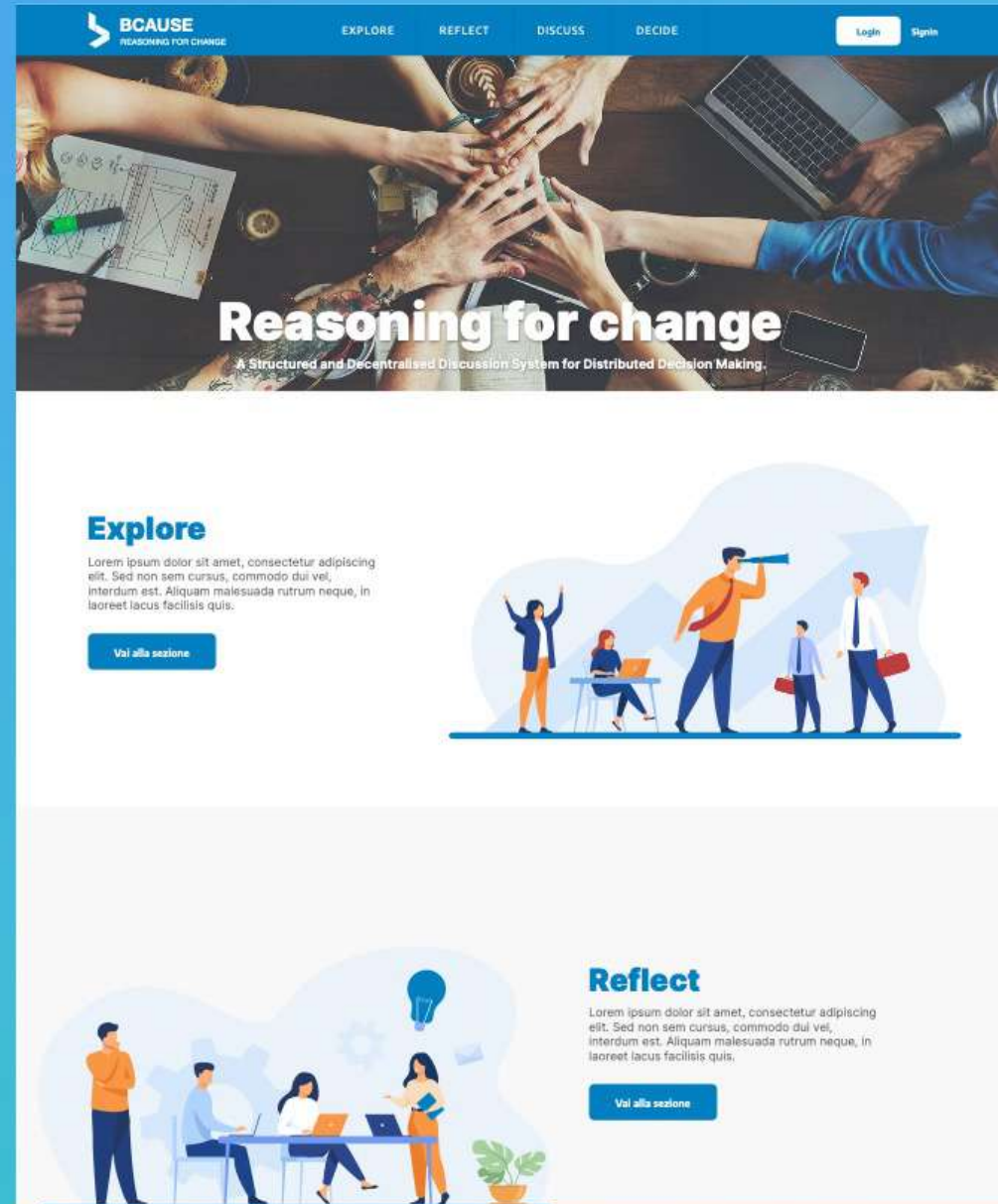


BCAUSE

Reasoning for Change

Prof. Anna De Liddo

Team: Lucas Anastasiou, Alberto
Ardito, Riccardo Pala, Angelo
Parisi



Motivation

The lack of technical support for online deliberation beyond existing Social Media leads to ineffective decisions, taken on flawed discussion processes, with low data quality and structure.

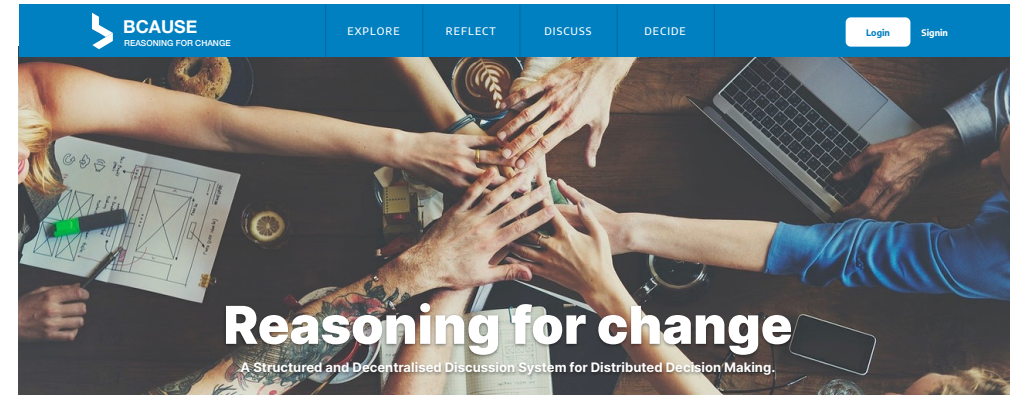
In addition to this, the centralisation of dialogue technologies produces economic dependence from big Social Media companies and is highly problematic in terms of data ethics and privacy.

This motivates the importance to design new tools for accessible, structured online discussion that are decentralized and support sensemaking and evidence-based reasoning.

bcause.app

- ✓ A novel and cutting-edge technological solution for online deliberation, which is:
 - ✓ equally accessible,
 - ✓ more structured,
 - ✓ and higher data qualitythan common Social Media;

- ✓ A decentralized open alternative for organizations to support online deliberation



Explore

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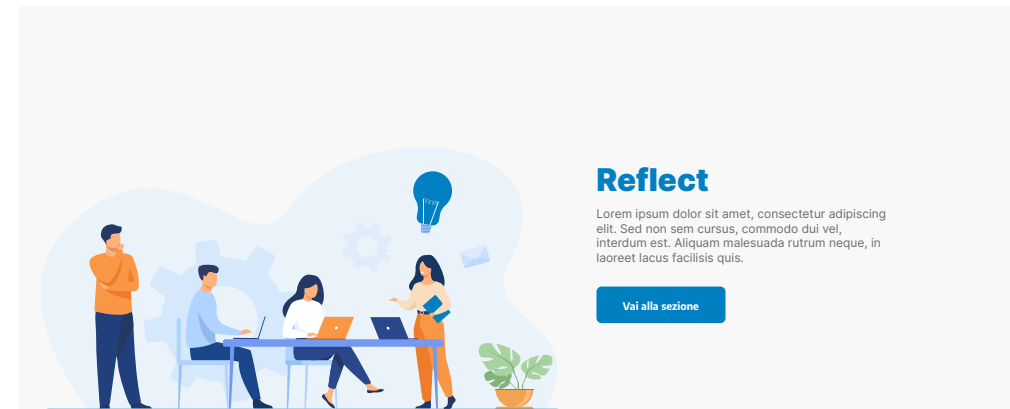
[Vai alla sezione](#)



Reflect

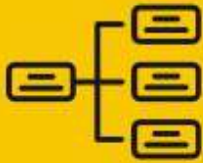
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[Vai alla sezione](#)



The bcause.app solution:

01



Low cost Argumentation Structuring

02




Distinctive use of Automated Discourse
Analysis and Advanced Visualisations

03



Decentralised Anonymous Reputation




SUMMARY




Synopsis


This discussion is about the possibility of reversing climate change, and whether or not it is still possible despite the increasing difficulty. Some users argue that it is possible, but only if governments take collective action similar to how they addressed World War 2. Others contend that it is becoming increasingly difficult and costly to reverse climate change, and that we are losing valuable opportunities to do so as each year passes. UserX: The Nature itself correct the human inflicted changes and balance the climate.

Sensemaking nuggets




Most contested position


Most opposed position

It may be technically possible to reverse climate change but is getting harder year by year. We cannot invest trillions in an attempt to reverse climate change, without first knowing that is possible, manageable and achievable in a reasonable amount of time. If governments around the world treat climate change collectively - the same way they treated World War 2 for instance - then is possible, no matter the cost. Every year that passes we lose tools or opportunities that could work to counteract climate change as well as more damage is added - therefore is - unfortunately- irreversible.





How Can Manmade Climate Change Be Reversed? Is that even possible?

11 months ago






Jenna Hand

Human resources and efforts are best used adapting to the effects of climate change, rather than attempting to mitigate climate change itself.



 Give your opinion
 Reflect (3)
 and other 4 people
11 Arguments

11 months ago






Patsy Terry

Adaptation and fighting climate change often go hand in hand


 Reflect (2)


11 months ago






Dr. Dan Flatley

I agree I think we should adapt the best we can. We can't change what has already happened.


 Reflect (0)

11 months ago






Miss Pearl Maggio

We cannot adopt but we should adopt to it because there is no other go with the affected environment unless helping the environment less pollution


 Reflect (0)


11 months ago






Dr. Dan Flatley

I think we can fight climate change I don't think it is too late yet.

 Reflect (0)








Anna De Liddo


EXPLORE THE ANALYTICS

144 Ideas
234 Arguments





06/05/21



TIMELINE

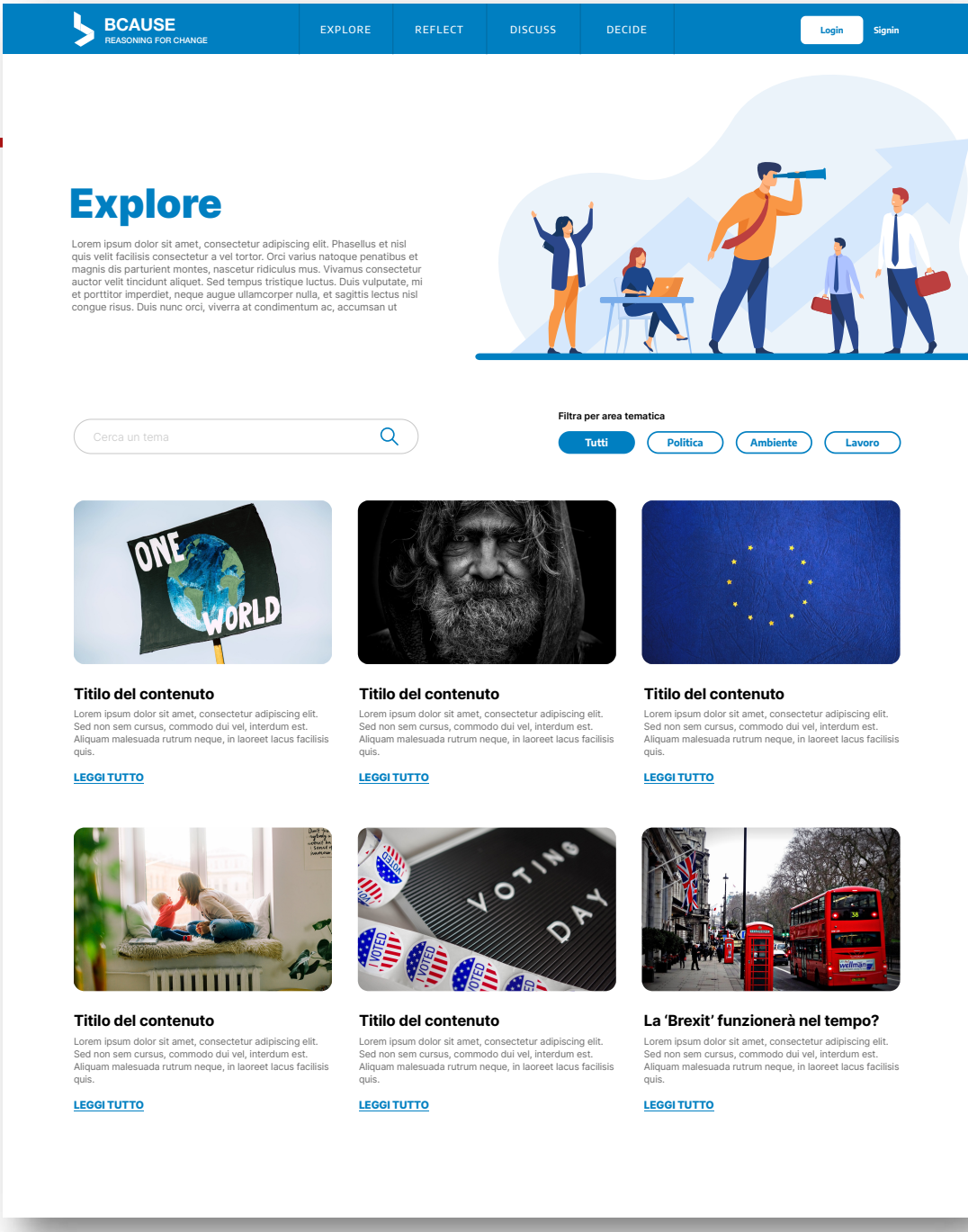
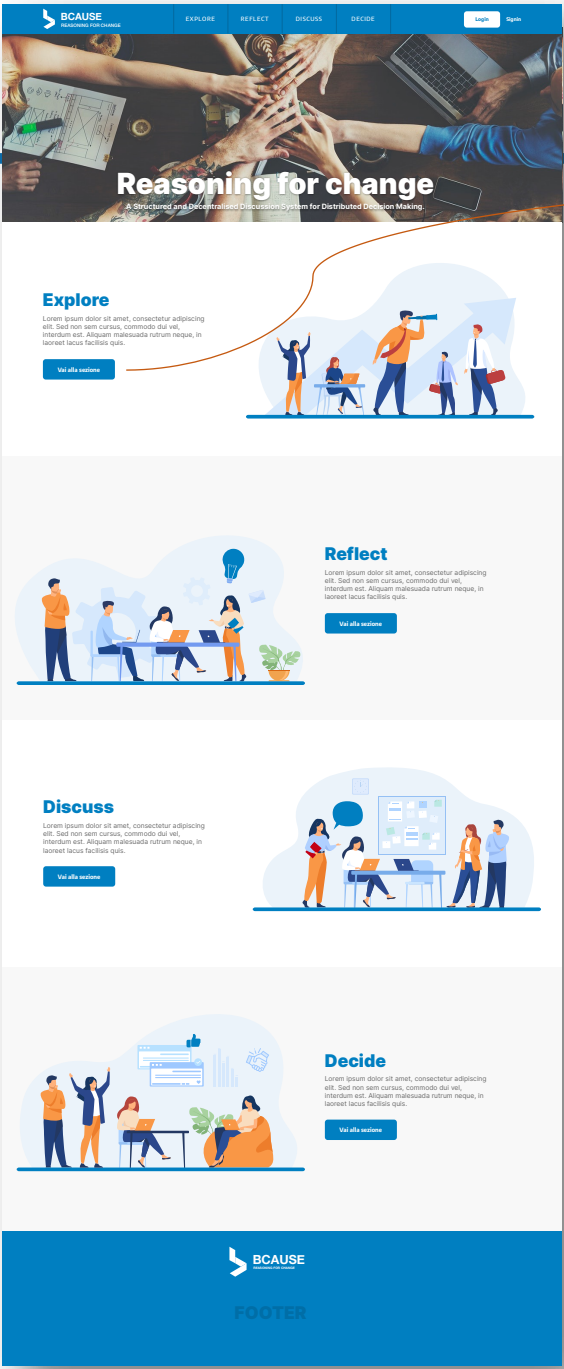
Today

1.0.0 beta

1. Accessibility

A new intuitive User Interfaces for *structured* online discussion

- providing the many benefits of large-scale argumentation systems while avoiding the “cognitive leap” barrier.
- developing tools and incentive structures that help users to contribute to “apparently” unstructured discussions that can then lead into structured deliberation data and processes.



[< Back](#)

How Can Manmade Climate Change Be Reversed? Is that even possible?

Climate change is accelerating - due to feedback loops- much faster than what humanity can -or is willing to- decelerate it. Unfortunately, it is not feasible with current technology.

It may be technically possible to reverse climate change but is getting harder year by year.

We can only achieve by tremendous advances and investment in technology: clean energy production, CO2 capture in massive scale, hydrogen planes, and much much more.

[Go to debate](#)





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 Give your opinion

 Reflect (0)

11 months ago

? QUESTION

How Can Manmade Climate Change Be Reversed? Is that even possible?

I am sorry but NO. Almost the whole human civilisation runs of fossil fuels pumped from the deep carbon cycle to the fast carbon cycle. It will reverse naturally over several million years, not the short-term which we can benefit from right now.

I somewhat agree



11/05/2022 - 14:36

Give your Cons 

Give your Pros 

CLOSE

SAVE

06/05/21

TIMELINE

Today

I agree with this. With that being said, we as consumers need to demand more from the same organizations. We need to go to all levels of government and demand that these same organizations give us alternatives in the form of electric and hydro cars while also proving that we are ready to purchase them to

QUESTION

How Can Manmade Climate Change Be Reversed? Is that even possible?

POSITION

I am sorry but NO. Almost the whole human civilisation runs on fossil fuels pumped from the deep carbon cycle to the fast carbon cycle. It will reverse naturally over several million years, not the short-term which we can benefit from right now.

To what extent do you agree that



This is a very **polarized** position



It is **clear** I can **trust** this



This should be **prioritized**



Most people would **agree** with this



< BACK

NEXT >

TIMELINE

Today

I agree with this. With that being said, we as consumers need to demand more from the same organizations. We need to go to all levels of government and demand that these same organizations give us alternatives in the form of electric and hydro cars while also

Give your opinion

Reflect (0)

06/05/21

11 months ago

QUESTION

How Can Manmade Climate Change Be Reversed? Is that even possible?

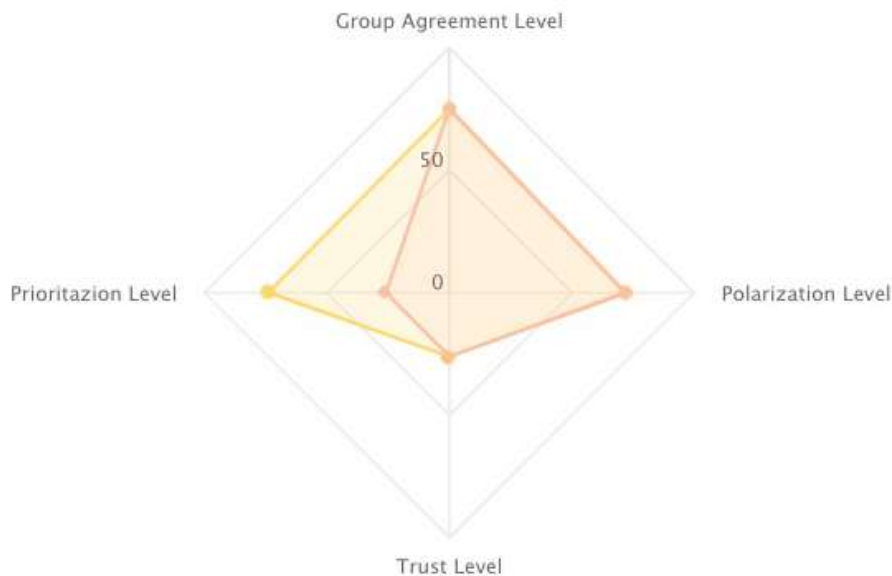
POSITION

I am sorry but NO. Almost the whole human civilisation runs of fossil fuels pumped from the deep carbon cycle to the fast carbon cycle. It will reverse naturally over several million years, not the short-term which we can benefit from right now.

Reflections feedback

«I am sorry but NO. Almost the whole human civilisation runs of fossil fuels pumped from the deep carbon cycle to the fast carbon cycle. It will reverse naturally over several million years, not the short-term which we can benefit from right now.»

Me Group average



CLOSE

RETHINK IT THROUGH

Highcharts.com

2. Advanced Visual Analytics



Improved sensemaking of the online discussion and transparency of analytical processes

Sophisticated analytics and visualization tools can summarize large deliberation data as well as automatically generate personalized alerts that help users learn and contribute as effectively as possible.



< Back to debate



BCAUSE
REASONING FOR CHANGE

Summary



Climate change is accelerating - due to feedback loops- much faster that what humanity can -or is willing to- decelerate it. Unfortunately is not feasible with current technology. t may be technically possible to reverse climate change but is getting harder year by year.

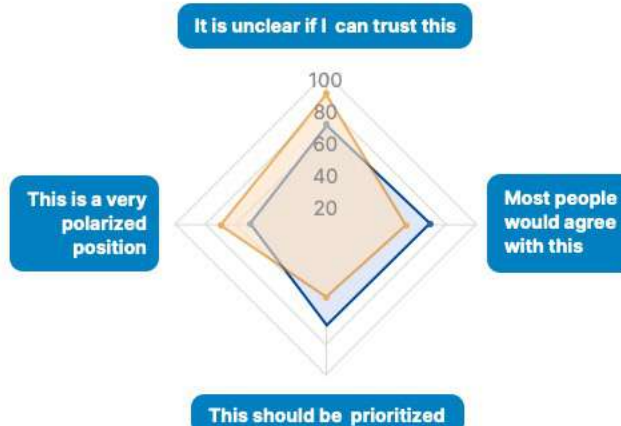
We can only achieve by tremendous advances and investment in technology: clean energy production, CO2 capture in massive scale, hydrogen planes, and much much more.

? How Can Manmade Climate Change Be Reversed? Is that even possible?

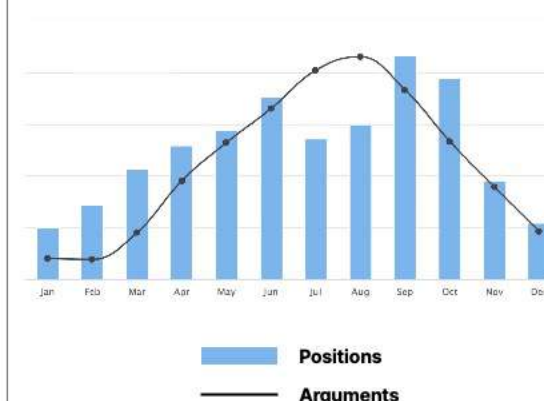
YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS



YOUR REFLECTIONS



DEBATE ANALYTICS



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

+ In support of

Mrs. Sue Klein

"It may be technically possible to reverse climate change but is getting harder year by year"

a month ago

Climate change is accelerating - due to feedback loops- much faster that what humanity can -or is willing to- decelerate it. Unfortunately is not feasible with current technology



6

- In opposition to

Patsy Terry



Idea



In support of



In opposition to

Reflections (40)

It is unclear if I can trust this

Most people would agree with this

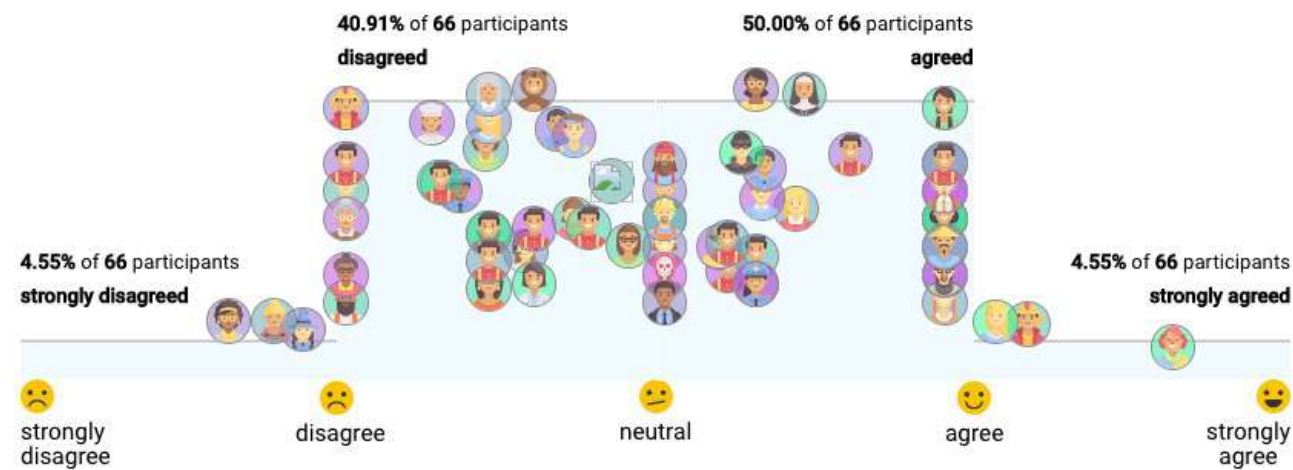
This should be prioritized

This is a very polarized position

Reflections (24)

It is unclear if I can trust this

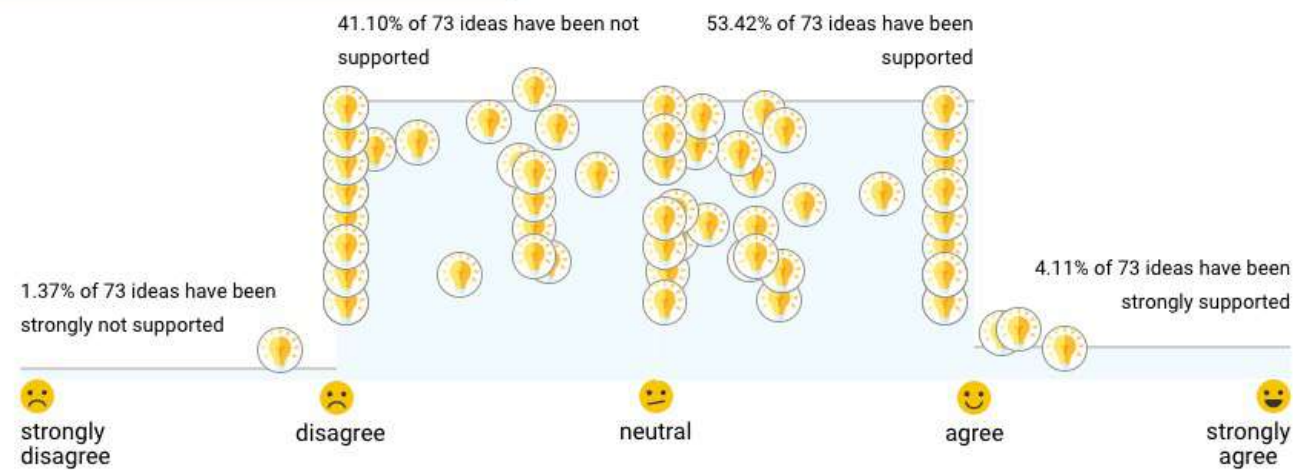
PARTICIPANTS AGREEMENTS ACROSS THE DEBATE



PARTICIPANT DETAILS

Click on one of the avatars to see more informations about the single participants

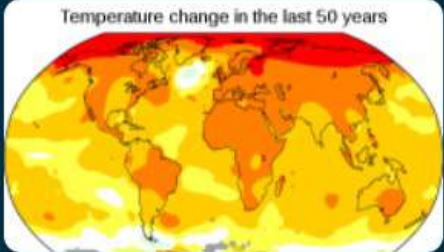
POSITIONS AGREEMENTS ACROSS THE DEBATE



POSITION DETAILS

Click on one of the positions to see more informations about that

SUMMARY



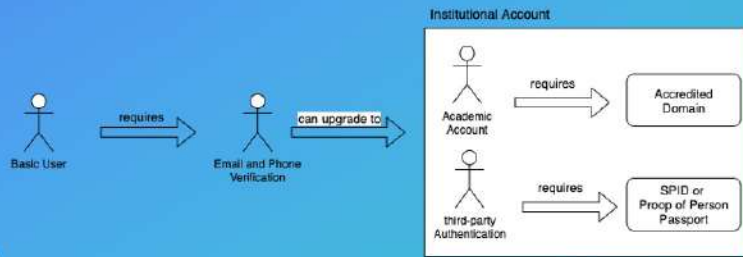
Synopsis

This discussion is about the possibility of reversing climate change, and whether or not it is still possible despite the increasing difficulty. Some users argue that it is possible, but only if governments take collective action similar to how they addressed World War 2. Others contend that it is becoming increasingly difficult and costly to reverse climate change, and that we are losing valuable opportunities to do so as each year passes. UserX : The Nature itself correct the human inflicted changes and balance the climate.

Sensemaking nuggets

- Most contested position
- Most opposed position
- Needs attention

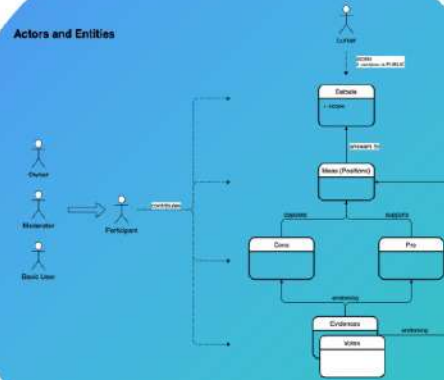
Authentication Phases



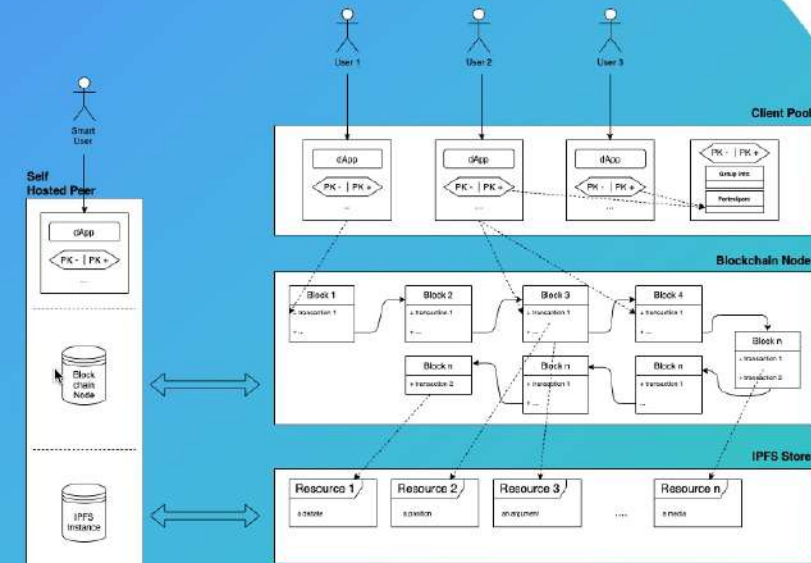
+

3. Decentralisation

Actors and Entities



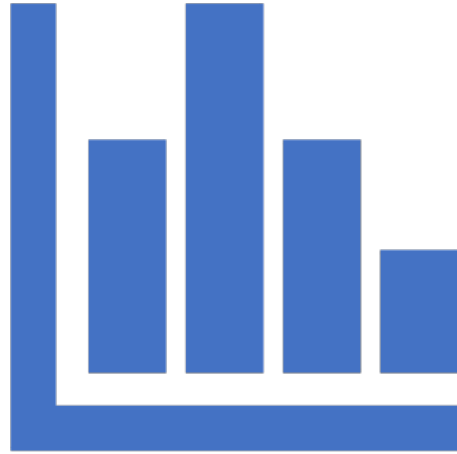
Decentralisation Support and Network



Transparency and accountability is an essential capabilities of the Bcuase.app deliberation system

The tool provides:

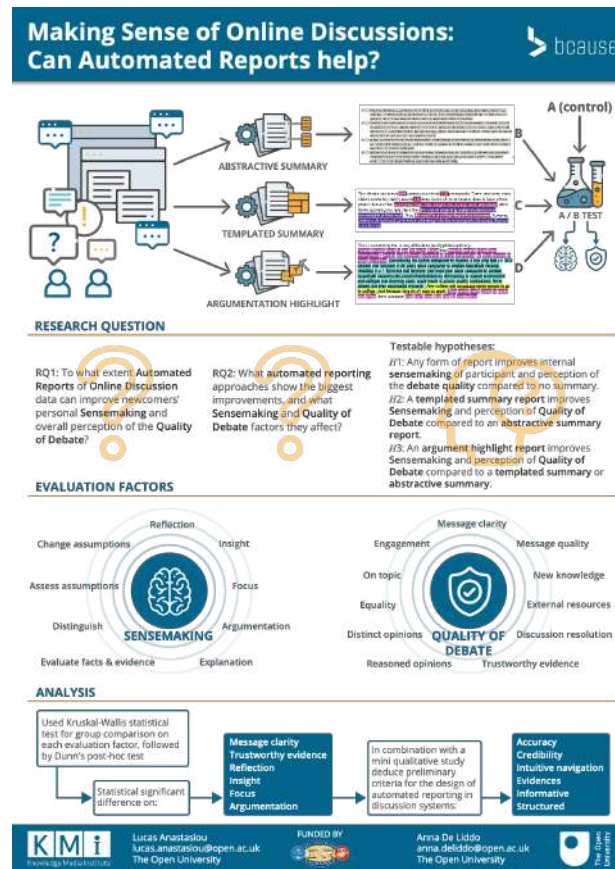
- decentralisation of discussion data(freedom from central system/org dependence)
- building on real people and not susceptible to bot-driven propaganda
- enabling customisable anonymity (different level of user defined confidentiality)
- allowing tracking of users' reputations



RESULTS

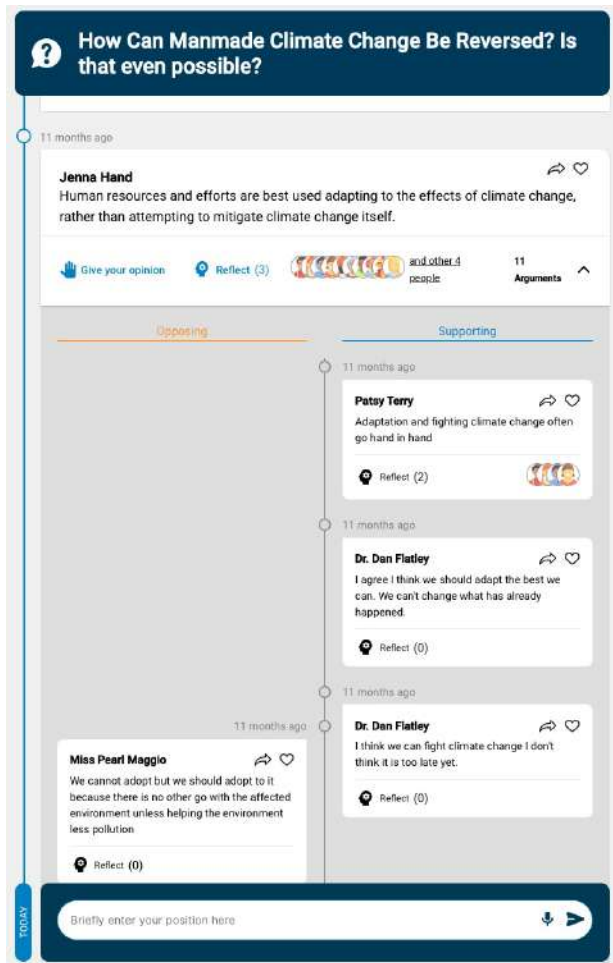
FROM LAB EXPERIMENTS
SHOW...

Automated Reporting improves understanding of the discussion



- Anastasiou, L. and De Liddo, A., 2021, May. Making Sense of Online Discussions: Can Automated Reports help?. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (pp. 1-7)

Argumentation structuring does NOT reduce engagement

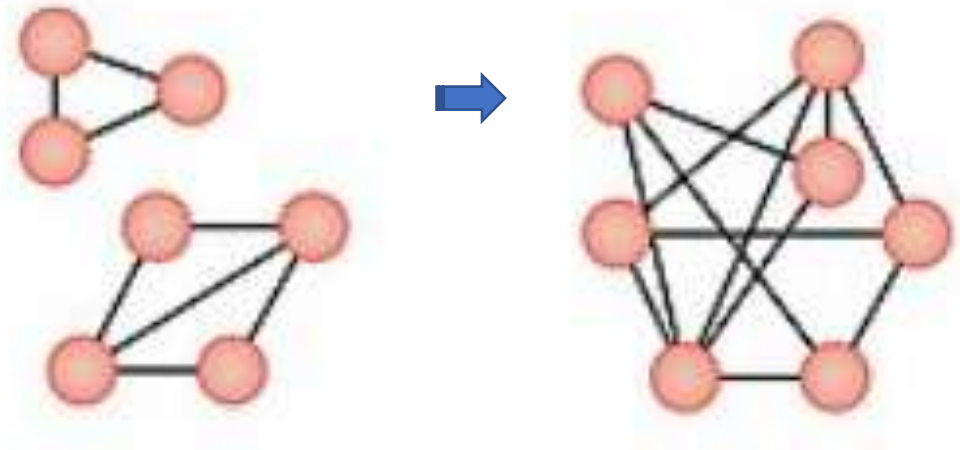


The BCAUSE interface is equally usable and engaging as normal unthreaded discussions interfaces.

The BCAUSE.app is as accessible as common Social Media and does not require any training

Argumentation structuring IMPROVES group cohesion and REDUCES conversational silos

This means that argumentation structuring has a positive impact on the reduction of platform islands of discussion and brings the group to discuss more cohesively



Reflection Enhancements produce a better social interaction coverage, more reciprocity (everyone speaks to everyone), and produce better connected social networks compared to appreciative only feedback solutions.

Reflections
Enhancements
produce better
social
interaction than
appreciative
only feedback

Give your opinion

Reflect (1)

2 3

Lucas A
The county needs a good transport infrastructure that includes both good road and rail links

I agree

26/04/2022 - 29:28

Add an opposing

Add a supporting

How can we ensure good growth in Colchester?

To what extent do you agree that

This is a very balanced position

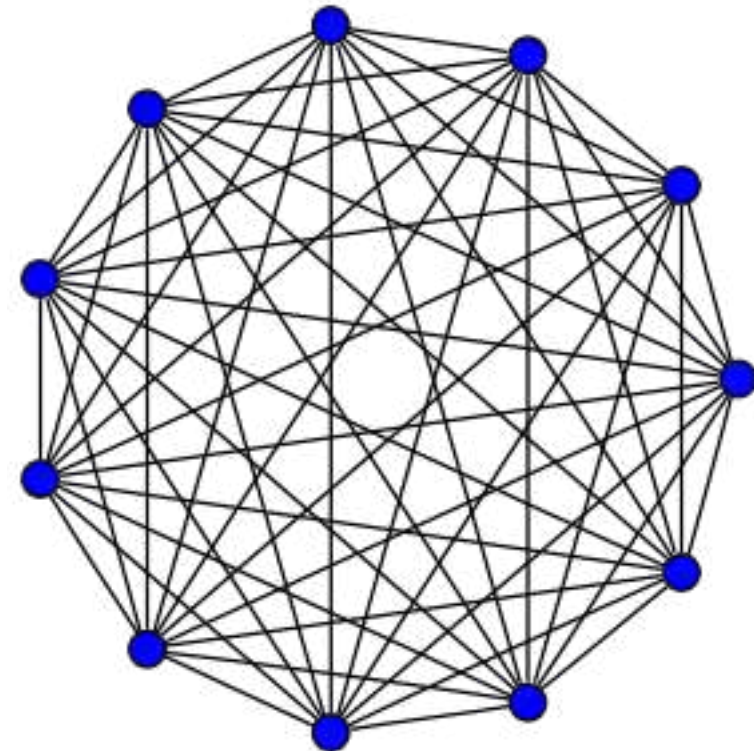
A is unbalanced - it is too much

This should be prioritised

Some people should agree with this

Give your opinion

Reflect (1)



Online Media Companies Shut down Commenting

- ... and produce a great damage to public trust in journalism

Why did all of the major news networks eliminate the comments section?

Answer Follow · 3 Request ⓘ 1 ↕ ↗ ⋮



Add a comment...

Add Comment



Jim Ellington · 10mo

Because almost all of them have an agenda and their agenda wasn't advanced by having people tear their article to pieces and post links to disprove "facts" in the article. This was not such a problem when news was just facts, facts were checked and double-checked, and opinions were relegated to the editorial pages.



Scott Hullinger · Follow

· 2y

There can only be ONE answer to why all of the major news networks eliminated the comments section, if that is what they indeed do: Because they're all extremely biased, and they don't believe in accountability. Not to mention, they often deliberately confuse personal opinion with actual news. Who wants to see nothing but NEGATIVE comments?

↑ 21 ↕ ↻ ⓘ

↗ ⋮



DJ1 · Follow

King · Updated Apr 15

To eliminate comments that would call out their liberal lies and biases.



Melina Pothier · Follow

· 1y

They say it's due to harassment in the comment section but i think it's because they cannot control the narrative when others are allowed question or to give their opinion on the validity of the article.

↑ 34 ↕ ↻ ⓘ 2

↗ ⋮

2 comments from Ace Alpine and more



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Publishers that closed their comments sections made a colossal mistake

By [Simon Owens](#)  3 years ago


Last modified on August 21st, 2020


<https://whatsnewinpublishing.com/publishers-that-closed-their-comments-sections-made-a-colossal-mistake/>

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Le Drenche Model

Can a Newspaper become a space for citizens to openly shape their opinion through open **civic** and **civil dialogue** around NEWS?



LE DRENCHÉ

CONTRE les idées reçues. POUR une opinion éclairée.

<https://ledrenche.ouest-france.fr/>

Shall we intervene militarily in Ukraine?

<https://ledrenche.ouest-france.fr/faut-il-intervenir-militairement-en-ukraine/>

ouest-france

en partenariat avec

A PROPOS

ABONNEMENT

LE DRENCHÉ RECRUTE !

THE RIFT

BOUTIQUE

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LE DRENCHÉ

CONTRE les idées reçues. POUR une opinion éclairée.

🏠

DÉBATS

DÉCRYPTAGE

HUMOUR

PODCASTS

JOURNAL

ESPACE DE DÉBAT

MON COMPTE

DERNIERS ARTICLES

[6 septembre 2022] Faut-il en finir avec la présomption d'innocence ?

DÉBATS

RECHERCHER...

FIL DE L'ARTICLE

1. Le contexte

2. Le débat des experts

3. Le débat des lecteurs

4. Pour aller plus loin



Faut-il intervenir militairement en Ukraine ?

27 avril 2022

Débats, Europe, Monde

LE CONTEXTE

Les origines du conflit

Pourquoi la question se pose ?

Ce qui bloque

Le 24 février, dans une allocution télévisée, Vladimir Poutine annonçait le début d'une « opération militaire spéciale » en Ukraine. Pour justifier son action, le président russe invoquait sa volonté de dénazifier le pays et de le démilitariser. Seulement, l'offensive de Moscou ressemble davantage à une invasion pure et simple. Cette attaque est le résultat d'un conflit larvé entre l'Ukraine et la Russie qui dure depuis huit ans. Depuis 2014, Kyiv combat les forces séparatistes pro-russes, discrètement appuyées par Moscou, du Donbass et de la Crimée.

Depuis février, le conflit oppose désormais deux États, dont l'un est doté de l'arme nucléaire. Pour cette raison, et pour l'ampleur de l'offensive, le conflit est considéré comme le plus important qu'ait connu l'Europe depuis la fin de la Seconde Guerre mondiale.

The Expert Debate:

FIL DE L'ARTICLE

- 1. Le contexte
- 2. Le débat des experts
- 3. Le débat des lecteurs
- 4. Pour aller plus loin

LE DÉBAT DES EXPERTS

ABONNEZ-VOUS

à partir de 1€

Le principe du Drenche est de présenter l'actualité sous forme de débats. Le but est qu'en lisant un argumentaire qui défend le « pour » et les arguments du camp du « contre », vous puissiez vous forger une opinion ; votre opinion.

Quelle est votre opinion avant de lire l'article ?

Oui il faut intervenir
militairement en Ukraine

Non, il ne faut pas intervenir
militairement en Ukraine

Sans avis

LE « POUR »



Rémi Landry

Lieutenant-colonel des forces armées canadiennes à la retraite et professeur associé à l'université de Sherbrooke

[Site web](#)

Un Occident qui alimente la destruction de l'Ukraine

Plus les jours se succèdent et plus l'Occident s'entête à ne pas intervenir militairement, tout en décriant les crimes de guerre et la destruction inhumaine qui ne cessent de s'intensifier, que seul le peuple ukrainien subit.

Que recherche donc l'Occident ? Éviter une guerre mondiale, peu importe les conséquences pour le peuple ukrainien. Tout laisse croire que l'Occident a fait sien le vieil adage « la fin justifie les moyens » et, se faisant, il perd graduellement son humanité au profit d'une rationalité boiteuse. Est-ce bien ce à quoi nous assistons ? Si c'est bien son approche, force est de constater qu'elle n'est pas réellement différente de celle de la Russie de Poutine :

-L'Occident évite la confrontation directe, prévenant ainsi une guerre mondiale, tout en armant l'Ukraine et en affaiblissant économiquement la Russie de Poutine,

LE « CONTRE »



Guillaume de Rougé

Maître de conférence à l'UCO-BS, chercheur au CIENS/ENS Ulm

[Site web](#)


L'aide militaire et les sanctions économiques permettent de soutenir l'Ukraine tout en prévenant une fuite en avant de la Russie




Dans cette guerre européenne dont la raison nucléaire les exclut, les alliés de l'OTAN et de l'UE* sont au défi d'aider militairement l'Ukraine, bien plus qu'ils ne l'ont fait depuis 2014, et ceci suivant deux objectifs : obtenir une paix en des termes acceptables pour Kiev ; prévenir une fuite en avant de Moscou, qui marquerait une aggravation de la situation humanitaire et un blanc-seing aux stratégies de « sanctuarisation agressive » que la Russie et d'autres Etats pourraient reproduire demain.

Deux objectifs qui, de complémentaires, apparaissent chaque jour plus contradictoires à l'aune des dernières évolutions diplomatiques et militaires. Malgré l'évocation éphémère de mécanismes de garantie de souveraineté et neutralité ukrainienne, Moscou poursuit une stratégie du fait accompli suivant trois axes :

■ Le maintien d'une menace escalatoire : malgré

The Readers Debate:



 Débats  Suggestions  Connexion



27 avril 2022


Faut-il intervenir militairement en Ukraine ?

Pour


Contre

8 votes - Voir le résultat

 Partager  Suivre

 Partagez votre opinion



Ajouter un argument...



POUR

CONTRE


Le plus pertinent ▾




 **Jean-Victor Côté**
20 



POUR

Il y a 5 mois

C'est aberrant que des crimes de guerre soient commis impunément et qu'un autre régime ayant commis des crimes de guerre en Syrie serve d'arbitre. Il ne devrait y avoir que des régimes démocratiques à l'ONU, à plus forte raison à son Conseil de sécurité. Et les criminels de guerre devraient être

 Lire plus


 1   ...




 **Albert Lotin**
578 



CONTRE

Il y a 5 mois

Si nous intervenons, il est probable que nous parvenions à libérer l'Ukraine, au prix de nombreuses vies. Mais est-ce que Poutine pourra accepter une défaite militaire seul face à tout l'Occident ? Pourra-t-il tenir à la tête de la Russie ? Dos au mur, comment réagira-t-il ? Les conséquences pourraient être

 Lire plus

 2   ...


 **Stéphane-René Gallant**
21 




POUR



Il y a 5 mois

LETRE SUR L'INTERVENTION NÉCESSAIRE EN UKRAINE

Tic-tac... La fin du système approche dans la souffrance des têtes durs qui finiront par partager la souffrance des innocents massacrés par les bêtes à merde des envahisseurs.

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 **Olivier Soares Barbosa**
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CONTRE

Il y a 5 mois

Il est assez difficile de se faire une idée parfaitement juste de la situation dans la mesure où une guerre de propagande est menée par les deux camps. Bien sûr, rien ne peut justifier l'agression de la Russie qui doit comme telle être condamnée, et nous avons un devoir de solidarité avec l'Ukraine, mais il faut

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Open Questions for You

What does it take to reinstate Online Media Commenting?

How can we create a vital, respectful and constructive space where readers and journalists can come together, connect, exchange and discuss crucial issues of public concerns?

Can a channel of new and safe dialogue be one way in which trust in media can be crucially rebuilt?

Can it become a new avenue to promote engagement with News in an increasingly DISINGAGED digital society?

Thank you for listening!



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to know more about our work please visit the research group website at:
idea.kmi.open.ac.uk