

The Evaluation of Polycentric Climate Governance

Jonas J. Schoenefeld



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UACES Virtual Book Launch

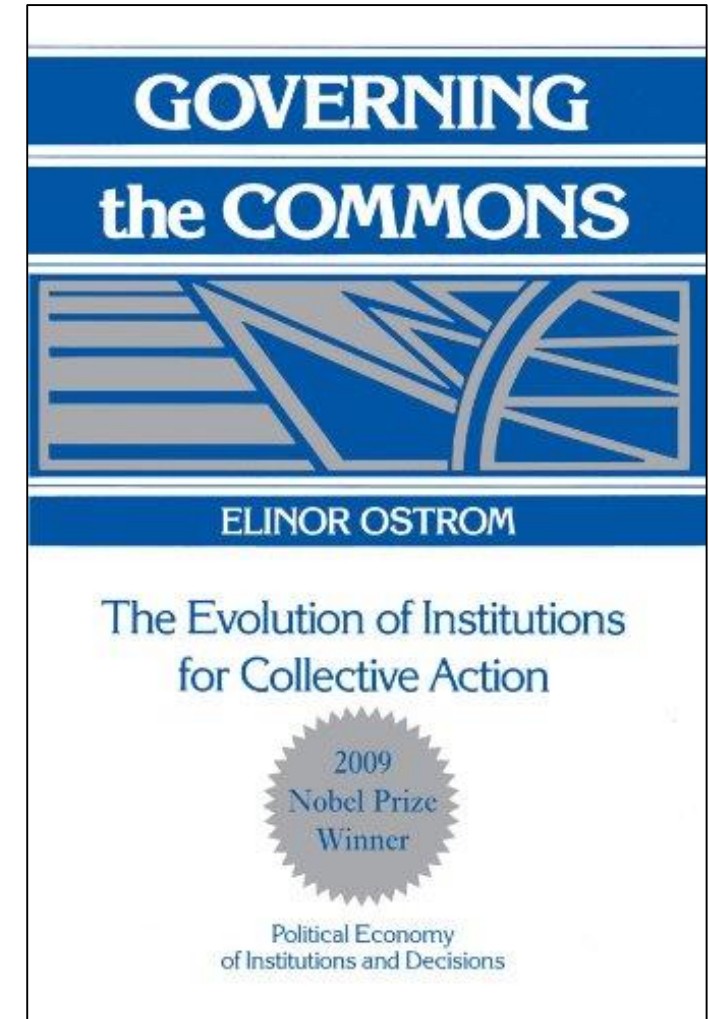
Wednesday, 27 September 2023

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Sciences, University of East Anglia

Polycentric Climate Governance

- Paris Agreement
- European Green Deal...
- Net Zero
- Top-down or bottom up?

„Polycentric [governance] systems are characterized by multiple governing authorities at differing scales rather than a monocentric unit...” (Ostrom, 2010)



Different units... monitoring as a key element



„[w]ithout monitoring, there can be no credible commitment; without credible commitment, there is no reason to propose new rules.“
(Ostrom, 1990, 45)

From monitoring to evaluation...

Elinor Ostrom's ideas on monitoring

- Monitoring is context-sensitive: „Better“ in the hands of localities?
- Ostrom's „*multiple layers of nested enterprise*“ (Ostrom, 1990, p. 101)
- Physical properties of the resource matters

3 foundational ideas of polycentric governance

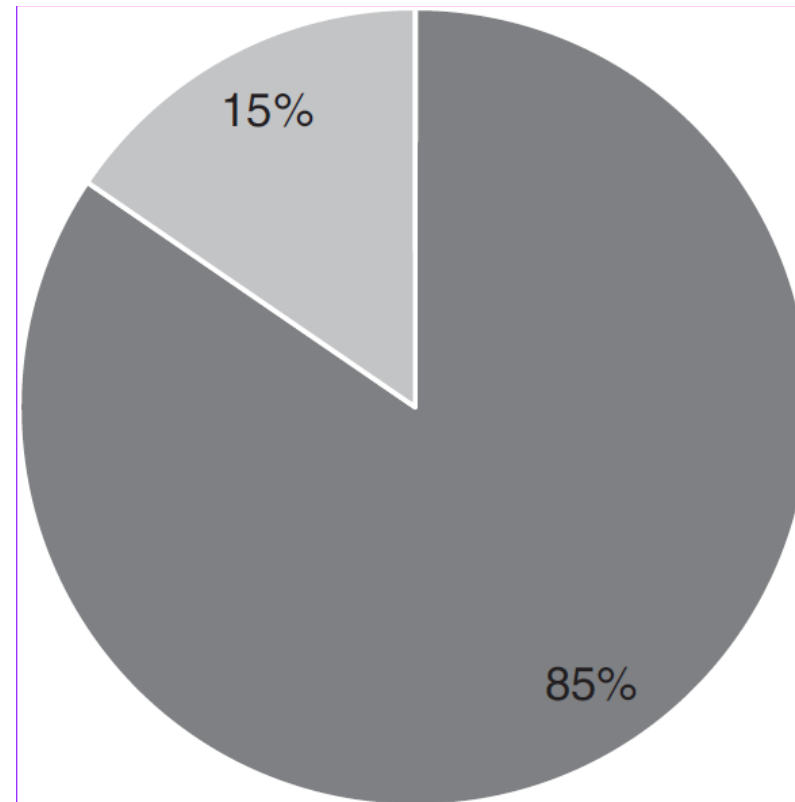
- Actors can (and do) self-organise
- Context matters
- Governance centers have to interact to enable polycentric governance

Research questions & approach



- To what extent
 - Do actors self-organize to evaluate climate policy?
 - Are climate policy evaluations context-sensitive?
 - Do governance centres interact via-à-vis climate policy evaluation?
- New database of >600 evaluations from the EU level, Germany and the UK (both national level) from 1997-2014
- Analysis of the evaluations with a newly-developed coding scheme

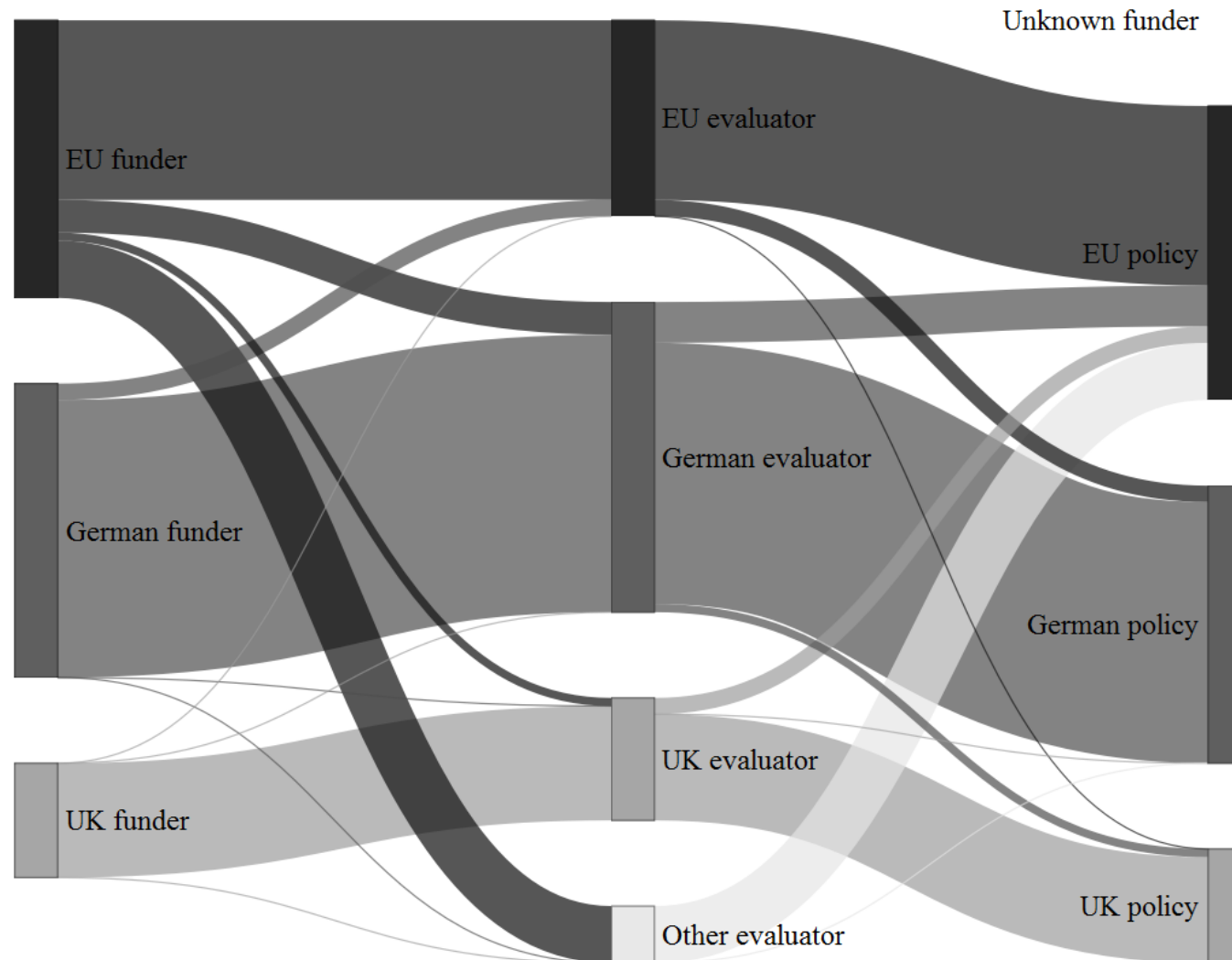
Selected results – Self-organization



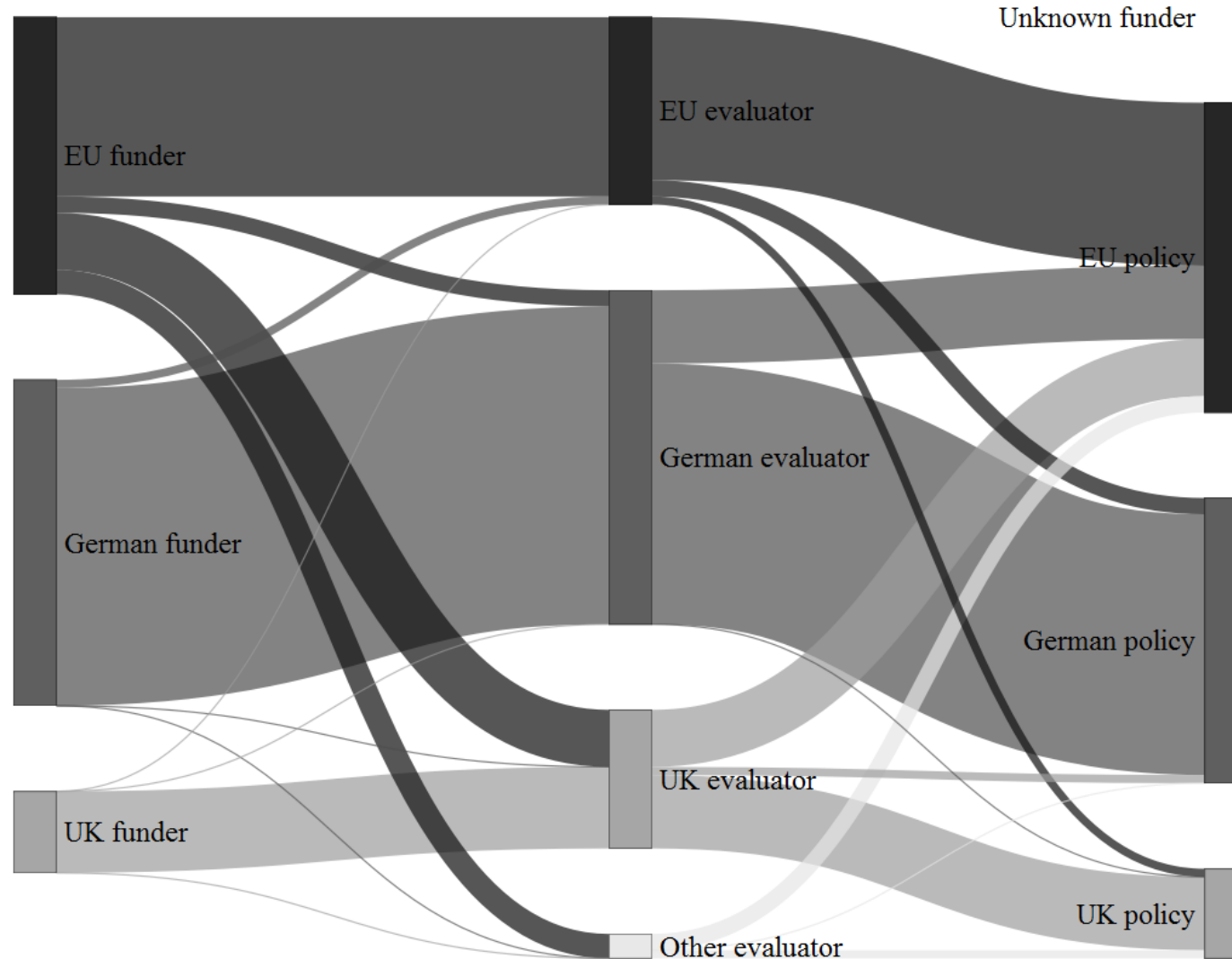
- State-funded evaluations
- Society-funded evaluations

N = 542

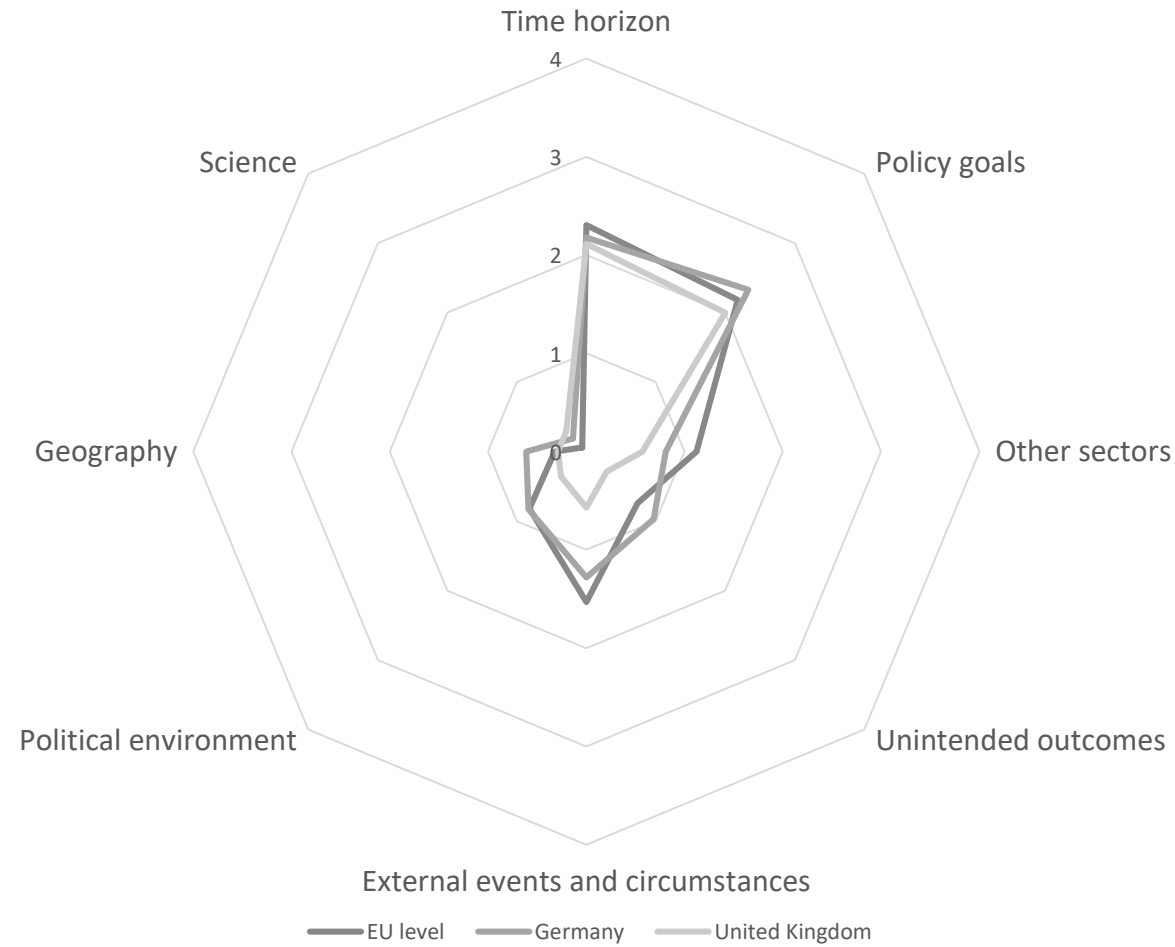
State-funded evaluation



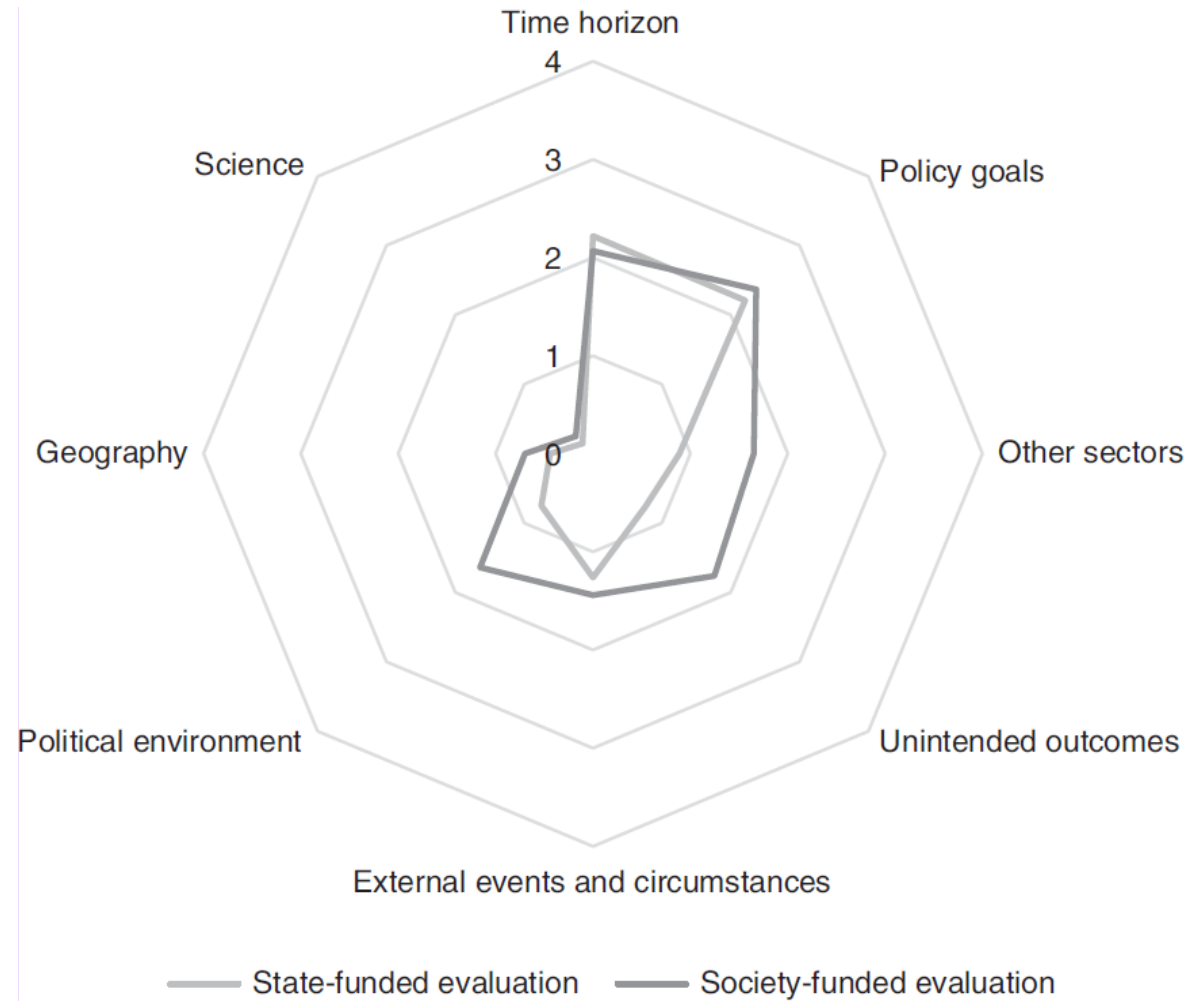
Society-funded evaluation



Selected results – context by governance centre

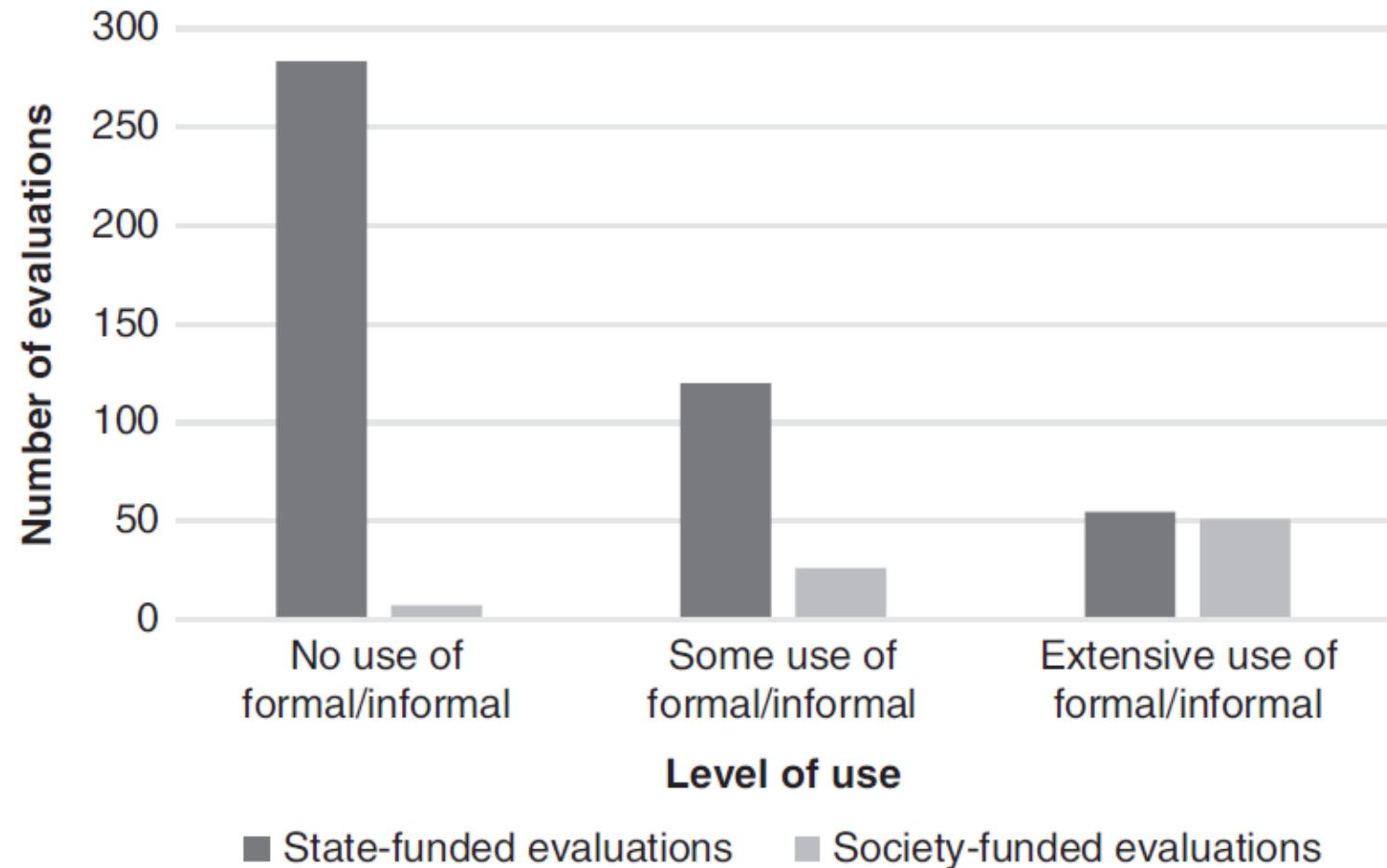


Selected results - context



N = 542, includes extrapolation

Selected results – governance centre interactions



N = 542,
includes
extrapolation

3 Foundational Ideas - overview

Table 6.2 *State-funded and society-funded evaluation: key similarities and differences*

	State-funded evaluation	Society-funded evaluation
<i>Self-organization</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vast majority (85%) of evaluations are not self-organized • Legal requirements not the main driver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15% of evaluations self-organized • Significant growth in numbers since 2010
<i>Context</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater number of methods, quantification and continuous evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater attention to various contextual variables • Use more social criteria such as fairness and legitimacy
<i>Interaction</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong congruence between location of funders, evaluators, and the climate policy under evaluation • Learning as the headline evaluation purpose; followed by accountability • Limited attention to insights from other governance centers • More quantitative comparability metrics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays more attention to findings from evaluations of the same center • More recommendations

Discussion

- Significant gains from bringing polycentrism and evaluation together
 - Theoretical and empirical grounds
- Evaluation in polycentric governance
 - There is self-organization in climate policy evaluation, but it's limited
 - Medium attention to context – room for improvement!
 - Interaction limited to standard aspects (e.g., executive summaries)
- Both monocentric and polycentric elements in the evaluation of polycentric climate governance

New research priorities



- Assessing causality
- Exploring evaluation use in polycentric systems
- Relationships between self-organization, context, and interaction
- Linkages with other practices
- Studying other policy areas beyond climate change

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Further information:

<https://www.cambridge.org/de/academic/subjects/earth-and-environmental-science/environmental-policy-economics-and-law/evaluation-polycentric-climate-governance?format=HB&isbn=9781316511244>

Thank you!



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