

# Regional Innovation with the Public

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Measuring what matters

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# What's Wrong With the Economy? It's You, Not the Data

Many Americans believe that the economy and their finances are worse than they really are



By [Greg Ip](#) [Follow](#)

Updated April 4, 2024 12:16 am ET

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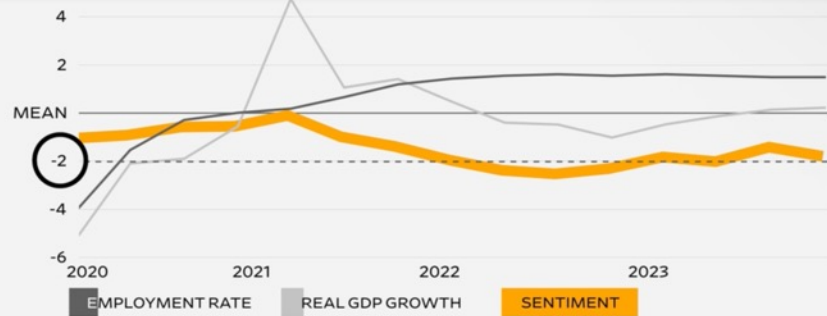


Inflation connected with food prices has decreased over the past year. PHOTO: GABBY JONES/BLOOMBERG NEWS

In The Wall Street Journal's latest [poll of swing states](#), 74% of respondents said inflation has moved in the wrong direction in the past year.

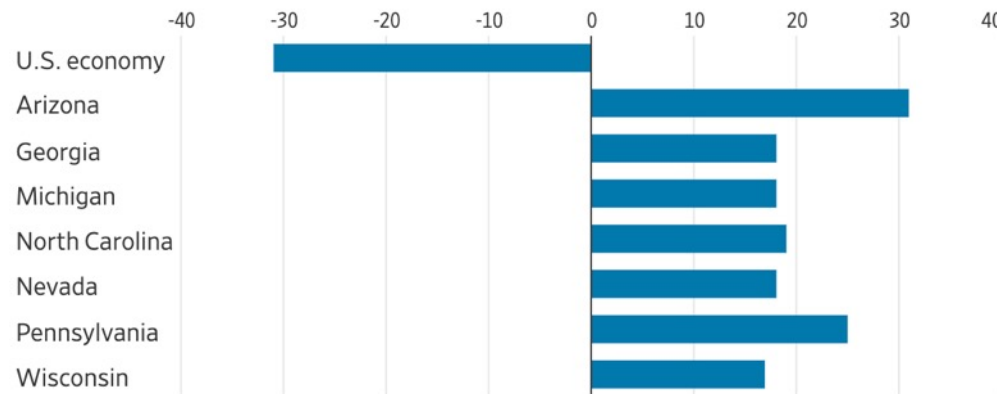
## Economic Data vs. Consumer Feelings: What the Gap Means for Biden

### THE ECONOMY VS. HOW PEOPLE FEEL



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ST. LOUIS FED

### Has the U.S. economy, or your state's economy, gotten better or worse in the last two years? \*Net share answering 'better.'



\*Share saying better minus share saying worse. Negative indicates greater share said worse.  
Source: Wall Street Journal Poll

RS

**Robert S**

...

14 hours ago

Greg, Greg, Greg... C'mon man.

So the average Joe doesn't understand the economists' definitions. Yes that is a failure of our pathetic liberal education system, but it also not the point.

What 74% of the respondents are saying is my financial life is worse than it was before and I feel like it is continuing in that direction. *You* can look at "core inflation" all day long. The rest of the people are looking at their grocery bill, their rent, and their car payment.

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SX

**Stavra Xanthakos**

...

22 hours ago

It's fascinating how many articles with this viewpoint (wondering why people don't view a slower rate of inflation as a sign that the economy is substantially improved) have been published recently in the mainline media. It feels like such a coordinated effort. Inflation may be going up at a slower rate, but prices are so much higher on nearly everything compared to a few years ago that it doesn't feel good, no matter what the data may show. Our spending on essentially the same items has nearly doubled, and I suspect that may be true for others as well.

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JE

**James Elliott**

...

22 hours ago

Saying that the rate of inflation is down still means that prices continue to increase. And most people aren't going to recover from 10% inflation by having a couple years where it's "only" 3%.

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EM

**Ernest Montague**

...


22 hours ago

"Inflation went down, yet the average person thinks it went up." I'd love to see some data.

We don't think inflation went up, we think prices went up. They did. About 20% since the start of this particular cycle, in three years or so. Inflation is baked into prices.

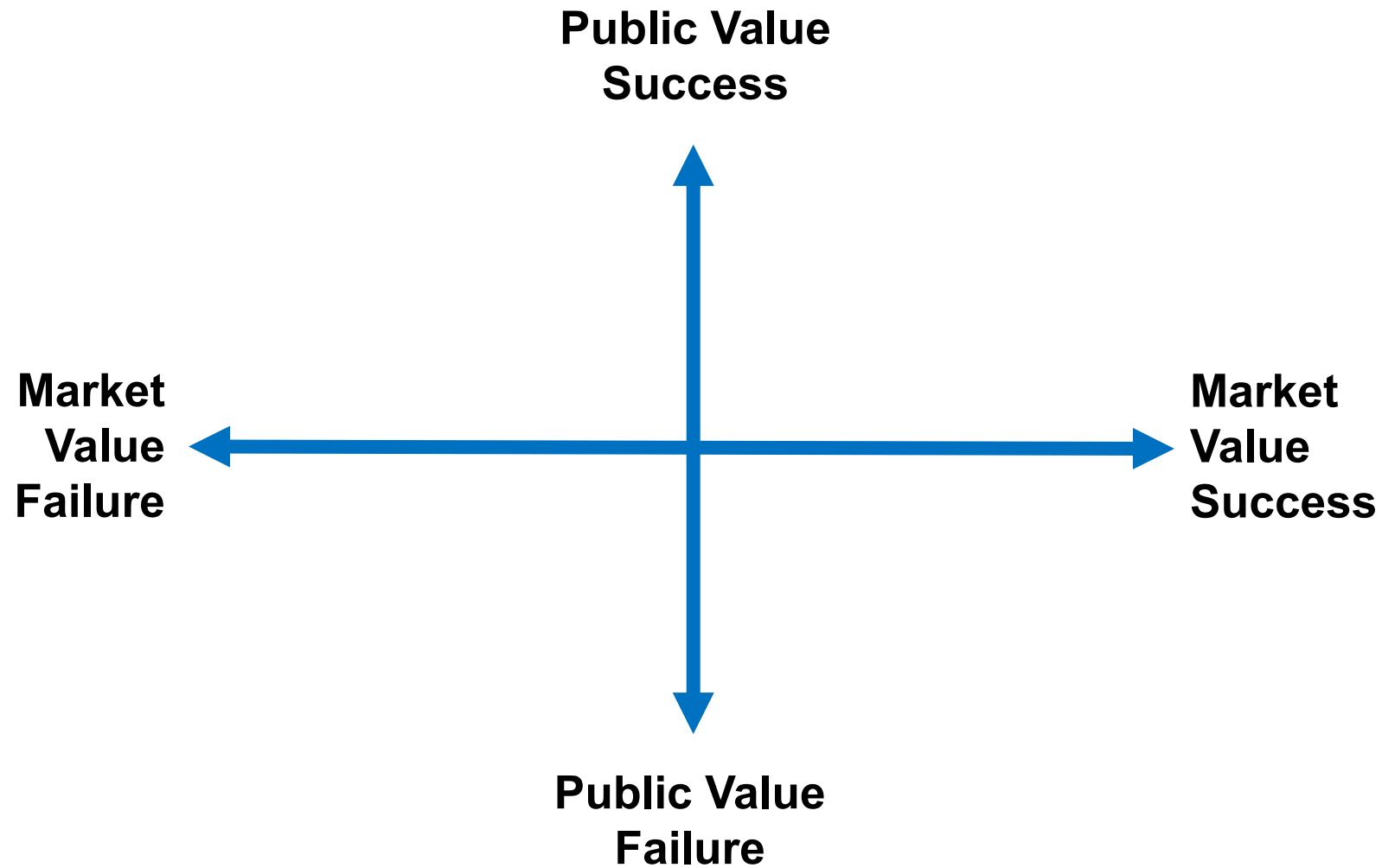
Greg apparently thinks the average consumer should stop believing their eyes and start believing his narrative.

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Value what we can  
measure?

# Measure what we value?

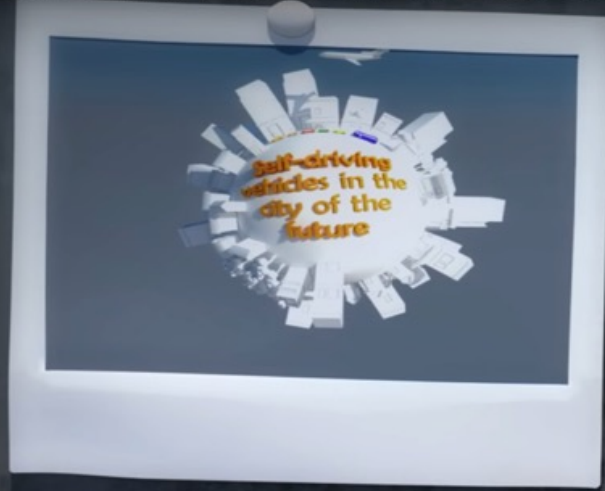


Social acceptability of  
a technologically  
derived choice  
vs.  
technological  
feasibility of a socially  
derived choice



# Driverless Cars Futures: Industry Forecast Edition, 2017

## Self-Driving Vehicles in the City of the Future



“Tesla Expects to introduce self-driven cross-country trip next year.”  
- Elon Musk, Tesla, Oct 2016

“It’s not happening in 2020,  
it is happening NOW!”  
- John Krafcik, Waymo, Dec 2017



# Driverless Car Futures: Public Hopes and Concerns Edition, 2017

I. Promote Human  
Control Behind the  
Wheel

II. Preserve Jobs &  
Expand Employment

III. Support Development  
to Improve Safety &  
Traffic





# Driverless Car Present: Reality Edition, 2023

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL


World **Business** U.S. Politics Economy Tech Finance Opinion Arts & Culture Lifestyle

## Cruise's Driverless-Car Permits Suspended in California by DMV

State officials say company, majority-controlled by GM, has misrepresented information on safety

By [Ryan Felton](#) [Follow](#) and [Meghan Bobrowsky](#) [Follow](#)  
Updated Oct. 24, 2023 4:17 pm ET

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Cruise has faced problems in one of its biggest markets, San Francisco, as its cars stalled and were involved in incidents. PHOTO: POPPY LYNCH FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL


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## GM's Cruise Unit Is Laying Off 24% of Workforce

Job cuts come after self-driving car company paused operations on the road following an October crash

By [Meghan Bobrowsky](#) [Follow](#) and [Alyssa Lukpat](#) [Follow](#)  
Updated Dec. 14, 2023 1:03 pm ET

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A Cruise self-driving car on a test drive. PHOTO: ANDREJ SOKOLOV/DPA/PICTURE ALLIANCE/GETTY IMAGES


The **San Francisco Standard**

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### News

## Robotaxi burning puts both police and Waymo in the hot seat

Prosecuting the suspected arsonist may be a win for law and order in San Francisco. But some say it may bring unwanted publicity to Waymo.



# Driverless Car: Missed Opportunity Edition, 2019

“This is something we need to do with society, with the community, and not at society. And we take that very seriously. We’re building mission critical safety systems that are going to have a huge positive impact on people’s lives. The tech adage of ‘move fast and break things’ most assuredly does not apply to what we’re doing here.”

*-Dan Amman, GM Cruise, Nov 2019*

“[We] are united by two beliefs: the belief that automated vehicles have substantial potential benefits, and the belief that we will not achieve these benefits without the understanding and trust of the public.”

*-Brad Stertz (Audi) & Kelly Nantel (National Safety Council), Co-Chairs, Partners for Automated Vehicle Education (PAVE), Nov 2019*

**Participatory Technology Assessment (pTA): A Reflexive, adaptable, scalable method for bringing communities, stakeholders and public in innovating with society**

- An engagement model that seeks to improve the outcomes of science and technology decision-making through dialog with informed citizens. pTA involves engaging a group of non-experts who are representative of the general population but who—unlike political, academic, and industry stakeholders—are generally underrepresented in science and technology related policymaking.



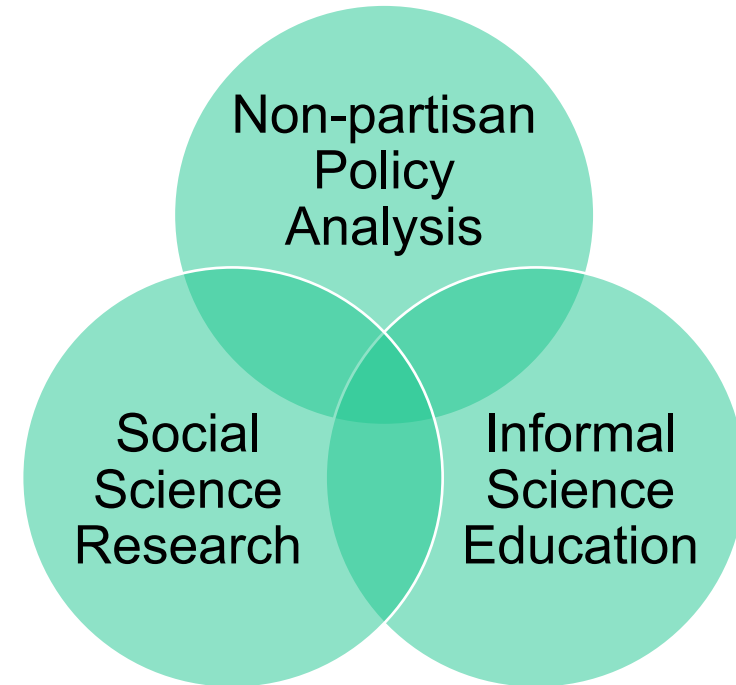
**Innovating  
with the  
Public**

# A distributed network model for exploring public values



- **Participation + Expertise**
- Distributed + Agile + Collaborative
- Institutionally Non-partisan
- Inviting + integrating diverse perspectives
- **Continuous innovation concepts + practices**
- Integrated into policy-making + wider societal deliberation + technological R&D

(Sclove, 2010)



# A Reflexive Method for Advancing the Public Role in S&T Policy Decision-making (Kaplan et al, 2021)

## Problem Framing & Design

- Literature Review
- Community Dialogues
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Design Workshop

## Public Deliberations

- Content & Protocol Development
- Recruitment and Training
- Public Deliberation Forums

## Results & Integration

- Preliminary Results
- Results Workshop
- Reports and Briefings
- Education & Training

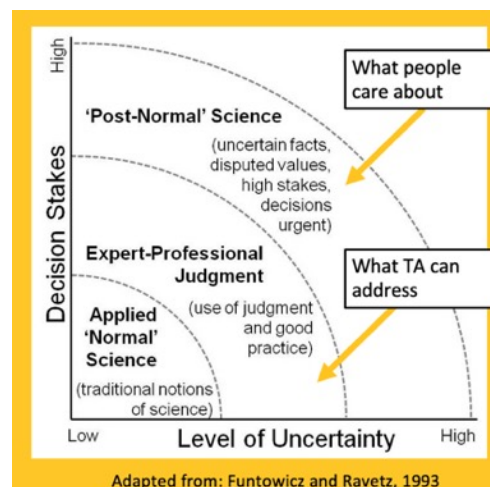
1. Diverse Representation
2. Deliberative Multi-Directional Learning
3. Informed Community Participants
4. Clear, Comparable, and Usable Outputs, Formats, Outcomes and Evaluations

# p + TA: A Multi-purpose Gap Filler

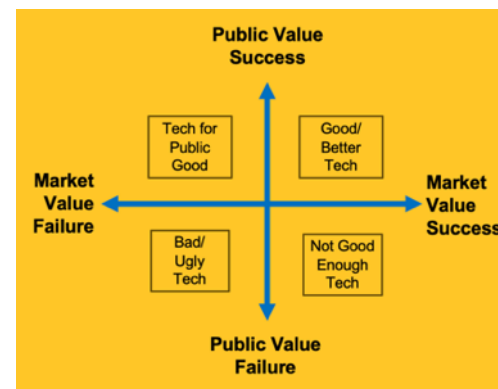
Democratic Gap



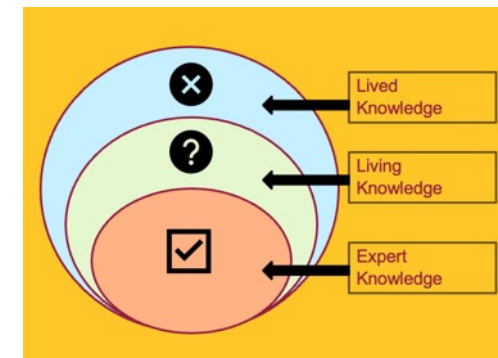
Sociotechnical Gap



Public Value Gap



Knowledge Gap



# pTA Use & Outcomes: Community Engagement Innovation and Learning



Education

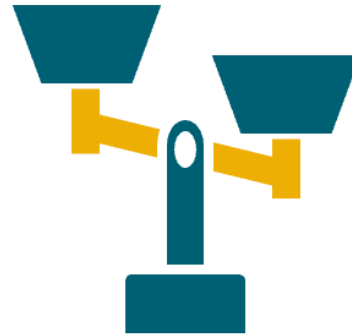
Decision

Research

Innovation



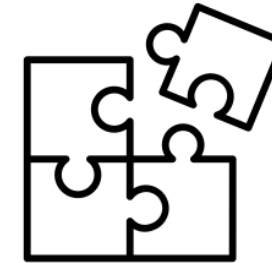
DOE 2023-25:  
Consent Based  
Siting  
**Literacy of  
“the Publics”**



DOE 2023-25:  
Consent Based  
Siting  
**Process for  
“the Process”**



DOE 2023-25:  
Consent Based  
Siting  
**Knowledge of  
“what works”**



DOE 2023-25:  
Consent Based  
Siting  
**Social capacity  
“to Engage”**

