

overton

Characterising the policy landscape: a
taxonomic approach to global policy
organisations

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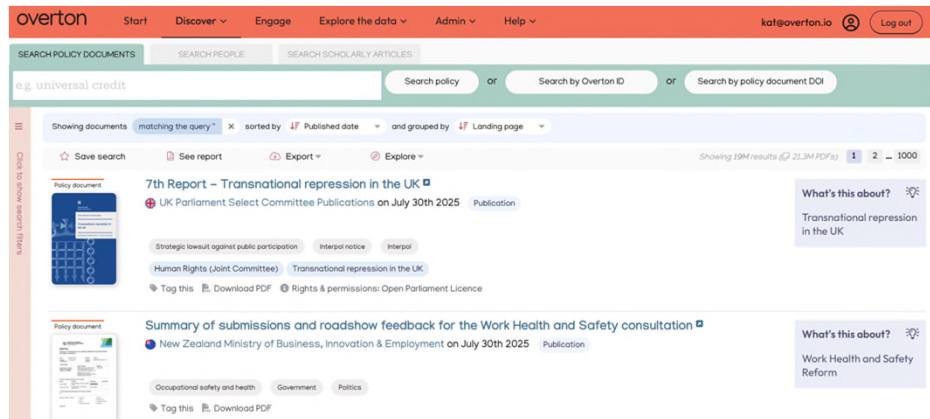
Introduction to Overton

 > 21 Million Documents, 193 Countries, >2600 Sources

 ~ 7 Million Scholarly Books and Articles Cited in Policy

 Nerdy team who loves policy, data and tech

 Aim to increase visibility of the societal impact of research on public policies, globally.



1

The need for a taxonomy

How do we characterize the policy impact of UK research on COVID-19 Policy?

<https://doi.org/10.26069/genre.mpt-2026-000.830>

UK DOIs

Cited in COVID-19 Policy Documents (2019-2024)

Policy use of UK research appears to increase

So what?



How do we characterize the policy impact of UK research on COVID-19 Policy?

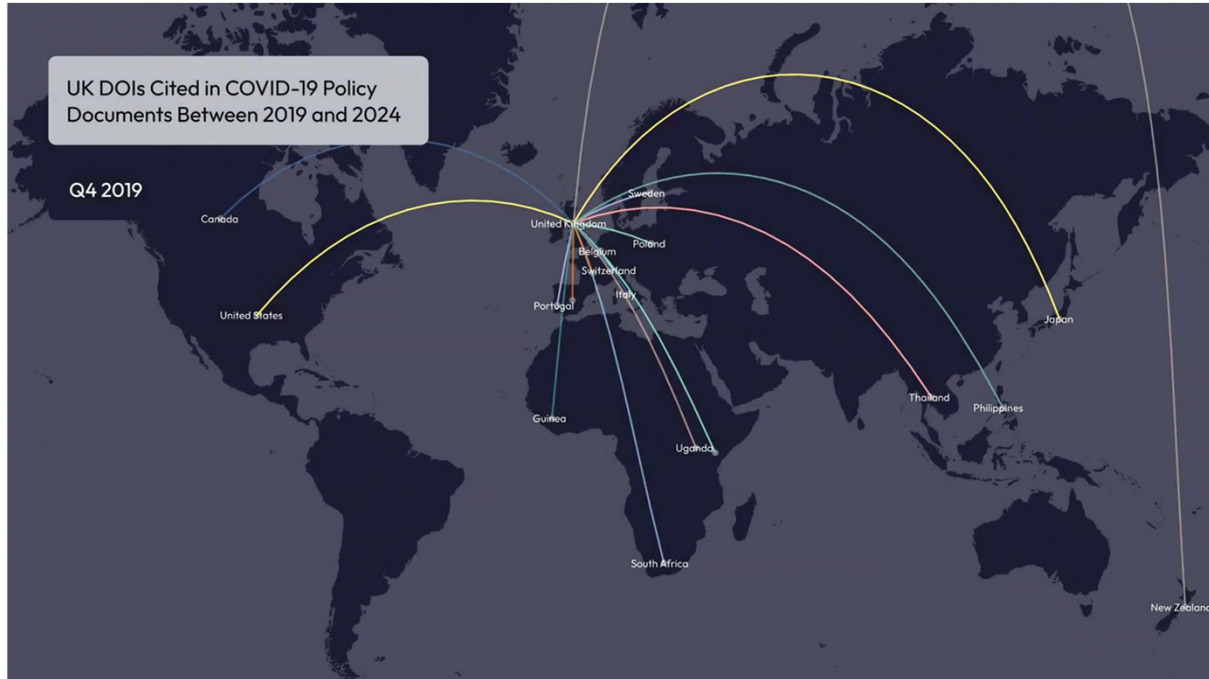
<https://doi.org/10.26069/genre.mpt-2026-000.930?gn>

UK DOIs

Cited in COVID-19 Policy Documents (2019-2024)

Cited Internationally 🌐

So what?



2

Who or What, is in the system?

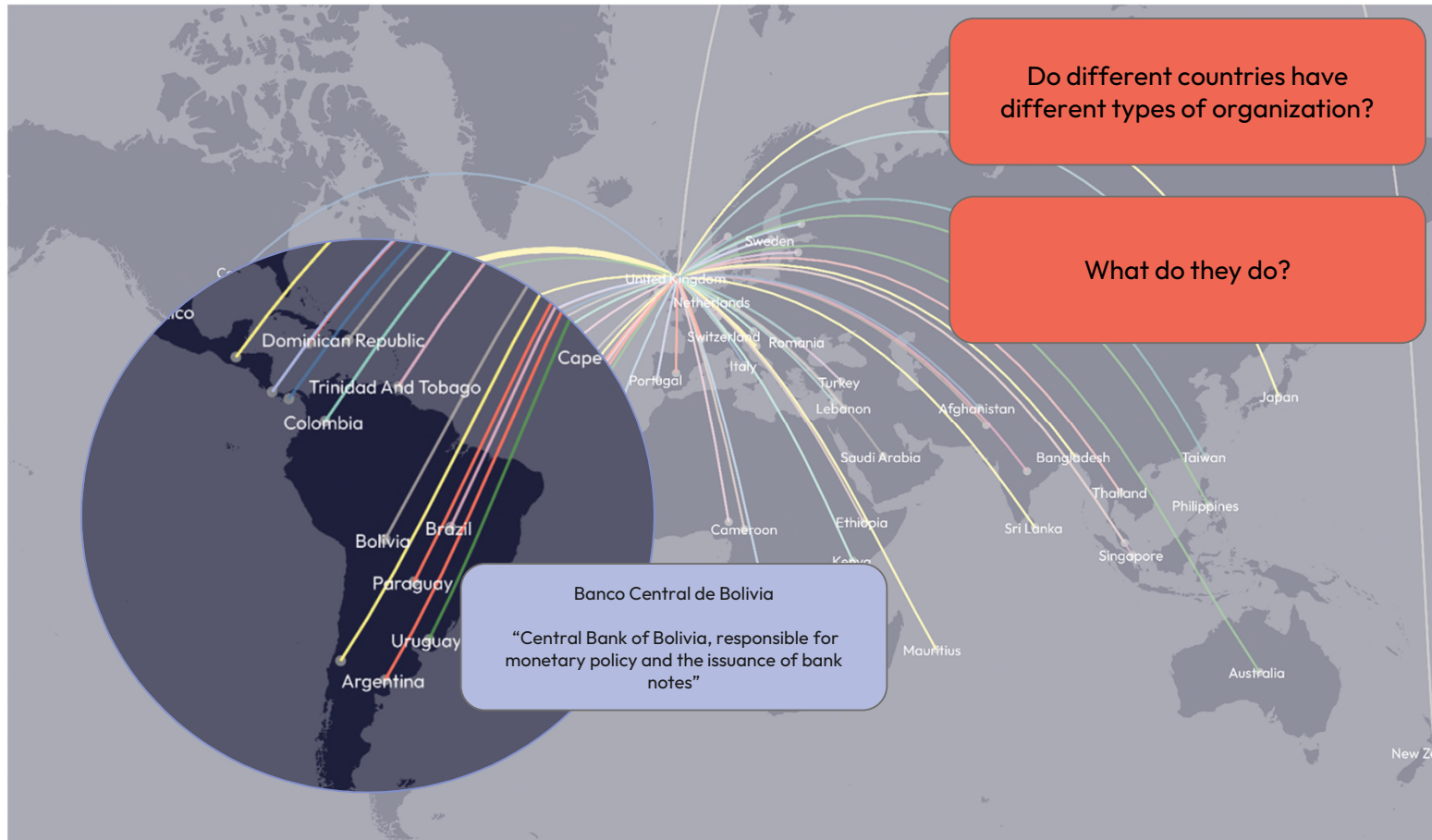
How well do you know the policy landscape?

<https://doi.org/10.26069/graynet-2026-000.9303gn>

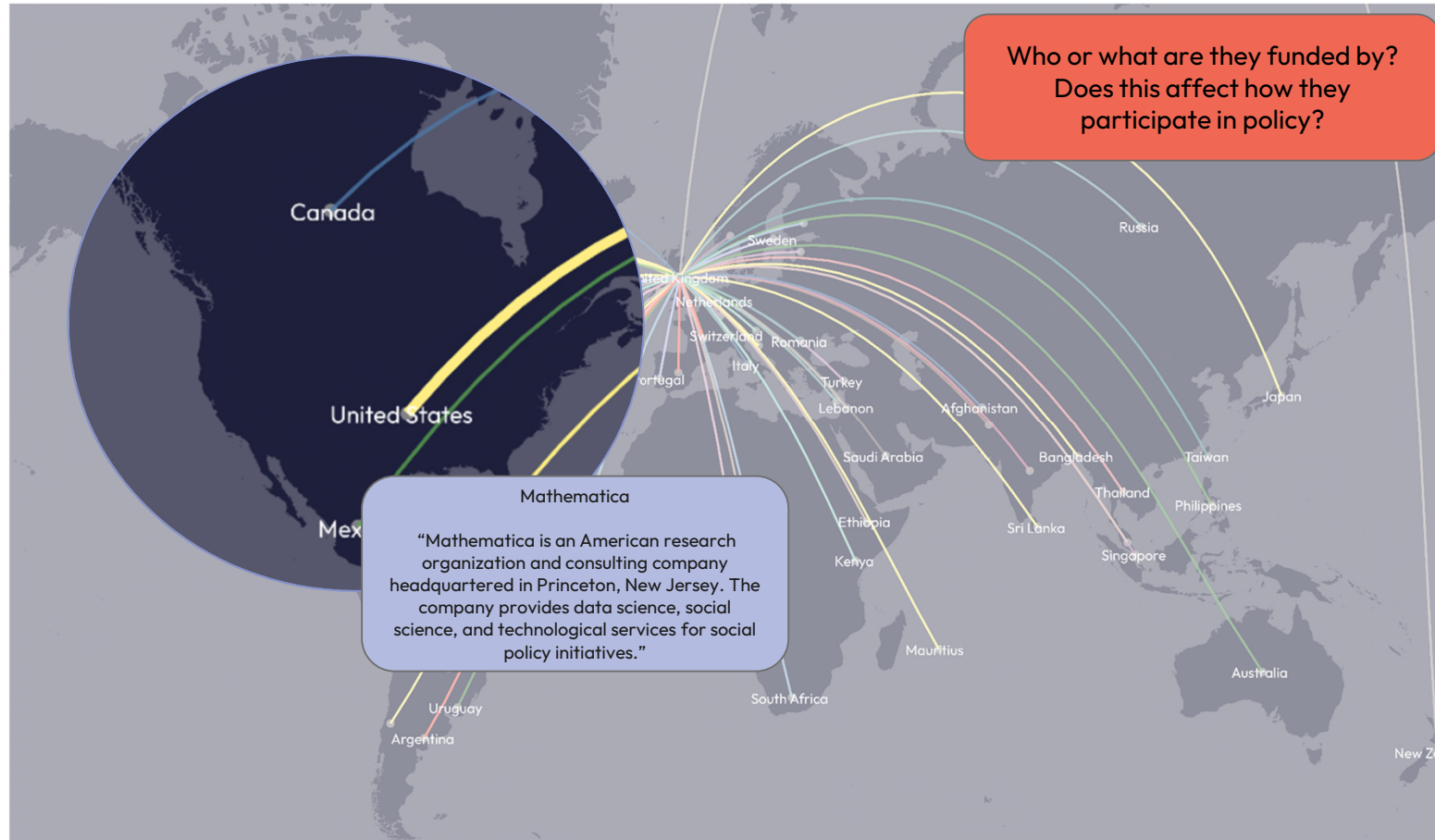


What are the types of org using UK research?

<https://doi.org/10.26069/graynet.2026-000.930-gr>



<https://doi.org/10.26907/greynef-2026-000.930-gr>



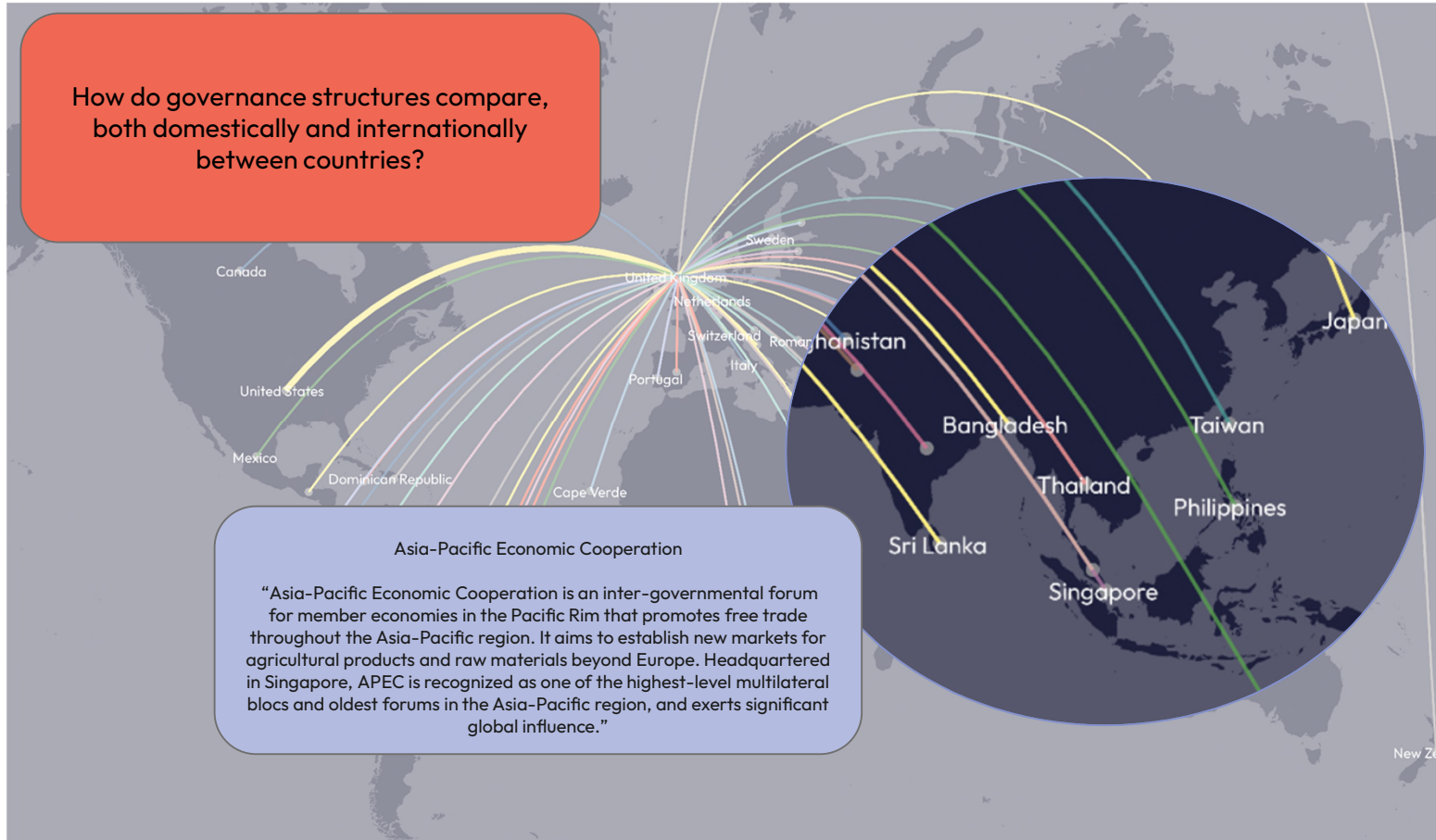
Can we navigate different political systems?

<https://doi.org/10.25069/greynet.2026-000.930-34>

How do governance structures compare, both domestically and internationally between countries?

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

"Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is an inter-governmental forum for member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. It aims to establish new markets for agricultural products and raw materials beyond Europe. Headquartered in Singapore, APEC is recognized as one of the highest-level multilateral blocs and oldest forums in the Asia-Pacific region, and exerts significant global influence."



...and different geopolitical relationships?

<https://doi.org/10.26069/graydat-2026-0001930-on>

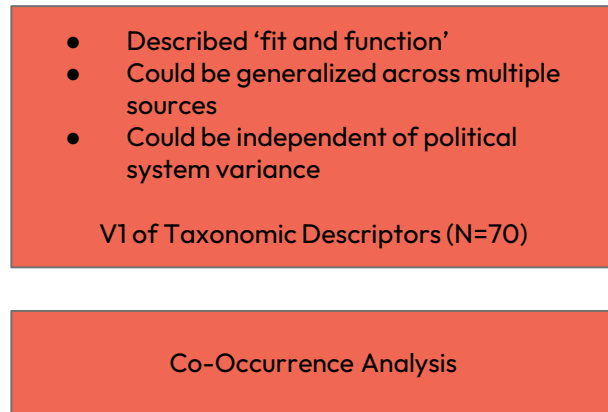
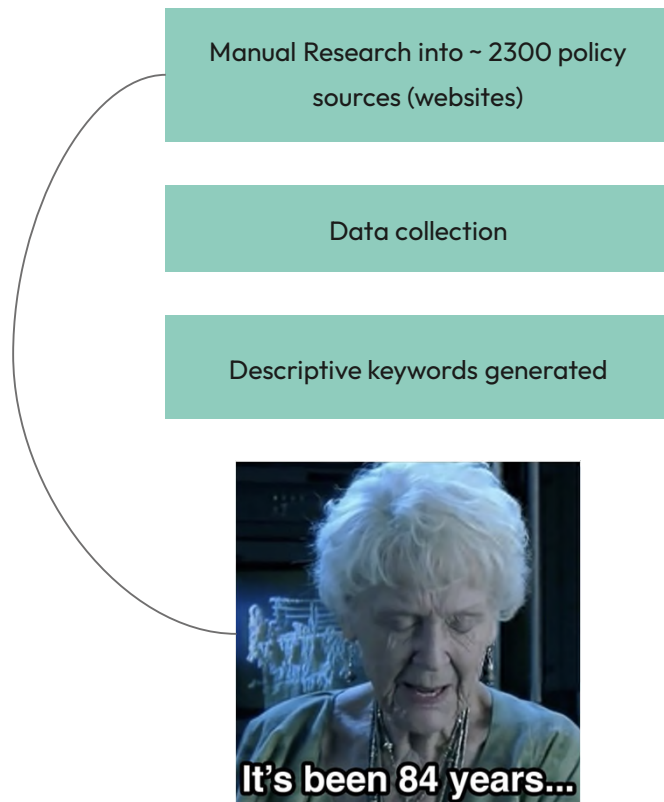
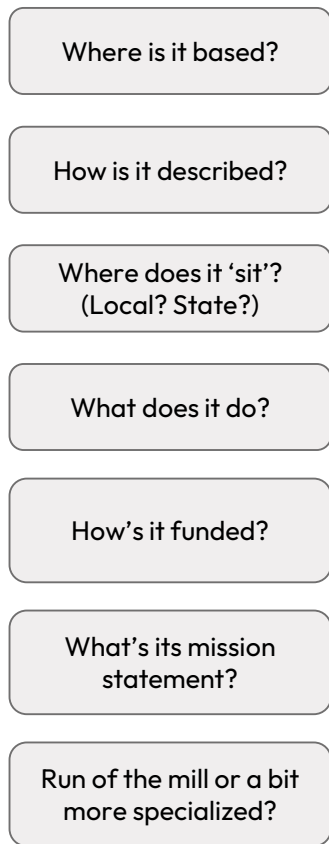


3

Characterising (and Character Building?)

Approach

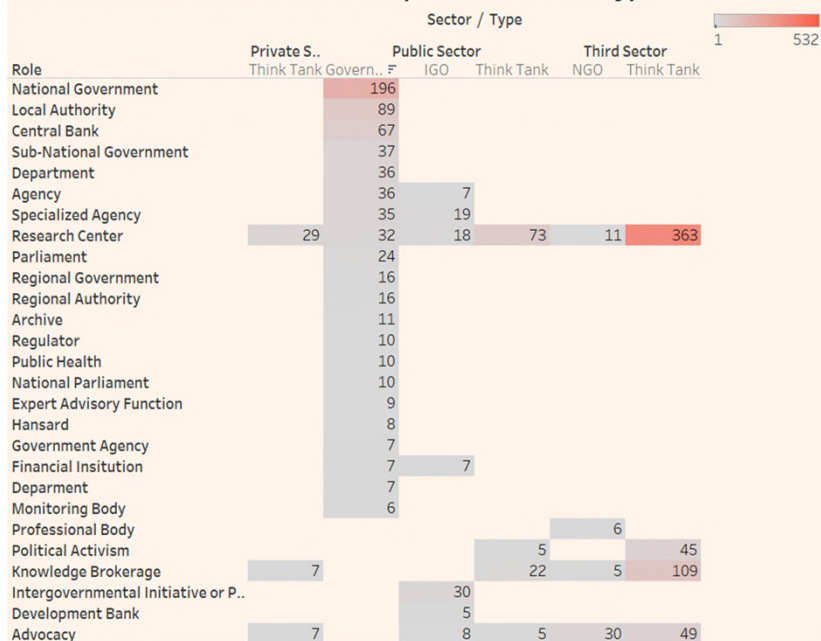
<https://doi.org/10.26069/greynet-2026-000.930-gn>



Output

<https://doi.org/10.26069/greynet-2026-000.930-gn>

Co-occurrence of taxonomic descriptors, sector and type



Within descriptors, three main levels of granularity started to emerge.

Largest variance in smallest level. Similar terms were merged, niche terms discarded.

Hierarchical matrix developed, tested, refined and applied:

1. Source Sector
2. Organizational Type
3. Specific Function and/or Remit

False Starts and Dead Ends

<https://doi.org/10.26069/greynet-2026-000.930-gn>

- Is Parliament/Senate a part of government?
- Consulting firms - are they think tanks?
- Do we need to make the distinction between a development bank and a central bank?
- Networks/Associations of professionals - how do we represent those?

Philosophical-esque
debates

Cleaning + Testing

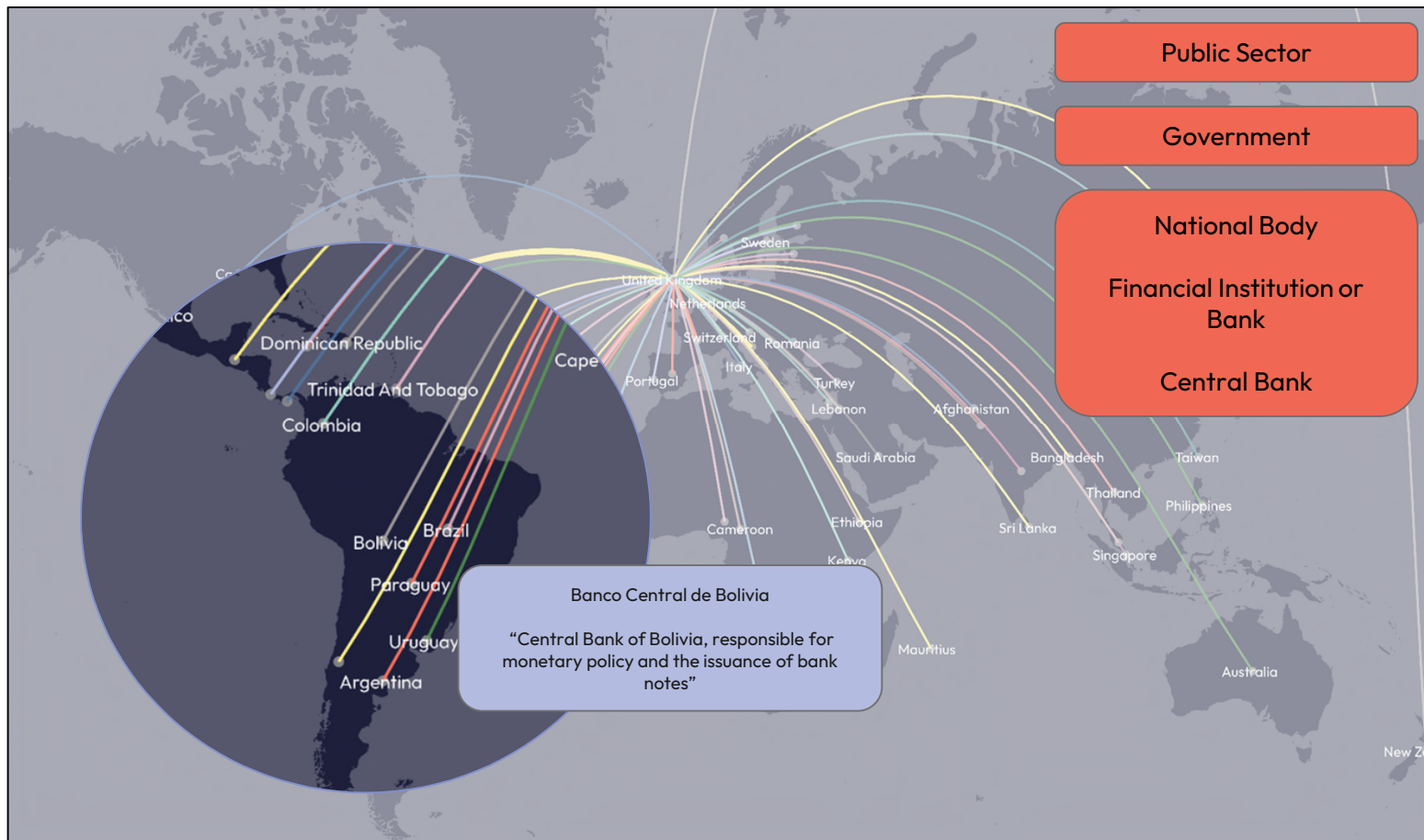
Somewhere better than
when we started



4

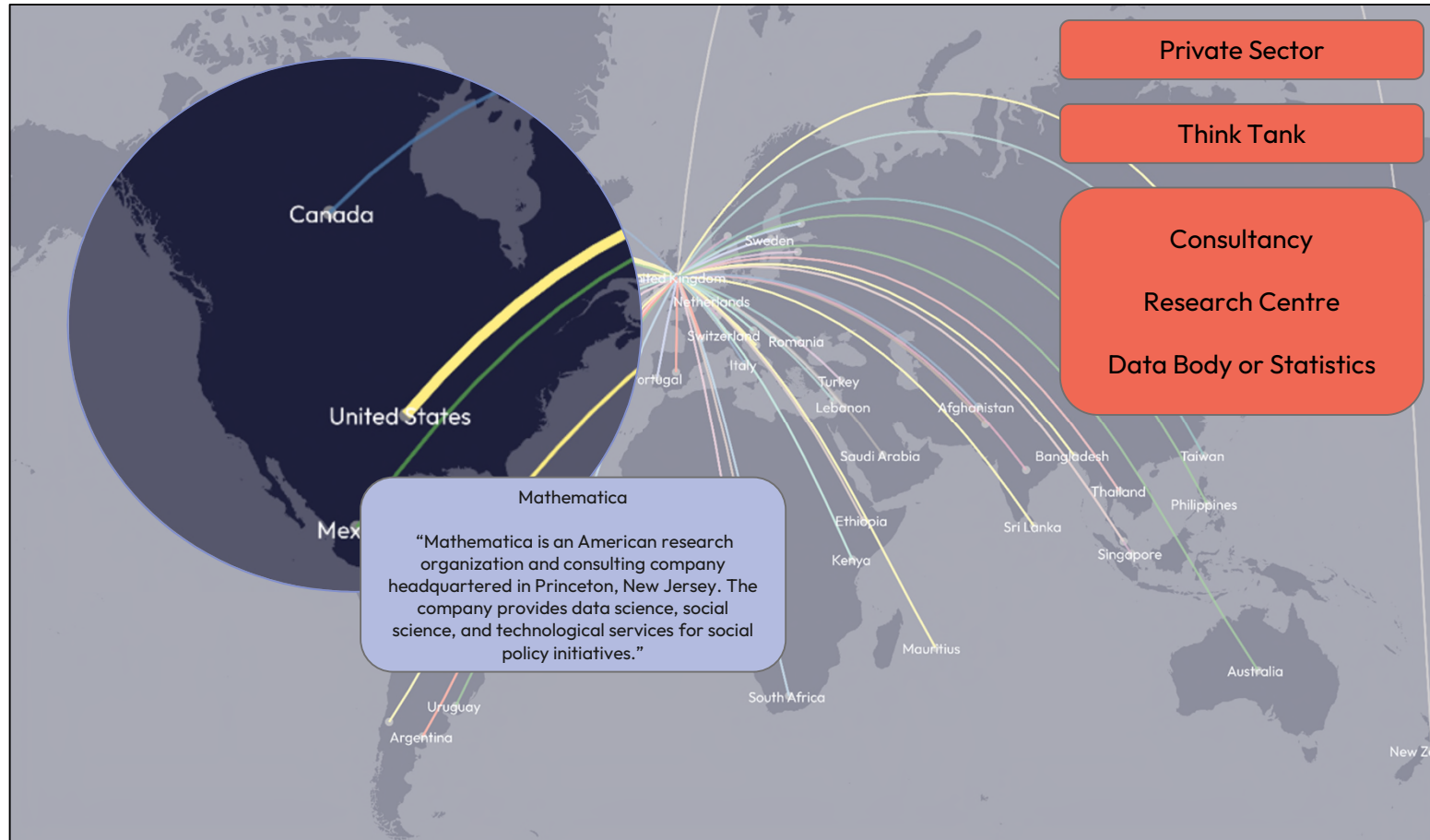
Final* Application

Contextualising COVID-19 Citations



Contextualising COVID-19 Citations

<https://doi.org/10.26069/graynet-2026-000.9400>



Understanding Policy=Policy Dynamics

Does general typology shape citation behaviours?

Citing Source Type (group)	Cited Source Type (group)			
	IGO	Government	Think Tank	NGO
IGO	73.72%	14.78%	9.59%	1.91%
Government	39.12%	47.92%	11.31%	1.65%
Think Tank	46.24%	29.00%	21.90%	2.87%
NGO	45.90%	30.97%	18.62%	4.50%

Understanding Policy–Policy Dynamics

Can we see governance structures within policy citations?

Citing Source Tertiary Classifica..	Cited Source Tertiary Classification			
	International Body	National Body	Regional or State Level Body	Municipal Body
International Body	85.49%	13.32%	1.07%	0.13%
National Body	37.23%	56.36%	5.89%	0.52%
Regional or State Level Body	20.19%	63.05%	15.28%	1.48%
Municipal Body	14.09%	59.29%	23.47%	3.15%

For any given country in our dataset, the majority of citations to UK research (cited by COVID-19 policies) come from Government, IGOs and Think Tanks.

For each country, we broke down the types of citing organizations by document count, then calculated the proportion that were authored by government-classed organizations.

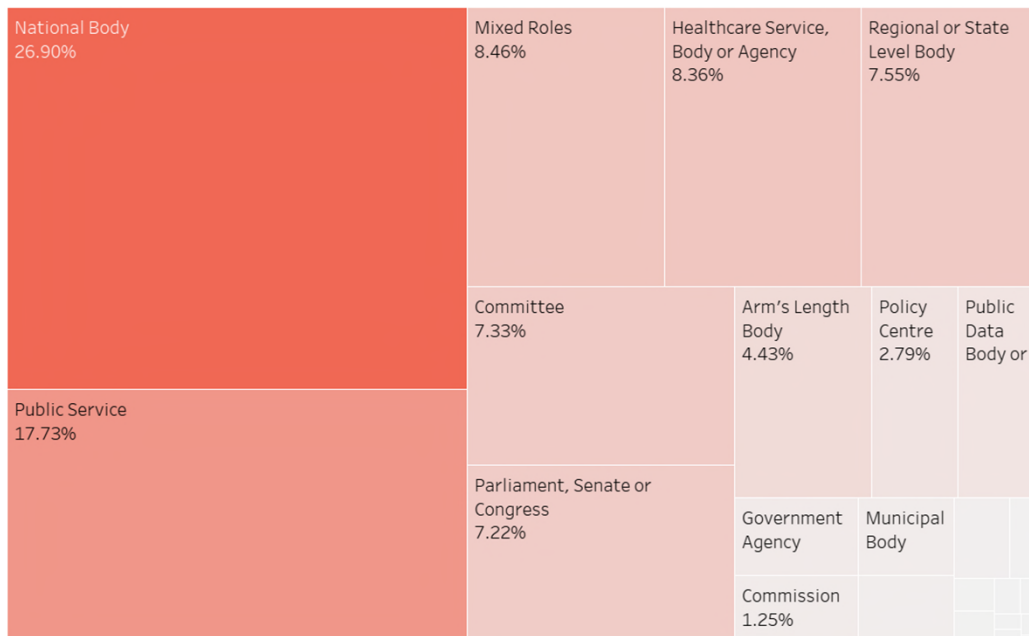
UK: 65%

USA: 24%

Luxembourg: 99.41%

In the UK, we broke down government policy into the smaller sub-types. In total:

- ~27% of citations came from national government
- ~18% were from public service organizations
- ~8% were specifically from healthcare bodies such as the NHS.



Who or what cited UK research domestically?

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