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The Decision to Act: Political, Legal, Social, and Economic Aspects

Popular Impact: Public Opinion and Planetary Defense Planning

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ABSTRACT

Currently available data on public support for planetary defense is limited, non-granular, almost exclusively limited to the United States, and lacks discussion of variable mission components. These limitations may hinder planetary defense efforts, both domestically and internationally. Legislation and policymaking must account for public support, which can critically impact the amount of resources allocated to specific methodologies and the durability of long-term policy across administrations. As such, new, broader, and more comprehensive data is necessary to overcome obstacles. Detailed descriptive statistics on public opinion and experimental data on sensitivity to specific procedures, methodologies, and narrative framings allow Ordinal Logistic Regression modeling and Conjoint analysis of the current political environment and capacity for further policy improvement. These findings will contribute to policymakers' understanding of the public policy dimension of planetary defense planning and support fine-tuning of proposals to meet essential technical and political needs alike.

Comments:

Oral presentation preferred.