Environment & Society Portal

Multimedia Library Collection: Environmental Values (journal)

"The Disvalue of 'Contingent Valuation' and the Problem of the 'Expectation Gap'"

Westra, Laura

Westra, Laura. "The Disvalue of 'Contingent Valuation' and the Problem of the 'Expectation Gap'." *Environmental Values* 9, no. 2 (2000): 153–71. doi:10.3197/096327100129342010 .

"Contingent Valuation" is a method often used to make decisions about environmental issues. It is used to elicit citizens' preferences at the location of a specific facility, new road and the like. I argue that even if we could elicit a truly informed and "free" choice, the method would remain flawed, as 1) all "local" activity also has far-reaching environmental consequences; 2) majority decisions may support chices that adversely affect minorities; 3) even with full information, consenting to harms like significant alterations of our normal functioning or health, or genetic mutations, may not be morally acceptable.
— Text from The White Horse Press website

All rights reserved. © 2000 The White Horse Press

Download:
PDF: https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/ev_9no.2_westra_laura.pdf

Related links:

- Article on the official website
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV907.html
- The White Horse Press
  http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/

Websites linked in this text:

- http://dx.doi.org/10.3197/096327100129342010
- http://www.erica.demon.co.uk/EV/EV907.html

Environmental Values (journal) Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal
"The Disvalue of 'Contingent Valuation' and the Problem of the 'Expectation Gap'"
Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/5795
Print date: 01 November 2026 07:40:22