

## Impact of SRM on preferences for mitigation by application of cultural cognition

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Whether or not research or deployment of SRM is worthy of serious consideration is a question that contains elements of natural science research, ethical questions and social science research questions. In particular one major concern – namely that considering SRM would lead to neglecting mitigation – poses a question, which is to be addressed by social science research: Does consideration of SRM reduce individuals' preferences to undertake mitigation? I propose addressing this via application of cultural cognition theory – which has been successfully applied to preferences for mitigation. Previous studies have indicated somewhat greater support for mitigation after exposing subjects to information on SRM. I suspect that this effect does not occur uniformly, but rather depends on subject's cultural views and the cultural meaning of information on climate engineering technologies. I propose an experimental design to test the conditions under which preferences for mitigation are reduced or grow, when subjects are exposed to information about SRM.

By improving the understanding of preferences for mitigation versus SRM, communication of scientific findings on SRM can be improved, thus enhancing society's ability to take adequate decisions on SRM and to achieve a second best outcome with a conscious choice to include or exclude application of SRM.