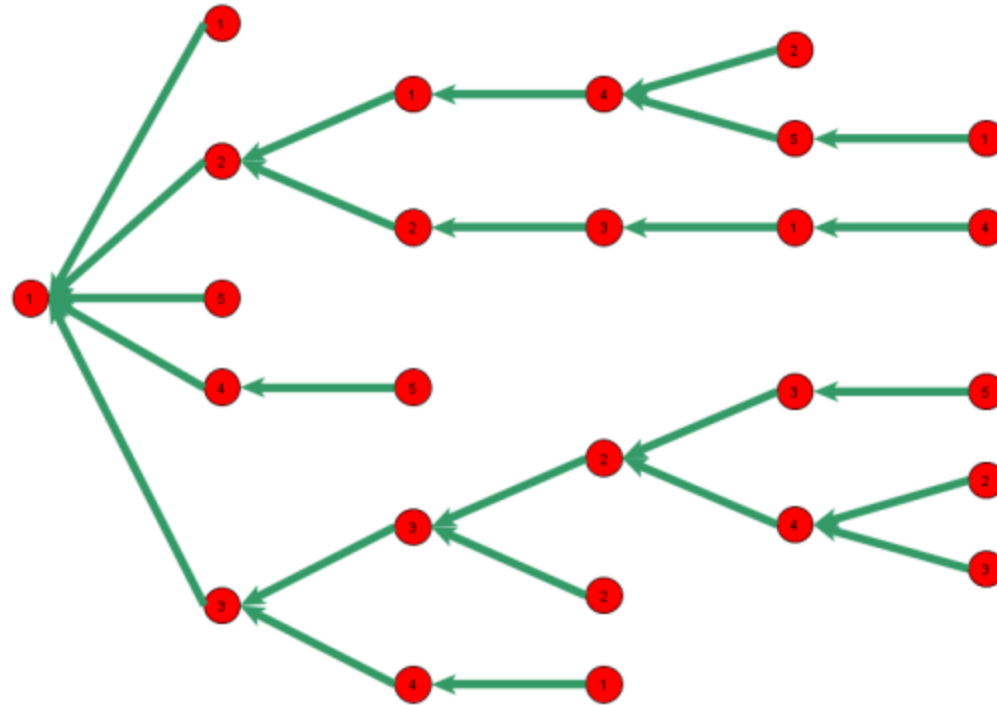


# ParEvo

A web-assisted process enabling the participatory exploration of alternative futures



# Access: [www.parevo.org](http://www.parevo.org)

## Welcome to ParEvo

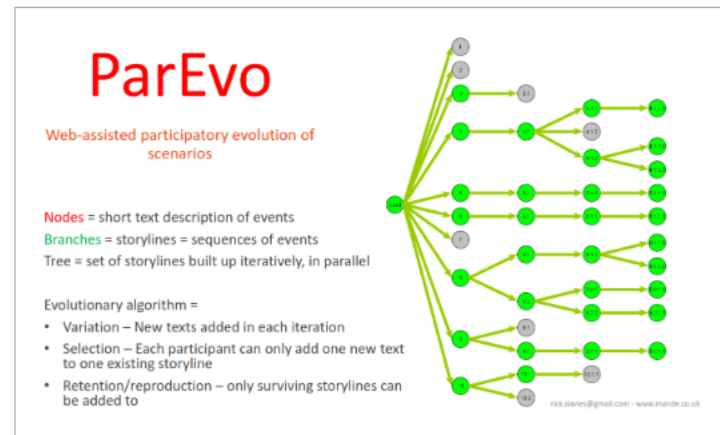
ParEvo is a method of exploring alternative futures or histories, using a participatory evolutionary process (hence ParEvo). The process is designed to be used by multiple people, to produce a branching structure of storylines about what did, or could, happen. Participants are anonymous and can choose the extent to which they collaborate with others. Participants are also able to tag, comment on, and evaluate the storylines that are generated. Completed exercises can be analysed using downloaded data describing the content of storylines and the structure of people's participation. Outcomes can be both cognitive (e.g. how we think about the future) and behavioural (e.g. how we respond to the future).

The use of ParEvo is **free**, subject to approval by the Administrator.

[Login](#)

[Logout](#)

## How it works - in brief



1. The Facilitator provides the **seed for a story**. This will usually be no more than two or three paragraphs long, setting the scene for what might happen next. It is like the first first page of a novel.
2. Participants are then asked to each add a short text describing **what happens next**. These are the nodes 1-10 in the diagram, representing contributions by 10 participants in the first "iteration"
3. Participants then read all these contributions and each **select one they would most like to**

## Getting started

### Participants

Participants **need to be invited** by a Facilitator to set up an account. Please contact your Facilitator for login details. If you have not been invited, you cannot use ParEvo. Once you have login details you can login at any time.

### Facilitators

To become a Facilitator, you have to apply to create an account. Use the form below. ParEvo is **free to use**, subject to approval.

Once approved, you will be able to invite Participants and set up and manage one or more exercises of your own design.

### Facilitator application

First name:

Last name:

Your email:

Telephone or Skype:

## Please also note...

### ParEvo email list

If you want to be kept informed of how ParEvo website is developing join the email list: [parevo-subscribe@googlegroups.com](mailto:parevo-subscribe@googlegroups.com)

### Limitation of Liability

In no event shall Rick Davies be liable to you or any party related to you for any indirect, incidental, consequential, special, exemplary, or punitive damages or lost profits, even if Rick Davies has been advised of the possibility of such damages. In any event, Rick Davies total aggregate liability to you for all damages of every kind and type (regardless of whether based in contract or tort) shall not exceed the purchase price of the product.

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Please also give attention to the terms and conditions outlined in the [Privacy policy](#). Suggestions re improvements are welcome

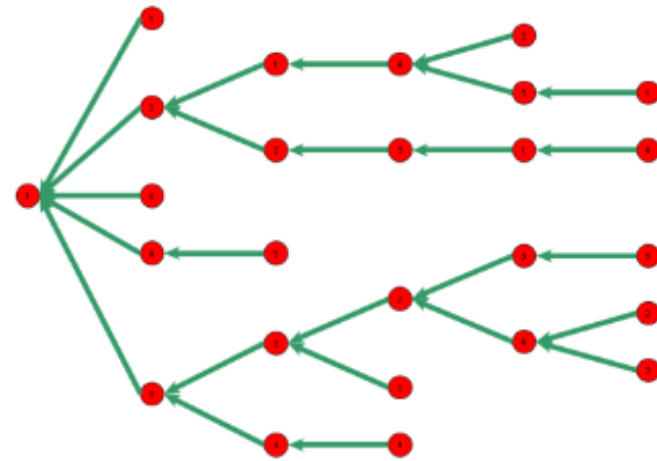
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- <https://www.gov.uk/copyright>
- <https://www.copyright.org.au>

### Who developed ParEvo?

Supporting website:  
<https://mascinnoventions.wordpress.com/>



ParEvo

A web-assisted process enabling the participatory exploration of alternative futures

INTRODUCTION

HOW AN EXERCISE WORKS ▼

CONTENT ANALYSIS ▼

PARTICIPATION ANALYSIS

ALT. VERSIONS ▼

LIST OF PAREVO EXERCISES ▼

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ▼

HELP ▼

# ParEvo process design

= participatory evolution of future scenarios or past histories

**Nodes** = short text description of events

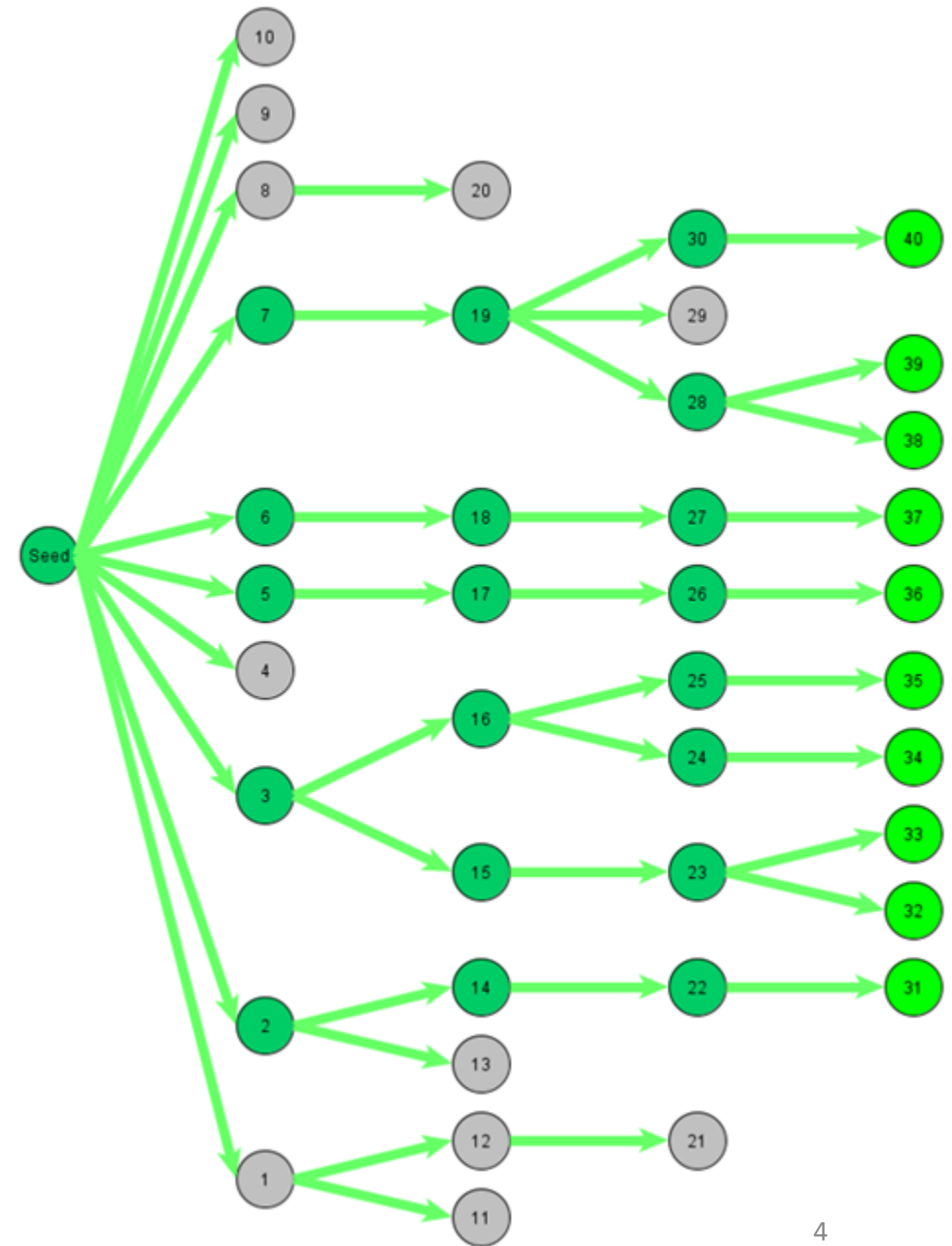
**Branches** = storylines = sequences of events

**Tree** = storylines built up iteratively, in parallel

**Columns** = successive iterations, moving right

Evolutionary algorithm =

- Variation – Participants each add a new text, in each iteration
- Selection – Each participant can only add one new text to any one existing storyline, per iteration
- Retention/reproduction – only surviving storylines can be added to





## Alternate futures for the USA 2020+

This exercise has now finished.

A full description of this exercise is available here: <https://macinnovations.wordpress.com/alternate-futures-for-the-usa-2020/>

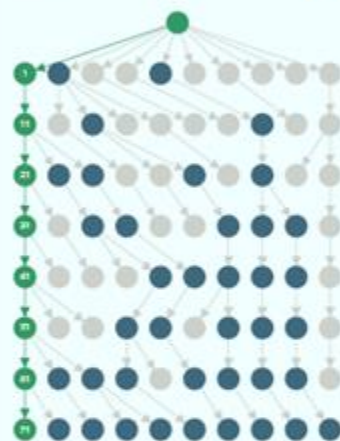
This includes the following information

1. Purpose
2. Participants
3. Process
4. Instructions
5. Results
6. Analysis
7. Conclusions

with thanks, Rick Davies, Administrator

Iteration #8

Search



These are the results from the evaluation round. How many people thought this storyline fell into each category is shown below:

Least Desirable: 3	Most Desirable: 0
Least Likely: 1	Most Likely: 1

### Storyline ending #71

0 The inauguration of Joe Biden as the 46th president of the United States marked the commencement of the four-year term of Joe Biden as president and Kamala Harris as vice president. A public ceremony took place on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, on the West Front of the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. The event was the 59th presidential inauguration. Biden took the oath of office as president on that day, and Harris took the oath of office as vice president. Festivities were limited due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. Public health measures to prevent the spread of the virus, including mandatory face coverings, temperature checks, and social distancing, were in place for the ceremony. "Our Determined Democracy: Forging a More Perfect Union," a reference to the Preamble to the United States Constitution, served as the inaugural theme. Contrary to custom the outgoing President, Donald Trump, did not attend. This is the story of what happened next, after that day...

1 The threats of civil war came to nothing. Once the new President was installed, the wind was taken out of the sails of the far right. The Proud Boys, the Q-anon crowd, and the die-hard Trumpers all faced public ridicule and were seen as the small fringe groups they truly were. Though Trump pardoned himself before he left office, this did nothing to absolve him of state crimes. By the end of March, over a dozen criminal suits were filed against him in NY state. With no capable lawyers willing to represent him, Trump had a small, rag-tag legal team of barely competent lawyers. He is expected to lose most, if not all, of his trials and to die in jail.

1 comment

11 Not only was Trump facing multiple lawsuits, but so were a great number of his administration. While Trump had prepared a slush fund to pay his legal team, most of his administration had no such income. Many pleaded guilty to avoid a prolonged and costly battle. With the last 2 senate run-offs in Georgia going to the Democrats, they now controlled the Presidency, the senate and the congress. Biden was able to quickly undo much of the damage that was done over the last 4 years.

21 Covid-19, while not totally gone, was well under control and the US started to get back to normal. People were going back to work, masks were no longer mandatory and people were gathering again. Trump and his cronies were rarely in the news. Although Trump continued to write outrageous tweets and to deny that he lost the 2020 election, the public just had no real interest. The new administration was pushing forward with constructing windfarms and solar energy panels as well as making strides towards accessible health care for all.

31 By the last quarter of 2021, the country had more or less settled back into normality. At this point, Vice President Harris began to take a more prominent role, often appearing on news programs to speak for the administration and explain the initiatives she was personally leading. President Biden said during his campaign that he thought of himself as a bridge to the future, and it seemed he truly felt this way. Harris was clearly being positioned, by Biden and the DNC, to assume the role of POTUS in 2024 or 2028. The public increasingly saw her as a seasoned, intelligent, warm figure, not unlike Obama. Trump never stopped campaigning during his term in office and the democrats learned from this. They started Harris' campaign very early indeed, though they were less blatant about it.

# ParEvo user interface

- Facilitators guidance
- Seed text
- Contributions
- Storyline
- Tree structure
- Comments
- Evaluation judgements
- Key word search

## Roles:

Facilitators, Participants, ...  
 Commentators, Observers, ...  
 Admin support.

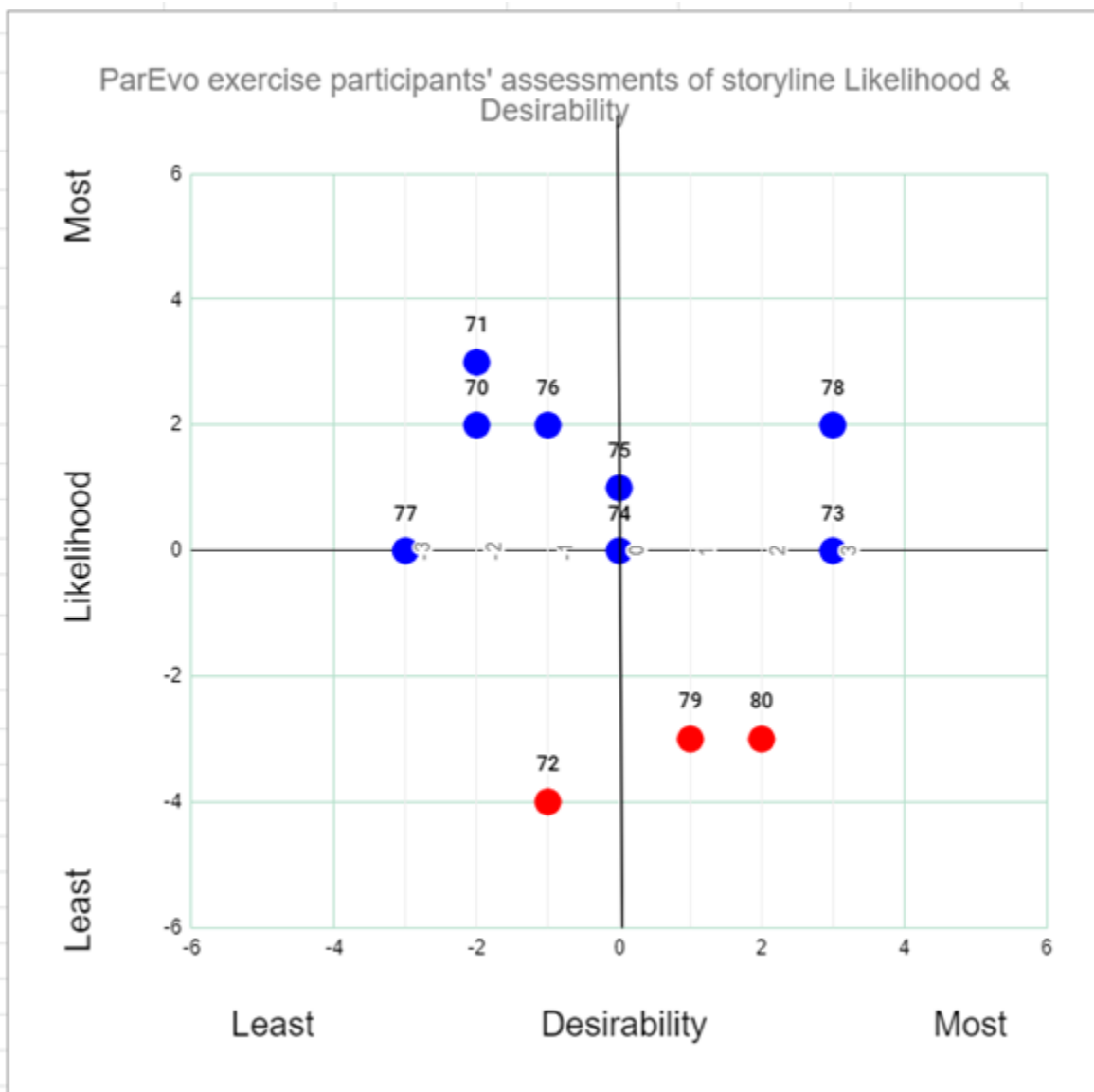
# ParEvo outputs

- Multiple storylines describing alternative futures
  - Surviving (11) – approx. 1,350 words length
  - Extinct (20) – 200 to 1,200 words
- Evaluations of those storylines, by participants and others
  - Predefined criteria: e.g. Likelihood & Desirability, etc
  - Participant defined features
  - Available via
    - Downloadable data sets
    - Online survey providers
    - Group and one-to-one meetings
- Analytic frameworks
  - <https://mscinnovations.wordpress.com/>

# Objectives of a ParEvo exercise

- Cognitive changes:
  - More flexible and self-aware thinking about the future aka “Futures Literacy”
- Behavioural changes:
  - Greater capacity to anticipate and respond to uncertain futures
- Meta
  - Accumulated knowledge, via multiple ParEvo exercises, of how to deliver these changes

# Example analysis of storyline diversity

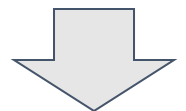


## Plotting storylines on multiple criteria

- Likelihood x desirability
- Equity x Sustainability
- ?

## Asking questions

1. What storylines are contested and why e.g.80
2. How to respond to different combinations of likelihood and desirability...





# Storyline types & possible responses

Storylines are...	<b>Undesirable</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Likely</b>	Prevent beforehand, mitigate afterwards	Compare and harmonise with pre-existing plans
<b>Unlikely</b>	Monitor possible changes in their status	Enable beforehand, exploit afterwards

# Uses to date

- **Exercises:** 3 pretests <2019, 20 since then, 3 now scheduled
- **Users:** ODI, CSER, PARC ODI, OPM, ICCS, PhD students
- **Topics:** Climate Change, Covid, Post-Trump, Biological research risks, Solar radiation management, international civil society developments, UN Volunteer programme, UN agency gender policy, disaster risk management funding risk management, extreme weather events, intersecting crises, analysis of programme design, strategic planning, research uptake pathways,
- Alternative futures, histories and arguments

# Ongoing and in the pipeline...

- Evaluation consultants
  - Participatory analysis of a programme design
- PhD research:
  - Political futures in Egypt
  - Extreme weather events
  - Science communication
- UN bodies
  - Intersecting global crises

# More information...

- <https://mscinnovations.wordpress.com/>
  - Comprehensive information on design and analysis of ParEvo exercises, and more
- [https://youtu.be/Hlbpqfw\\_ve4](https://youtu.be/Hlbpqfw_ve4)
  - CSER YouTube video of webinar by Tom Hobson, Lara Mani and Rick Davies on 2021 CSER ParEvo exercise on global governance of biotechnology risks