🌻 Causal mapping teams globally – since 2020

20 Feb 2026

Causal mapping teams globally (last 15 years: 2011-2026)

Inclusion rule used here: records from 2011 onward that are clearly causal-mapping work (or close adjacent approaches used to build causal maps), starting from `zotero-bib` and then filtering out obvious noise.

Date of most recent publication	Team members	Location / institution	Papers (title, year, citekey)	What they call the approach	Key methods / fit to categorisation / AI use	Primary evidence source mode	Multi-source handling style	Maturity / status	Tooling stack
2026	Vanessa Hammond; Joseph Lea (plus collaborators)	City of Casey, Melbourne (Australia) context; institution not explicit in record	*Where to Start? Participatory Systems Mapping for Place-Based Service Integration in the City of Casey* (2026) `Hammond et al. (2026)`	Participatory Systems Mapping (PSM)	Group co-production of causal loop maps; strong fit with **group map-building** and **complexity-aware analysis**; uses network metrics + Action Scales; no direct AI	Group workshops	Aggregated group map with facilitated consensus	Preprint	Workshop facilitation + network analysis

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					in method				
2025	Steve Powell; Gabriele Caldas Cabral; Fiona Remnant; James Copestake; Heather Britt; Rebekah Avard; co-authors	Causal Map / Causal Pathways ecosystem; some records do not specify formal affiliations	*AI-assisted Causal Mapping: A Validation Study* (2025) (n.d.); *Qualitative Causal Mapping in Evaluations* (2025) Remnant et al. (2025); *Strengthening Outcome Harvesting with AI-assisted Causal Mapping* (2025) Britt et al. (2025); *Causal Mapping for Evaluators* (2024) Powell	Causal mapping; AI-assisted causal mapping; causal QDA; QuIP evidence synthesis	Strong fit with **document/interview coding**, **open elicitation**, **provenance-explicit multi-source synthesis**; explicit separation of evidence assembly vs evaluative judgement; substantial AI support for low-level coding/extraction	Narrative interviews, documents, mixed	Explicit provenance and source-thread logic; map-as-evidence-repository approach	Peer-reviewed + chapter + guidance + report + preprint	Causal Map software + LLM-assisted coding/extraction

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			et al. (2024); *An M&E Time Machine* (2024) Powell et al. (2024); *Does Our Theory Match Your Theory?* (2023) Powell et al. (2023); *Measuring the Women's Economic Empowerment... testing QuIP* (2022) Avard et al. (2022); *Chapter 1 Overview	Guide to Causal Mapping* (2022) Powell et al. (2022); *Guide to*					

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			Causal Mapping (2021) Powell & Ltd. (2021); *From Narrative Text to Causal Maps* (2021) Remnant (2021)						
2025	Jordan White; Pete Barbrook-Johnson	Institute for New Economic Thinking (University of Oxford); CECAN / University of Surrey	*Guidance on Using Large Language Models to Extract Cause-and-Effect Pairs from Texts for Systems Mapping* (2025) White & Barbrook-Johnson (n.d.)	Systems mapping with LLM extraction	Fit with **document coding** + **semi-automation**; uses LLM prompts to extract cause-effect pairs then build preliminary maps for later human refinement	Documents/text corpora	Aggregated extraction over multiple texts; human validation step	Report/guidance	GPT-based extraction + external mapping tools (e.g., PRSM)
2024	Fran Ackermann; Colin	Project studies / management	*Overlooked and Underused?*	Causal mapping for projects	Fit with **individual/group**	Interviews, workshops,	Comparative and syntheti	Peer-reviewed articles	Decision Explorer / Group Explorer

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	Eden; James Alexander; Eunice Maytorena-Sanchez	lineage; institutions not explicit in these records	(2024) Ackerman & Maytorena-Sanchez (2024); *Researching Complex Projects* (2016) Ackerman & Alexander (2016); *Using Causal Mapping to Support Information Systems Development* (2011) Ackerman & Eden (2011)	and IS development	**elicitation**, **document-supported mapping**, and **idiographic systemic analysis**; strong continuity from 2011 to 2024; AI not central	documents	c use across sources		+ manual coding
2023	Rory Hooper; Nihit Goyal; Kornelis Blok; Lisa Scholten	Institution not explicit in record (policy evidence synthesis context)	*A Semi-Automated Approach to Policy-Relevant Evidence Synthesis* (2023)	Semi-automated causal mapping for policy evidence synthesis	Hybrid NLP + causal mapping + graph analytics; fit with **document coding** and **multi-**	Policy/research documents	Aggregated multi-document synthesis	Preprint	NLP pipeline + graph analytics + causal-map post-processing

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			Hooper (2023)		**source synthesis**; AI used directly for extraction pipeline				
2025	Philippe Giabbanelli; Tyler Gandee; Ameeta Agrawal; Niyousha Hosseinichimeh	Applied ontology / systems mapping	*Benchmarking and Assessing Transformations Between Text and Causal Maps via Large Language Models* (2025) Giabbanelli et al. (2025)	Text-to-map and map-to-text for causal maps	Benchmarking and evaluation datasets for LLM transformation between prose and causal maps; AI core method	Documents and causal-map corpora	Multi-dataset benchmark aggregation	Peer-reviewed article	LLMs + benchmark notebooks/metrics
2025	Melissa Valdivia Cabrera; Michael Johnstone; Joshua Hayward; Kristy Bolton; Douglas	Community health systems modelling	*Integration of Large-Scale Community-Developed Causal Loop Diagra*	NLP-assisted CLD factor merging	Semantic similarity / NLP used to merge community-generated CLD factors	Participatory CLDs + associated text labels	Aggregated map integration across communities	Peer-reviewed articles	NLP semantic matching + network analysis /DEMATEL

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	Creighton		*ms… NLP Approach* (2025) Valdivia Cabrera et al. (2025); foundational merge workflow in Hayward et al. (2020)		at scale; strong fit with **multi-source map integration**				
2024	Raquel Buzogany; Birgit Kopainsky; Paulo Goncalves	System Dynamics Review / policy narrative analysis	*Developing Theoretically Grounded Causal Maps to Examine and Improve Policy Narratives* (2024) Buzogany et al. (2024)	Theoretically grounded causal maps / CLDs	Grounded-theory coding from qualitative corpora into CLDs; fit with **document coding** and **policy narrative synthesis**	Policy and academic texts	Aggregated cross-domain causal synthesis	Peer-reviewed article	Qualitative coding + CLD modelling
2024	Mohammad S. Jalali; Ali Akhavan	System Dynamics Review	*Integrating AI Language Models in Qualitative*	AI-assisted replication of interview analysis	ChatGPT-assisted replication of interview-to-CLD	Interview transcripts	Replication against prior coded analyses	Peer-reviewed article	ChatGPT-assisted qualitative coding

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			Research (2024) Jalali & Akhavan (2024)		analysis; AI used as augmentative analyst				
2023	Charlotte Matthews; Will Airey; Fiona Remnant; Aurelie Charles	University of Bath / local SDG evaluation context	*The Dynamics of the UN Voluntary Local Review Using Causal Mapping…* (2023) Matthews et al. (2023)	Causal mapping for SDG VLR analysis	Cross-SDG causal mapping to identify leverage points and stakeholders in local policy; fit with **document + stakeholder synthesis**	VLR documents + stakeholder evidence	Within-goal and across-goal map synthesis	Applied report	Causal Map workflow + policy analysis
2022	Pete Barbrook-Johnson; Alexandra Penn; Helen Wilkinson; Dione Hills (overlapping collaborators)	UK policy/evaluation systems-mapping community (institutions not always explicit in these records)	*Participatory Systems Mapping for Complex Energy Policy Evaluation* (2021) Barbrook-Johnson & Penn (2021); *Building a*	Participatory systems mapping; system-based ToC	Strong fit with **group map-building**, **open elicitation**, and **translation from cyclic system maps to evaluable ToC**	Group workshops (plus some supporting docs)	Consensus-built maps with subgroup/submap analysis	Peer-reviewed + handbook chapters + practice case	Workshop facilitation + network/submap analysis

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			System-Based Theory of Change Using Participatory Systems Mapping (2021) Wilkinson et al. (2021); *Participatory Systems Mapping* (2022) Barbrook-Johnson & Penn (2022); *Running Systems Mapping Workshops* (2022) Barbrook-Johnson & Penn (2022); *Participatory Systems Mapping in Action* (2020) Mapping & Incentive (2020)		**submaps**; AI generally not central in core 2021-2022 method papers				

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2022	Jie Yang; Soyeon Caren Han; Josiah Poon	AI-NLP causality extraction community	*A Survey on Extraction of Causal Relations from Natural Language Text* (2022) Yang et al. (2022)	Causal relation extraction from text	Survey of knowledge-based, ML, and deep-learning pipelines for extracting cause-effect links; strong **document coding / text-to-causal-link** relevance	Text corpora	Cross-dataset method synthesis	Peer-reviewed article	NLP extraction pipelines
2020	Luke Craven (method lineage)	Systems /evaluation research	*System Effects: A Hybrid Methodology for Exploring the Determinants of Food In/Security* (2017) Craven (2017); *Improvi*	System Effects (hybrid SSM + FCM + graph analysis)	Fit with **participant-derived maps + aggregate structural analysis** across cases; no direct AI core component	Interviews/workshops + synthesis	Aggregated comparative map structures	Peer-reviewed + applied report	FCM + graph-theoretic analysis

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			ng the Health, Wellbeing… (2020) Craven (2020)						
2020	Steven E. Wallis (plus prior collaborators in IPA lineage)	Institution not explicit in record	*Integrative Propositional Analysis for Developing Capacity…* (2020) Wallis (2020)	Integrative Propositional Analysis (IPA)	Causal propositions mapped and scored structurally (breadth/systemicity); fits **analysis-heavy map evaluation** rather than pure elicitation; AI not central	Strategic documents/propositions	Integrated conceptual synthesis	Peer-reviewed article	Manual proposition extraction + structural metrics
2020	Sasha Strelnikoff; Aruna Jammalamadaka; Dana Warmsley	Institution not explicit in record	*Causal Maps for Multi-Document Summarization* (2020) Strelnikoff et	Causal maps for multi-document summarization	Fully unsupervised NLP pipeline for cause-effect extraction and clustering; fits	Multi-document corpora	Aggregated large-scale document synthesis	Peer-reviewed conference paper	DeepCx + embeddings + mixture model + graph pruning

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			al. (2020)		**document coding at scale** with explicit AI/NLP core				
2018	Igor Pyrko; Viktor Dorfler	Management/organization research context	*Using Causal Mapping in the Analysis of Semi-structured Interviews* (2018) Pyrko & Dorfler (2018)	Eden/Ackerman-style causal mapping for interview analysis	Strong fit with **interview coding**, **map merging across respondents**, and **feedback-chain analysis**; AI not central	Semi-structured interviews	Merged intersubjective maps from individual interview maps	Conference proceedings paper	Manual coding + map-merging analysis
2018	Ricardo Wilson-Grau; Heather Britt	Outcome Harvesting practice community	*Outcome Harvesting Principles in Practice* (2018) Wilson-Grau (2018); *Outcome Harvesting* (2012) Wilson-	Outcome Harvesting (adjacent causal-claim approach)	Adjacent method for harvesting causal contribution claims from narrative evidence; fits **multi-source**	Narrative outcomes/interviews/documents	Multi-source claim harvesting	Guidance/practice documents	Manual harvesting/coding

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			Grau & Britt (2012)		**evidence assembly**; typically no AI core				
2017	Gerard Hodgkinson; Kristian Sund; Robert Galavan	Managerial and organizational cognition community	*Chapter 1: Exploring Methods in Managerial and Organizational Cognition* (2017) Hodgkinson et al. (2017)	Causal/cognitive mapping methods in MOC	Methodological synthesis of causal mapping in management cognition; mainly **interview/document elicitation + map analysis** tradition; AI not central	Interviews/documents (methodological review)	Comparative methodological synthesis	Book chapter	Method framework synthesis
2016	Mauri Laukkanen; Mingde Wang; Päivi Eriksson	Comparative causal mapping lineage (management/organization)	*Comparative Causal Mapping: The CMAP3 Method* (2016) Laukkanen & Wang (2016); *New*	Comparative Causal Mapping (CCM), CMAP3	Core **comparative/aggregative map methodology**, including standardized	Interviews/documents (structured to low-structured variants)	Comparative aggregation across multiple respondents/cases	Book + peer-reviewed articles	CMAP3 + manual standardization

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			Designs and Software for Cognitive Causal Mapping (2013) Laukkanen & Eriksson (2013); *Comparative Causal Mapping and CMAP3 Software in Qualitative Studies* (2012) Laukkanen (2012)		concept pools and software-supported cross-case comparison; AI not central				
2014	Michal Sedlacko; Andre Martinuzzi; Inge Ropke; Nuno Videira; Paula Antunes	Sustainability / ecological economics context	*Participatory Systems Mapping for Sustainable Consumption* (2014) Sedlacko et al. (2014)	Participatory systems mapping	Early strong participatory systems-mapping method paper; fits **group map-building** and systemic insight generation; AI	Participatory workshops	Group-built causal map synthesis	Peer-reviewed article	Workshop methods + map analysis

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					not central				

Notes on team boundaries

- Teams are grouped by overlapping authors and clear method lineage; single-paper rows are kept where overlap is weak or absent.
- Duplicates were collapsed where records represent the same output (for example `(n.d.)` vs `(n.d.)`).
- Obvious noisy keyword matches (items tagged `causal mapping` but not materially about causal-mapping methods) were excluded.

From your supplied list: explicitly not in this table (and why)

- **Pre-2011 foundational classics** (kept out only due to 15-year scope): e.g., Axelrod 1976, Eden 1988/1992, Eden/Ackermann/Cropper 1992, Narayanan/Armstrong 2004, Clarkson/Hodgkinson 2005.
- **Outside causal-mapping core despite causal relevance**: e.g., Pearl 2000, Forrester 1971, Tolman 1948, Wright 1921 (important background, but not causal-mapping method teams).
- **General AI/qualitative-method papers with weak direct mapping focus**: retained only when explicitly tied to causal-map/CLD production or transformation.

Related

- chapter intro

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