



Sustainability and the Danish energy and transport sector: Investigating controversies in a scenario planning process

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Abstract for the 4S session: RE-ASSEMBLING URBAN LIFE: STS AND THE MAKING OF SUSTAINABILITY

Title: Sustainability and the Danish energy and transport sector: Investigating controversies in a scenario planning process

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Public controversies provide opportunities for engaging stakeholders in research in new ways (Landstro, Ward, and Bradley 2011). Participatory processes involving stakeholders and citizen are crucial to secure impact on actual policy making. This may be the reason why public engagement in science and technology has been studied for several decades (Stilgoe et al. 2014, Selin et al. 2016).

This paper investigates controversies (Callon 1986; Callon et al. 2009) which appear during the participatory and public events in the COMETS project. The project combines models (an energy system model and a behavior based national transport model) with stakeholder participation, ultimately to involve the Danish parliament's Standing Committee for Energy, Utilities and Climate in evaluating the scenarios. The research questions are: how do different actors contribute to scenarios through various stakeholder involvement methods; and, how are the dominant controversies in the process discussed among the different actors?

The data for this paper originates from workshops, interviews, and public involvement events during which a set of narrative scenarios was: first, created; second, translated into model-parameters; and third, evaluated by stakeholders and citizen.

This study contributes with knowledge of stakeholder and public-involvement in a transdisciplinary project. Preliminary results show that occurring controversies in the field become apparent through the process of creating narrative scenarios. In the process of co-producing narratives the different actor groups, including policy makers, contribute to a broadening of the knowledge base among the scientists and modellers. Furthermore the process did increases the perspectives on both local knowledge and place-based expertise.