

Positionalities of (un-)sustainability?

Competing struggles and perceptions on matters of sustainable natural resource governance.

Moritz Albrecht



HISTORIA- JA MAANTIETEIDEN LAITOS
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL STUDIES

Positionalities of low-carbon/sustainable energy resources

EU policy focus:

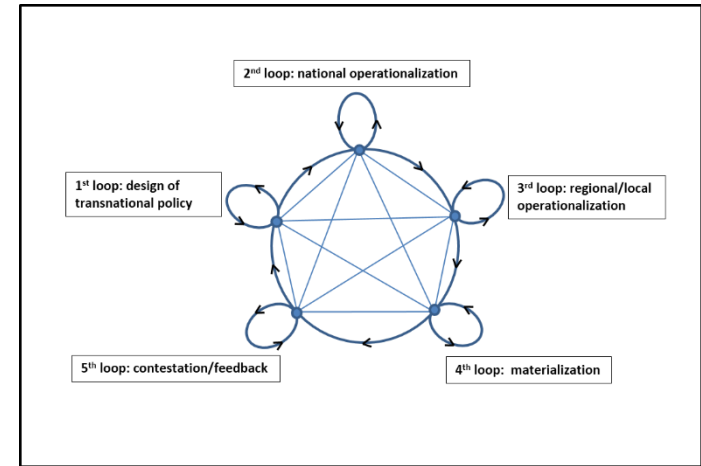
Renewable energy directive,
legislation and Commission
strategies:

Green-growth

Sustainable development

De-carbonization of energy systems

*Translation of policy on a variety of
heterogeneous interconnected assemblages*



Picture Biomass & Nuclear

Why positionalities of natural resources?

“Taking the spatialities of globalising capitalism seriously” (Sheppard, 2013; 266)

Transformation of EU energy system:

- Naturalization of resource positionalities vs. heterogeneous positionalities (e.g. resource peripheries)
 - Contrasting positionalities of sustainable energy transformation pathways
 - Questioning sustainable rhetoric vs. embedded perspectives
 - Resource periphery – core-market relations/power inequalities?
 - Neglect of here and there positionalities in EU member state approaches

Examples; looking at energy resource positionalities from an EU perspective

• Biomass

- EU/member targets (policy)
- Potential/sustainability debate
- Bioeconomy as growth factor
- Local vs export positionalities
- Re-scaling of forestry sector
- Development of export-based industry

• Uranium/Nuclear

- Low-carbon solution!?! (policy)
- Resource potential (local vs. import)
- Opposition to mining vs. opportunities for resource peripheries
- Disconnection between mining and nuclear energy production/waste (EU!)

Resource positionalities *in/on* various stages of policy design, materialization and contestation

This should enable...

- To evaluate how natural resource governance approaches in different locations are influenced by, or neglect the shifting positionalities of the natural resources themselves in regard to multiple actor groups
- To understand how these shifting resource positionalities in different socio-spatial settings affect policy approaches (e.g. management standards, sustainability certification) in terms of their target to provide sustainable solutions: *policy mutation & translation*
- Critically evaluate the shifting rhetoric on sustainable governance approaches (e.g. national plans) throughout the processes/sites of natural resource governance.
- To connect EU/national approaches to the resource positionalities at the site of origin and vice versa: asymmetries, power relations, naturalization...

Critically evaluate the shifting positionalities of a resources' sustainability in various contexts and from various socio-spatial perspectives to display complex governance processes, aspects of contestation and questionable approaches



UNIVERSITY OF
EASTERN FINLAND

Thank you!

For more information on our current Bioenergy research visit:

www.debeg.org