The European 2020 race and the materialisation of a bioeconomy

Jani Lukkarinen (University of Eastern Finland, Finland)

The year 2020 has become a statement year in the European Union sustainability and carbon reduction ambitions. The EU's renewable energy targets are one example of the mechanisms that mobilize political, economic and material processes on national, regional and local scales. However, the translation of multinational sustainable policy goals through more place-bound perspectives often prioritizes economic and social intangibilities over environmental stakes. This results mainly from impartial stabilizing of topological space created by EU policies. In practice this has resulted in multiple fuzzy, overlapping, and contested discourses of bioeconomy.

In this paper I conceptualize three different approaches to contemporary projects of bioeconomy. Mainly the analyses are drawn together from two local case studies in Joensuu region and Nurmes area as well as critical evaluation of national bioeconomy plans. The focus of the research is on assembling of relations, enrolment of actors and restructuring of material base under specific interpretations of bioeconomy. The further aim is to increase critical understanding on materialization trajectories of bioeconomy reforms.