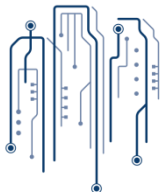


Participation in electricity systems: the matter of justice for smart citizens

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Summary of research

- Electricity systems are not cities:
 - Expert technical systems;
 - Smaller and larger in scale and scope
- Opened up to participation in different registers:
 - Climate change;
 - Community activities;
 - Energy economy;
- Tracing new forms of expertise in the development of smart electricity networks.
- Process, mode, and learning as part of participation:
 - Citizen consultation;
 - Energy communities;
 - Consumer-oriented devices and business-models
- Germany and Ireland





Key findings

- Utilities are obdurate, innovation happens at the periphery
- Identities are unstable and are different depending on level of participation:
 - Politics: Citizens as members of the national or global community, (inter)national systems of governance, technological best practice;
 - Community: Citizens, technical experts, local and regional government;
 - Economy: Citizens as householders, technology providers, and system administrators;
- Commitment to decentralisation that facilitates participation:
 - Political;
 - Architectural;
 - Logical
- Professionalization of 'citizen' participation and the new civic experts:
 - Environmental concerns;
 - Community planning;
 - Energy economics
- Re-distribution of rights and responsibilities

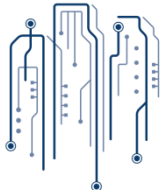


Key lessons

- Scales of innovation are larger and smaller and have show strong interdependencies as they function as a system.
- Changing role for coordinating institutions:
 - Infrastructures need to be developed through strategic long term vision and short term adaptive management that is inclusive and sensitive to civic needs;
 - Where (social) innovation is not keeping pace, government need to invest to facilitate civic infrastructures;
 - Government has a different role to play depending on scale as a moral authority (climate change), facilitator (community), and economic regulator (electricity use and practices);
- Social learning is a process of mutual adaptation, best practices are not simply transferred.
- Intermediaries as new class of experts. Important questions whether current voluntary roles are tenable.
- Situated and social values need to be taken in account:
 - Citizen Rights;
 - Responsibilities

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