

„Telling Climate Change..“ – COP 17 Narratives

Research in Progress

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Foreword

About Me, Motivation, Context of Research, Durban...

Research: Idea and Concept

→ „Climate Change“ as popular term and „travelling concept“

(i.e. Transnet)

→ COP 17 as „Arena“

→ COP 17 as „influence“

↔ How do „we“/who talk about „Climate Change“/COP?

↔ How do people came to the COP/“Climate Change“? (links)

↔ Translating of „Knowledge“/Ideas (Mobilization)

Approach: Narrative Interviews

→ qualitative / interpretative research

→ Personal Accounts

- A very general and open question to stimulate narrations – To get to understand the process of the COP and the individual involvement...

- Own priorities instead of pre-understandings..

↔ narrations touch 'individual' as well as 'structural' level
(Rosenthal: 2008)

↔ Counter-narratives:

“As a researcher, what has fascinated me most are those situations in which people fashion stories that challenge – either implicitly or explicitly – those master tales, revealing alternative versions of how those stories we know best might be retold.”

(Andrews et al. 2010: 100)

Context and Process

→ **main focus**

→ **different levels (Organisation, individual)**

→ **Interviews**

→ **Being Present („Participant Observation“)**

Form an understanding of...:

- **Perceptions and Understandings** from civil society organisations/individuals of „Climate Change“&COP, **Linkages**
- **Mobilization and Translation** - processes („global narrative“ ↔ „specific context“)
- **Representation and Position**: Who talks at all, who is active – and from which position? And who is not? Who talks about whom? Subject – Object?
- **Intersections** (other „problems“, background, position,...)
- **Relationships: Civil Society ↔ Civil Society ↔ State**

Collection of first (!)
impressions / topics / ...

„Climate Change“

- **Climate Change linked to concrete/personal issues (pollution, water,...)**
- **Climate Change linked to concrete weather events**
- **Language of Science and COP**
- **Talk about Education (Who about whom?)**
- **Whose struggle is this? (↔ Role, Position, Occupation)**
- **A topic everybody can link to?**

„Civil Society“

→ **C17 – process**

→ **Political Process, Logistics**

→ **Unity? United?**

→ **March (everybody liked it?) Civilized Society?**

→ **Funding, „Organized versus Organizers“? Participation?**

→ **(at least) three different worlds? (CRC, PS, inside)**

**... ↔ Who talks about what? And where?
(March, Politics,..)**

Mobilization

- **Mediated and organized struggle?**
- **Workshops: Mobilizing around „Climate Change“, Links**
- **People were „brought-in“?**

- **Role of Communities, Turn-Out?**

- **Role of Government?**

Movement and COP

→ **Transnational? International? Parachuting?**

→ **How much connected? How is dominating?**

→ **Outcome (...?)**

Why...? / Motivation

- Develop an **understanding** of “local” consequences of a global event

→ **Political strategies / questions? Finding a way forward?**

→ **Global Connections? Global movement?**

→ **What lies behind „Climate Change“?**

→ **Challenging „Adaptation” paradigm in dev. discourse?**

→ **International civil society's perceptions of Durban struggles? (↔ Desai)**

My Role and Position

→ one perspective:

→ “Every view is a view from somewhere and every act of speaking a speaking from somewhere“. (Lila Abu-Lughod 1991: 141)

→ **“positioned truths”**

→ **“partial truth” - James Clifford (1986)**

→ **Inside or Outsider?**

→ **What do I bring with, what does that mean?**

→ **I chose to be concerned with „Climate Change“..!**

My Role and Position (2)

→ What does that mean?

↔ Understanding and limits of understanding?

↔ My role (Political/ethical position; Power)

↔ Right to write about what and whom?

→ What to do with the narratives?

→ Stimulate discussions? Raising questions? (in SA, in Ger.)

Role of Academy..?

→ **Activism ↔ Academy**

→ **Writing? Who is reading?**

→ **Writing up struggles? Romanticizing? Representation?**

→ **Mediating, Translating, Stimulating?**

→ **Trying to develop an understanding of...?**

→ **Gaining an overview, summarizing many voices?**

→ **Challenging (dominant) discourses?**

→ **Listening?**

Open points – Discussion, Questions,...

- Who was there? How didn't come?**
- Who was interested, who not?**
- Who's fight is it? In which hand is „Climate Change“?**
- Does a strong focus on „Climate Change“ and „Urgency“ (especially within NGOs and development aid) deviate/detract from other, underlying „problems“/“causes“ etc..?**
- Governments opinion on Civil Society organizing? (does civil society support government?)**
- Where does the struggle and the discussions happen? (In- and Exclusion?)**
- ...**

...to be continued, complemented and reconsidered!