„Telling Climate Change..“ – COP 17 Narratives

Research in Progress

- Foreword
- About me / Motivation
- Research: Idea and Concept
- Narrative Approach / Context and Process
- First Impressions
- My Role and Position
- Discussions – Strategies – Questions
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 opinon 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!