

What do I want to obtain from case studies?

By means of the case studies I use I intend to deal with the question: What do I want to obtain from these case studies? Layout and focus need to be considered in comparison to the aim of the project: to point out the relevance of historical and sociological insights regarding technology and its development to water and waste water engineering.

Firstly I will sketch out the preliminary set-up of the content of the final thesis. Secondly a brief description of the setting (the matter of rain water in water and waste water concepts) and the conceptual outline (elements and relations within socio-technical configurations) of the case studies will follow. The two largely used approaches “*Vision of Technology (M. Dierkes et al.)*” and “*Socio-technical Regime (F. W. Geels)*” will (only) be assigned to the circumstances they will be used for, but not discussed in further detail. The intended use of different approaches, however, might already be a critical question for discussion. Finally I will structure the expected findings. Therefore three sub-questions will be distinguished: What are socio-technical systems and how do they compare with technical systems / artefacts? Which further information can be obtained by opening up a socio-technical perspective? In what way could such insights contribute to an engineer perspective?