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Abstract

While a fellow here at IAS-STS in Graz, I have been working on two articles that will be part of my PhD thesis, both dealing with aspects related to Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). The first one is about the Norwegian ENGOs practices in stabilizing CCS as a viable climate mitigation option. The Norwegian discourse is considerably more CCS positive than what is the case in many other countries. Research indicates that the role of ENGOs has been important in that sense. More than just stating that as a fact, I wanted to look into *how* the ENGO interfered with CCS. Consequently, I conducted interviews with all the Norwegian ENGOs, as well studying relevant documents produced by these. It turns out that the two professional ENGOs, Bellona and Zero, have managed to somehow stabilize the CCS discourse, given that the other actors explicitly state that they do not want to have any opinion on CCS. They are rather happy with a situation where Bellona and Zero define “the official” Norwegian ENGO position.

In the other article, I am interested in expert opinions on CCS. My data consist of around 30 interviews with technical experts that work hands on with CCS (including capture technologies, transport and storage). Using framing as the theoretical approach, I find that the expert’s opinions vary considerably. Although they focus on different parts of the value chain, they all stress that CCS is more complicated to implement than most supporters like to admit. Apart from pure technical issues, the experts put forward upscaling and realistic time frames as essential factors to succeed with CCS. Implicitly they then blame the current framings of CCS as reductionist, because these socio-technological aspects are often excluded.