



Between Pure Science and Policy Involvement: Toward Socially Engaged Carbon Cycle Research

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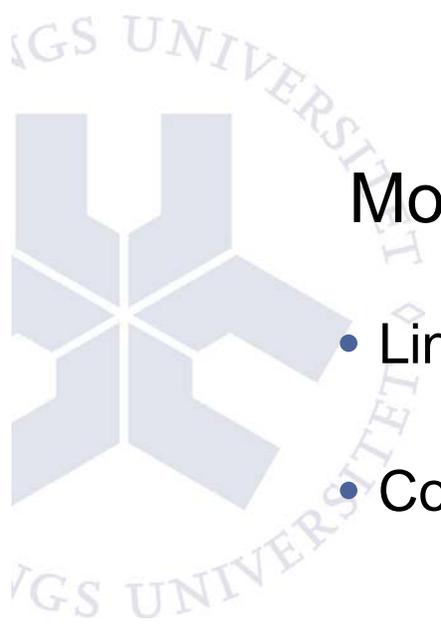
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Interview study

- Purpose: Compare how scientists and negotiators understand the role scientific knowledge plays and ideally should play in climate governance
- Semi-structured interviews
 - 7 scientists from the LUSTRA programme (Land Use Strategies to Reduce GHG Emissions)
 - 9 government negotiators: Swedish Environment Ministry, SWEPA, Swedish Energy Agency, National Board of Forestry



Models of science-policy interplay

- Linear 'science speaks truth to power' model
- Co-production model
 - Complex multidirectional science-policy interplay
 - Regulatory or policy-relevant science. E.g. IPCC
 - Knowledge situated and contextual



Findings I: Negotiators

- Linear model the ideal: independent expert knowledge necessary in complex negotiations
- Dependent upon translations and syntheses of research results. Government officials function as 'knowledge brokers'
- Call for user-friendly research and closer collaboration between negotiators and scientists
- Demarcation necessary: avoid politicisation of science



Findings II: Scientists

- Linear model ideal: provide useful science and inform policy-making
- Limited insight into the Kyoto negotiations and the political implications of their research
- Optimistic about their ability to influence policy and provide useful knowledge
- Demarcation necessary: main task is to do good science



Conclusions

- Linear model the ideal. Multidirectional practice points to the co-production model
 - Scientific expertise central in the making of sink policies
 - Carbon cycle science shaped by policy agendas
- Carbon sink policies expert-driven
 - Knowledge-broker powerful agent
 - Value debates reduced to technical matters
 - Contemporary 'science-policy contract' a democratic problem?