Social scientist on board in long-term management of high level and/or long-lived radioactive waste in Belgium

PAROTTE Céline
PhD Student
Spiral Research Centre
University of Liège

ICEM, Brussels, 9-12 september 2013
1. Introduction

2. Social scientist on board on NWM
   • Return on researcher’s activities (2009-2012)
   • PhD Student embedded in an action research (2012-…)

3. Challenges: how to deal with it?

4. Conclusion
1. Introduction

- Reflexive view on my position as a PhD Student (Conference EREID, March 2013, BSTS Meeting, June 2013)

- ONDRAF/NIRAS, the Belgian Agency Radioactive Waste and Enriched Fissile Materials (AR du 30 mars 1981)

- Category B&C waste: no formal political decision
1. Introduction

Category B&C waste → still waiting the political decision

1. Introduction: Category B&C waste

Elaboration of waste plan
... - 2010

Adoption of waste plan
Sept. 2011

Waiting for principle decision
2011-...

Certainty period

Uncertainty period
2. Social scientist on board on B&C WM

Realised activities (Skolits et al. 2009) with regard to three dimensions (Laurent and Van Oudheusden, 2013):

1. Researcher’s relation with the actors
2. Political relevance of his work
3. Problems the researcher must face
2. **Social scientist on board on B&C NWM**

- Elaboration of waste plan
- Adoption of waste plan (2011)
- Waiting for principle decision

- Participatory Dialogues, IC, CC
  2009 -2010

- ONE year project
  2011-2012

- PhD
  2012-…

---

**External evaluator** → **Hybrid role**
2. Social scientist as External evaluator (2009-2012):

a CLEAR ROLE

Difficulties: Quite common

Consequence: Proactive attitude of the researcher
2. PhD Student (2012-...): a HYBRID role

Difficulties:
- Issues of a Prospective “action research”
- Unclear role and influence of the researcher

Consequences:
- Redefinition of the object of the thesis
- Methodological constraints
3. Discussion: how to deal with it?

**Guarantee of independency**

**Before my fieldwork**
- Convention
- Reflexivity

**During my fieldwork**
- Participatory observant
- Attachment / Detachment
- Double tutorship
4. Conclusions

• “interessement” work

• To detach with ONDRAF? No, embarked!

• Focus on the researcher’s independency
Thank you for your attention!

Céline Parotte
Spiral Research Center
Celine.parotte@ulg.ac.be