The (non)—Effects of Public Experiments on High-Level Radioactive Waste Programs.

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Siting processes: sensitive step of nuclear waste management
The « participatory turn »

- Strong local oppositions

- Larger public consultations

- Nuclear waste management as a sociotechnical issue
Nuclear waste programs and the territories seen as …

The art of government (Dean 2010)

Strong coproduction (Joly 2015)
Two case studies: Canada & France

- Nuclear countries
- Geological disposal approval (FR 2006; CAN: 2007)
- Siting process *in progress*
A threefold NWM strategy

1. An **official separation** between the siting process and the choice of an option

2. The **choice of geological disposal** as the option

3. Creation of specific **local information committees** for the project
1. Official separation between program and territory

But territories and R&D program(s) on geological disposal

Underground laboratory of Bure (2005-…)

New site - Call for volunteer regions

Existing nuclear site

Underground laboratory of Whiteshell (1984-2010)
2. Choosing an option

The political choice of geological disposal for territories

Underground laboratory of Bure

One site

Still nine possible sites
3. Creation of local information committees

Institutionalizing spaces for concerned publics
3. Creation of local information committees

Institutionalizing spaces for concerned publics

CLIS français

CLC canadiens
3. Creation of local information committees

Publics’ responsive
Conclusions

Territory and nuclear wastes programs

Both concerned publics influence program but at the margin (surface)

The underground remains the field of NW managers only

In France: strong influence of NW organization
top-down process

In Canada: weak engagement of concerned publics
very inclusive process
Conclusions

What is the aim of the participation? Improving/challenging the program or increasing trust/acceptability?
Thanks for your attention!

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Data’s

- Official and legal documents
- 82 semi-structured interviews
- participatory Observation

- 2 ethnographic fieldworks in France and in Canada