Social responsible innovation in offshore wind

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Research problem

How to systematically embed *social values* in the *technical and institutional design* of offshore wind energy systems in order to facilitate their *social acceptability*?



Normative evaluation of energy systems

- Stakeholders acceptance:
 - Subjective: people's *preferences or interests*
 - Short-term perspective
- Social acceptability:
 - Normative: what people *should* strive for. Enduring convictions about what is good or bad (inter-subjective)
 - Long-term perspective



How to identify normative societal values?

- -> Value theory
- Capability approach of A. Sen





Embedded values in wind energy infrastructures

- Examples embedded values:
 - Technical:
 - Underground cables to protect nature
 - Development of a super grid to increase reliability and reduce costs
 - Institutional:
 - Community ownership of wind turbines in order to serve distributional justice
 - Priority access for wind energy in the electricity system in order to stimulate sustainability



Framework for a normative evaluation of energy systems

		Subject of acceptability			
			General public	Market	Community
Object of acceptability	Technology	Component			
		Subsystem			
		System			
	Institutions	Regional/ local			
		National			
		International			



Type 1 value conflicts within T or I





Type 2 value conflicts between T and I





Type 3 value conflicts between different subjects of acceptability





Conclusion: Towards a value sensitive design of offshore energy systems

- Ex ante approach
- What institutional and technological designs serve what values?
- How to anticipate and resolve possible value conflicts?
- Trade-offs, complementarities, dilemma's?
- How to derive at 'value robust' designs?
- Need for context specific research & analysis

