

# Nature, Energy and Citizenship

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# The purpose

- **To discuss the possible emergence of a citizenship of energy.**
  - NB: Theories of different citizenships: gender, sexual, race, consumer, environment, culture
  - Building values and actions and practices from a (xxx) platform
- **A possible Anthropocene actor ?**
  - NB: The Anthropocene is both a reality and an opportunity to take a new responsibility, a new actor role where we can destroy, maintain or change the human habitat and know what we are doing
- **Not the institutions, not the big power forces, like MEC. The cultural value developments; the weak forces that may grow strong because they have consensus (discourse) and acts on routines, attitudes, market actions and symbolic behaviour that gain may form new institutional setups.**
  - The problem of understanding change

# Classic energy citizenship

- On the big scale: Energy is in the core of what make civilization grow or dissolve
- Skills ,knowledge, responsibility, practices, values
- Family based, practical, close
  - «Direct energy use» still important
- Linked to survival, production, care,
- Strong and rich tradition and symbols, still :
  - Campfire., braai, woodfired pizzas, candlelight, warm and inviting house
  - The Norwegian book on woodchopping

# From nature to commodity

- The idea of humans above and more «rational» than nature
  - Plato, (some of) the religions
- The Renaissance turn: Machiavelli, Hobbes and the rational governance form above
- The modernity turn: Governance by mathematics and statistics  
From Laplace and Quetelet to Soviet and Ragner Frisch
  - Nature has no value in itself (Marx and Market)
- The industriale era; Nature as an endless stockpile and garbage dump
  - All trees present and accounted for (in rows). (James C Scott)
  - To govern a forest 1 & 2 (Kaufmann & Tipple/Wellman
- The loss of nature (and authenticity) through commodification
- Electricity development as a neutral commodity without nature

# Industrial modernity and electricity

- The symbol of the victory over nature
- The symbol of progress (Lenin, China, SA, Norway, US)
- The ultimate neutral commodity without traces of nature
- The big power and big grid and the perfect commodity

# Critical voices and the longing «back»

- The commodification as a problem. (James Mill, John Stuart Mill, Marx, Freud, the Frankfurters etc etc)
  - Industrial problem, not only capitalistic
- Heidegger
- Rachel Carson 1 and 2
- The Environmental movement as a shift of values across ordinary politics
- New anxieties (Beck + Climate/Anthropocene)
- Authenticity (Taylor) and actor status (Chaplin : Modern Times, Metropolis etc)
  - Wine and whatches, your personal clothing, homegrown and personal touch, the role of things
- The strange «Slow Food» movement : pleasure, tradition, authenticity, personal connection



# Governance and values

- Popular culture is now full of indications that we think the culture and practice is wrong: form a wrong perspective of nature and want to be actors of a better relation to nature
- On the planet Dune (Frank Herbert 1965-85)
- Matrix: Background story: Human-made climate crisis have made energy disappear- Humans are batteries and the world we know is a fake construct. It is a battle to take «the authenical real» back, even if it is horrible.
- And Avatar
- Summing up: There is Awareness, there is a solid consensus of emotions and opinons.

# Taking the energy back, theory and practice

- New ways of seeing and handling
  - How to put values and emotions and responsibility back into energy
    - Tip: Wine is not only alcohol)
- The values are put back into the services
  - SCR: The utility or another company guarantees «good energy»
  - Political consumerism: active selection of the most sustainable energy
  - Investors are also actors: Green investments
- The energy challenge
  - Already starting (are you charged up for today ?) Routines and values are often changed without drama in the short run
  - Saving behaving, producing handling
    - The prosumer
      - Tools : Metering, smart metering, storing, producing , micro grids (Cinnabar)
      - Prosumer actions in production, storing, adjusting load grid management
  - Distributed, new grid structure, downscalable production



# Three forces that may join up and create an new citizenship of energy

- 1. The Climate /Anthropocene challenge
  - 2. The problems of nature and environment (incl pollution)
  - 3. Anti-commodification, the wish for authentic connection and actor status
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- Three weak cultural forces that press together end make a «responsible energy citizenship of the Anthropocene» more likely
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- Is this right ? If so, how is it changing the energy scene. If it makes changes, is it also an Anthropocene citizenship that is working ?