

**Special session: bringing participative methods to life**

**December 10, 2014, University of Lausanne**

**Meeting Notes**

**I. Opportunities and risks in using participative methods towards ‘sustainable consumption’:** *Discussants: Valerie Bauwens; Laura Devaney; and Joelle Mastelic.*

On the topic of marrying co-creation, non-certified knowledge, socio-ecological goals and research/private/public interests, our group came up with the following opportunities and challenges:

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
<p><b>The process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involves co-creation / community created process</li> <li>• People-private-public-researcher engagement</li> <li>• Through engagement, by investing time and being reflexive, trust among participants can increase</li> <li>• Participative methods can build on practice theories (work at the level of practices, not just individual actions or technological changes).</li> </ul> <p><b>The outcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A process based on trust can lead to <u>more innovative ideas</u>, ideas that are based on and promoted through stakeholder engagement.</li> <li>• ‘From hearing complaints to...having fun’: more positive relation to ‘customer feedback’.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to get the right partners / participants on board</li> <li>• Difficult to have equal representation from among the ‘people-private-public-researcher’ categories</li> <li>• Difficult to get different interest groups on board, in terms of aligning interests towards common goal/agenda; difficult to manage competing interests; difficult to maintain interest over time</li> <li>• Easier to involve researchers or people engaged in start-ups, rather than more established companies</li> <li>• Difficult for people to understand causal relations in complex systems.</li> <li>• Can be resource intensive (time/money).</li> </ul> <p><b>The outcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility that no ideas are generated from process, that ideas don’t meet expectations, are not valid towards societal goals, not feasible nor legal, or are highly normative and non-innovative.</li> <li>• Radicals’ dilemma: how to balance radicalism with reality.</li> <li>• Need for quality control, i.e., rating and ranking systems.</li> </ul>

**II. List of presentations**, made available to workshop participants via DropBox file:

1. Joëlle Mastelic online energy platform demonstration, [i-brain.ch](http://i-brain.ch)
2. Cheryl Hicks, role playing and visioning methods demonstration
3. Antonietta Di Giulio: Futures Wheel demonstration
4. Maria Csutora: Causal Loop Diagrams overview
5. Laura Devaney: Participative methods in sustainable consumption research discussion

**III. Participant list and emails (alphabetical by first name)**

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