DOCTORAL THESIS

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IT FACULTY

Through a multi-sited ethnography this dissertation contributes with two perspectives on DIY monitoring; how an institutionally organized initiative perceives outcomes of public engagement and how a grassroot civic mobilization initiative act and learn while DIY monitoring.

The institutionally organized initiative planned for public participation and wanted to influence people. However, they prioritized getting sensors up and running since not knowing how to address issues of empowerment. In the grassroot civic mobilization initiative, the maker-based social media setting allowed for meaningful participation through a participatory culture. By sharing knowledge, information, ideas, and feedback, members developed an understanding of the reasons for high levels of air pollution through productive and social talk. This new understanding was scaffolded through the social and shared practice as common community knowledge.

The maker-based civic engagement enables a particular form of interest-driven and peer-supported learning. This highlights the importance of social talk and the need to acknowledge local, experiential knowledge from interest-driven initiatives. Rather than finding members of the grassroot initiative changing their behaviors or showing traditional civic engagement regarding to matters of air pollution, they generate hyperlocal open real-time air pollution data.

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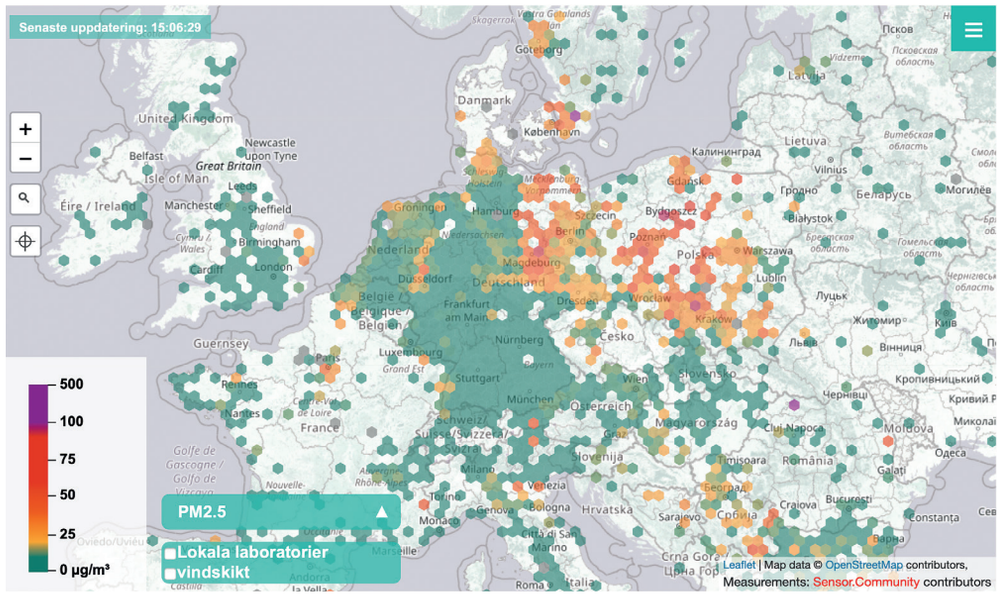

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