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- **The shaping and impacts of network alliances between science shops and civil society**

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- **Abstract:**

- The paper presents the results of a PhD project entitled The Making of Citizen Science – Network Alliances between Science Shops and CSOs Engaging in Science and Air Pollution carried out at Department of Management Engineering at the Technical University of Denmark. The project's aim is to understand how Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), through alliance building and network constructions with Science Shops and similar community-based research units, engage with scientists in order to impact air pollution problems. The analytical approach is inspired by Science and Technology Studies (STS) in general, more specifically by Irwin & Michael's (2003) concept of Ethno-Epistemic Assemblages, and by the Actor-Network Theory and Callon's (1986a) sociology of translations. A version of these approaches is used to study nine cases of network alliances between Science Shops and similar organizations and CSOs. The application of Callon's sociology of translation to the case studies contributes to understanding why and how the actors sought to stabilize controversies, as well as the mechanisms contributing to the networks' success in affecting the problems experienced by the CSOs. It is concluded that network alliances between CSOs, Science Shops and scientists can cause two types of effects: effects on the CSOs' original problems, and/or other forms of effects. It is interesting to note that these other forms of effects can result in both cases that affected the CSOs' original problems as well as cases that failed to do so. It can be concluded that CSOs can influence such actors as industry and local authorities and their practices through alliances with Science Shops and scientists. It is further concluded that the Science Shops' role can have decisive impact on whether networks succeed in influencing the problems experienced by the CSOs. When the Science Shops apply an impact-seeking approach, the networks are more likely to succeed in affecting the CSOs' original problems than when the Science Shops apply the mediation approach. It is also concluded that scientific documentation in itself is not sufficient to solve a problem but can be used to open discussions related to the problem. What is important is that the scientists in the Science Shop, or at a university department co-operating with a Science Shop, are willing to assume other roles than just being producers of knowledge without any obligation to bring the produced knowledge into a context, and without being willing to discuss the premises for the produced knowledge.