Citizen Science and Participatory Research on air pollution



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Outline

- Personal pollution monitors
- Environmental science and participation
- Case 1: Air pollution monitoring in Uppsala, Sweden
- Social perspectives on air pollution
- Case 2: Household energy choice and air pollution in coal towns of central India

Personal pollution monitors

- New set of PM2.5 (Particulate Matter) monitors since early 2010s:
 - Speck monitor developed to examine 1000s of fracking wells in Pennsylvania, United States
- Rapid development of pollution monitors:
 - Lower cost (<200 USD)
 - Improved accuracy (about 15% deviation to reference)
 - New features (GPS, new pollutants like NO2 and Ozone, apps to track and visualise data)
 - Build your own open source monitor (Luftdaten, HackAir)

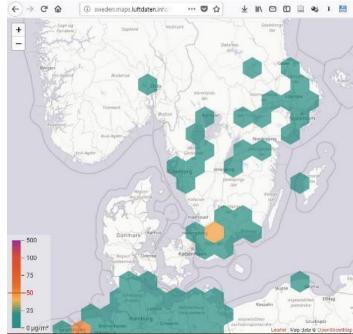


DIY Air Pollution

- <u>https://luftdaten.info/</u>
- <u>http://luftdata.se/</u>







Citizen monitoring and environmental justice

- The bucket brigade (Ottinger 2010a) or filters to capture pollution (Narayan and Scandrett 2014)
 - Benefit: Scientifically valid. Can go to court using results
 - Drawback: Expensive and time-consuming. Needs to be analysed in lab.
- Shared citizen-company monitoring (Ottinger 2010b)
 - Many companies and cities public readings as part of transparency

Ottinger, G. (2010a). Buckets of Resistance: Standards and the Effectiveness of Citizen Science. *Science, Technology & Human Values, 35*(2), 244–270.

Ottinger, G. (2010b). Epistemic Fencelines: Air Monitoring Instruments and Expert-Resident Boundaries. *Spontaneous Generations: A Journal for the History and Philosophy of Science*, *3*(1), 55–67.



Air pollution and public health

- Pollution is the largest environmental cause of disease and premature death in the world (larger than e.g. tobacco, AIDS, malaria) (Landrigan 2017).
- Particulate Matter are particles of 2.5 or less micrometre in diameter measured as PM2.5.
 - PM2.5 is "identified as the air pollutant with largest impacts on premature mortality and morbidity" (Amann, Klimont, & Wagner, 2013, p. 33).

Amann, M., Klimont, Z., & Wagner, F. (2013). Regional and Global Emissions of Air Pollutants: Recent Trends and Future Scenarios. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, *38*(1), 31–55.
 Landrigan, P. J. (2017). Air pollution and health. *The Lancet Public Health*, *2*(1), e4–e5.

Environmental science and participation

- The state is legally mandated to uphold environmental quality
 - This not happening at the moment in many places (but environmental quality is also improving on many indicators)
 - Leads to distrust of the state?
 - And distrust of environmental experts?
- Environmental science is well-established discipline with specific ways of measuring, estimating consequences on public health and environmental quality

Environmental science and participation

- Who has expertise and knowledge on the environment?
- How do we build trust between experts and citizens?
- Deliberative participation is ... recognized as the way to build trust in an environment of uncertainty" (Fischer 2000: 220)
 - Trust in the government
 - Trust in experts
 - Trust between citizens and groups in wider society

Fischer, F. (2000). *Citizens, Experts, and the Environment: The Politics of Local Knowledge*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press Books.

Citizen science

- Citizen science offers the chance for common people to:
 - Demystify science
 - Take control of measurements
 - Learn about the environment and your personal health
 - Potentially take action
- Can citizens generate 'good enough data' (Gabrys et al 2016) to build bridges between citizens and experts?

Gabrys, J., Pritchard, H., & Barratt, B. (2016). Just good enough data: Figuring data citizenships through air pollution sensing and data stories. *Big Data & Society*, *3*(2). <u>https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951716679677</u>

Air pollution and energy poverty

- Energy and air pollution are closely related:
 - Poor choice/use of fuel (transport: diesel over petrol, petrol over natural gas; homes: coal/wood over gas/electricity)
 - Old or badly maintained engines
 - Waste management (including road dust)
 - Lacking public transport
 - Inadequate heating systems (including poor insulation in homes)
- But non-energy sources of air pollution also exist:
 - Desertification, forest fires, agricultural fires

Example: Unexpected air pollution problems in Uppsala, Sweden



- There is only one air pollution monitor in Uppsala placed on a central road
- Construction forced the monitor to be relocated about 250 m

->Uppsala is breaking EU regulations!

Air pollution in local media

2019-03-01

A6 UPPSALA



Varje år dör tusentals människor i Sverige till följd av dålig luft. Redan nu står det klart att Uppsala inte klarar EU:s gränsvärden för 2019.

Uppsalaluften sämre än på Hornsgatan



Tipse UNT! Sms och mms: 72018 E-nost: 72018/Bunt se



Cykelkollen både rosas och risas. Vad tycker du fungerar bra och vad kan förbättras? Cå med i Earehookene pen "UNT Cykelkollen och tuck till



diskutera vardagen n andra resenàrer? Gà med

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holm och Gävle vid elva ol- ka mätstationer. Råde 2017 och 2018 toppar mätstatio-	Uppsala klarar inte gränsvärdet		
nen vid Kunggatan i Upp- sain när man ser till antaket dygn diver EDs gränsvärde Rie lvävet einskel. I föl diver- närefs dygnagränsen Eigen- er i Uppsala, villet kan jän- ken ned det tilläras värdet som är 7. Det innebäs att hui- ten i Uppsala är värre än vid de värsta mäntationerna i Sinskholm, som ligger längs Enningeleden och vid Horm- gatan på Södermalm.	 Vid mitstationen på Kinggastan mät halterna zv sprifikar som är upp till 30 mikrandeter lid anneter, så kaltader PM 10, och kvävel- onder PM 20, och kvävel- den som inte tilt dvarstärligt bland ansat PM 103 och NO2. Ella har satt upp gränsvär- den som inte tilt dvarstärligt bland ansatt PM103 och NO2. Ella normer är jardföst blandande och nages blåd som med dvävde över hela dans, attilt immar över 	regram per kabikenter tut mer än 35 gänger. Ø För NO2 för dygnomedel- värdet inte vara höger än d mikingram per kabikentet mer än 7 gänger. Antalet ti mar med mer än 50 mikio- gram per kabikenter får in överstiga 175. Ø 2018 överskreds dygno- värdet för partiklar 11 gån er vid Kunggattan i Opgata Fär kvi vesoker var det 31 dygn och 244 timmar över	
sentites i år har ti dygn note- rats över FULS gränsvånde, vi- ket innebär att det redan nu är klart att Uppsala inte kom- mer att klara EU-reglerna. Det innebär i förlängningen att Sverige riskerar böter om	grünsvärdet samt antal dygn där gränsvändet översikridt. Alla målen måste vara upp- fylldt. «För PM 10 für dygnsmedel- värdet inte gå över 50 mik-	gränsvärdet. Ansmedelvändet för NO2 läg på 36,5, vilket är strax under gränsen på 40, men isart över det svenska måj målet på 20.	





Flytten av mätstationen ett lyckokast

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"Det är inte ok att människor dör på grund av dålig förore-

Trafiken, framför allt dieselfordon, är den största källan till

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Environmental science and air pollution

- The Uppsala case is typical for environmental science approaches to air quality
 - A few expensive monitors in each city
 - Pollution modelling to extrapolate values for wider area
- This approach is showing limitations in most cities of the world:
 - Air quality is difficult to model in cities where the wind direction might change in unexpected ways
 - Bad air tends to get trapped in city settings (urban canyons)
 - Air pollution can vary significantly from one block to the next.
 - Professional monitors cost above 20,000 Euro per unit
- Lots of emerging work on distributed and/or participatory air pollution monitoring

Connecting pollution data to social settings

 Are the people in the picture affected by industrial or household energy poverty?



Towards a socio-environmental science on air pollution

- Nightingale (2016): Different starting points lead us to ask different questions about society and the environment
 - Leads to different research designs and questions
- Potential starting points:
 - Is air pollution about not exceeding certain threshold limits? If yes, carry out scientific measurements
 - Is air pollution about poverty? If yes, consider ways to explore differences in energy use or pollution loads.

Nightingale, A. J. (2016). Adaptive scholarship and situated knowledges? Hybrid methodologies and plural epistemologies in climate change adaptation research. *Area*, *48*(1), 41–47. <u>https://doi.org/10.1111/area.12195</u>

• "... how does the experience and experiment of air pollution and air quality data become a site of political, as well as potentially affective, engagement (Gabrys 2016:161)"?

Gabrys, J. (2016). *Program Earth: Environmental Sensing Technology and the Making of a Computational Planet*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Different approaches to pollution

- Effective pollution research:
 - Environmental science closely related to the governance of pollution
 - Can citizens measure pollution to generate reliable numbers?¹
- Affective pollution research:
 - How can pollution numbers connect to personal and family health challenges?
 - Personal health and the wider political economy

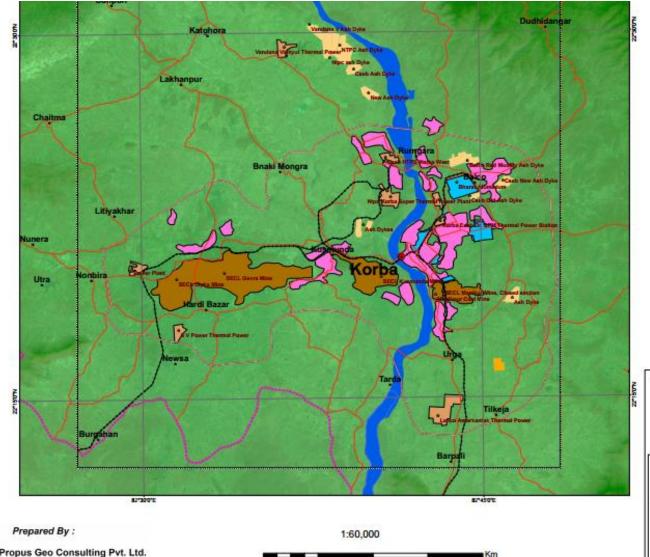
1) Low cost monitors are increasingly shown to be more accurate than previously believed:

Zheng, T., ... Carlson, D. E. (2018). Field evaluation of low-cost particulate matter sensors in high and low concentration environments. *Atmos. Meas. Tech. Discuss.*, *2018*, 1–40. <u>https://doi.org/10.5194/amt-2018-111</u> Bulot, F. M. J., ... Loxham, M. (2019). Long-term field comparison of multiple low-cost particulate matter sensors in an outdoor urban environment. *Scientific Reports*, *9*(1), 7497. <u>https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-43716-3</u>

Social questions around emissions

- Political questions around decision-making, voice, power and inequality
- Gender: Who makes decisions in the household?
- Behavioural questions: Monitors changing behaviours by making the unseen seen
- Health experiences like asthma connected to pollution exposure
- Cultural questions: What is pollution? Is it dust, ritual impurity, chemically-defined pollutants or something else?

Example 2: Household energy choice and air pollution in coal towns of central India



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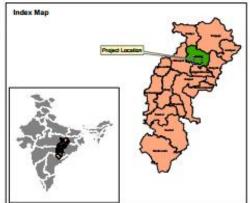
500

750

1,000



Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) Geodetic Datum : WGS 84 Zone: 36 North



Example 2: Household energy choice and air pollution in coal towns of central India

- All of rural India (and many in urban areas) rely on solid fuels like firewood, biomass or coal for cooking (about 800 million people)
- Especially damaging for the health of women and children in the home





 Household energy choice and air pollution in coal towns of central India



The coal laddu of Raipur, India

- Coal dust from iron-making units become coal cakes (laddus) when mixed with saw dust and cow dung
- An entire energy poverty supply chain created to make coal laddus (although gas cooking is increasing) with serious health ramifications





- Lack of energy security leads households to rely on 3-4 different cooking fuels
- Natural gas and electricity both appear as possibilities
- Well-known problem remarkably lacking in action
- The role of air pollution monitoring will be discussed in the next hour