

# Power to the people? : civic engagement with small-scale hydroelectric plants in India

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### **Power to the People? Civic Engagement with Small-scale Hydroelectric Plants in India**

door Johanna I. Höffken

1. Small is beautiful. But never stop asking why and for whom.
2. Researching the question of power regarding small-scale hydel electric plants should go beyond electricity generation.
3. Even energy futures that are green and clean may be socially unjust.
4. In contrast to the commonly held image, small hydel plants in Karnataka show that they are about benefits and not about blending into the local surroundings without any further interference.
5. Flow is not only about water.
6. Forms of invited and (un-) conventional engagement are not confined to the Western policy context.
7. Usually, research on civic engagement either focuses on the context of socio-economic development or on arenas of institutionalized policy-making. An empirical interest in issues of civic engagement shifts the focus from context to phenomenon and can thereby bridge separate fields of research.
8. Engagement makes sense also in terms of engaging beyond disciplinary boundaries, for example those between STS and Political Sciences.
9. When explaining forms, contents, and consequences of civic engagement with small-scale hydroelectric plants in India, the careful analytical distinction of different explanatory variables is as important as recognizing their tangled interplay.
10. Live fully, freely, and beautifully. (Regina Körten-Knott)