

# Engaging with risks : citizens, science and policy in mobile phone mast siting controversies

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## Stellingen

behorend bij het proefschrift:

### *Engaging with risks*

*Citizens, science and policy in mobile phone mast siting controversies*

**Marijke Hermans**

1. Siting conflicts are not technical problems with social aspects, but social problems with technical aspects (this dissertation)
2. Enforcing a national policy without taking local aspects and concerns into account and without acknowledging a decisive role for local authorities in the policy process adds to the emergence and sustainment of siting controversies (this dissertation)
3. The existence of and easy access (through the Internet) to a strong counter-expertise network has made citizens more articulate and reflexive of democratic processes around technology development and implementation (this dissertation)
4. The risk framing of public issues that touch upon important democratic themes does not bring about the desired rational discussion of scientific facts, but instead polarizes the debate and transforms the role of science from judge to being judged itself (this dissertation)
5. The interdisciplinary field of risk research could benefit from more constructivist work that does not draw boundaries between subjective and objective risks, experts and laypeople and science and non-science
6. Interviewing is as much about the social skills of informal talk, friendliness and openness as it is about asking the right questions
7. A big challenge for researchers working in Science and Technology Studies (STS) and Risk Governance is to convey nuanced and contextualized messages to an audience of risk managers that prefers simplified models to compartmentalize the world they operate in
8. Disseminating work to a non-academic audience that can make a difference in the controversies studied should be equally, if not more important, than publishing in high-ranked journals
9. Academic researchers can benefit greatly from dancing and yoga as it helps the body (and brain!) to adapt and regenerate
10. "One of the hardest things about writing is the messiness, or at least a willingness to allow for it, to take chances, to let go of an easy and orderly path." Rich Furman, 2013, [writepublishthrive.blogspot.nl](http://writepublishthrive.blogspot.nl)

*Maastricht, 4 December 2014*