

## Abstract for 12<sup>th</sup> IAS-STs Annual Conference, Graz, May 2013

### Hostages of the future – the Norwegian debate on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

In this paper I discuss time and future scenarios in connection to greenness, taking the Norwegian debate on Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) as my point of departure. CCS is considered one of the most important pillars in Norwegian climate politics, both in terms of prestige and spending. Prime Minister Stoltenberg referred to the development of such technology as Norway's "moon landing" in his New Year speech in 2007.

The development of technology for Carbon Capture and Storage can be understood in terms of giving promises of a better future, one that can combine a continued use of fossil fuels and meeting the carbon emission cut targets. What I want to emphasize here, inspired by the Sociology of Expectations in STS is how the actors decouple the *vision* of a clean future from the *facts on the ground*. My empirical study show that a diverse group of actors from politics, business and environmental NGOs has put so much effort into this that they have been hostages of the future; i.e. with facts on the ground decreasingly promising, the actors rather than taking it at its face value, continue to re-create new scenarios and visions for this technology to come into being. Future stands out as something separate from the present; the result is that hope, need and necessity are fueling the technological future, not the realism in the project in itself.

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