Responsibility and governance in the climate engineering discourse of science and policy

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The overall objective of the project is a better understanding of how CE has emerged, and will continue to emerge, as a field of research and technology development that has the potential to change the ways in which the global challenge of climate change has been addressed both scientifically and politically, by investigating the ways in which actors concerned with CE articulate and value its challenges and opportunities both within (TUD) and beyond (AAU) the PP. By situating the PP in the broader landscape of debate and decision-making, we also aim at advancing capacity building in the PP, enabling it to better understand, and operate in, the unfolding network of CE-related controversies, interactions and strategies.

We will first argue that with regard to climate change the science-policy nexus is of key strategic importance because of the interrelations between scientific assessment of climate research, science-based policy advice, and policy making. Outlining preliminary results of the Work Package on “CE, responsible research and governance: discourses in scientific and policy arenas”, second, we will present our approach to a both quantitative and qualitative discourse analysis across various domains (i.e. science, policy making, and civil society). Based on a comprehensive corpus of CE-related publications compiled in the project, we will outline the conceptual significance and articulations of responsibility and governance in light of fundamental challenges, such as uncertainty and risk. Against this background, third, we will interpret the findings with regard to the discursive configuration of CE as a “third option” of climate policy and provide an outlook on further research.