Some key terms

- Discourse (Hajer 2005 p. 300): “Ensemble of ideas, concepts and categories through which meaning is given to social and physical phenomena, and which is produced and reproduced through identified set of practices”

- Discourse Analysis = study of language in use

- Over 57 varieties (Gill 2000)
Some key terms

- Discourse (Hajer 2005 p. 300): “Ensemble of ideas, concepts and categories through which meaning is given to social and physical phenomena, and which is produced and reproduced through identified set of practices”

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- Over 57 varieties (Gill 2000)

Example of discourse analysis

Maarten Hajer: making sense of events in contemporary politics

1) Politics of the environment and risk (acid rain in UK and NL, BSE in UK)
   discourse analysis (sets of ideas, discourse coalitions etc)
   processes of argumentation

2) Dramatic political events (reconstruction of ‘ground zero’, political assassinations)
   dramaturgical analysis (staging, setting, performance)

(see reading, plus Hajer & Versteeg 2005; Hajer & Uitermark 2008)
Analysis of Acid Rain Discourses (i)

Maarten Hajer 2005

1) Politics of the environment and risk (acid rain in UK and NL, BSE in UK)

Acid Rain:
DA offered an alternative to realist accounts of environmental politics

p. 299: “In the case of acid rain, large groups of dead tress are, of course, not a social construct; the point is how one makes sense of dead trees”

Key Components of Hajer’s Argumentative Discourse Analysis

From Hajer 2005

Metaphor: stands for something else (e.g. acid rain)

Storylines: condensed narratives (SO2 from UK power stations acidified Swedish lakes)

Discourse Coalitions:

i: group of actors who in the context of a set of practices, share storylines
ii. Ensemble of storylines, the actors that use these, and the practice through which these storylines are expressed

Hajer (2005) outlines TEN steps in the analysis
### Data generation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods</th>
<th>Examples of sources of data</th>
<th>Kinds of Data Yielded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observing</td>
<td>Meetings, Legislative sessions, Agency programs and activities, Consultative processes, Media events</td>
<td>Acts, Interactions, Non-verbal language, Uses of objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interviewing</td>
<td>Various policy actors, the public, interest groups, ‘stakeholders’, politicians</td>
<td>Spoken languages - transcripts, Non verbal language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Document Analysis</td>
<td>Archives, files, memos, letters, notes, annual reports, surveys, studies, newspapers, journals, parliamentary hansard, press releases, meeting minutes, websites, social media</td>
<td>Written language, Description of objects, intentions, Historical records of events, acts, interactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant observation, ethnography</td>
<td>Implementing agency programs, offices, Decision making bodies (Legislatures, committees), Public processes (public participation, protests), Organisational dynamics (Community groups, Interest groups)</td>
<td>All of the above, plus informal information from 'being there'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Adapted from Yanow 2000, p. 39

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**Another Example…**


- my study asked: how is representation enacted in the context of policy networks? **case study:** energy reform in the Netherlands

- ‘making sense’ of representation through its:
  1. performance (dramaturgical analysis)
  2. language (discourse analysis)
Dramaturgical analysis

Parliament

Stage 4
- In-departmental Directorates

Stage 5
- EZ Ministry
- VROM Ministry
- Other Ministries

Stage 3
- Energy Governing Organ (2008 - 2013)

Stage 2
- New Gas 2003
- Sustainable mobility 2004
- Biomass 2005
- Chain efficiency 2005
- Sustainable electricity 2006
- Built environment 2006

Stage 1
- Project 1/2/3/4
- Project 1/2/3/4
- Project 1/2/3/4
- Project 1/2/3/4
- Project 1/2/3/4
- Project 1/2/3/4
- Project 1/2/3/4
- Project 1/2/3/4

Language of representation …

- problematic for innovation
- unnecessary
- knowledge
- political representation is …

- acting for particular interests
- standing for something (symbolic)
- collective problem solving
Empowered spaces

Public spaces

Tracking Discourses in a Deliberative System over time

$t_1$ $t_2$ $t_3$

$t_1$

$t_2$

$t_3$

time

Suggested data collection for first case study (pilot)

empowered spaces e.g.
- Parliaments
- Local govt meetings/hearings
- Govt dept/ regulators
- Independent reviews
- Expert committees

public spaces e.g.
- Community protests
- Stakeholder forums
- Community meetings
- Mass media
- Community forums
- Social media

Qualitative
- Interviews (5-10)
- Documents (3-4 per site), media

Big data
- Twitter, facebook, media

Informing where to focus big data collection
Questions?

How do we select ‘emblematic’ issues’?

What criteria should we use to determine what specific empirical materials (and institutional responses) to study?

How can we bring a temporal dimension into discourse analysis?
References and further reading


