

HoNESt: WP 2: History project

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The Call

1. HoNESt project is divided in two parts:
 - 1.1. First historians collect facts and figures focusing on the interaction between nuclear industry and civil society.
 - 1.2. The data will be passed to the social scientists for analyzes.
 - 1.3. Mechanisms affecting the contested interplay between nuclear industry and civil society is identified.
 - 1.4. Conclusions and policy recommendations.

Re-structuring the Call:

1. HoNESt will work as one united team of researchers. Collaboration between historians and social scientists shape the data project.
2. Historians will participate to the analyses of the data, thus providing novel information for the social science team.
3. Collaboration between the two HoNESt teams is necessary in order to contextualize the historical information.



The Tasks

Data collection:

- HoNESt partners were organized to collect primary and secondary data and conduct interviews.
- The data bank was created to store the information and the help the researchers to collaborate with each other.
- The data project was completed by the end of the first year of the project.

Short Country Reports:

- Historical data collected during the first year of the project was analyzed and processed into 20 short country reports. The structure and the content of the reports was renegotiated several times during the first and second year of the project. ---The SCRs include:
 1. Historical narrative
 2. Five micro historical events (illuminate the relationship between nuclear industry and civil society)
 3. A show case
 4. Facts and figures



Key arguments shaping nuclear energy and civil society interaction, part 1.

Arguments in favour:

1. Nuclear power has enhanced the economic growth and improved standards of living.
2. Nuclear power has advanced scientific and technological developments
3. Nuclear power has contributed to the building of modern industrial society.
4. Nuclear power has bolstered national energy policies by providing long-term and relatively stable baseload to the energy systems.

Arguments against:

1. Nuclear energy has harnessed economic resources and thus, slowed down the development of alternative energy sources.
2. Nuclear power has created unpredictable risks.
3. Civilian nuclear power has sustained relationship to the military industrial complex and therefore maintained social and political tensions.
4. Major nuclear accidents have provoked environmental and health hazards that created psychological stress among the general population.
5. The management of nuclear waste is unsolved.



Key mechanisms shaping the interaction between nuclear industry and civil society

1. *Undefined tolerance of risk:*

- When nuclear power stations are licensed and built, it is assumed that the civil society tolerates nuclear risks.
- However, history demonstrate that the civil society has low tolerance of risk. Nuclear establishment seemed unable to handle fear, anxiety and panic.

2. *Life-threatening nature of nuclear power:*

- Nuclear energy is risky and dangerous and the risks cannot be fully negotiated.
- Nuclear establishment defines the risks through scientific and technological lens.
- Civil society defines the risks through pre-existing biases and historical lens.
- In case of accident, it is the civil society, not the nuclear establishment that determines the status of the nuclear industry
- Securitization of nuclear energy, if the nuclear industry is defined as life-threatening phenomenon.

3. *Balance of fear*

- Without common language and without common approach to risks, no closure to the interaction between civil society and nuclear industry can be reached.
- Transnational governance of nuclear energy came late and was established after major accidents.

