

Energy Transitions, Ownership and the city: conflicts about remunicipalisation in Germany

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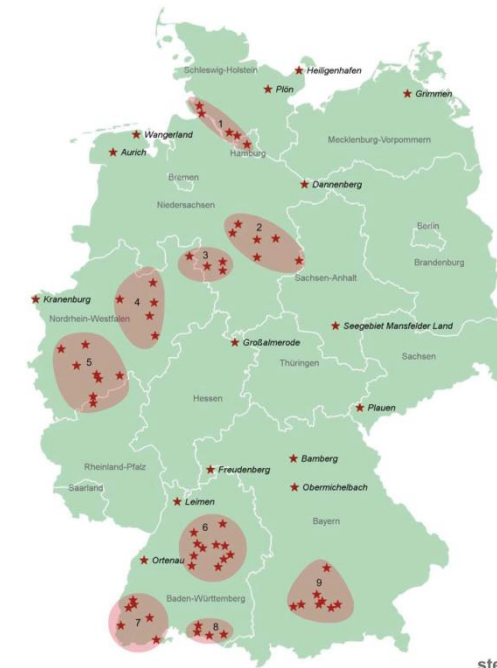
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Bergen Energy Lab

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Remunicipalisation: an overview

- More than 200 remunicipalisations in the German energy sector
- Different types of municipalities, regional clustering
- Different forms:
 - Founding companies (private/ public law)
 - Buying back shares or company units from private suppliers
 - Extending of business activities to energy sector
 - Extending along the energy supply chain
 - Extending grid ownership



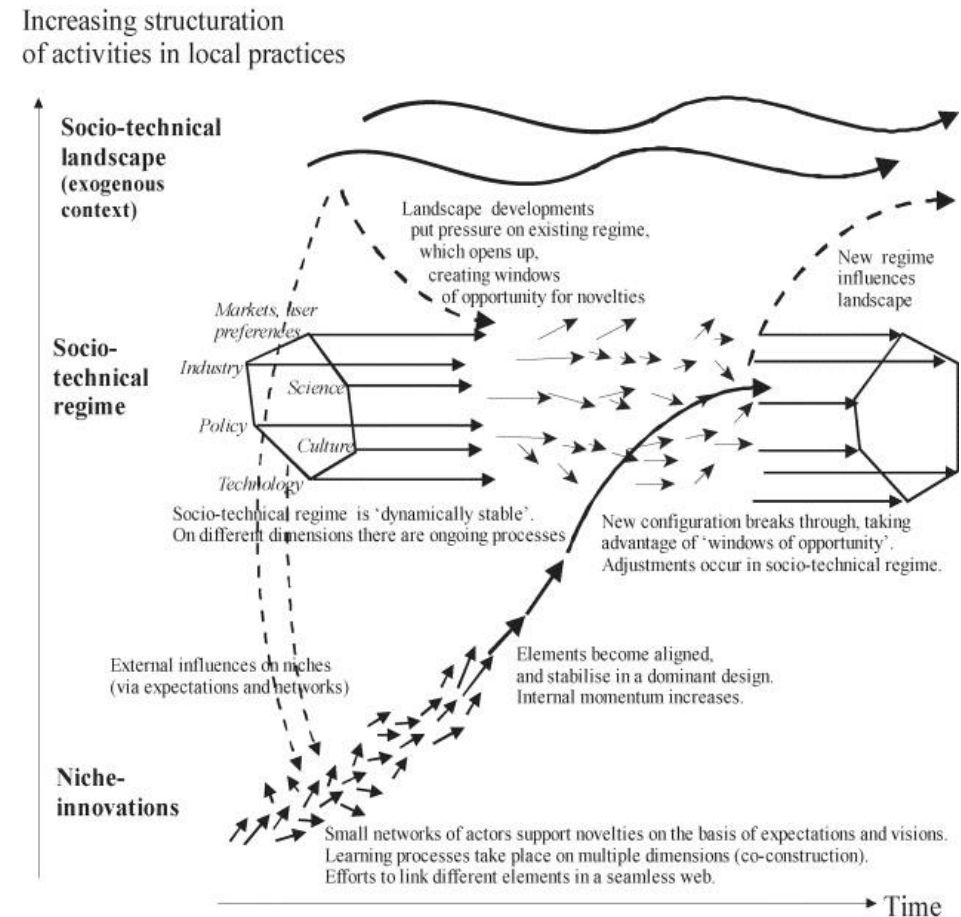
Berlo & Wagner 2013

stepmap.de

Legende:	★ Neugründungen	Cluster		
Cluster 1 Hamburg Schleswig Stadtwerke Brunsbüttel Stadtwerke Uetersen Energie Rellingen Gemeindewerke St. Michel Energie Hamburg Energie	Cluster 3 Region Wolfsburg Stadtwerke Springe Stadtwerke Vöhringland Netzgesellschaft Hessisch Oldendorf Miskener Stadtwerke	Cluster 5 Rheinland Stadtwerke Mettmann Stadtwerke Korschenbroich Stadtwerke Pulheim Stadtwerke Rönneburg Stadtwerke Löhner Abtal-Werke Stadtwerke Waldbröl Energie + Wasser für Wachtberg	Cluster 6 Stuttgart-Neckar Energieversorgung Mainhardt Wälder VES Sersheim Stadtwerke Ditzingen Stadtwerke Stuttgart Remstalwerk Staufwerk Energieversorgung Bad Boll Energieversorgung Lenningen Gemeindewerke Ammertuch Gemeindewerke Pfladerhausen Stadtwerke Böblingen	Cluster 7 Schwarzwald Stadtwerke Emmendingen Energieversorgung Ditzingen Gemeindewerke Unkirch Energieversorgung Tilsen-Neustadt Stadtwerke Mühlheim-Studen Regionalwerk Hochrhein
Cluster 2 Großraum Hannover Gemeindewerke Wietze Gemeindewerke Wiedemarck Stadtwerke Elm-Lappwald Stadtwerke Gifhorn GmbH Gemeindewerke Uetze Gemeindewerke Peiner Land	Cluster 4 Ostwestfalen - Münsterland Stadtwerke Harszewinkel Waldenich Energie Gemeindewerke Bad Sassendorf Hochsauerland Energie Gemeinsame Stadtwerke Münsterland	Cluster 8 Bodensee Gemeindewerk Altmühlbach Hagnauer Gemeindewerke Regionalwerk Bodensee Gemeindewerke Spillingen	Cluster 9 Region München Stadtwerke Pfaffenhofen Stadtwerke Landshut KU Gemeindewerke Windach KU Energieversorgung Oching Regionalwerk Würmtal Energieversorgung Putzbrunn Gemeindewerke Gräfelfing Gemeindewerke Oberraching	

Transitions: Evolution or politics?

- Evolutionary processes of selection and adaptation vs. „strategic niche management“ (Rotmans et al. 2001)
- Criticism: technologically-focussed and „spatially naïve“ (Shove & Walker 2008; Lawhon & Murphy 2012)
- Political economy of transition processes, structural opportunities (Geels 2016, Hess et al. 2016)
- Relationship between urban governance and urban transitions (Ernstson et al. 2010, Frantzeskaki et al. 2016)



Geels & Schot 2007: 401

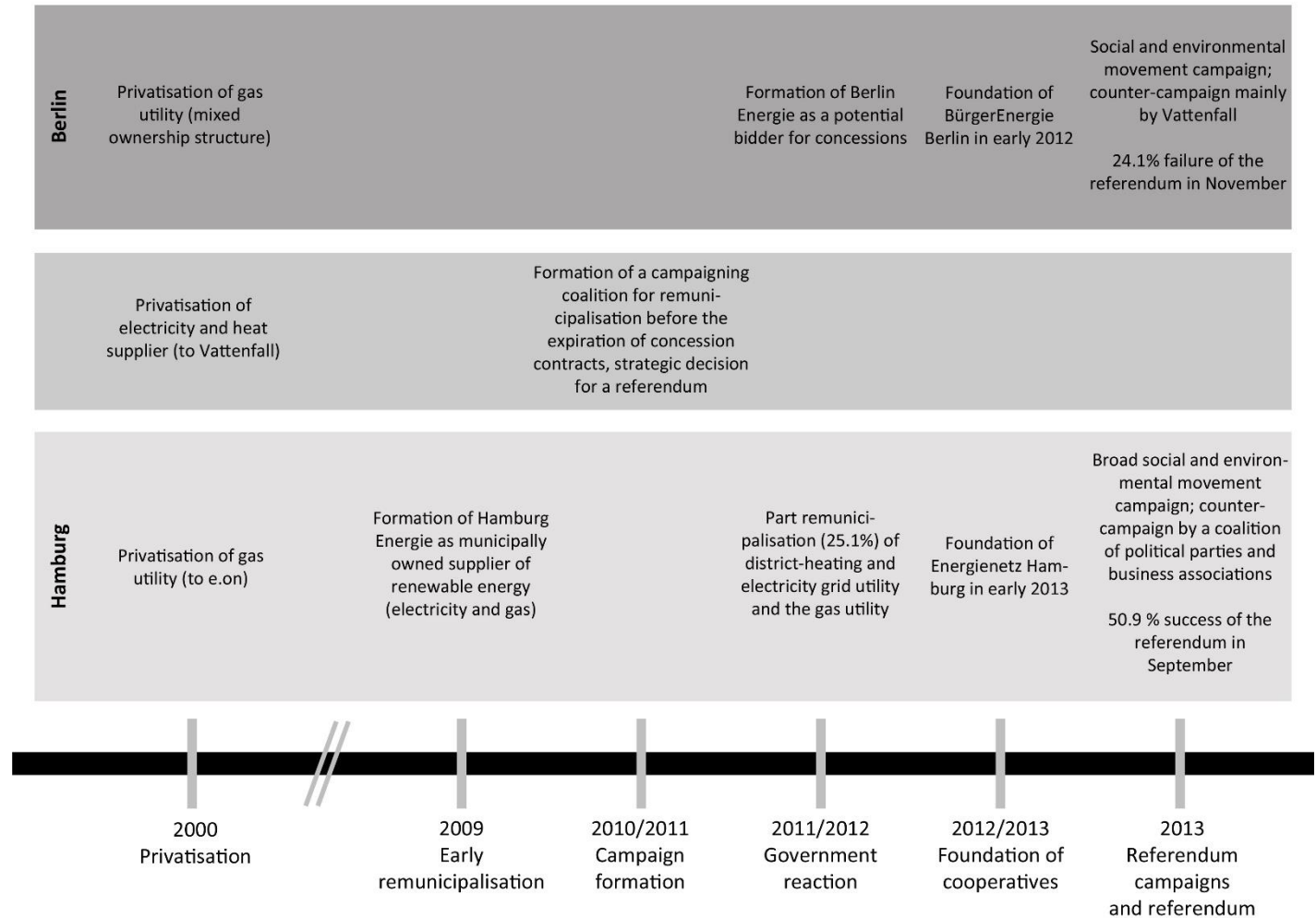
Remunicipalisation: a process perspective

Cases: Similar developments in Hamburg and Berlin

Methods: qualitative data gathering, and process tracing

Analysis:

- Aims and organisation
- Actor strategies
- Governance outcomes



Remunicipalisation: Aims and Models

Model „Green Market Player“

- „tied to aims of climate protection. The enterprise offers climate-friendly electricity on the market“



Model „Transformative Utility“

- “socially just, climate compatible and democratically controlled energy provision from renewable sources“



• Model „Citizens‘ Utility“

- Thinking of energy as a commons
- Legally defined channels for participation



The Berlin Energy Roundtable Model

Elements of the Berlin Energy Roundtable Model	Details
„Democratic“ Advisory Board	Senator for Economy, Senator for the Environment; seven Workers Council representatives; six members directly elected
Rights of Initiative	Each public proposal that can garner 3,000 signatures has to be put on the boards agenda
Public Assemblies	Public assemblies in the 13 boroughs of Berlin. Recommendations from these assemblies need to be discussed in the Board
Ombudsperson	Ombudsperson as a contact node for costumers and citizens

Remunicipalisation: Political Strategies

Foundation through formal politics and administration

- „Political strategy“ by the administration
- Neat implementation

Politics of Mobilisation

- Creation of social movement alliances
- Mobilisation and polarisation across the actor landscape
- Reply: side-lining, “rationalising”, counter-mobilisation

Politics of Implementation

- Expertises and consulting
- Legal negotiation and mitigation
- Reconciliating actors after conflict



Pics:
Unser Hamburg
Unser Netz



Remunicipalisation: Impact on Governance

Creation of anchor institution

- Build-up on renewable energy capacities
- Enrolment in coproduction and innovation projects

New normative base of urban energy policy

- HH: soft goals form new targets for urban energy policy
- HH: new channels for participation

Shifts in the underlying modes of governance

- Institutionalising urban energy transitions as a political field
- Legitimising an active role of the state in energy provision and politics
- Shift towards more neo-corporatist forms of urban energy and climate policy

Hamburg Energie capacity 2015	Installed capacity	% of overall capacity
Wind energy	13,4 MW	22,7%
Solar energy	ca. 12 MW	33,1%
Biomass CHP	7 MW	16,1%



Pic: Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg

Conclusions

- Ownership as a mediating variable in socio-technical transitions → organisational instrument for material change
- New models challenging given patterns of service provision and decision-making → “politicisation” of energy provision
- Effective renewable energy transitions as the outcome of political agency → “context shaping” as analytical tool

Thank you for your attention!

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