

Empowering Citizens in International Governance of Nanotechnology

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- Introduction
- Contributions from international relations and deliberative democracy to an ideal model for multi-stakeholder governance of emerging technologies
- Potential role of software decision support in democratising such governance
- Conclusions



Who am I?

Dr Ineke Malsch, director of Malsch TechnoValuation:

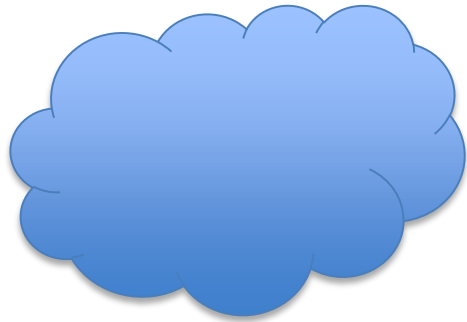
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- EthicSchool for Responsible Innovation www.ethicschool.nl/english
- EU projects: currently NanoEIS www.nanoeis.eu, NMP-DeLA, www.nmp-dela.eu and SUN www.sun-fp7.eu , SYNENERGENE www.synenergene.eu
- Publications on societal and ethical aspects of emerging technologies incl. nanotechnology.
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C.V.:

- Graduated in Physics, University of Utrecht, 1991
- Postgrad. education in Environmental Impact Assessment and Social Studies of Science and Technology
- Scholarship STOA, European Parliament, Luxemburg, 1995-1996
- Fellowship nanotechnology IPTS, JRC, EC, Sevilla, 1996-1998
- 1 year part time study Theology, KTU, Utrecht, 2004-2005
- PhD in Philosophy, Radboud University Nijmegen, 2011.
- Thesis: Ethics and Nanotechnology; Responsible development of nanotechnology at global level in the 21st century:
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Empowering Citizens - Introduction



This is a thought experiment

Assuming an ideal world

Where international norms are adopted democratically

By representatives of all countries and all global citizens

And exploring the role a decision support tool could play

In empowering citizens in international governance

During the norm creation process

International relations theory:



Actors in international governance:

Governmental	States
	International organisations
Trans-National Actors (TNA) or networks (Risse, 2002)	(Non-governmental) advocacy networks diffusing norms
	Epistemic communities (Haas, 1992) diffusing causal knowledge
	Multinational companies

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Epistemic communities (Haas, 1992):

...”network[s] of professionals with recognised expertise and competence in a particular domain and an authoritative claim to policy-relevant knowledge within that domain or issue area, with:

A shared set of normative and principled beliefs ...

Shared causal beliefs ...

Shared notions of validity ...

A common policy enterprise ...

The major dynamics of epistemic policy coordination are uncertainty, interpretation and institutionalisation”.

Three phases in the international policy cycle (Risse 2002) :

Agenda Setting	Trans National Actors most influential: e.g. ETC group for nano, 2003
International Norm Creation	Dominated by states and international organisations. Present for nano: joined by epistemic communities and multinational companies
Norm Implementation	TNA monitoring role. Future for nano

International relations theory

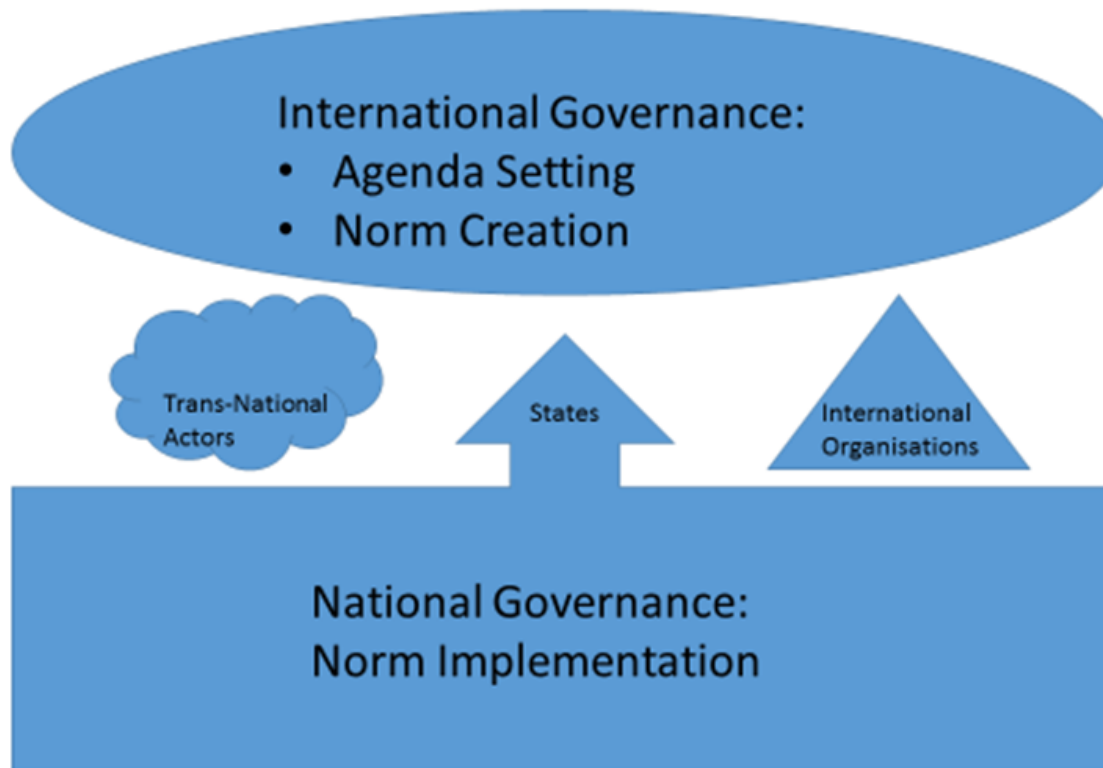


Figure 1: The actors involved in international governance following Risse (2002).

Key unresolved issues in the literature on transnational actors:

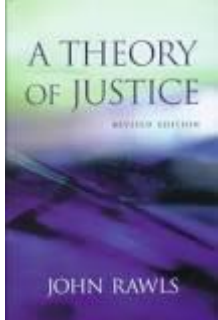
Risse (2002): How can global governance by increasingly complex tripartite networks solve the dual problem of ensuring ‘**input legitimacy**’ of those concerned by the legislation

And ‘output legitimacy’ through effective and enhanced problem solving?”

e.g. Malsch (2011): “how to **govern** the emerging technology **responsibly** during the period of **international norm creation**?”

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Input legitimacy: Rawls, A Theory of Justice (1971, 1999)

Deliberative democracy

Participation model of pure procedural justice:

those affected by a decision may participate in the process by which the decision is made

Justice as Fairness

Aims:

- a criterion of justice agreed upon by all under conditions fair to all;
- to assess the fairness of the institutions of society,
- to structure moral discussions
- while recognising the plurality of moral frameworks in a democracy
- and to justify the outcome of those discussions

Ethics and Political philosophy

- Input legitimacy (Habermas)

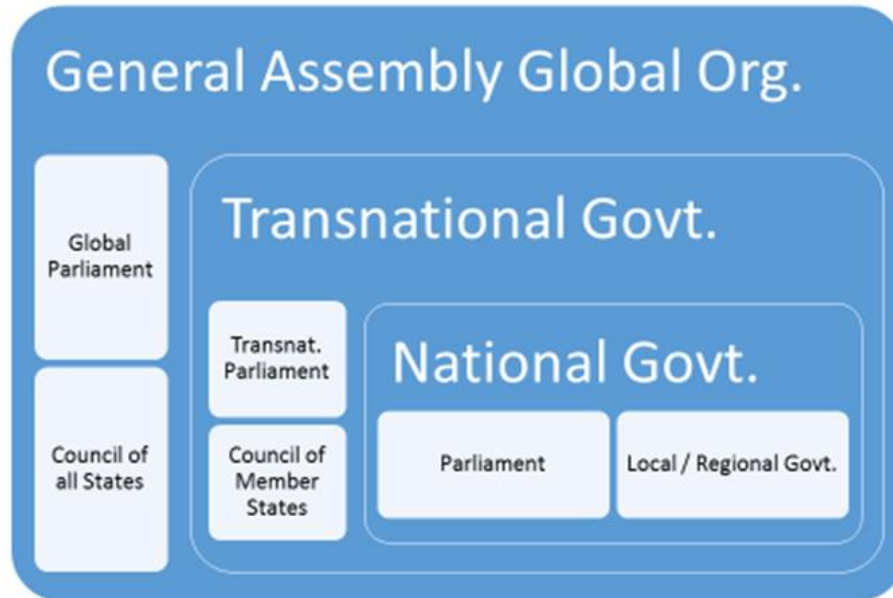
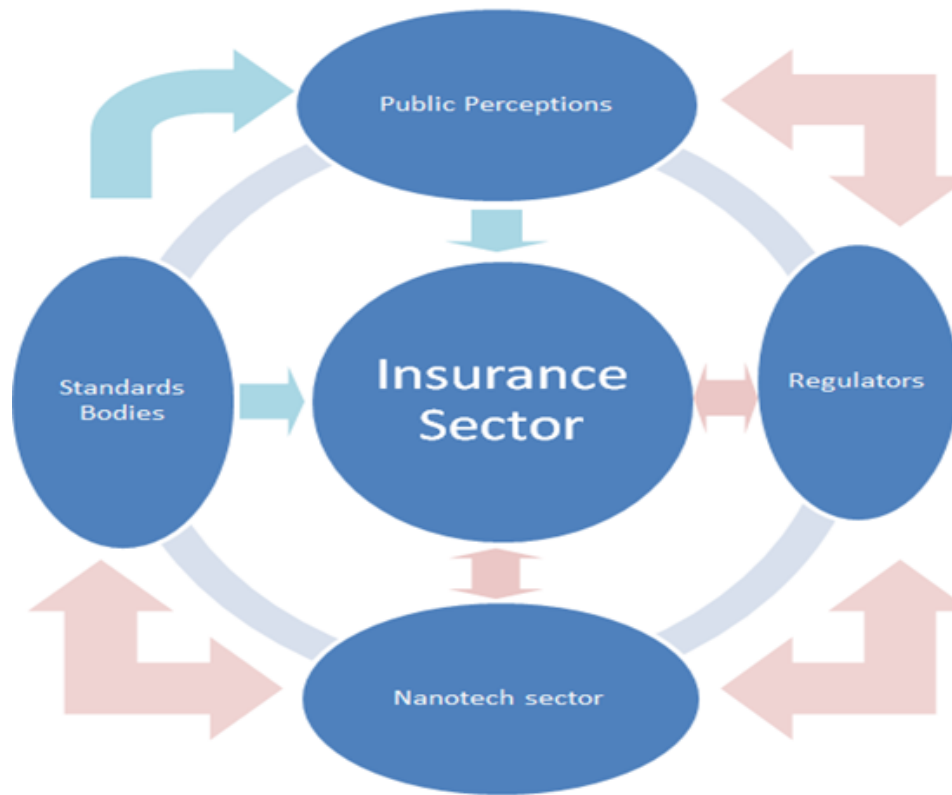


Figure 2: Combining Global and national citizenship following Habermas (2011)

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Ethics and Political philosophy - Governance during international norm creation

- Ethics complementing law
- Role of Insurance companies as proxy-regulators

Figure 3 illustrates how key centres of civic influence and decision-making can mutually effect and benefit one another through multiple self-reinforcing feedback loops.

RISK CONTROL

ADDITIONAL SUSTAINABILITY ASPECTS

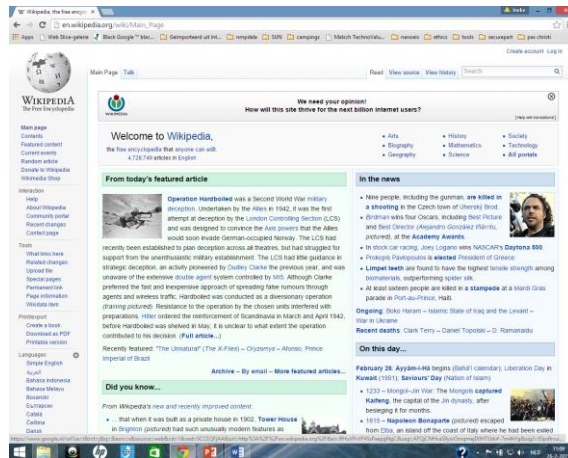


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Option: an MCDA wiki-tool

- Aim: contribute to democratising international norm creation
- Two entries: data input / value preferences input

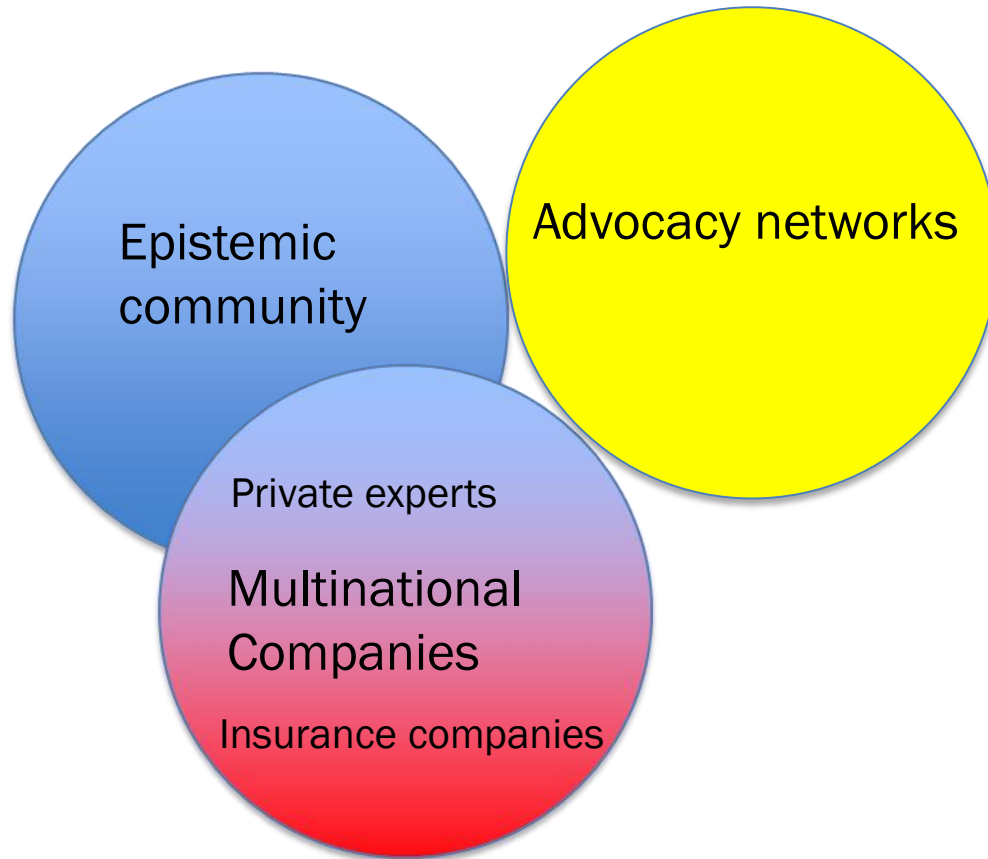


<p>Data input: aims:</p>	<p>Value preferences input: aims:</p>
<p>Support transparent formation of epistemic community</p>	<p>Support stakeholders to influence political choices</p>
<p>Collect relevant data and explicitly consider uncertainty</p>	<p>Develop indicators to monitor value conflicts between stakeholder groups</p>
<p>Support evidence based international norm creation</p>	<p>Support fair and democratic international norm creation</p>

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Empowering Citizens – decision support

Supporting access to the governance arena for transnational actor networks:



Supporting global citizenship	adoption of new international norms
Representative democracy	UN General Assembly & ideal Global Parliament
Direct democracy	all citizens participate in international norm creation

- International relations theory and deliberative democracy allow for sketching an ideal model for multi-stakeholder governance of emerging technologies
- Software decision support could play a role in democratising such governance
- Further work is needed to assess feasibility and to specify design criteria

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Empowering Citizens References

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