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Exploring Situated Agency in Governance

This poster provides a methodological perspective to study human actors and the socio-technical devices and settings in and through which they perform governance. By way of linking Actor-Network theory and Pierre Bourdieu's concept of habitus and field the agency of humans may be explored. This suggests to studies of governance a perspective to reconsider its conception of the role of individuals in the "doing" of governance. For this methodological endeavor I draw on organisational sociology and Science and Technology Studies. Both provide promising resources to conceptualise how actors are situated and embedded in socio-technical assemblages which may provide the source of agents' power to govern.

This approach will be illustrated by ethnographic material of agents participating in the environmental governance of the financial services sector. Following John Law's approach in "The Manager and His Powers" we may outline possible empirical trajectories to scrutinise agency in governance. The work of Bourdieu will be used to provide a frame for generalising from the minute details encountered in ethnographic studies.