

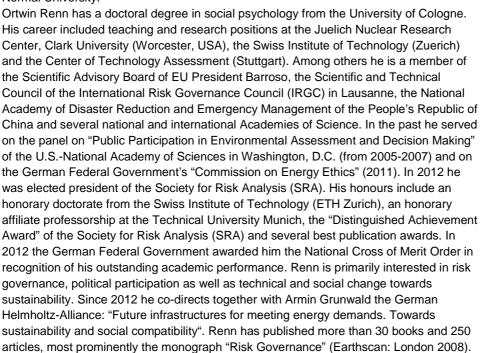




## **Umweltverträgliches Fracking?**

- Geologische Potenziale und technische Herausforderungen -24./25. Juni 2013 in Hannover

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## **THESES**

- 1. Public acceptance of new technologies and infrastructural changes depend on four aspects: knowledge about perceived impacts; personal benefit or benefit to people for whom ones care; self- efficacy, i.e. the belief that one's actions can make a difference, and identification with the proposed project or activity. All four aspects need to be addressed.
- 2. Public communication is only of limited value if utility and identity are at stake. In these instances open participation projects are needed.
- 3. For such participation projects to succeed it is necessary to articulate a clear mandate, define a time period for such activities and select a format that fits the purpose. Guiding principles should be transparency, legitimacy, fairness, and competence.
- 4. Fracking is suffering under several negative associations in the public eye: I can be seen as a barrier to climate change mitigation, as a support technology for large-scale fossil fuel extraction, as a risk for environmental quality and as an obstacle to sustainable development. In addition, local NIMBY movements are to be expected.
- 5. For giving Fracking a chance in public acceptance, it needs to be included and integrated in an overall strategy of energy and sustainability policy. If it can be viewed as a crucial element of the German "Energiewende" or any other policy towards a dominantly renewable energy future it may overcome its present perception of being unsustainable and contributing to additional climate change and environmental pollution.

