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Actors and stakes in rationalising naturalistic knowledge in France

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Managing Nature and People. The Production of Knowledge and Norms for Biodiversity, Part 2
Wednesday June 11 at 1:10 pm - 2:50 pm, Room: Jost Foundation Room

This session has been flagged to be relevant to managers by the author.

Public policies referring to biodiversity conservation is deeply link to the question of naturalistic knowledge required by their conception their implementation and their monitoring. French situation is characterized on the one hand by the shortage and high heterogeneity of data, that make difficult their capitalisation and aggregation ; and on the other hand is characterised by high variability of the actors involved in the data production including many associative structures based on voluntaries. This situation explains the set of initiatives at local and national scales which aims to organise knowledge and can be seen as a dynamic of rationalisation of the production of naturalistic data.

We will analyse this process of standardisation paying attention to these following questions. How the process of standardisation which deals with quality, use and circulation of the data can work in relation with the behaviour and the rationality of associations grouping mainly voluntaries naturalists? Does this process threaten some particular types of knowledge as far as they concern context, nature management and local practices. If we suppose that the way of carrying out power is deeply linked with the control of data production, we will highlight the way rationalisation of data referring to life conservation transforms the respective place of state, associations, regions and citizens. The European directives suppose currently that citizens must have the possibility to have access to naturalistic data.

The paper will examine these questions based on two kinds of corpus. On one hand, the analyses of National system of information about naturalistic and landscape whose target is to facilitate directly and undirectly the access to naturalistic data in France. The second corpus takes into account local association network, especially in the implementation of the habitats directive focused on the preservation of biodiversity throughout the European Union.

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