

Tracult

Translating HSE culture in the petroleum industry.

A quarterly newsletter

NTNU Social Research

Spring 2014

Tracult research group

Trond Kongsvik — Project manager

trond.kongsvik@samfunn.ntnu.no

The Tracult research group consists of researchers from NTNU Social research (Gudveig Gjørund, Petter Almklov, Kristin Mauseth Vikeland and Jens Røyrvik), Safetech (Rolf Bye) and SINTEF (Ragnar Rosness, Fred Størseth, Stian Antonsen)

Tracult advisory board

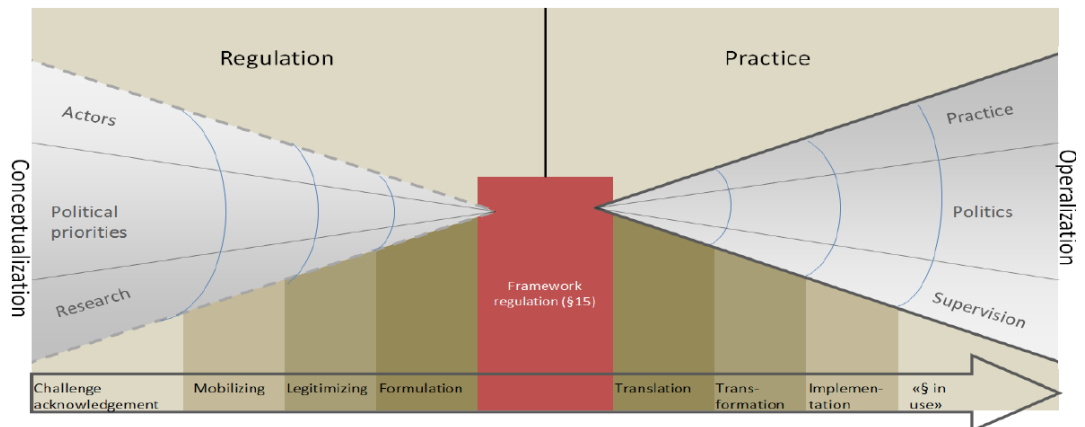
For quality control, ideas and discussions we have established an advisory board: Prof Jan Hovden (NTNU), Dr Jacob Kringen senior advisor (DSB), Dr. Dordi Høivik Vice President of Health and Environment Statoil, Dr. Terje Overvik Executive Vice President Regional Division GDF E&P International.

Tracult - overview

Up to 2014, Tracult activities has focused primarily on data collection from literature, documents and interviews. Although the interviews will continue, this work resulted in a material that has both depth and breadth - and that we now can begin to publish on the basis of.

An important starting point for the TRACULT project is § 15 in the PSAs framework regulation for HSE. Companies that fall within the jurisdiction of the PSA should encourage a "sound health, safety and environment culture that includes all phases and activity areas...".

We are studying the translations of the concept in its travel from authorities, through different companies and departments, to practice. We will also describe successful operationalizations of HSE Culture, and disseminate learning from these



Ongoing and planned (2014) activities

During the last year we have completed a substantial number of interviews in different petroleum companies, as well as with PSA representatives. We have discovered a wide range of different approaches and activities related to HSE.

During the following months we will continue to explore how companies relate to the HSE culture concept, also involving contractor companies in this activity. Some preliminary results will be presented and discussed in a workshop in august,

including company and PSA representatives. We will also assemble the reference group for the project for discussions around the preliminary results.

Work on publications from the project has started, and we are preparing three papers for the "Working on Safety" – conference in September. Two students are working on their master thesis related to TRACULT, and will complete their work this semester.

WP	Tasks	2012	2013				2014				2015		
		Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
WP 1 Literature study	1.1 Literature search												
	1.2 Construct database												
	1.3 Compile database												
	1.4 Write memo		D1	D2									
WP 2 Document study	2.1 Assemble documents												
	2.2 Emergent coding												
	2.3 Database development												
	2.4 Memo												
	2.5 Write Journal article												
WP3 Interview study	3.1.1 Prepare interview guide, Authorities												
	3.1.2 Conduct interviews, Authorities												
	3.1.3 Analysis, Authorities												
	3.1.4 Compile memo, Authorities												
	3.2.1 Prepare interview guide, industry												
	3.2.2 Conduct interviews, Industry												
	3.2.3 Analysis, Industry												
	3.2.4 Compile memo, Industry												
	3.3 Compile report based on D6 and D7												
	3.4 Write Journal article												
WP4 Integrated analysis and communication	4.1 Arrange dialogue conferences												
	4.2 Document dialogue conferences												
	4.3 RNNP study												
	4.3 Bulletins												
	4.4 Compile main report												
	4.5 Write two journal articles												
	4.6 Integrated analysis and advisory board												
4.7 Master students (2)													

The project progress are very much in accordance with the plan

The master projects

Two students; Andreas Ruud and Marie Nilsen, writes their master thesis as part of the Tracult project. Nilsens background is from bioengineering, and she holds a bachelor degree in biology. In 2013 she wrote about safety culture related to major accidents, and specifically how safety culture can prevent major accidents. Her master project focuses on how oil companies improve their HSE culture and how they relate to the intentions behind §15.

The point of departure for Andreas Ruud, is to study translations of §15. Specifically he focus on how a vaguely formulated regulation are translated to a more or less concrete practice by the companies. This involves understanding operationalization of regulations, which of the letters in HSE regulation that the companies focus on, and what kind of measures that are initiated as a response to the regulation.

One interesting element is to look at the different stories told within the different companies. How the employees talk about HSE at their workplace, how this is communicated, externally as well as across hierarchies of the organizations, and not the least to see how if the stories are incongruous or if the stories can be understood as variations on the same theme. By these topics, the master students wish to discuss and contribute to a better understanding of regulations and HSE culture.

Tracult deliverables

Three papers are written to WOS 2014:

The first one are based on the document study, is entitled «The function of culture in written communications from the regulatory authority to the companies» and focus on how culture as sign and signified in official documents.

The second paper «Regulating the intangible» focus on the intangible aspects of safety and organisation out of regulator’s reach, or are there ways a regulator can hope to influence the safety culture of companies in the industry?

The third paper «Internal variations in HSE culture conceptualisations», is primarily based on the interviews and both describe and discuss different translations of the HSE Culture concept in two petroleum companies

In addition to the papers, the database can be found at the homepage:

<http://tracult.samforsk.no/tracult.php>

New Partner in TRACULT

Tracult has been fortunate that we have a new research partner, SINTEF safety research. The Senior Researchers Ragnar Rosness and Fred Størseth have joined the team and contributed especially in analysing relevant documents. Next year the focus of their work in Tracult will be to publish results from these analysis together with researchers from Safetech and NTNU Social research.

Ragnar Rosness is responsible for SINTEF activity in Tracult

