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THE DANISH CENTRE FOR
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WHY DO ONLY SOME OPPOSE?

UNRAVELING THE NETWORK OF ACTORS IN CITIZENS' SENSEMAKING OF
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

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What's the problem

Before



After - visualization



What's the problem

Before



After - visualization



What's the problem



Usual responses:

- Time to think and formulate questions
- One-on-one conversations more satisfying and safe

In gas storage case:

- A way to prevent opposition from influencing others
- Robbed of their deliberative space



What's the problem



1. Why do we see opposition in projects with "good" participatory processes and low impacts?
2. Why do only some oppose?
3. What's the role of the planning and participation process?



Yes, we are all individuals!

I'm not

Shhh

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- **Sensemaking**

- Process of making sense of the world by enacting cues
- Focus on construction and action

- **Actor-network theory**

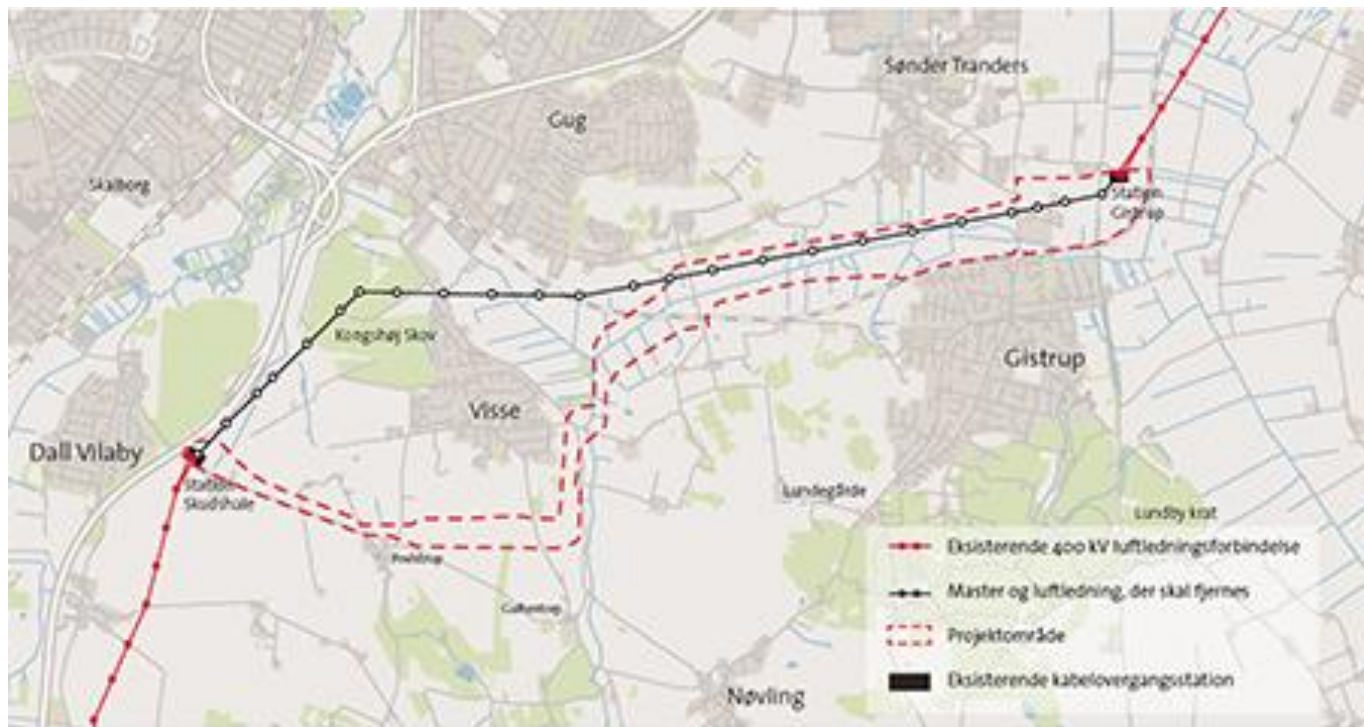
- Views actors as a connected network
- Focus on dynamic constructive associations



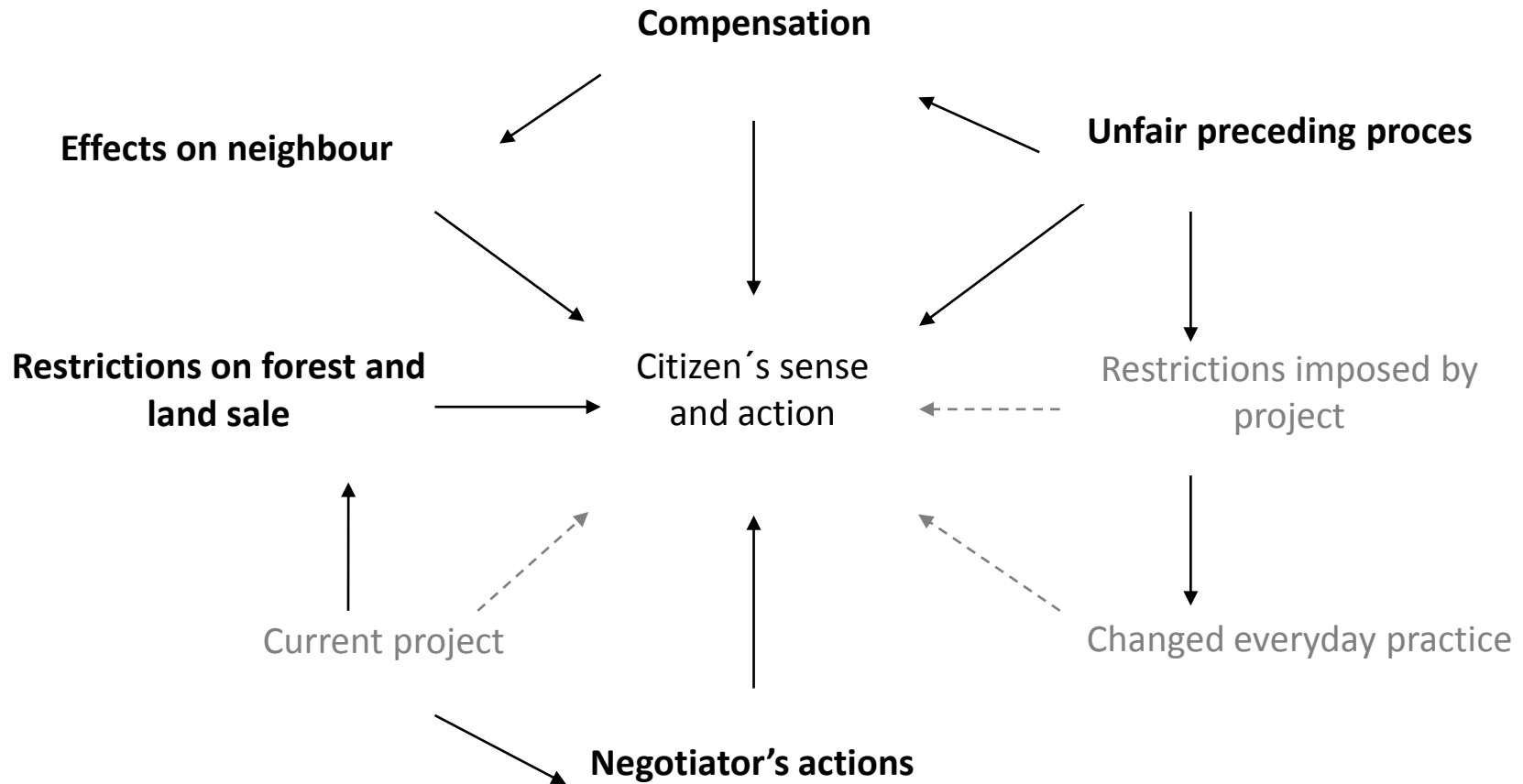
Case



Cable project – a low impact case



Results



Conclusions

- Many different actors influence sensemaking and actions
 - Past experience, identity (mental models)
 - Materiality and practices
 - The negotiator
 - The current project and participation process
- Difference between citizens is due to composition and dynamic in actor-network
- The planning and participation process most often activate other actors



Implications



- Good participatory processes still important
- **But** no one-size fits all
- A need for at more holistic approach to citizens sensemaking in order to understand conflict
- The project as a part of the citizens life not the other way around.

