Corporate sustainability comes in a variety of shapes and the boundaries defining what can be called sustainability are disputed. This study explores the making of sustainability at a medium-sized company in Sweden, in this study called HygieneTech, that actively works with sustainability. Inspired by theories from science and technology studies (STS), the author discusses how different versions of sustainability are enacted in practices.

The study is based on a theoretical approach, actor network theory (ANT), which understands reality as performed rather than observed, and since reality and its objects are enacted differently in diverse situations, reality and objects are considered multiple. Moreover, the notion “thinking with care” enables the study to tell new stories about how a company works with sustainability.

The enactment of sustainability is studied through participant observations, interviews and document studies. The study shows how different versions of sustainability sometimes clash and how they in other settings can be added together. Furthermore, the complex relationships between sustainability and other important matters of care, such as economy and cleanliness, are discussed. Lastly, the thesis shows how sustainability, while enacted in several versions, still can cohere through professional thinking.

Maria Eidenskog is a researcher at the Department of Thematic Studies - Technology and Social Change at Linköping University, Sweden. This is her Ph.D thesis.
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