

# **Tensions in framings of geoengineering: Constitutive diversity and ambivalence**

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## Abstract

Framings of geoengineering are multiple and dynamic, and the discourse appears to have low coherence. How, then, can we analyse and understand its inherent tensions? The paper conceptualises framings as articulations of the geoengineering imaginary, and analyses diversity among framings as well as ambivalence within them, as expressed by a selection of high-profile reports. The findings centre around attempts at performing two types of relationships. Firstly, the well-entrenched relation between geoengineering proponents and critics, as well as between the main geoengineering community and emergency activists. Secondly, the ambivalent relationships of the geoengineering community with the wider society and with the climate change mainstream. Many of the actors implied in the ambivalent framings are so far silent, and the ambivalent framings are therefore to be seen as attempts at re-negotiating relationships, rather than accomplishments. The paper argues that the geoengineering imaginary is not least about the creation of a new scientific space for the conversion of climate science into applied, experimental technology, and that the boundaries and the very desirability of this space are contested. The analysis implies that geoengineering is not just a thing to be responded to and governed, but an opportunity for collective reflection on climate change, S&T and, ultimately, how we as a society chose our problems and solutions. Theoretically, the paper argues that ambivalence, together with diversity, is key to the analysis of socio-technical imaginaries, and indicative of attempts at forging new relationships around such imaginaries.