

Publishing date	Author(s)	Project(s)	Article details
October 06, 2021	<u>Mario GiampietroAnsel Renner</u>	<u>MAGIC</u>	Words: 265

European electricity decarbonization: Contesting narrative credibility and legitimacy with quantitative storytelling

A recent paper in the journal Energy Research & Social Science by MAGIC researchers Ansel Renner and Mario Giampietro (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) presents a novel approach to the responsible use of quantitative analysis in the governance of sustainability. Rather than using complicated models that try to predict and control the future evolution of complex societies, the authors propose to first check the plausibility of proposed policies by means of *quantitative storytelling*. The procedure of quantitative story-telling includes:

1. identification of the narratives used to inform policy
2. identification of the relevant factors determining the feasibility, viability and desirability of expected results
3. a quantitative analysis which falsifies at least one of these three factors, indicating an implausibility of the expected results
4. identification of knowledge gaps in the existing discussions over the issue.

As a case study, the authors check the plausibility of ‘a radical decarbonization of the European economy based on a quick deployment of alternative sources of electrical energy generation’. Although the case study includes a high-level set of quantitative results, it is primarily methodological in nature. The authors conclude that the modern European energy system does need an urgent and radical transformation. However, before imposing drastic and ambitious policies, it is essential to check the quality of the diagnosis. The analysis undertaken flags the existence of numerous reasons for concern with regard to the current story-telling.

To find out which concerns, read the full publication (freely downloadable) [here](#).

This paper is an outcome of the MAGIC project. For more information on the project, see our project website: <https://magic-nexus.eu/>.