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**From controversy-paralysis to controversy-fueled collaboration: supporting the collective sensemaking of human-city-technology interaction with futures-oriented methods**

The development and implementation of smart city projects are giving rise to debates on the impact of urban technology on society. Frequently, smart city strategies presume technology as universally beneficial, providing visions that represent an ideal with clear goals and imaginaries. However, technology mediates the human-city interactions by digitizing and 'datafying' the material environment. Smart city projects can empower or disempower, exclude or include different stakeholders in society, leading to controversies. The responsible development and implementation of smart cities call for the provision of practices and environments where multiple stakeholders can collectively make sense of the complex human-city-technology interactions existing in these socio-technical contexts. This way, stakeholders can articulate and anticipate frictions caused by the existence of controversies, and collaboratively identify areas of joint action. This paper elaborates on the role of futures-oriented methods in supporting the collective sense-making of human-city-technology interactions, to realize the potential of controversies for the development of responsible smart city visions. To this end, we focus on two different methods: (1) scenario workshops based on agonistic-engagement approaches, and (2) design fiction. This paper provides empirically-based reflections on how these methods help to untangle a diversity of meanings allocated to human-city-technology interactions; and, by doing so, support the collective sensemaking of various stakeholders to identify areas and strategies for collaboration.