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- Biochemist, senior scientist at the CEA (*French Nuclear Authority*)
 - Head of the Oxidative Stress Lab
- Member of Sciences Citoyennes (*Citizen Sciences*)
 - Research Public Policies
 - Science - Democracy – Politics
 - Lobbying and disinformation
- Co-Founder of Cantines Sans Plastique (*No Plastics in School Meals*)
 - Ban of Plastics in Food Contact Material
- Expert Scientist in nitrite biochemistry
 - Nitrite in Processed Meat
 - Cancer League, Parliamentary Fact-Finding Mission
 - ANSES Expert (*Food Safety Agency*)
- Member of CNDASPE (*National Deontology Commission*)
 - Lobbying and influence of private sector on science and expertise



Laboratoire
Stress Oxydant
et Détoxication





Cantine Sans Plastique

No Plastics in School Meals

- Citizen parents organisation
- Plastics used in Food contact Material in school catering
- Exposure of children to carcinogens and endocrine disruptors

Low-Science

- Nature and decomposition of plastics
- Migration of additives and NIAS in food
- Toxicity and health impact of phtalates, bisphenols...
- Specific vulnerability of children
- Epidemics of NDC

Action as Scientist

- Diffusion and mediatiation of common sense knowledge
- Creating political leverage
- Seizing opportunities - Kairos

Ban of all plastics from school catering and pediatric/maternity services





Nitrite in Processed Meat

- Nitrite : a poisonous and carcinogenic compound
- Nitrite additives are massively used in processed meat (bacon, ham)
- Processed meat are classified as carcinogenic for several decades (WCRF, IARC...)
- IARC suggested nitrite to be responsible for this carcinogenic effect
- Public Health hot topics : \approx 2000 deaths/year imputable to nitrite use in France

French political context :

- Book and TV shows
- MP proposal to regulate the use of nitrite additives in processed meat
- Joint campaign of Foodwatch, the Cancer League, Yuka to ban nitrite additives

Action as Scientist

- Field of expertise / Vulgarisation papers on the biochemistry of nitrite additives
- Counselling the Cancer League and various deputies/MPs
- Participation to the expert committee of the Food Safety Agency



Rejection of the nitrite Bill – Resignation from the Expert committee

Science Activism : Success vs Failure

Lessons from the « Science side »

- Low-Science

No controversy, no dead-angle, simple and common-sense knowledge

Easy to share and improve people's literacy

Bisphenol A has been first used as an hormone, would you give hormones to your toddlers ?

- Empowerment

“Citizen knowledge” becomes obvious and is implemented in everyday life

Public policies just follow the common-sense practices

That was the case for plastics, not for nitrite :

- Complex Knowledge hard to share
- The Expert's curse : Reflexivity; relation to knowledge, doubts, uncertainties
- Difference between the political and scientific ethos

Science Activism : Success vs Failure

Lessons from the « Politics side »

- Political loophole
Major citizen/political initiative against plastic pollution
Plastics FCM, no major political issue for the French Government
European lobbyists and industrial stake-holders did not pay attention
- Local vs National / Citizen vs Politics
Citizen mobilisation and activism (parents)
Local issues and actors
→ National decision

That was the case for plastics, not for nitrite

- Massive agro-industrial lobbying
- Long engagement in disinformation and dysregulation
- Revolving doors and tight connections between administration/politics and interest groups
- Science : negligible and reduced as a political instrument

And now, how would you do ?