Arrival and parking

Registration is between 12.30pm and 1pm on Thursday 7th June in Parliament Hall in St Mary’s Quad, South Street. You will find a map of University buildings in the email. Free roadside parking is available overnight on the Scores (please see map).

Accommodation

Accommodation is provided in Mackintosh Hall, Check in time in 2pm unless you have arranged for an early arrival. Breakfast is provided on the morning of June 8th from 8 – 9am. Please note that check out time is 10am and you will therefore need to check out after breakfast and before coming to the conference. There will be a space for you to leave your bags in Mackintosh Hall.

Conference organisers and contact details

Please find names and contact numbers of the conference organizers below. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time during the conference.

Lucy Anderson - 07903 665211
Rod Bain - 07794 753647
Rebecca Folly - 07703 629043
Alex Gnanapragasam - 07840 008505
Rhona McLaren - 07793 413825

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency whilst in St Andrews please dial 999. Please then contact one of the conference organisers on the above telephone numbers.
Programme of Events

Day 1: Thursday 7th June

1230 – 1300  **Registration**

Parliament Hall, St Mary’s Quad, South Street

1300 – 1430  **Interactive Poster Marketplace**

Parliament Hall

*Presenters will be invited to share their posters with participants in a friendly ‘marketplace’ format. All participants are asked to think of common themes/issues arising from the research.*

1430 – 1600  **World Café**

Parliament Hall

*Participants will meet in small groups to discuss and brainstorm solutions to the problems identified during the poster session. Each group will be chaired by 1 volunteer, but participants will move groups at 20 minute intervals.*

*Refreshments will be served during this session, after all what kind of café doesn’t offer some coffee and cake!*

1600 – 1730  **Interactive Workshops**

Various locations, St Mary’s Quad

*Participants can chose to participate in 2 of the 3 offered workshops. Each will last 45 minutes and each will be run twice.*

**Workshop 1: Publishing Interdisciplinary Research**

Coordinator: Professor Colin Hunter  |  Divinity Lecture room 1

*From selecting a journal to submitting and editing. Everything you need to know about publishing your interdisciplinary PhD research. Participants are asked to think of specific problems/questions they have faced, in advance.*
Workshop 2: Getting your Sustainable Development PhD
Coordinator: Dr Shona Russell  |  Divinity Seminar room 1/2

Managing supervisors, literature reviews and VIVAs. How do Interdisciplinary PhDs survive? Participants are asked to think of specific problems/questions in advance.

Workshop 3: Making Connections through conferences
Coordinator: Dr Danny Simatele  |  Divinity Seminar room 1/2

What is the best way to get your work accepted to a conference? Which conferences should you pick? How can you use your time at conferences optimally? Participants are asked to think of specific problems/questions in advance

1730-1830  Conference Downtime
Various locations across St Andrews

This hour is yours to spend as you wish. Showering after a long day, walking along one of our beautiful beaches, eating ice cream at the famous Janetta’s ice cream shop or joining the conference organisers in a well-deserved drink in a local pub? The choice is yours.

1830 – 2200  Dinner
Parliament Hall, South Street

Included in your conference fee is a delicious buffet dinner served in Parliament Hall.

1930 – 2130  Workshop – Whole-systems approaches to sustainable community design (limited places)
Coordinator: Mr Jamie Hamilton  |  Divinity Lecture room 1

If the collective wisdom of minds at the cutting-edge of all aspects of sustainability were pooled, what kind of community would they build right here and now?

This two hour workshop will employ open-ended whole-systems approaches, your expert knowledge, and group learning, to co-sketch practical models, values, actions and associated measures-of-success for a new ‘sustainable’ community due to begin on the Isle of Bute later this year.

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Day 2: Friday 8th June

0800 – 0900 Breakfast

(For participants staying in University accommodation). Please check out from your room before coming to the conference. You may leave your bags in a secure room at Mackintosh Hall until 4pm.

0900 - 0945 Key Note Speech: Professor Jan Bebbington

Divinity Lecture Theatre

Professor Jan Bebbington, Director of the St Andrews Sustainability Institute, co-head of the School of Management and former commissioner of the Sustainable Development Commission will share some of her thoughts on sustainable development and interdisciplinarity.

1000 - 1100 Paper Session 1 ~ Participants are asked to attend one session

1A – Location, Location, Location? Sustainability in Rural Scotland

Divinity Lecture Theatre 1

Paper 1: Can Rural Communities in Scotland Survive The End of the World As We Know It?

Anne Winther, School of Natural Sciences and Stirling Management School, University of Stirling

Environmental and socio-economic crises are creating compelling needs for radical social change. This project investigates the challenges for three Scottish rural communities to become sustainable and thrive in a future resource constrained world. Baseline sustainability in each case study community was assessed using Resources and Energy Analysis Programme (REAP) and household questionnaire data. Future visions were created in focus groups, in which participants were asked to envision what their community would need to thrive in 2030 under the scenario of peak oil and a low carbon economy. Narrative scenarios were created, using the visions and a sustainable community design framework, for three discrete levels of change: marginal change, step change and transformation.

The degree of change required to become sustainable was modelled in REAP and compared to the current estimates of per capita world biocapacity, which provided a target for achieving sustainability. The results, together with the assumptions used in the narratives, have been examined to understand the extent of change necessary in rural communities and suggest that transformation is required. Key challenges facing and solutions for sustainable rural communities are related to issues of energy justice, neoliberalism, property rights and community empowerment.
**Paper 2: Evaluating Scottish Rural Development Policy: Influences of Uptake**

*Anastasia Yang, University of Edinburgh*

This study will use an interdisciplinary approach to examine the progress of Scottish rural development policy (SRDP) in terms of voluntary participation. This will be achieved by evaluating specifically the competitive scheme; Rural Priorities (RDC - RP) which aims to deliver targeted environmental, social and economic benefits.

This study involves two main parts; firstly a quantitative statistical analysis to model the patterns and relationships between option uptake and expenditure of RP across Scotland. The aim will be to decipher what variables whether environmental, agricultural or socio-economic could be considered determinants of option uptake and extent.

Additionally a complimentary qualitative analysis will also be undertaken, to understand how the decisions and influences of different stakeholders will also have on the uptake and extent of RP. This information will contribute to the European Commission funded research project, SPARD (Spatial Analysis of Rural Development), which aims to help policy-makers understand the causal relationships between rural development measures and their consequences in a spatial dimension.

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**1B – Thirsty for Food? Sustainable Development links between Food and Water**

Psychology Seminar Room 1

**Paper 1: The Role of the Soft Path for Water in relation to the Food Industry in Scotland**

*Catalina Silva-Plata, David Livingstone Centre for Sustainability, University of Strathclyde*

Higher population rates and demands have raised the concern for adopting better practices with regards of the way water is managed. The soft path for water is a new concept centred on efficiency and conservation. This approach is focused on demand rather than supply and how services currently provided can be delivered in ways that recognize the need for economic and socio-ecological sustainability. It has currently being applied at regional scales, examples of this can be found in Canada and the US. Nevertheless, there is still a need for applying it at a smaller scale.

The purpose of this research is to evaluate whether the adoption of soft path at the industry level is useful and achievable. The presentation will be based on the methodology for evaluating the adoption of the soft path for water at the food industry level. This area of research has not been thoroughly explored in the past and it therefore has a lot of scope for raising up questions and proposing solutions as to how the soft path for water can be applied at a micro scale. Companies for this study are selected according to their water footprint, both internal and external. Therefore, there are four case scenarios in which the soft path applicability is researched. First are businesses with
both low internal and external water footprint. The second scenario corresponds to enterprises with low internal footprint and high external footprint. On the other hand, those who fall in the high internal footprint and low external footprint quadrant are assessed. Finally, companies with both high internal and external footprints are taken into consideration. This approach gives a holistic view for testing in which cases the soft path for water is useful and achievable.


*David Oscar Yawson*, *Barry Mulholland*, *Tom Ball*, *Sushil Mohan*, *Philip White*

*Centre for Environmental Change and Human Resilience (CECHR), Department of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Dundee, Dundee. James Hutton Institute, Invergowrie, Dundee. ADAS UK Ltd., Boxworth. Department of Economic Studies, University of Dundee, Dundee*

Securing sufficient water to sustain future food production is a major global challenge as food production is by far the largest water-dependent human activity. Dwindling water resources, climate change, growing population and water requirement for ecosystem services combine to intensify competition for water.

Because water in the global hydrological cycle is finite, trade-offs among water use sectors is inevitable. However, the direction, magnitude and consequences of the trade-offs are not immediately obvious. Virtual water has been proposed as a potential trade-off option that can reduce the effects of water scarcity on food security.

Virtual water is the volume of water used to produce a unit crop commodity that is traded. This paper argues that the virtual water proposition has value as part of the solution to the coupled problem of water-food insecurity. However, current conception of water scarcity is incompatible with virtual water, crop water use and food security requirements. Remediying this weakness is, therefore, key to strengthening the virtual water proposition for water-food security policy.

**1100 – 1130 Coffee Break**
Paper Session 2 ~ Participants are asked to attend one session

2A – On the same page? Differences in Values and Understandings of Sustainable Development

Divinity Lecture Theatre 1

Paper 1: Developing a Social Platform for Interdisciplinary Research in the field of Sustainable Science

Bratton, A., Cowen, M., Hepburn, M., Logan, A., and Noble, S. University of Strathclyde

This research project is inspired by the UNESCO Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) initiative 2005-2014, and seeks to encourage the incorporation of ethics, values and practices of sustainable development, into all aspects of education and knowledge. This study investigates to what extent an online social platform may contribute to, and enhance the on-going collaborative interdisciplinary research in Sustainability Science at the University of Strathclyde.

Within social systems, knowledge is continuously adapting and evolving to produce new knowledge, but in academia this is mostly discipline specific (Miller et al., 2011). Researchers have advocated for knowledge integration to be supported by new institutions and practices (Bäckstrand, 2003; Swart et al., 2004; Koehler and Hecht, 2006; Jerneck et al. 2011). Knowledge must be collaboratively processed, not shared or transmitted (McElroy 2003). Sustainability Science is an emergent field of research that enhances sustainable development by integrating academic disciplinary knowledge from: natural sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities (Yarime et al., 2012). The challenge for sustainable science is to ensure that knowledge production is a communal, collaborative effort that links academic research, with industry and government, to develop research for the benefit of individuals and society (Miller et al., 2011).

Information technology (IT) has been known to facilitate a more interconnected research group, as its implementation has seen a positive relationship with higher publication counts and professional recognition (Hesse et al., 1993). IT increases research productivity amongst early-to-mid career researchers and researchers who have limited access to resources and colleagues within their own institutions (Ding et al 2010). The implementation of a cyber-infrastructure has been known to lead to the substitution of collaboration within disciplines, with collaboration between disciplines (Rosenblat and Mobius, 2004).

In sum, the development of a social platform website, guiding Sustainable Science research within the University of Strathclyde, across all researchers and departments, regardless of physical location, could boost and incentivise interdisciplinary practices. This proposed research project would address existing barriers and failures of the current system i.e. philosophical, narrative, communication and lack of awareness. Major science projects including multiple institutions and disciplines require a high level of development of knowledge and expert supervision to guide best-practice for the collaboration (Corley et al., 2006). It is the hypothesis of this research project that the development of a social platform website would help facilitate
interdisciplinary research and collaboration between academia, government and business at Strathclyde University.

**Paper 2:** Understanding shared values through participatory environmental valuation: a case study from the Inner Forth, Scotland

*Jasper Kenter, Aberdeen Centre for Environmental Sustainability, University of Aberdeen and University of St Andrews*

Sadly Jasper Kenter was absent from conference due to illness.

In place the first paper used the time for extending the conversation about the social platform for Postgraduate Researchers researching Sustainable Development.

2B- Legitimacy in Action: Sustainable Development in Law and Economics

Psychology Seminar Room 1

**Paper 1:** Responsible Investment and the Chinese Stock Market

*Qian Li, University of St Andrews*

The financial attractiveness of Environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) criteria have been analyzed in large-scale empirical studies across a range of developed stock markets. However, no large-scale empirical study appears to have been conducted for emerging markets so far. This is unfortunate, as several emerging markets (e.g. BRIC) have recently substantially increased in relevance. The arguably most important emerging market worldwide is China.

This paper conducts the first, in depth analysis of the financial performance of responsible investment portfolios in the Chinese stock markets. Since only a few Chinese RI funds currently have a sufficient history for financial analysis, this research investigates hypothetical portfolios created based on ESG ratings. The previous month’s ESG scores are used to construct responsible investment portfolios for future months based on a data sample spanning from January 2007 to January 2011.

Based on overall ESG score, this study finds significant underperformance for responsible investment portfolios in the Chinese stock market. Portfolios related to controversial corporate governance (C), employee relations (L), product risk (P) and supply chain (SC) issues generate statistically insignificant negative abnormal returns. This finding suggests A-share investors are less concerned about the controversial issues underlying these portfolios.
Paper 2: Promoting renewable electricity towards sustainable development: An opportunity gained or lost with Nigeria’s Electric Power Sector Reform (EPSR) Act 2005?

Oyinkan Tasie, School of Law, University of Aberdeen

Lack of access to electricity and unreliable electricity supply pose serious challenges to sustainable development, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa where about 69.5 per cent (about 585 million people) are without access to electricity. Nigeria has the highest population without access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa (about 76 to 100 million people), most of who reside in remote rural areas. Furthermore, though the remaining 56 million to 80 million people have access electricity, supply is unreliable. This has often moved the population to depend largely on unsustainable energy sources, like traditional use of biomass and fossil powered electricity generators, to meet their energy needs, despite climate change concerns.

Nigeria’s commitment to the MDGs and its own National Development Agenda, of being amongst the top 20 economies by 2020, requires concerted efforts at expanding access to electricity. However, amidst climate change concerns, sustainable development, proffered as lasting solution to climate change, suggests that merely expanding access to electricity is not sufficient. It requires that such expansion be driven by climate friendly technologies. Consequently, countries like Nigeria are presented with an opportunity to adopt climate friendly technologies, like renewable energy sources, as it seeks to transform its inefficient and almost obsolete electricity infrastructure, which has kept its electrification rate low. This opportunity is further heightened where renewable energy resources are abundantly available as is the case in Nigeria.

This research explores whether Nigeria’s legal provision for expanding access to reliable electricity takes advantage of this opportunity. It specifically analyzes Nigeria’s Electric Power Sector Reform Act. This Act was enacted in March 2005 to support the National Electric Power Policy which outlines Nigeria’s policy towards expanding access to electricity and reliability of electricity supply.

1230 – 1330 Lunch

Psychology Seminar Room 1

1330 – 1430 Beyond the PhD Panel Session

Divinity Lecture Theatre 1

Professor Jan Bebbington, School of Management, University of St Andrews
Dr Keith Skene, University of Dundee

Experts in academia and beyond will share their ideas of where a PhD in Sustainable Development can take you. Academia is not the only option!
1430 – 1515  **Plenary: Where do we go from here?**

Divinity Lecture Theatre 1

Participants will come together to discuss in a plenary session the outcomes of the conference and where we would like to go from here. Discussion of a potential guide or publication but also how we will continue the network of Future Connections.

1530  **Close of conference**
Speakers and Workshop Coordinators

Keynote ~ Professor Jan Bebbington, University of St Andrews
Professor of Accounting and Sustainable Development, Co-Head of School  Director, St Andrews Sustainability Institute

Jan qualified as a chartered accountant in New Zealand where she also held her first academic post before moving to the UK to pursue her academic career. Previously Professor of Accounting at the University of Aberdeen, Jan is actively engaged in many aspects of the application of academic research in sustainable development to practice in industry, non-profit and political organisations.

Mr Jamie Hamilton, Heriot Watt University
PhD candidate, Heriot Watt University

Professor Colin Hunter, University of St Andrews
Professor of Sustainable Development and Geography, School of Geography and Geosciences

Dr Shona Russell, University of St Andrews
Lecturer in Knowledge and Practice, School of Management

Dr Danny Simatele, University of St Andrews
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Research interests: Evaluating the social value of creative activities in community woodlands.
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Research interests: Support for GTAs in Higher Education institutions, Developing materials for embedding SDE in Higher Education

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Research interests: Employment Relations and Sustainable Workplaces: Contradictions, Prospects and Processes

Name: Beth Brockett (not at conference)
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Research interest: Understanding shared values through participatory environmental valuation: a case study from the Inner Forth, Scotland.

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Research interests: Expanding Access to Electricity for Sustainable Development in Nigeria: An Analysis of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act 2005
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Research interests: How can cultural events have a useful role to play in changing the attitudes and behaviours of the wider public in relation to climate change?

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Sponsors

We would like to extend our thanks to the following sponsors who made this conference possible:

CAPOD (Centre for Academic, Professional and Organisational Development), University of St Andrews
School of Management, University of St Andrews
SAGES (Scottish Alliance for Geoscience, Environment and Society) www.sages.ac.uk
St Andrews Sustainability Institute (SASI)

We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Sarah Dalrymple and Dr Ioan Fazey who have given us invaluable access to the SAGES network.

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