

Call for Sessions - WEHC 2015 [S20042]

Proposed title of the session

Long run economic growth and the environment: international comparison from a socio-metabolic perspective

Abstract

Economic growth in the long run has been associated with major changes in the economy-environment relationship. In environmental perspective, the process of modern economic growth started with industrialization can be described as a metabolic transition which leads to fundamentally new patterns of material and energy use and also to new patterns of environmental waste generation. In this larger context, the concept of socio-economic metabolism and the related methods of material and energy flow accounting developed for biophysical economics are of big interest for Economic History. Socio-metabolic accounting methods applied to historical data are fundamental for a better understanding of the different paths of economic growth and the changing relations between the economy and the environment.

The aim of this session is to connect scholars interested in economic growth in environmental perspective and to engage them in discussion about long term historical trends in energy and material use. Among the key questions addressed in this sessions are: 1) how can the methods of material and energy flow accounting be applied to study historic development? Which sources are available in different world regions for that purpose? How to standardize methods and indicators for comparative analysis of historical cases? ; 2) how can the concepts of socio-economic metabolism and socio-metabolic transition help to explain the emergence of different resource use patterns across countries? Can we distinguish different paths in socio-metabolic transitions related to different paths in economic growth? What are the differences in socio metabolic transitions between developed and no-developed countries along history? To sum up, how can the socio-metabolic perspective help to explain diversity in development? The session welcomes empirical papers presenting results from case studies, investigating patterns and trends of material and energy flows or comparing different countries or regions. It will also be open to papers discussing concepts, sources and methods.

At the moment there are ten people interested in the session, coming from Europe, Canada and South América- Caribe. Most of them are engaged with consolidated research groups in their universities. We hope to draw people from Asia and Africa with the call for papers to complete a global perspective.

I. Corresponding Session Organiser

Dr. Iñaki Iriarte-Goñi (University of Zaragoza (Spain) [Spain])

II. Co-Organiser(s)

1. Corresponding Organiser.
2. Dr. Fridolin Krausmann (IFF- Wien [Austria])

III. Expected Participant(s)

1. Marina Fischer (Institute of Social Ecology, Wien [Austria])
2. Enric Tello (University of Barcelona [Spain])
3. Astrid Kander (Lund University [Spain])
4. Manuel Gonzalez (University Pablo Olavide (Seville) [Spain])
5. Richard Unger (University of British Columbia [Canada])
6. Geoff Kunfer (University of Saskatchewan [Canada])
7. Stefania Gallini (Universidad Nacional de Colombia [Canada])
8. Reinaldo Funes (Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez [Cuba])
9. Ana Serrano (University of Zaragoza [Spain])
10. Mar Rubio (Universida Pública de Navarra [Spain])