BACKGROUND

Many scholars perform high quality research on matters related to sustainability. Yet, there are relatively few events where a multidisciplinary overview of research efforts and projects has taken place, and where researchers scholars from across the spectrum of the social sciences have had the opportunity to come together to discuss research methods, research findings, or exchange ideas about on-going and future research opportunities focusing on sustainability.

It is against this background that the “Sustainability and Social Science Research Symposium” is being organized by the University of Michigan, in cooperation with the Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP), Manchester Metropolitan University, HAW Hamburg and a number of institutions of higher education active in this field.

AIMS

The aims of the Symposium are as follows:

_ to provide social science researchers focusing on sustainability an opportunity to present and discuss their work (e.g. empirical work, case studies, teaching and learning innovations, applied projects, etc.);
_ to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of research projects, especially initiatives which have influenced behavior, decision-making, or policy;
_ to discuss methodological approaches and projects which aim to offer a better understanding of sustainability across society and economic sectors and
_ to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for further cooperation.
Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences on sustainability and social science research. To that end, a peer-reviewed book titled “Handbook of Sustainability and Social Science Research” will be published, with all accepted papers. This will be part of the award-winning “World Sustainability Series”, published by Springer, one of the world’s top five scientific publishers. Following the themes of previous World Sustainability Series events, this event will also have a focus on work in North America but participants from all regions are invited to attend.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the Symposium will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

I. research staff;
II. teaching staff;
III. postgraduate students;
IV. university administrators;
V. program officers and consultants; and
VI. other people interested in the field are also welcome to attend the event.
STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The Symposium will be organized around three main strands.

**Strand 1: Paper Presentations**
With the goal of fostering exchange across social science disciplines and addressing issues of strategic value in sustainability and social science research, participants should develop abstracts that address one or more of the following areas:

- Built Environment
- Climate
- Energy
- Food
- Water

Submissions for presentations will be reviewed by the symposium’s scientific advisory committee prior to acceptance.

**Strand 2: Poster Presentations**
Participants not selecting to submit a presentation will be able to present posters describing their projects.

**Strand 3: Exhibits**
Institutions and organizations will also be able set up exhibitions describing their work and projects to symposium participants.

The Symposium will feature a special session with and for doctoral students undertaking research on sustainability and the social sciences.
TIME-TABLE

The Symposium will be held on May 17 to May 19, 2017. The schedule is as follows:

WEDNESDAY MAY 17, 2017
- **10:00 - 12:00**  Registration and set-up of exhibits
- **13:00 - 14:00**  Lunch and Networking
- **14:00 - 17:00**  Plenary Sessions
- **Evening**  Free for Informal Meetings

THURSDAY MAY 18, 2017
- **Morning**  Plenary Session | Parallel Sessions 1 and 2
- **12:00 - 1:00**  Lunch and Networking
- **Afternoon**  Plenary Session | Parallel Sessions 3 and 4
- **Evening**  Posters and Dinner

FRIDAY MAY 19, 2017
- **Morning**  Plenary Session | Parallel Sessions 5 and 6
- **12:00 - 1:00**  Lunch
- **Afternoon**
  - **14:00 - 14:45**  Round-table with Key Experts
  - **14:45 - 15:00**  Best Paper Awards
  - **15:00**  Close of the Event
In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organize their travel in a way that allows them to arrive in the morning of May 17, 2017 and travel back on the evening of May 19, 2017 or the following day. The nearest large airport is Detroit Metro Airport (DTW) with ground service available from Michigan Flyer (http://www.michiganflyer.com/).

**DEADLINES**

- **Deadline for submission of abstracts:** May 30\(^{th}\), 2016  
- **Deadline for submission of papers:** September 30\(^{th}\), 2016  
- **Deadline for full, revised papers:** January 30\(^{th}\), 2017  
- **Deadline for registrations:** March 30\(^{th}\), 2017

Since the book will be launched soon after the Symposium, the deadlines need to be followed.

**THE VENUE**

The event will be held at the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research (ISR) http://home.isr.umich.edu, and the University of Michigan Union, https://uunions.umich.edu/munion.

**FEES AND CHARGES**

A reduced, early bird fee of US$ 300 (US$ 100 for students) will be charged to delegates to offset the preparation costs, and will be charged to all those who register until January 30\(^{th}\) 2017. For registrations after that date, the full fee of US$ 350 (US$ 150 for students) will apply.
The fee includes a coffee break on May 17, 2017; breakfast, lunch, dinner and coffee breaks on May 18, 2017; and breakfast, coffee, and lunch on May 19, 2017. It also includes a free PDF of the book “Handbook of Sustainability and Social Science Research”. Registrations fees may be refunded (with a 50% processing charge) in case of cancellations until April 18, 2017. After that date, no refunds are possible.

REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until March 30th 2017. Regrettably, registrations after the deadline will not be possible. Since the space for displays and the time for presentations is limited, delegates are advised to submit their abstracts and register as soon as possible. The organizers will notify participants regarding limitations for presentations and/or space for displays. The decision as to which papers will be accepted for presentation will be made by the Chairpersons, following consultation with the scientific advisory committee.

ORGANIZERS

- University of Michigan, Graham Sustainability Institute
- University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research
- Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Program
- Hamburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- Manchester Metropolitan University

SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairpersons
• Walter Leal, Environment and Technology, Manchester Metropolitan University
• John Callewaert, Graham Sustainability Institute, University of Michigan
• Robert W, Marans, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Members, United States

• Arun Agrawal, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan
• Raymond De Young, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan
• Kaitlin Raimi, Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan
• Gregory Trencher, Department of International Development, Community and Environment, Clark University
• Kim Wolske, Ross School of Business, University of Michigan
• Michaela Zint, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan
• Catherine Zeman, University of Northern Iowa

Members, International

• Nelson Amaro, Galileo University, Guatemala
• Rosley Anholon, UNICAMP, Brazil
• Ulisses Azeiteiro, Universidade Aberta, Portugal
• Dzintra Ilisko, University of Daugavpils, Latvia
• Pedro Vega Marcote, University of La Coruna, Spain
• Carolina Marques, University of Pampa, Brazil
• Pedro Medellin, Autonomous University of San Luis Potosi, Mexico
• Roberta Consentino Kronka Mülfarth, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
• Solomon Mungure, Africa University, Zimbabwe
• Maria Novo, Open University, Spain
• Arminca Paco, University of Beira, Portugal
• Judy Rogers, RMIT, Australia
• Chris Shiel, University of Bournemouth, UK
• Malin Song, Anhui University of Finance and Economics, China
• Nina Tynkkynen, University of Turku, Finland
• Valeria Vargas, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK
• Luis Eduardo Velazquez, University of Sonora, Mexico
• Yen-Chun Jim Wu, National Taiwan Normal University

CONTACT POINT FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS, STRATEGIC COOPERATION AND GUIDANCE ON PUBLICATION

All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)
Professor of Environment and Technology
Manchester Metropolitan University, School of Science and the Environment, UK
E-mail: w.leal@mmu.ac.uk

or

John Callewaert
Integrated Assessment Director
Graham Sustainability Institute, University of Michigan, USA
jcallew@umich.edu
CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATOR AND CONTACT POINT
FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to abstracts and registrations should be sent to:

Dr. Mihaela Sima
Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy
E-mail: <simamik@yahoo.com>

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract of up to 200 words describing the rationale, aims, and key findings of the work should be submitted for either a paper or poster. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Authors whose abstracts are accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information.
SAMPLE ABSTRACT

(please prepare your abstract exactly in the format below and send by May 30, 2016 to Dr. Mihaela Sima at: simamik@yahoo.com)

Some developments on education for sustainable development in higher education institutions
Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)
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Abstract

The implementation of sustainable development in higher education is a global trend. Yet, the intensity and the depth with which higher education institutions are taking on the challenge of sustainability, significantly differs.

This paper presents a global analysis about how higher education institutions are including sustainability issues in the different areas (e.g. teaching, research, outreach and institutional management) and describes the progress made in this field during the last 10 years. A special emphasis is given to the problems and barriers which prevent developments in respect of the integration of sustainability issues in higher education. Finally, some concrete steps which may be undertaken in order to allow universities to integrate sustainable development in their activities but also in regional development, are outlined. This paper will be useful to anyone interested in the different levels of emphasis given to sustainable development at higher education institutions across the world.