

ISIE News

Volume 16, Issue 1
International Society for Industrial Ecology

[Letter from ISIE President](#)[JIE News](#)[IE News from Around the World](#)[Members' News](#)[Open Positions](#)[Letters to the Community](#)

A Summer of Conferences - Letter from ISIE President

I need to begin this editorial with a big thank you! Mak Dehejia - the Executive Director of ISIE for the past 2.5 years - stepped out from this role at the end of April. Following in the footsteps of previous Directors, John Ehrenfeld and Roland Clift, Mak provided overall leadership to the ISIE including oversight of the Society's main office at Yale. Mak also opened some doors in high places during his tenure as Executive Director - and perhaps my only small regret is that we didn't exploit all the opportunities he created. On a personal note, I can say that Mak was extremely collegial and fun to work with.

Mak stayed on four months beyond his planned retirement to help with a transition for the Society. We are redirecting the slim resources of the ISIE towards greater support for conferences and events. This will help Industrial Ecology have more impact, more often in more places.

The beginning of the transition is apparent from the increased activity in the past 6 months. In April, the ISIE organized, along with several partners, a policy dialogue on the Circular Economy. In May, we had the inaugural ISIE Americas meeting in Bogota, Colombia, and June the Industrial Symbiosis Research Symposium in Massachusetts followed by the Gordon Conference in Vermont. Still to come is the joint Socio-Economic Metabolism and ISIE Asia-Pacific conference at Nagoya University (September, 28-30).

Hosted by Harri Kalimo at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels, the dialogue on the Circular Economy brought together a great mix of industry, policy makers and academics for a high-level, yet technical, exchange on the science and environmental impacts of the Circular Economy. The other partners were NTNU, Yale University, University of Cambridge and INSEAD. The organizational drive of Anders Strømman and Helen Hamilton from NTNU was critical in pulling off the event, but it was very much a team effort with other co-chairs Kieren Mayers, Reid Lifset, Jonathan Cullen, and Harri Kalimo making important contributions. Further outputs from the event will be forthcoming.

The ISIE's first regional Americas Conference in Bogota was a fabulous event. The host chairs Bart van Hoof and Jooyoung Park from Universidad de los Andes deserve huge praise - as do the rest of the Latin American organizing committee. It was a high quality conference with excellent attendance - and lots of dancing! Special mention should also go to Marian Chertow, who championed the conference for the ISIE. As well as a strong showing from South and Central America, there were a good number of attendees from Europe (especially Spain and the Netherlands), North America, and elsewhere. What was perhaps most impressive was the large number of early career faculty and postdocs with Latin American roots who came to the conference from positions in Europe and North

At this year's Gordon Conference in June, our chair Heinz Schandl noted that it was twenty years since our community first held a Gordon Conference in Industrial Ecology. I confess I haven't been to all of them, but they are amongst the best conferences I've attended – and never disappoint. This year Heinz pulled off yet another great program with an excellent cast of speakers. As Chair of one session I can tell you his attention to detail in planning was also impeccable. The discussion at the Gordon conferences is always so rich, a sign that the field of Industrial Ecology is healthy. Here's to the next 20 years.

Chris Kennedy, Victoria, British Columbia

JIE News

The *JIE* has apps for iPhone and Android, translations of abstracts into Spanish has begun, and new editors have joined the *JIE*.

Apps for the JIE

If you want to follow or read the *JIE* on our mobile device, you can now do so by downloading the Apple mobile application from <http://bit.ly/JIE-Apple> or the Android application form <http://bit.ly/JIE-Android>. There is no charge for the apps, but, just as with desktop access, you or your institution must have a subscription to see the full text of articles.

Spanish Translations of JIE abstracts

Starting with the April 2016 issue of the *JIE*, abstracts of articles are being translated into Spanish by students and researchers at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (the Autonomous University of Barcelona) and the Universidad de los Andes (the University of the Andes in Bogota, Colombia). The translations are part of a larger effort to engage the environmental research community in Latin America and the Caribbean. Last May, the ISIE, in conjunction with the Universidad de los Andes organized the Society's first regional meeting in Latin America in Bogota.

New Editors

The *JIE* is pleased to welcome Junming Zhu as an associate editor for public policy. He is an assistant professor in the School of Public Policy at Tsinghua University in China. Ichiro Daigo, associate professor in the Graduate School of Engineering at the University of Tokyo, will become an associate editor for material flow analysis replacing Seiji Hashimoto who is stepping down after long and valued service.

News about JIE Papers: The Carbon Footprint of Crime

A recent *JIE* paper on the carbon footprint of crime (<http://bit.ly/JIEcrime-carbon>) generated attention in the scientific and popular press. Using an environmentally-extended IO model, Helen Skudder and colleagues at the Center for Environmental Strategy at the University of Surrey in England quantified the GHGs emissions attributable to crime and the operation of the crime justice system in England and Wales. While they estimated that that emissions totaled approximately 4 million metric tons CO₂-eq in 2011, they also found that, because of rebound effects, cutting crime does not automatically result in a net reduction in carbon. Both *Science* (<http://bit.ly/crime-SM>) and the *New York Times* (<http://bit.ly/NYCrime-carbon>) provided news coverage of the article.

Sign up for the *JIE*'s table of contents service: <http://bit.ly/JIE-eToC>

Follow the *JIE* on Twitter: [@IndEcol](https://twitter.com/IndEcol)

Follow the *JIE* on Facebook: [@Journal.Industrial.Ecology](https://www.facebook.com/Journal.Industrial.Ecology)

IE News from around the world

Chinese Environmentally Extended Input-Output (CEEIO) database

University of Michigan has developed a Chinese Environmentally Extended Input-Output (CEEIO) database, which is publicly available with open access on the CEEIO website: <http://www.ceeio.com>

The CEEIO database covers multiple years (currently including 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007) in which benchmark input-output (IO) tables are available. It has a wide range of environmental accounts, covering 243 types of resources and 30 types of pollutants. It provides data in three categories of sector classifications: the original sector classifications in the government's benchmark input-output tables (i.e., 118 sectors in 1992, 124 sectors in 1997, 122 sectors in 2002, and 135 sectors in 2007), a 45-sector classification commonly

The CEEIO database is constructed based on published data from China's statistics and widely used estimation methods from peer-reviewed articles, which makes the system boundary of this database consistent for multiple years and with previous studies. It covers environmental accounts of households in addition to industries, allowing closed input-output modeling.

For any questions regarding the CEEIO database, please contact Prof. Ming Xu (<http://www.mingxugroup.org>) or Dr. Sai Liang (liangsai@umich.edu).

Published paper:

Liang, S.; Feng, T.; Qu, S.; Chiu, A.S.F.; Jia, X.; Xu, M. Developing the Chinese Environmentally Extended Input-Output (CEEIO) Database. *Journal of Industrial Ecology* 2016, in press, doi:10.1111/jiec.12477.

Members' News

The ISIE Americas 2016 Conference in Bogotá D.C., Colombia

From May 25th to May 27th, 2016 Los Andes University hosted the first conference of ISIE in the Americas. The ISIE Americas 2016 was the first conference of great relevance for the Industrial Ecology field to be held in a Latin-American country. The conference boasted the participation of several international leaders in the field: Bart van Hoof (Los Andes University), Reid Lifset (Yale University), Chris Kennedy (Toronto University), Marian Chertow (Yale University), Jeroen Guinee (Leiden University) and Frank Boons (Manchester University). It was organized by Los Andes University with the collaboration of the ISIE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of national sponsors such as Pinturas Tito Pabón, Cementos Argos, Bavaria, and Asocolflores.

The conference demonstrated the vast advances that Industrial Ecology (IE) has had in the industry and businesses world-wide in the last years. The field has been enriched with different multi-disciplinary approaches such as behavioral sciences and regional analysis. Moreover, businesses have proved IE to be a useful strategy to generate differentiation, positioning, risk management and economic savings, among other value-adding benefits. In fact, Latin American academics and practitioners evidenced significant achievements in the field of research and application of IE, particularly in relevant sectors for the region such as agro-industry.

Through more than 70 presentations (some in English others in Spanish), covering all types of IE related topics (i.e. LCA, MFA, Circle Economy, Industrial Symbiosis, Urban Metabolism, ABM, and Applications of IE), the most recent developments of IE, and specifically the progress of IE in the Latin-American region, were exposed. It is clear that Latin America has a lot to learn and teach about IE. Thus, the potential for further research in the Americas was highlighted.

Understanding this potential, leading Universities are making a tremendous effort to foster the IE discipline in the region, while maintaining the research up to international standards. Some of the remarkable efforts have been advanced by: Los Andes University in Colombia to develop the IE with a lens of management and business strategy, the University of Guanajuato in Mexico to develop Industrial Symbiosis Systems within the local economy, and the University Católica del Perú to develop MFA tools to analyze material stocks and flows during natural disasters (e.g. earthquakes), among others.

Despite the advances and efforts to further develop the Industrial Ecology discipline, big challenges still lay ahead. The development of IE in Latin America is not lacking the tools, human capital nor the world-renowned institutions and universities to foster the discipline; instead it is lacking a stronger link between industry and academy to broaden companies' understanding of the meaning and importance of IE for sustainable development and green transformations. This would help to boost the funds for research and the participation of IE professionals in developing new business models. During his presentation, Jeroen Guinee emphasized that the biggest challenge for performing LCA in Latin America is the lack of reliable data; with this in mind, Latin America is getting ready to consolidate a database that will revolutionize LCA modeling for the region. With a growing network of practitioners and academics working in the IE field, an 'Eco-Invento' database seems to be one of the next big steps to take. Reid Lifset's announcement that the *JIE* has begun translating abstracts of articles into Spanish is also likely to boost Latin American engagement.

In brief, the ISIE Americas 2016 was a unique opportunity for all participants to meet leading researchers, practitioners and companies working in the Industrial Ecology field; it allowed for valuable networking (where English and Spanish were constantly intertwined), and offered an opportunity to experience a diverse country, such as Colombia. The conference provided local dishes, exotic fruits, unforgettable music and parties that all participants joined (and yes! They all danced!). This event not only showed the potential of Industrial Ecology in The Americas, but it also proved to be a success in demonstrating the advances and the fast-moving evolution of Industrial Ecology in Latin-American countries. We are looking forward to the next ISIE Americas 2018!

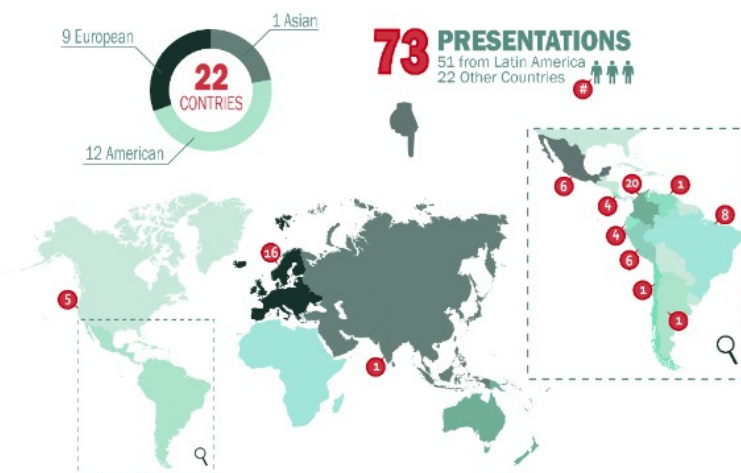
[school/news/item/1535-congreso-ecologia-industrial-hace-de-los-andes-un-referente-en-america-latina](http://www.administracion.unam.mx/edu-co/index.php/en/the-school/about-the-school/news/item/1535-congreso-ecologia-industrial-hace-de-los-andes-un-referente-en-america-latina)

By Natalia Uribe Calvo and Juanita Duque Hernández

-STATISTICS-

180 PARTICIPANTS
(120 Full + 60 Partial)

74 ORGANIZATIONS
22 Private Industries
52 Universities



The University of California Davis announces the launch of the Graduate Academic Certificate in Industrial Ecology (www.ie.ucdavis.edu). The Certificate is open to all UC Davis graduate students seeking a Masters or a Doctoral degree regardless of major or discipline.

Megha Shenoy is working as an Adjunct Fellow in the Climate Change Program at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (Atree), Bangalore, India.

Megha along with a team at Atree is working on "Community-level municipal solid waste (MSW) management in Bangalore: Changes in policies and practices". This project in collaboration with Prof. Xuehua Zhang, Sichuan University, China aims to understand new policies in Bangalore that mandate segregation of waste at source and community-level treatment of organic waste in Bangalore. They are examining these new policies in terms of their history, policy design and implementation challenges.

Megha is also working part-time with the editorial team of the Journal of Industrial Ecology.

Open Positions

Faculty position at Bentley University

Bentley University's Natural and Applied Sciences Department invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position in the broadly defined field of energy, with research and teaching interests that could include energy technologies and innovation, smart-grid technology, energy storage technology, renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy systems management, availability and distribution of energy resources, energy analytics, energy transformations in Earth systems, or energy resources in the context of business, public policy, and global climate change.

The successful candidate must have a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree in a relevant STEM field, including physics, engineering, Earth sciences, chemistry, physical geography, environmental science, or related discipline. She/He must be an outstanding teacher who can engage undergraduate students, most of whom are business majors, and perform innovative research in his/her fields of expertise. The successful candidate will be expected to develop and teach courses in energy science, including foundations in physics and electives that support the sustainability and health curricula within the department. In addition, the candidate will be expected to mentor students in Bentley's Sustainability Science B.A. program and Earth Environment & Global Sustainability Liberal Studies Major.

Here is a link to the job ad:

<https://jobs.bentley.edu/postings/2294>

For more information about the Natural & Applied Sciences Department, please visit: <http://www.bentley.edu/academics/departments/natural-and-applied-sciences>.

CAS President's International Fellowship Initiative (PIFI) for 2016

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) offers a package of international fellowships, collectively called the "CAS President's International Fellowship Initiative (PIFI)", to support highly-qualified international scientists and postgraduate students to work and study at CAS institutions and strengthen their scientific collaboration with CAS researchers. The PIFI program is available for four categories of international researchers and students: distinguished scientists, visiting scientists, postdoctoral researchers and international PhD students.

Detailed description of the CAS PIFI is provided here: http://english.bic.cas.cn/AF/Fe/201507/t20150723_150727.html

Dr. Wei-Qiang Chen from the Institute of Urban Environment, CAS, is happy to host your application for CAS PIFI. People that are doing research on material flow analysis, complex system sciences, or urban sustainability, are welcome to contact Wei-Qiang at wqchen@iue.ac.cn.

Wei-Qiang's Website: www.weiqiangchen.com

For more positions, visit <http://is4ie.org/jobs>

Letters to the Community

Getting to grips with potential conflicts of interests in the LCA field: time to tighten it up?

Sometimes it is only the juxtaposition of difference which serves to illuminate discrepancies in approach. It was therefore completely by chance that in a relatively short space of time I happened to submit short publications to three different journals which served to highlight differences in approach to the important issue of conflict of interest declarations. It is hard to say whether these differences represent historical or current influences, or whether they were prompted by editorial, disciplinary, membership or publisher decisions. However, as the official journal of the International Society for Industrial Ecology the Journal of Industrial Ecology does perhaps need to be especially vigilant.

The three pieces were submitted respectively to the *Irish Journal of Medical Science* (IJMS), *The International Journal of Life Cycle Analysis* (IJLCA), and *The Journal of Industrial Ecology* (JIE). The first two journals are published under the auspices of *Springer*, while the third is published under *Wiley*. Although the online submission formats were very similar, having to complete a Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest form for the IJMS, made the absence of such a requirement and procedure in the IJLCA all the more noticeable. The simple check box and self-prepared statement (in my case: 'there are no conflicts of interest in relation to this publication') necessary for the JIE appeared to represent something of a compromise between the two extremes. Further reflection on this issue, particularly in the context of recent and emerging issues in the journal publishing sector, and issues inherent in Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) and Social Life Cycle Analysis (S-LCA), has therefore prompted this communication.

Before continuing, it is important to detail what is covered in the new ICMJE (2010) *Form for Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest*. Following an identifying information element, Section 2 explores the work under consideration for publication and asks 'Did you or your institution at any time receive payment or services from a third party (government, commercial, private foundation, etc.) for any aspect of the submitted work (including but not limited to grants, data monitoring board, study design, manuscript preparation, statistical analysis, etc.)?'

Section 3 moves on to explore relevant 'financial relationships with entities in the ... arena that could be perceived to influence, or that give the appearance of potentially influencing, what you wrote in the submitted work.' This section continues stating that 'You should disclose interactions with ANY entity that could be considered broadly relevant to the work...Report all sources of revenue paid (or promised to be paid) directly to you or your institution over the 36 months prior to submission of the work. This should include all monies from sources with relevance to the submitted work, not just monies from the entity that sponsored the research. Please note that your interactions with the work's sponsor that are outside of the submitted work should be listed here. If

Section 4 then examines intellectual property with authors being asked 'do you have any patents, whether planned, pending or issued, broadly relevant to the work?' The last element to be examined here, Section 5, is a overall section addressing 'relationships not covered above' and asks 'are there other relationships or activities that readers could perceive to have influenced, or that give the appearance of potentially influencing, what you wrote in the submitted work?'

This disclosure form is not held up as a paragon of virtue. It has been revised in recent years and the ICMJE have already invited comments on the current version. However, as should be evident to readers, it is clearly relatively comprehensive, addressing most pertinent issues. The absence of such a procedure in the IJLCA raises issues, and could potentially threaten its credibility.

This is important as the UNEP Guidelines For Social Life Cycle Assessment of Products already note a potential vulnerability of LCA and S-LCA in relation to harmful products. The Guidelines state that 'In theory, S-LCA may be conducted on any products, even those that are knowingly harmful to society (e.g. weapons). It is recommended to use S-LCA ethically and it is assumed that peer review will prevent using the methodology inappropriately'. The credibility of both the emerging field of LCA and the fledgling field of S-LCA may be irreparably damaged if it is publicly used to 'support' particular modes of production in the process of manufacturing goods such as weapons and cigarettes.

However, hoping for peer review to control such actions may be naïve. Convincing evidence has emerged globally, and from the USA in particular, outlining the tactics used by 'Big Tobacco' to manipulate academic discourse and the use 'mercenary scientists' in support of their cause/profits. As the well-known saying from Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice* goes 'The devil can cite Scripture for his purpose' (Act 1, Scene 3).

It might for example be opportune for a company to finance or conduct a LCA or even a S-LCA on landmines. It might for example focus on the production of a specific anti-personnel mine encased in plastic to hinder detection (a minimal metal mine), of the type that are proving so deadly in 'post-conflict' zones around the globe. 'Borrowing' from Public Health one could even approaching the issue from a 'harm reduction' perspective which would provide a justifying philosophical framework (i.e. based on the principle that 'people are going to produce them anyway, so let us produce them in a way that minimizes harm in the production process'). Despite the general objection to such products, as evinced by such reputable agencies as the International Red Cross & Red Crescent Movement, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, and Physicians for Human Rights, if you look hard enough, you will always find voices in support.

Although, of course, this is a deliberately extreme case to demonstrate the issue, the transparency that a comprehensive and detailed Conflicting Issue Disclosure Declaration introduces will allow readers to evaluate findings in the journal with more confidence. Such a declaration is perhaps more important given issues that threaten the credibility and reputation of academic journal publishing generally. Although these other issues are not directly related to the IJLCA, they have ramifications for the whole sector and as such any efforts to maintain, operationalize and demonstrate the credibility of the journal should be seriously considered.

Frank Houghton PhD, MPHe, MA, MSc, MA

Department of Public Health & Health Administration, Eastern Washington University, Spokane, Washington, USA

The ISIE newsletter is published four times a year. The aim of the newsletter is to keep our members informed about the latest and greatest ISIE news from around the globe. We can only do it with your help! Please send us any information you think is worth including in the newsletter (conference summary, important publications, job posting, new appointments, etc.) to Vered Blass, isienewsletter@gmail.com



Subscribe

Past Issues

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

International Society for Industrial Ecology · 195 Prospect Street · New Haven, Connecticut 06511 · USA

RSS 

MailChimp