

# **The Sixth Symposium on Industrial Ecology for Young Professionals (SIEYP VI)**

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## **1. Background**

The Sixth Symposium on Industrial Ecology for Young Professionals (SIEYP VI) took place before the Industrial Society for Industrial Ecology (ISIE) 2019 biennial conference, with activities beginning on July 6th and ending on the morning of July 7th, 2019. The ISIE 2019 Conference, themed “Industrial Ecology for Eco-Civilization,” brought together researchers, industrial practitioners, and policymakers to discuss how their research skills could be applied towards the development of more sustainable societies. In line with this subject, the ISIE Student Chapter Board hosted the SIEYP VI with the theme of “Turning research into action”. During the associated SIEYP VI, young professionals including graduate students, postdocs, researchers, assistant professors, and other junior faculty members developed their skills of translating research ideas into policy initiatives, visited innovative industrial facilities in Beijing, discussed their original research ideas and experiences, and received constructive feedback. By attending both SIEYP VI and ISIE 2019 conference, they also examined their ideas with experts in the field of industrial ecology, as well as established relationships with international peers and professionals for collaborations in their future research.

## **2. Objectives**

The SIEYP VI focused on translating industrial ecology research into tangible outcomes through policy development or implementation. The main goal of this symposium was to provide an ideal venue for young professionals who perform research in the industrial ecology to use their skills to identify and develop methods to translate environmental science and sustainability concepts into actionable items.

The specific intellectual goals were to:

- Learn how to identify and communicate the intersectionality of research with pertinent and emerging policy initiatives
- Build skills of argument framing to appeal to cross-disciplinary audiences including policy makers
- Translate research and communication skills into effective research planning and grant writing habits.

## **3. Symposium format**

### 3.1. Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019:

- a. Welcome message and Warming-up “Speed Dating and Networking.” Participants got to know each other quickly.



*Figure 1 Participants talking to each other in the warming-up activities*

- b. Main activities run by different Student Board members:
  - **Inspirational Research to Action Case Studies.** Short talk on cases of the Cape Town water policy, circular economy, cities & urban mining, social receptivity and aversion to climate change and food system policies, transport / US agencies.
  - **World Café (Figure 2).** Participants discussed and exchanged views on thirteen topics regarding different stages in the research processes, such as research ethics, data management, stakeholder interactions, publication, etc. After discussions, key points which emerged in every table were reported back. By the end of the session, a complete list of practices and considerations was summarized.
  - **Diversity & Inclusion conversations.** Short exercises to highlight the importance of inclusion and diversity. Also, participants reflect their main thoughts on the research-to-action group discussion, using an inclusion and diversity lens.



Figure 2 Introduction on the idea of World Café and core topics for discussion

c. Field trips in Beijing:

- **Smart Agriculture Exhibition Center (Figure 3).** Visited the multilayer hydroponic production exhibition, the soil rehabilitation and rainwater utilization exhibition, and the crops safety electronic control system and information storage/feedback system exhibition.
- **China International Battery, Raw Material, Producing Equipment and Battery Parts Fair (Figure 4).** Visited new energy and resource saving technologies, and environmentally friendly products.



Figure 3 Field trip to the Smart Agriculture Exhibition Center



Figure 4 Field trip to China International Battery, Raw Material, Producing Equipment and Battery Parts Fair

3.2. Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019: Optional group sightseeing trip to the Forbidden City in Beijing (individual charge).

3.3. Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2019: Student Posters Session (Figure 5). 62 student posters visited by all participants and judges during the section, and excellent ones received rewards.



*Figure 5 Student poster presentations and Excellent Student Poster Awards giving ceremony*