



Sustainability Research Symposium University of Auckland Business School

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Sustainability Leadership - *the role of universities in transition to sustainable societies*



The quest to realise a more sustainable way of life on Earth is increasingly becoming a race, not against one another, but against time.

The challenges of the decline of biodiversity, of energy, food and water security, of climate change, of economic sustainability and of human health have been recognised as being among the greatest faced by the human race and the planet and we believe that the urgency of these requires unity of purpose and of leadership.

We recognise that universities have important roles in researching solutions to such problems so as to bequeath a sustainable world to future generations and in educating future generations about this awareness and research.

We recognise that member institutions are committed to engaging with issues of global significance and that by working together collaboratively and cooperatively we can achieve more than is possible working alone. We acknowledge the role that universities play in creating a new future for the dynamic world in which we live. Through research, teaching, community partnerships and demonstrable actions, universities can help advance timely solutions to ecological, societal and economic problems. Through our engagement with civil society, industry and government, we can accelerate these solutions beyond the campus itself.



(Universitas 21 Statement of Sustainability, 2010, Preamble)



Key questions

- what is the role of universities in creating leadership in transition to sustainable societies?
- how can university led research and education better respond to the aspirations of current and future generations?
- how can/are universities placing higher value on the opportunities of the present as we transition to sustainable societies?
- how can universities further enhance and advance sustainable related research and education through new and innovative institutional processes?
- where can universities look to benchmark success in sustainable leadership and build on these?
- how is success in sustainability driven leadership being determined and measured and how important?
- is it to develop critical perspectives of sustainability(ism)?



Research Projects

Status and Sustainability in Lifestyle choices (*FDRF – Faculty Development Research Fund*)

Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research (*WUN – World University Network*)

Post graduate supervisions - snapshot

Food security and Food sovereignty (Mariaelena Huambachano, *PhD*)

Socially Responsible Leadership in Bhuddist Systems (Mai Vu, *PhD*)

Sustainability Awards; inspiring leadership in business (Kaisa Sahi, *MCom*)

Ecopreneurship (Nik Fong, *MCom*)

New Patterns of sustainable consumption (Richard Atkins, *BComHons*)

Sustainability in global events – the case of the Rugby World Cup (Soeren *MCom*)

Sustainability in the fashion industry (*MCom*)

A critical approach to diversity (Anika Bentham, *MCom*)

