

Seminar on Circular Economy – February 5th, 2016, 11.00-12.50

In the past decade we have witnessed the increased popularity of the concept of circular economy, which describes an economy that “is restorative and regenerative by design and aims to keep products, components, and materials at their highest utility and value at all times” (EMF, 2015; <http://ec.europa.eu/>). The popularity of the concept is partly a consequence of growing awareness in our societies that we cannot sustain our current, linearly organized economies if we want to make our societies sustainable. The concept of circular economy has received interest from business, government, academia and other groups in our society, and visions on the Circular Economy abound. These visions typically focus on circular economy as a “desired state;” the specific mechanisms through which the transition from a linear to a circular economy is to take place typically remain implicit. On **February 5th, 2016, 11.00-12.50**, the Leiden-Delft-Erasmus (LDE) alliance’s Centre for Sustainability invites interested staff and students to a seminar in which we discuss mechanisms through which the transition to a circular economy is to take place. The question central to the seminar is as follows: *What is required now to make the transition from a linear economy to a circular economy happen?*

The seminar will start with 10-minute presentations by four experts (Prof. Marian Chertow, Dr. Nancy Bocken, Prof. Arnold Tukker, Prof. Frank Boons), each of whom will discuss the problem sketched above from his/her own specific angle. Each presentation is followed by 5-minute discussion by one of the other experts. After the presentations, a plenary discussion takes place in which all attendees of the workshop may participate. A full program and a more detailed introduction of the experts can be found below.

Location

The seminar will take place in the A-Hall of the building of the faculty Technology, Policy and Management (TPM). This is building 31 on the campus map ([see map online](#)), with the address Jaffalaan 5. The hall is very close to the entrance on the ground floor.

Program

- 11.00 – 11.15 Welcome and opening, introduction of the speakers
- 11.15 – 11.25 First presentation - Marian Chertow on self-organization
- 11.25 – 11.30 Discussant first presentation – Frank Boons
- 11.30 – 11.40 Second presentation - Nancy Bocken on business models for circular economy
- 11.40 – 11.45 Discussant second presentation - Marian Chertow
- 11.45 – 11.55 Third presentation - Arnold Tukker on the role of data on ecological impact
- 11.55 – 12.00 Discussant third presentation - Nancy Bocken
- 12.00 – 12.10 Fourth presentation Frank Boons on the role of governments
- 12.10 – 12.15 Discussant fourth presentation - Arnold Tukker
- 12.15 – 12.45 Plenary discussion - moderated by Wouter Spekkink
- 12.45 – 12.50 Closing statements

Introduction of the experts

Marian Chertow is associate professor of Industrial Environmental Management and has been director of the Industrial Environmental Management Program at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies since 1991. Marian Chertow is well-known for her publications in the field of Industrial Ecology (in particular industrial symbiosis), which is one of the fields from which the concept of circular economy draws its inspiration. Marian Chertow's contribution to the seminar focuses on the role of self-organization in the transition to a circular economy.

Nancy Bocken is associate professor at Delft University of Technology, Senior research associate at the University of Cambridge, Fellow at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL), and advisor to a number of organisations on sustainable business models. Nancy Bocken is an expert on sustainable business models, closed loop economy and eco-innovation. Her contribution to the seminar focuses on the role of circular business models in the transition to a circular economy.

Arnold Tukker is professor of Industrial Ecology and director of the Institute for Environmental Sciences (CML) in Leiden, and was formerly the business line manager Societal Innovation and Economy at TNO. Arnold coordinates multiple major programs that involve about 20 key European research institutes in the field of resource efficiency. One of these programs concerns the construction of detailed global energy/resource/economic input-output databases and models (EXIOBASE). Arnold's contribution to the seminar focuses on the role of such databases and models in the transition to a circular economy.

Frank Boons is professor of Innovation and Sustainability at the Sustainable Consumption Institute of the University of Manchester. In his research, he seeks to provide a deeper understanding of processes of innovation where sustainability is contested, with a strong focus on the processual quality of sustainable innovation. Frank Boons' contribution to the seminar focuses on the role of governments in the transition to a circular economy.

Sources

Circular Economy Strategy: Closing the loop - An EU action plan for the Circular Economy. Website.
URL: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/index_en.htm

Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF). 2015. Towards a Circular Economy: Business Rationale for an Accelerated Transition. Available online at:
http://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/assets/downloads/TCE_Ellen-MacArthur-Foundation_9-Dec-2015.pdf