

Sustainability & Innovation

Monthly Lecture Series 2015

According to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCED) in Brazil in 2012 (Rio+20) innovation plays a crucial role in addressing the seven selected priority areas: decent jobs, energy, sustainable cities, food security & sustainable agriculture, water, oceans and disaster readiness. Yet, what do we mean by 'innovation', how do we identify sustainable innovation, and what are the roles and responsibilities of the private sector, civil society and the state in enabling change through demand-oriented innovation?

The four keynote speakers look at the role of entrepreneurship and innovation in a global Green Economy and discuss what type of mental frames in economics, civil society, business and public policy either hinder or facilitate sustainable change through innovation.



Keynote Lectures in the Aula of the University of Zurich

Sustainability and Innovation: Challenges and Opportunities

Calestous Juma – 19. Februar 2015, 18:15

Professor of the Practice of International Development at
Harvard Kennedy School and Martin Luther King, Jr Visiting Professor at the
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Achieving Sustainability: should people be fitted to policies, or policies to people?

Paul Collier – 19. März 2015, 18:15

Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government
at the University of Oxford

*Cradle to Cradle® Celebrating the Human Footprint – 40 years of environmental
debate as the engine for innovation in quality*

Michael Braungart – 16. April 2015, 18:15

Professor at Erasmus University, Rotterdam and Founder of EPEA Hamburg

Using agricultural biodiversity to face malnutrition and climate change

Ann Tutwiler – 21. Mai 2015, 18:15

Director General, Bioversity International, Rome, Italy

Speaker Bios:



Calestous Juma is Professor of the Practice of International Development (on leave) and Director of both the Science, Technology, Globalization and Agricultural Innovation in Africa Projects at Harvard Kennedy School. He is also Faculty Chair of HKS's Edward S. Mason Fellows program and the Innovation for Economic Development Executive Program. He is a former executive secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and founder of the African Centre for Technology Studies in Nairobi. He recently co-chaired the African Union's High-Level Panel on Science, Technology and Innovation has been elected to scientific academies including the Royal Society of London, the US National Academy of Sciences, the World Academy of Sciences, the UK Royal Academy of Engineering and the African Academy of Sciences. He is author of 'The New Harvest: Agricultural Innovation in Africa' (Oxford University Press, 2011). His next book, 'Africa Pushback: Tensions between Technological Innovation and Incumbency' is under review. Calestous Juma is currently Dr Martin Luther King, Jr Visiting Professor (2014-2015) at MIT Department of Urban Planning working on a book on technology, innovation and entrepreneurship for development.



Sir Paul Collier is Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government; a Professorial Fellow of St Antony's College; and Co-Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford. He is also Director of the International Growth Centre (IGC), a research initiative hosted by LSE in partnership with Oxford University. Paul is currently adviser to the Strategy and Policy Department of the International Monetary Fund and adviser to the Africa Region of the World Bank. He has written widely for the New York Times, the Financial Times, the Wall Street Journal, and the Washington Post. His research covers the causes and consequences of civil war; the effects of aid and the problems of democracy in low-income and natural-resources rich societies. Recent books include 'The Bottom Billion' (Oxford University Press, 2007), 'The Plundered Planet' (Oxford University Press, 2010) and 'Exodus: How migration is changing our world' (Oxford University Press, 2013). In 2014, Paul received a knighthood for services to promoting research and policy change in Africa.



Michael Braungart is founder and scientific CEO of „EPEA Internationale Umweltforschung GmbH“ in Hamburg, „McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry“ (MBDC) in Charlottesville, Virginia (USA), and of the „Hamburger Umweltinstitut“ (HUI). In 2013 he received the SEA Excellence Award for Sustainable Entrepreneurship for his contribution to the development of the Cradle-to-Cradle principle, an eco-vision and a business model for a society without waste. His most recent book with William McDonough is called ‘The Upcycle: Beyond Sustainability-Designing for Abundance’ (Intelligente Verschwendung) (New Point Press, 2013). Today he holds four academic chairs: at the Rotterdam School of Management of Erasmus University, Leuphana University Lüneburg, University Twente in Enschede and at TU Delft (visiting). In 2013, Michael was awarded an honorary professorship from TU München in the context of the federal Initiative of Excellence and also received an honorary doctorate from Hasselt University (Belgium).



Ann Tutwiler is Director General of Bioversity International in Rome, Italy. The organization was established in 1974 as the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) to coordinate an international plant genetic resources program with its secretariat based at The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO). In 1994 it became an independent CGIAR Center and changed its operating name in 2006 to Bioversity International. The new name reflects an expanded vision of its role in the area of agricultural and forest biodiversity and research-for-development activities. Prior to joining Bioversity International, Ann served as Deputy Director General, Knowledge, at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) where she coordinated the development of cohesive positions on Rio+20 for FAO in collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP) and Bioversity International. Ann holds degrees in Agribusiness from Purdue University and Harvard Business School, a Masters from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Arts from Davidson College.