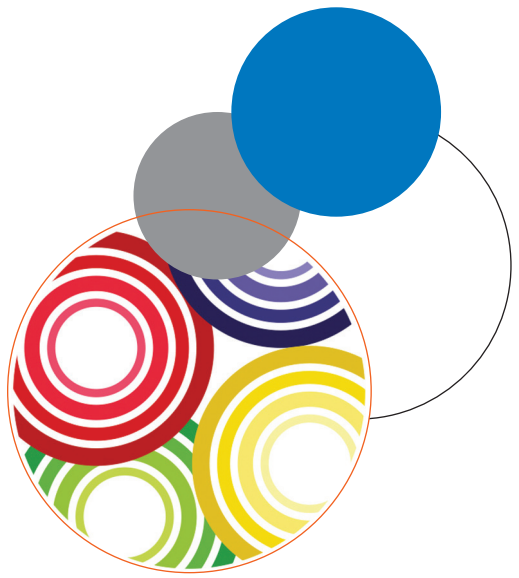




Social LCA

*Impacts, Interests,
Interactions*

7th SocSem

Pre-proceedings

**7th Social LCA
Conference**

June 15-17, 2020
Sweden

Collection FruiTrop Thema

Social LCA

Impacts, Interests, Interactions

**Pre-proceedings of the
7th Social Life Cycle Assessment
Conference**

S-LCA 2020 – June 15-17, 2020 – Sweden

Collection FruiTrop Thema:

ACV sociales, effets socio-économiques des chaînes de valeurs (2013)

Social LCAs – Socio-economic effects in value chains (2013)

Social LCA in progress – Pre-proceedings of the 4th International Seminar in social LCA (2014)

Social LCA – Researcher School Book
Social evaluation of the life cycle, application to the agriculture
and agri-food sectors

Social LCA – Pre-proceedings of the 6th social LCA Conference (2018)
People and Places for Partnership

Preface

This book contains the collection of abstracts accepted for the 7th S-LCA conference, hosted from Gothenburg, Sweden on the 15-17th of June 2020. The theme we chose for the conference is 'Impacts, Interest and Interactions'. By that, we want to direct attention to not only the social impacts, the core of a social life cycle assessment, but also to the assessment process and its context, as well as to the social interactions in the product system as such. An assessment process is subject to influence from stakeholders with varying interests – the extent to which these stakeholders do, or do not, interact within the product system likely leads to differences in the way the assessments are conducted and to their outcomes. From this emerges a question about what recommendations are appropriate for different fields of application. When it comes to the product life cycle, a better understanding of its social organization can inform us about its particular sustainability challenges, the prospects of sustainability change and the role of assessments for this.

Things do not always go as expected. We committed proudly in Pescara on 10-12th of September 2018 to take the responsibility of hosting the upcoming S-LCA conference and to have the opportunity to welcome you all to Sweden and Gothenburg, in a time of the year when Sweden is at its best. Now, when that time is approaching, many things have been turned upside-down due to the pandemic of COVID-19. We have had to change the conference from a traditional to an online setting. This is sad since the very meeting of other researchers in your own field is so inspiring. Now we have to get inspired by each other in other ways.

This book can be such a source of inspiration. It has always been important to publish the 'state-of-the-art' of S-LCA research in conjunction to the conferences. But this time, with a virtual conference, a printed book is possibly even more important for sharing of our findings and insights from research. We extend our gratitude to Catherine Macombe and Catherine Sanchez for making the publication of this book through CIRAD possible.

Many interesting observations can be made about the contributions collected in this book. Most striking, perhaps, is the wide variety of methods and approaches presented in the contributions. We see a number of novel approaches to S-LCA, previously not attempted, such as the merging of S-LCA with other methods (see 3.5 in this book). There is also considerable innovation in methodologies for impact pathways and indicators (see 1.2). We noted the wide array of different types of applications for S-LCA. These range from company-level to economy-level assessments, from the study of existing production systems to explorations of novel designs, from procurement to waste management policy-making (see 2.1-2.5). But we also see another type of studies with less assessment and more description and social analysis (see 5.0). These could perhaps best be characterized as social life cycle studies.

Taken together, the contributions point to the method's potentially wide usage. Its usage in practice, however, is another matter. We are therefore pleased to see the first few studies focusing on the practice of S-LCA at the conference (see 4.0). Such studies could provide important feedback to method developers. Of particular importance for this conference are the contributions about the update of the 2009 S-LCA UNEP/SETAC guidelines and their road-testing (see 1.0 and 2.0). The work to revise guidelines has been underway for some time and the conference provides an important opportunity to share and discuss these with the wider research community.

To complement the submitted contributions, we have invited keynote speakers who can deepen our understanding of social sustainability and of the contexts for which S-LCA is aimed for. Such background knowledge is often taken for granted and therefore rarely discussed. These presentations bring even more multidisciplinary knowledge to our research. The S-LCA field is certainly varied and exhibits increasing methodological pluralism! Embracing this diversity could give us better tools to address the complex social problems associated with sustainability.

In this book, our ideas, if not our embodied selves, come together and form a body of knowledge. We hope this can serve as consolation in times when we want to be together but are kept apart by external circumstances. To turn this into, if not physical contact, so at least digital contact, we highly recommend all participants of the conference and others interested to read this book. Then, send an email to someone who has produced an abstract that you find especially important or influential for your own research, and start a conversation. Let us try to keep up the conversation, even though we right now need to do it in non-traditional ways.

Gothenburg and Stockholm, April 2020

Henrikke Baumann and Elisabeth Ekener

Conference chairs of SLCA2020

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The role of social aspects evaluation in circular economy

Gabriella Arcese¹ (gabriella.arcese@unicusano.it), **Stefano Poponi¹**,
Olimpia Martucci², **Chiara Montauti²**, **Breno Barros Telles do Carmo³**

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Introduction

Circular economy model not only concerns economic models and political guidelines, but also represents a cultural model and behaviour that is becoming increasingly important on a global scale to the level of production, consumption and institutional framework in order to pursue the reduction of the usage of primary raw materials towards models of reuse and recycling of quality materials (Notarnicola et al., 2016). For both European and national levels, there is an institutional thrust accentuated towards a circular economy, as represented by EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy at the community level and by environmental connections to the law of stability, 2016 "Law of 28/12/2015 n. 221".

A circular economy (EC) is an economy designed to regenerate in which the trade may relate to the raw materials, waste, energy, water, services and expertise in order to establish a "closed loop" according to the "green economy" approach as an alternative to classic linear model of production systems (Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2016 in Stahel, 2016).

Already in the second half of the nineties, several studies were carried out, showing that the presence of innovative networks among companies can influence the behavior and the outputs of the companies involved (Arcese et al., 2013).

Beyond the material aspects, additional key principles of cradle-to-cradle are the use of renewable energy sources and the promotion of biodiversity as well as cultural and social diversity (McDonough & Braungart, 2002).

The object of this research is to identify the most appropriate indicators in assessing the social impacts of the circular economy.

Methods

Starting from the Social LCA framework an extensive literature and case studies review was conducted. From S-LCA approach useful basis social indicators are: Job creation, Job security, Health and wellbeing, Community stability, Education standards,

Community services, Crime rates, Equality/Accessibility, Protecting and Enhancing Cultural Heritage, Local Identity and Assets.

Results and discussion

This part of research describes the social aspects of the general framework and the social life cycle assessment inclusion in the general model.

Based on an extensive literature review, this research provided a discussion about the concept of the circular economy, an overview of the main circular economy processes, their applications in different sectors and their economic, environmental and social impacts.

Several case studies highlight of Job creation and Job development from circular economy practices. While the employment impacts of the circular economy in terms of the number of jobs have been analyzed in various studies, assessments of other social and employment impacts appear to be less present the literature, specifically, there is limited information available on social aspects such as gender, skills, occupational and welfare effects, poverty and inequalities.

A crucial role in the realization of circular economy models is played by the environmental and social communication and education actions that must be started in order to allow the training of personnel and citizens, also trying to influence consumers of goods and service users towards sustainable consumption practices.

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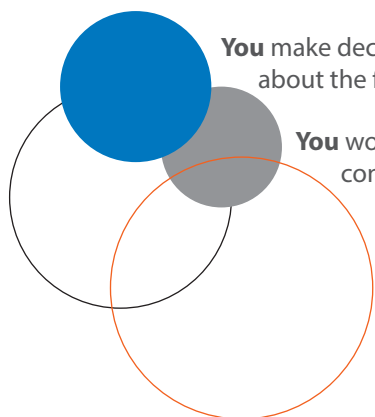
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You make decisions
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2020 impacts interests interactions Social LCA

The SocSem meetings have generated a community of scholar engaged in the social dimensions of product life cycles. It is ten years since the first meeting in Copenhagen. The evolving field is reflected in the diversity of methods, applications and perspectives explored.

The 7th international conference on Social LCA collects research on methods for social impacts, analyses of stakeholder interests and studies of social interactions in product chains and influence. People are intrinsic to the product life cycle. They are not external to it, and what counts as impacts are results of the social arrangements and interactions between groups of people.

These pre-proceedings collect the accepted contributions to the conference. In all, it brings together the work of 212 authors to 60 contributions.



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