

Reference

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The Palgrave
Handbook
of Global
Sustainability

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The Palgrave Handbook of Global Sustainability

Editors:

- [Robert Brinkmann \(Editor-in-Chief\)](#)
- Clearly structured around the three “E’s” of sustainability: environment, equity and economics.
- Interdisciplinary approach that captures the experiences and practices required to understand sustainability.
- A timely reference for those seeking up-to-date research in the field.

About this book

The field of sustainability continues to evolve as a discipline. The world is facing multiple sustainability challenges such as climate change, water depletion, ecosystem loss, and environmental racism. The Handbook of Sustainability will provide a comprehensive reference for the field that examines in depth the major themes within what are known as the three E’s of sustainability: environment, equity, and economics. These three themes will serve as the main organizing body of the work. In addition, the work will include sections on history and sustainability, major figures in the development of sustainability as a discipline, and important organizations that contributed or that continue to contribute to sustainability as a field. The work is explicitly global in scope as it considers the very different issues associated with sustainability in the global north and south

About the editor

Robert Brinkmann is the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Northern Illinois University. He is also a Professor of Earth, Atmosphere, and Environment. He was born in 1961 in rural Wisconsin and was greatly influenced by his experiences growing up in a quaint, small-town environment. As a child he spent many hours in nature hiking, fishing, and canoeing, especially in the wilderness of northern Wisconsin. In 1979, he entered the Geology program at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh. There, he

earned a Bachelor of Science with a focus on lithology, mineralogy, and field geology. During this period, he traveled throughout North America and participated in a geology field school in the Yukon. His first publication, on the formation of the Berlin Rhyolite, was published in 1982.

After graduation, Brinkmann attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he earned an MS in Geology in 1986 and a PhD in Geography in 1989. During this period, he worked in diamond exploration, ice crystallography, and soil chemistry. It was while conducting fieldwork in diamond exploration that Brinkmann began to be influenced by sustainability issues. He found the surface of the world so altered, that it was difficult to obtain undisturbed samples for detailed analysis. He started to take courses with the late Forest Stearns, one of the first ecologists to call for research on urban ecosystems, and the late Robert Eidt, a soil scientist noted for his definition and interpretation of anthrosols, or humanly modified soils. Brinkmann began to study a number of topics including heavy metal geochemistry of garden soils in cities, pre-Islamic agricultural soils in the Arabian Peninsula, and soil and sediment erosion in mountainous regions. Brinkmann also took courses with cave and karst expert, xxi Michael J. Day, and noted archaeologist, Lynne Goldstein.

In 1990, Brinkmann became an Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida where he continued his research on urban sustainability, particularly as associated with soil and sediment pollution in urban and suburban areas. He became a Full Professor in 2000 and the first Chair of USF's Department of Environmental Science and Policy. He also served as Chair of the Department of Geography and as Interim Associate Dean for Faculty Development in the 2000s. He arrived at Hofstra University in 2011 to start a new Sustainability Studies Program and eventually became Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies.

Over the years, he designed a number of courses, including classes on sustainability management, wetlands, and community-based sustainability. He has been involved in a number of projects over the last several years including analysis of sustainability efforts in post-hurricane Long Island, evaluation of international sustainability planning with the United Nations, and research on sustainability in sports.

He also served two terms as Chair of the Board of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute and has served as the Co-Editor of the *Southeastern Geographer* and Associate Editor for the *Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*. He has served as an elected officer with a number of national, regional, and local organizations. Brinkmann is also active with human rights issues and sat on the Tampa/Hillsborough Human Rights Task Force that seeks to protect the human rights of all citizens in the Tampa region.

Brinkmann is the author of many articles and books including several on sustainability, the only book on the science, policy, and management of urban street sweeping (with Graham Tobin), and the definitive book on sinkholes in Florida. His most recent book, *Practical Sustainability: A Guide to a More Sustainable Life*, was published in 2022. He

has appeared in a variety of media outlets including CBS News and CNN. His blog, On the Brink (www.bobbrinkmann.blogspot), is one of the most popular sustainability blogs on the Internet.

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- Living reference work entry [First Online: 25 November 2022](#)
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Abstract

Social equity concerns are complicated because of political and economic realities and the number of variables the lens can embrace. This book chapter discussed on the definition of social equity, issues related to social equity, key challenges in defining social equity in sustainability, and the way forward. There are five issues highlighted which are socioeconomic status, education, public transportation, health care, and environmental threat. Some of the key challenges in defining social equity in sustainability are financial challenges, uneven progress of SDG targets, preexisting socioeconomic inequalities, and equitability of natural resources.

Keywords

- **Social equity : Sustainable development: SDG : Sustainability**

Authors and Affiliations

Institute of Sustainable and Renewable Energy, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Kota Samarahan, Malaysia

Florianna Lendai Michael & Shanti Faridah Salleh

Corresponding author

Correspondence to [Florianna Lendai Michael](#).

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