Sustainable knowledge production: Investigating the links between mobility, internationalization and quality

Nina Wormbs
Div. of History of Science, Technology and Environment, ABE
KTH Environmental Humanities Laboratory

- Div. of History of Science, Technology and Environment
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology
Goal

• The overall goal of the EHL is to shape a post-disciplinary intellectual environment that combines education, research and graduate training in innovative ways and sets knowledge in the humanities into action to favour sustainable development.

• The educational programme aims to train a new generation of historians and others to become capable, integrated environmental humanists.
Training → Research → Co-operation
Challenge driven integrative research

• “To tackle our global challenges — from water and food scarcity and climate change to digital learning, innovation, and human health — we need ambitious new answers from science and engineering. But because these challenges are rooted in culture, economics, and politics, meaningful solutions must reflect the wisdom of these domains too.”

• — MIT PRESIDENT RAFAEL REIF
Academic flying and Paris 2015
Purpose

• The purpose of this research project is to investigate the relation between mobility, internationalization and research quality with the specific aim of developing strategies for lowering CO2 emission in academic travel.

• Nina Wormbs, KTH
• Sverker Sörlin, KTH
• Gunnar Sievertsen, UiO
• Dag Aksnes, UiO
• Will Steffen, ANU, CCA
• David Nilsson, KTH
• Mattias Höjer, KTH
Driving forces for academic travel
- access to good teaching
- freedom of thought
- collaboration
- access to research facilities or field sites
- learning from the best

in short, to further learning and knowledge production
THE GREAT ACCELERATION

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TRENDS

- WORLD POPULATION
- REAL GDP
- FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

EARTH SYSTEM TRENDS

- CARBON DIOXIDE
- NITROUS OXIDE
- METHANE

- URBAN POPULATION
- PRIMARY ENERGY USE
- FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION

- STRATOSPHERIC OZONE
- SURFACE TEMPERATURE
- OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- LARGE DAMS
- WATER USE
- PAPER PRODUCTION

- MARINE FISH Capture
- SHRIMP AQUACULTURE
- COASTAL NITROGEN

- TRANSPORTATION
- TELE-COMMUNICATIONS
- INTERNATIONAL TOURISM

- TROPICAL FOREST LOSS
- DOMESTICATED LAND
- TERRESTRIAL BIOSPHERE DEGRADATION


MAP & DESIGN: Félix Pharand-Deschênes / Globalia
Three work packages

• The incentives to internationalize or to be mobile
• The bibliometric relation between quality and internationalization
• Future strategies for sustainable academic exchange
WP 1: The incentives to internationalize or to be mobile

• In this WP we want like to trace and investigate the roots and perceived reationality of the incentives to internationalize.
  – Thinkers on learning and knowledge society
  – Research bills since 1980
  – Funding agencies and the like
  – University response (eg RAE)
WP 2. The bibliometric relation between quality, internationalization and travel

• A core question in this research project is to try and established how and to what degree internationalization and travel is related to research quality. Bibliometric data are needed in combination with other data to explore possibilities for answering this question.
• Existing data not consistent
• Internationalization vs mobility
WP 3. Future strategies for sustainable academic exchange

• The final aim for this project is to provide empirically based suggestions of how maintained or even increased quality in research can be achieved with less CO2 emissions
• Conversations with funders
• Cooperative, reflexive
• CESC