



Michael Maniates is a scholar and educator of environmental politics, sustainable consumption, and socio-technical change whose academic career spans more than four decades across multiple continents. He holds a BS in Conservation and Resource Studies and an MA and PhD in Energy and Resources, all from the University of California, Berkeley. His teaching and scholarship—from Fulbright-funded energy research in Indian villages to more recent work on overconsumption and human prosperity—have received international attention and funding. Recently retired as Professor of Social Science and inaugural Chair of Environmental Studies at Yale-NUS College in Singapore, Michael is now Senior Fellow at [The Story of Stuff](#), an environmental organization in Berkeley, California.

Michael’s current work explores paths to low-consumption, high-prosperity futures and strategic policymaking for socio-technical change. He also consults on the design, implementation, and evaluation of interdisciplinary undergraduate programs in environmental studies and sustainability. He has co-edited [Confronting Consumption](#) (MIT Press, 2002) and [The](#)

[Environmental Politics of Sacrifice](#) (MIT Press, 2010), and his essays include “[Individualization: Plant a Tree, Ride a Bike, Save the World](#)” (2001), “Teaching for Turbulence” (2013), “Higher Education for a Post-Growth World” (2017), and “Beyond Magical Thinking” (2019). In 2021, he released [Consumption Corridors: Living the Good Life Within Sustainable Limits](#) (Routledge), co-authored with six European colleagues.

His latest book, [The Living-Green Myth: The Promise and Limits of Lifestyle Environmentalism](#) (Polity Press, 2025), challenges the “buy green, live lean, save the planet” approach to environmentalism, arguing that individual consumption choices can depoliticize governance, marginalize environmental citizenship, and fuel overconsumption. He is currently developing YouTube videos, op-eds, and podcasts that extend these themes to broader audiences.

Alongside his scholarship, Michael has a record in administration and program building. He co-founded two environmental non-profits—a think tank and an energy center—and has held leadership roles from program chair to academic dean, overseeing programs in environmental studies and global affairs.

Michael resides in Abu Dhabi with his wife, Rebecca, who serves as the social-science and business librarian at NYU Abu Dhabi, and their eight-year-old son, Elliot. More information is available at michaelmaniates.com.