

Michael F. Maniates

Senior Fellow, The Story of Stuff Project

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Energy and Resources Group (ERG), University of California, Berkeley. *Dissertation: "Organizing for Rural Energy Development: Improved Cookstoves, Local Organizations, and the State in Gujarat, India."* Chair: Richard Norgaard; Readers: Todd LaPorte and Michael Watts. Supported by a Fulbright-Hayes Fellowship, with supplemental support from the Smithsonian Institution and the Institute for the Study of World Politics.

M.A., Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley. *Thesis: "Local Governments and Solar Energy: The San Francisco Example."*

B.S., Conservation of Natural Resources, University of California, Berkeley. Specialization: Political economy of environmental regulation. Cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Senior Fellow, [The Story of Stuff Project](#), October 2025–present.

Professor of Social Science (Environmental Studies), Yale-NUS College, June 2013–June 2025.

Senior Visiting Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, Oberlin College, 2011–2013.

Professor, Departments of Environmental Science and Political Science (joint appointment), Allegheny College, 2006–2013.

Associate Professor, Departments of Environmental Science and Political Science (joint appointment), Allegheny College, 1999–2006.

Assistant Professor, Departments of Environmental Science and Political Science (joint appointment), Allegheny College, 1993–1999.

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Hollins College, 1993.

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Radford University, 1989–1993.

Instructor, College of Natural Resources, University of California, Berkeley, 1988.

Research Fellow, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, 1986–1987.

In-house Consultant (load shaping), Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 1984–1986.

Lead Teaching Assistant, College of Natural Resources, University of California, Berkeley, 1983–1985.

Research Fellow, National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, 1982–1983.

Research Intern, San Francisco Department of City Planning, Energy Office, 1981–1982.

Staff Writer, Friends of the Earth, International Project for Soft Energy Paths (IPSEP), 1979–1980.

TEMPORARY OR SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Allegheny College Southeast Asia Environmental Science Scholar, August 2014–June 2022.

Director of Global Studies, Institute for Shipboard Education/Colorado State University, January–May 2020.

Visiting Professor of Environmental Science, Institute for Shipboard Education/University of Virginia, May–August 2014.

Lecturer, Global Environmental Politics, Institute for Shipboard Education/University of Virginia, December 2011.

Inaugural Faculty Fellow in Strategic Planning and Public Affairs, Allegheny College, August 2010–May 2011.

Visiting Professor of Environmental Science, Institute for Shipboard Education/University of Virginia, May–August 2010.

Academic Dean and Visiting Professor of Political Science, Institute for Shipboard Education/University of Virginia, January–May 2007.

Coordinator of Global Studies, Institute for Shipboard Education/University of Virginia, May–August 2005.

Visiting Professor of Political Science, Institute for Shipboard Education/University of Pittsburgh, January–May 2001.

SCHOLARLY RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

See also [Google Scholar](#) and archived publications at michaelmaniates.com.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Just Give Us a Good Crisis: Deconstructing Incapacitating Theories of Change among Environmentally Concerned Undergraduate Students,” for *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy*.

Stop Wasting Time: Four Paths to Deep Sustainability in Higher Education. For MIT Press. In early preparation.

BOOKS

The Living-Green Myth: The Promise and Limits of Lifestyle Environmentalism. Polity Press, September 2025.

Fuchs, Doris, Marlyne Sahakian, Tobias Gumbert, Antonietta Di Giulio, Michael Maniates, Sylvia Lorek, and Antonia Graf. 2021. *Consumption Corridors: Living a Good Life within Sustainable Limits*. London and New York: Routledge. Authors are not listed in order of relative contribution.

Bensel, Terry, Lisa Dale, and Michael Maniates. 2012. *Global Socio-Economic Perspectives*. Kendall Hunt Publishers/Bridgepoint Education. Primary author of three chapters (~14,000 words each): “Global Economic Development,” “Intergovernmental Organizations and Global Cooperation,” and “Developing Nations and the Balance of Power.”

Maniates, Michael, and John Meyer, eds. 2010. *The Environmental Politics of Sacrifice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Maniates, Michael, ed. 2003. *Encountering Global Environmental Politics*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Princen, Thomas, Michael Maniates, and Ken Conca, eds. 2002. *Confronting Consumption*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Winner of the Harold and Margaret Sprout Award for best book in international environmental affairs, International Studies Association, 2003.

CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

“Beyond Magical Thinking,” in *The Routledge Handbook of Global Sustainability Governance*, eds. Agni Kalfagianni, Doris Fuchs, and Anders Hayden, 2019, pp. 269–281.

“Suddenly More Than Academic: Higher Education for a Post-Growth World,” in Worldwatch Institute’s *State of the World 2017: EarthEd — Rethinking Education on a Changing Planet*, Island Press, 2017, pp. 193–206.

- “Make Way for Hope: A Contrarian View,” in Simon Nicholson and Sikina Jinnah, eds., *A New Earth Politics*, MIT Press, 2016, pp. 135–154.
- “Teaching for Turbulence,” in Worldwatch Institute’s *State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible?*, Island Press, 2013, pp. 255–268.
- “Editing Out Unsustainable Behavior,” in Worldwatch Institute’s *State of the World 2010: Transforming Cultures, From Consumerism to Sustainability*, W.W. Norton, January 2010, pp. 119–126.
- Maniates, Michael, and John Meyer. “Must We Sacrifice? Confronting the Politics of Sacrifice in an Ecologically Full World,” in *The Environmental Politics of Sacrifice*, MIT Press, April 2010, pp. 1–8.
- “Struggling With Sacrifice: Take Back Your Time and Right2Vacation.org,” in *The Environmental Politics of Sacrifice*, MIT Press, April 2010, pp. 293–312.
- Meyer, John, and Michael Maniates. “Sacrifice and a New Environmental Politics,” in *The Environmental Politics of Sacrifice*, MIT Press, April 2010, pp. 313–320.
- “Cultivating Consumer Restraint in an Ecologically Full World: The Case of ‘Take Back Your Time,’” in Louis Lebel, Sylvia Lorek, and Rajesh Daniel, eds., *Sustainable Consumption Production Systems: Knowledge, Engagement and Practice*, Springer, December 2009, pp. 13–37.
- Princen, Thomas, Michael Maniates, and Ken Conca. “Confronting Consumption,” in *Confronting Consumption*, MIT Press, 2002, pp. 1–20.
- “Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?,” in *Confronting Consumption*, MIT Press, 2002, pp. 43–66.
- “In Search of Consumptive Resistance: The Voluntary Simplicity Movement,” in *Confronting Consumption*, MIT Press, 2002, pp. 199–236. Translated into French and reprinted in *La Revue Durable*, no. 14, November 2004; reprinted in abridged form in *Environment and Society: A Reader*, NYU Press, 2017, pp. 177–188.
- Princen, Thomas, Michael Maniates, and Ken Conca. “To Confront Consumption,” in *Confronting Consumption*, MIT Press, 2002, pp. 317–328.
- “Of Knowledge and Power,” in *Encountering Global Environmental Politics*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2002, pp. 1–15.
- “Civic Virtue and Classroom Toil in a Greenhouse World,” in *Encountering Global Environmental Politics*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2002, pp. 129–148.

ARTICLES IN SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

- Fuchs, Doris, Antonietta Di Giulio, Katharina Glaab, Sylvia Lorek, Michael Maniates, Thomas Princen, and Inge Røpke. “Power: The Missing Element in Sustainable Consumption and Absolute Reductions Research and Action.” *Journal of Cleaner Production*, vol. 20, September 2016: 298–307.
- Maniates, Michael, and Thomas Princen. “Fifteen Claims: Social Change and Power in Environmental Studies.” *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, vol. 5(2), 2015: 213–217.
- “Sustainable Consumption — Three Paradoxes.” *GALA — Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society*, vol. 23, Supplement 1, July 2014: 201–208.
- “Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?” *Global Environmental Politics*, vol. 1, no. 3, Summer 2001: 31–52. Reprinted in Leslie King and Deborah McCarthy, eds., *Environmental Sociology: From Analysis to Action*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2005, 2009, and 2014; and in Simon Nicholson and Paul Wapner, eds., *Global Environmental Politics: From Person to Planet*, Routledge, 2014, pp. 269–279.
- Maniates, Michael, and John Whissel. “Environmental Studies: The Sky Is Not Falling.” *BioScience*, June 2000: 509–517.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “Higher Education for a Post-Growth World.” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 12 June 2017 (online); 7 July 2017, pp. B10–B12 (print).
- “Going Green? Easy Doesn’t Do It.” *Washington Post*, 22 November 2007.
- “Spend More U.S. Tax Dollars — More Intelligently — in the Third World.” *Allegheny Monthly*, February 1994.
- “State-NGO Collaboration in Rural Resource Management: India’s Improved Cookstove Program.” *Unasylva*, vol. 43, no. 171, October 1992: 21–29.
- “Geography and Environmental Literacy.” *Teaching Professor*, October 1993: 5–6.
- “May You Live in Interesting Times.” *Hollins Magazine*, October 1993: 38–41.
- “Values, Technology and Sustainability.” *The TFF Journal*, April 1990: 15–19.
- Rubin, David, Michael Maniates, and Donald Bules. “Industrial-Load-Shaping: The Prospects for Utility/Industry Cooperation to Manage Peak Electric Growth.” In *Productivity Through Energy Innovation: Proceedings of the Third PG&E Energy Expo*, Pergamon Press, 1986: 65–73.
- “Community Biogas Plants: Social Catalyst or Technical Fix?” *Journal ’85*, World Resources Institute, 1985: 71–79. Winner of WRI’s Best Student Essay, 1985.
- “Both Sides of Biogas.” *Soft Energy Notes*, vol. 6, no. 2, June/July 1983: 15–17.
- “Energy Planning Plus Political Pull.” *Soft Energy Notes*, vol. 5, no. 1, March/April 1982: 16–17.

BOOK REVIEWS AND REVIEW ESSAYS

- Review of Karen Litfin’s *Ecovillages: Lessons for Sustainable Community*. *Global Environmental Politics*, vol. 15, no. 4, 2015: 138–140.
- “Everyday Possibilities.” *Global Environmental Politics*, vol. 12, no. 1, 2012: 121–125.
- “Taking Participation Seriously: John Koomey’s *Turning Numbers into Knowledge*.” *Energy Policy*, vol. 31, no. 12, December 2003: 1301–1303.
- Review of Martin Lewis’s *Green Delusions* (Duke University Press, 1992). *The Professional Geographer*, vol. 46, no. 1, February 1994: 127–28.
- Review of Chris Dixon’s *Rural Development in the Third World* (Routledge, 1990). *The Professional Geographer*, vol. 44, no. 1, February 1992: 112–114.
- Combined review of Richard Franke and Barbara Chasin’s *Kerala: Radical Reform as Development in an Indian State* and Ponna Wignaraja and Akmal Hussain’s *The Challenge of South Asia*. *The Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 50, no. 4, November 1991: 964–966.
- Lashof, Daniel, and Michael Maniates. “Beyond Technological Somnambulism: A Review of *The Whale and the Reactor*.” *Socialist Review*, no. 91, January–February 1987: 136–140.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

SCHOLARLY AWARDS AND HONORS

- Distinguished Teaching Award, Yale-NUS College, January 2021.
- Student-elected commencement speaker, Yale-NUS College, May 2020.
- “Professor Props” Citation, Oberlin College First-Year Experience Office, 2011.
- Inaugural Faculty Fellow in Strategic Planning and Public Affairs, Allegheny College, August 2010–May 2011.

Harold and Margaret Sprout Award for the best book in international environmental affairs, for *Confronting Consumption* (with Tom Princen and Ken Conca), International Studies Association, 2003.

Governor's Award (Pennsylvania) for Environmental Excellence, for the Meadville Community Energy Project (with Kathy Greely), 2002.

Thoburn Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Allegheny College, 2000.

Community Building Award, Allegheny College, for civic engagement seminars that gave rise to the student-operated coffeehouse *Grounds for Change*, 1997.

Fulbright-Hayes Research Fellowship (India), 1986.

Institute for the Study of World Politics Fellowship, 1986.

Best Student Essay Award, World Resources Institute, for "Community Biogas Plants: Social Catalyst or Technical Fix?" *Journal '85*, 1985.

ADDRESSES AND KEYNOTES (FROM 2015 ONWARDS)

"Fighting Fires with Teacups: The Unlikely Rise and Uncertain Demise of Lifestyle Environmentalism." Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, 23 March 2026.

"Eco-Lifestyles and Green Consumption: Origins, Spillovers, Hope and Despair." American University in Dubai, 6 December 2023.

"Riding the Rapids: Traps, Trim Tabs, and Tenacity in a Warming World." Department of Geography, University of Connecticut, March 2021 (via Zoom).

Commencement Speaker, Yale-NUS College Graduation Ceremonies, May 2020.

Invited keynote, "The Liveability Challenge 2019," EcoBusiness Singapore, January 2019.

"He's Not With Us Anymore." Singapore Institute of Management International Affairs Society, November 2018.

"All-In or Not At All: The 'Circular Economy' as a Call for Steady-State Thinking." Dow Packaging and Specialty Plastics Global Sustainability Team, Singapore, June 2018.

"Discovering Our Humanity Amidst Climate Tragedy." James Cook University Symposium on "Positive Responses to Climate Change," Singapore, September 2017.

"The Circular Economy for Deep Sustainability." Symposium on Futures — Sustainability 2017, National University of Singapore, April 2017.

"The New Urgency of Sustainability." NYU Shanghai, February 2016.

Invited keynote and workshop facilitator, Abrams Conference on Sustainability Education, University of Michigan. Keynote: "Teaching for Turbulence: Sustainability and Equanimity in the 21st Century." Workshops: "Theorizing about Social Change in Environmental Studies" and "Invoking Sustainability: Five Sand Traps." June 2015.

Invited keynote, "The Four Faces of Hope: Teaching for Turbulence in Environmental Studies," Haverford College, February 2015.

PODCASTS, ONLINE VIDEOS, AND NEWS INTERVIEWS

The Living-Green Myth: A Conversation with Michael Maniates. "In Over My Head" Podcast, 18 November 2025.

Simpson, Michael. *The Living-Green Myth.* New Books Network Podcast, 2 November 2025.

Lipschutz, Ronnie. "The Living-Green Myth: The Promise and Limits of Lifestyle Environmentalism with Dr. Michael Maniates." *Sustainability Now!* KSQD Radio, 8 May 2025.

"Rethinking Growth Part IV: Higher Education." "In Over My Head" Podcast, 26 May 2023.

Go with the Flo, Yahoo TV (Singapore), 23 March 2021. Commentary on steering waste-reduction efforts toward collective action to transform upstream production processes.

Climate Change — A Wicked Problem (Episode 1: Our Carbon Problem). Channel News Asia, 3 March 2021.

The Future of the Paris Climate Deal. Channel News Asia, 8 June 2017.

Teaching for Turbulence. The Worldwatch Institute, 31 May 2013 (reposted with commentary by the Buckminster Fuller Institute, 4 March 2015).

“Energy for the World” class visits TECNALIA. Semester at Sea, 20 August 2014.

Sustainable Governance Series #2 — Michael Maniates on IR and Global Environmental Politics. University of Münster, 8 June 2013.

Preparing for the Long Emergency Press Panel. The Worldwatch Institute, 27 April 2013.

Toxic Teaching Tool? (representing *The Story of Stuff* as a member of its advisory board). Fox News, 1 May 2011.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Yale-NUS College grant for research into the transnationalization of green consumerism (\$40,000), 2022.

Yale-NUS College grant for international research conference on “Social Innovation for a Low-Growth Future” (SGD \$18,000), 2017 — declined.

Blank Research Support Fund, Oberlin College, for environmental-governance research (\$5,000), 2012.

Demmler Endowment Award for Teaching Innovation, Allegheny College, in support of the Energy and Society minor (\$3,000), 2008.

Research fellowship on consumption, overconsumption, and the politics of change. Anonymous donor, awarded under the stewardship of David Orr (\$75,000), 2007.

Allegheny College research grant for a writing workshop and community presentation on “The Politics of Sacrifice” (\$4,000), 2007.

Pennsylvania Sustainable Energy Foundation grant to develop and implement a campus-community energy plan, with Kathleen Greely (\$50,000), 2005.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PAPERS (FROM 2015 ONWARDS)

Chee, Stephanie, Sonia Kaur, and Michael Maniates. “All of the Above? Confusion and Disempowerment Among Change-Seeking ESS Undergraduate Students.” Annual meetings of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, June 2018.

“Just Give Us a Good Crisis: Deconstructing the Incapacitating Faith in Crisis Among ESS Undergraduates.” Annual meetings of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, June 2018.

“Challenging the Discourse of Magical Thinking and Individual Responsibility in Environmental Policymaking.” Panel on Postmodern Strategies for Enhanced Environmental Policymaking, International Conference on Public Policy, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, June 2017.

“Making Climate Engineering Inevitable: The Trinity of Despair.” Annual meetings of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, June 2016.

WORKSHOPS AND ROUNDTABLES (FROM 2015 ONWARDS)

Organizer and Chair, “Roundtable on Strategic Springboards for Consumption Corridors,” “Tough Conversations in Tough Times” conference, Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS), Berlin, 3 December 2025.

Invited participant, “New Scenarios and Models for Climate Engineering,” National Socio-Economic Synthesis Center, University of Maryland, November 2019.

Invited contributor to two roundtables (“Innovative Approaches to Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals” and “Environmentalism of the Rich”) and discussant for “The Climate Engineering Governance Puzzle,” annual meetings of the International Studies Association, February 2017.

Invited participant, four-day workshop on sustainable-consumption book project, Institute of Political Science, University of Münster, May 2016.

Invited workshop participant, “Sustainable Systems of Consumption and Production,” Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, March 2016.

Panel participant, “Status Quo, Conflict, and Innovation in the ESS Curriculum,” and discussant, “Ecological Science Fiction and Sustainability Transitions,” annual meetings of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences, June 2015.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION (A SELECTION)

Manuscript reviewer for publishers (Cornell University Press, Polity Press, MIT Press, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Ashgate, Earthscan, Palgrave), think tanks (Worldwatch Institute), and academic journals (Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences, GAIA, Environmental Politics, Nature Communications), ongoing.

External academic adviser to the Science Unit of Lingnan University (Hong Kong), 2019–2022.

Participating scholar, knowledge-action network on systems of sustainable consumption and production, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, since 2017.

Founder and facilitator of the academic listserv and archive “global environmental politics” (“gep-ed”), with more than 700 participants, since 1994.

Consultant/external reviewer on the architecture, effectiveness, and administration of undergraduate programs in environmental science/studies, since 2005.

Associate Editor, *The Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, 2013–2022.

External academic consultant, Environmental Studies (Bachelor of Social Sciences), City University of Hong Kong, June 2015–December 2016.

Member, International Studies Association Harold and Margaret Sprout Award Committee, 1996–1998, 2008–2010, and 2013–2015.

Member, Advisory Board, Story of Stuff, an environmental NGO focusing on sustainable consumption and production, 2009–2013.

Member, Advisory Board, Take Back Your Time, a national organization promoting reduced consumption via the reorganization of work, 2009–2011.

Founder (2002) of the Meadville Community Energy Project (MCEP), recipient of the Governor’s Award for Distinctive Environmental Leadership. MCEP evolved into the Community Commonwealth Energy Project and later merged with PSD Consulting, a national energy-efficiency organization.

Co-founder (1987) and former Advisory Board member, [The Pacific Institute](#), an internationally recognized environmental policy institute.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

YALE-NUS COLLEGE (KEY APPOINTMENTS)

Head of Studies, Environmental Studies, 2013–2019, 2021–2022, 2024.

Head of Studies, Global Affairs, 2013–14.

Head of Studies, Social Science Common Curriculum, 2013–16.
Chair, Faculty Search Committee (three positions), 2021–22.
Chair, Task Force on Peer Observation of Teaching, 2016–17.
Chair, Academic Integrity Committee, 2013–16.
Facilitator, Comparative Social Inquiry, 2015, 2020, 2021.
Faculty Moderator (elected), 2015–17.
Member (elected), Committee on Faculty Affairs, 2015–17, 2020–22.
Member, Academic Policy Committee, 2013–14.

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE (KEY APPOINTMENTS)

Inaugural Faculty Fellow in Strategic Planning/Public Affairs, 2010–11.
Planning Coordinator, Energy and Society minor, 2009–11.
Chair, Committee on Discriminatory and Sexual Harassment, 2008–09 (member, 2007–2008).
Chair, Academic Support Committee, 2005–07 (member, 2003–05).
Chair, Curriculum Committee, 1995–97 (member, 1994–95).
Service on eleven faculty searches, seven tenure-and-promotion subcommittees, and active service to two departments (political science and environmental science).

TEACHING AND ADVISING

YALE-NUS COLLEGE (2013–PRESENT)

Comparative Social Inquiry; Introduction to Environmental Studies; Powering the Planet; Global Environmental Governance; Transition Theory; Theory and Practice of Environmental Policymaking; Applied Environmental Research; Sustainable Consumption and Production; Senior Capstone Research Seminar.

OBERLIN COLLEGE (2011–2013)

Introduction to Environmental Studies; Environmental Politics and Policy; Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production.

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE (1993–2011)

Introduction to Environmental Science; Energy and Society; The Politics of Third World Development; Global Environmental Governance; U.S. Activism: History and Practice; Junior Seminar (varied topics); Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production; First-Semester Seminar: “College Is the Answer, But What Was the Question?”; South Asia: Governance and Politics; Comparative Politics; Environmental Regulation and the State (“Thinking Institutionally on a Small Planet”); Senior Capstone Research Seminar.

ADVISING AND RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Yale-NUS College (2013–present): 118 academic advisees in environmental studies; 42 first-reader senior capstone advisees.

Oberlin College (2011–2013): Five academic advisees in environmental studies.

Allegheny College (1993–2011): Academic advisor in political science, environmental science, international studies, and to undeclared students, with a typical load of ~40 advisees/year. Member of more than 350 undergraduate thesis committees (more than 90 as director or chair).

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Course-related excursions in Singapore on biophilia, biodiversity, organic agriculture, renewable energy, and sustainable transport, 2014–present.

Architect and coordinator of Allegheny College “May-Term” and “Alumni College” three-week course in Yellowstone National Park (*Resorting to Yellowstone: An Exploration of “the Wild” in American Culture*), May 2000 and 2002, June 2003, and May 2004.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Occasional informal advisor to master’s and PhD students at the National University of Singapore.

Co-facilitator (with Thomas Princen) of a two-day graduate-student seminar on “Sufficiency, Sacrifice, Choice and Confrontation,” University of Münster, March 2013.

External member, doctoral defense committee (sociology of voluntary simplicity), University of Calgary, November 2008.