

Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
CSC PhD 2015 Project Description

School/Department:	Rotterdam School of Management Department of Business-Society Management
Project Title:	Planetary Boundaries and Corporate Sustainability
Abstract:	<p>Despite the significant body of knowledge on corporate sustainability practices, complex ecological problems continue to worsen. Companies are both drivers of sustainable problems and potential solutions providers (cf. Bansal and Hoffman, 2011). Research in the natural science domain indicates that environmental challenges are systemic in nature and arise from complex nested ecological processes that are directly related to how societies produce and consume resources. Yet most of the empirical research on corporate sustainability does not adopt a systems approach and focuses narrowly on single-issue topics such as toxic releases or carbon emissions (Whiteman et al., 2013). A key opportunity in corporate sustainability research is for studies to integrate systemic knowledge from the natural sciences. A useful example is the Planetary Boundaries framework developed by 28 leading international authors which identifies nine essential ecological processes that delineate a safe operating space for humanity (Rockström et al., 2009). This framework has received widespread attention from the scientific, political and business communities. To date, there has been little empirical research on the role of companies and industries within a number of these key boundaries (see Whiteman et al., 2013 for an extensive review of the literature).</p> <p>The research shall engage with the emergent new strategy of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), a CEO-level organizations with 200 member companies, as they incorporate Planetary Boundaries into their Vision 2050 and 2020 business solutions. The proposed PhD research will undertake detailed case studies on how the Planetary Boundaries concept is being used to make sense of and develop business strategies to resolving complex environmental challenges with a particular focus on freshwater use and atmospheric aerosol loading (Weick et al, 2005; Whiteman and Cooper, 2011).</p> <p>Keywords: Sustainability, Corporate sustainability, Ecology, Business, Planetary boundaries, Integrative systems, Resilience.</p> <p>References: Bansal, P. and Hoffman, A. (Eds.) (2011). The Oxford Handbook of</p>

Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
CSC PhD 2015 Project Description

	<p>Business and the Natural Environment. Oxford: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Rockström, J., Steffen, W., Noone, K., Persson, Å., Chapin, F. S. III, Lambin, E. F., et al. (2009). 'A safe operating space for humanity'. Nature, 461, 472–5.</p> <p>Weick, K. E., Sutcliffe, K. M., & Obstfeld, D. (2005). Organizing and the process of sensemaking. Organization science, 16(4), 409-421.</p> <p>Whiteman, G. and Cooper, W. H. (2011). Ecological sensemaking. Academy of Management Journal, 54(5), 889-911.</p> <p>Whiteman, G., Walker, B. and Perego, P., (2013) Planetary Boundaries: Ecological Foundations for Corporate Sustainability. Journal of Management Studies, 50 (2), 2013</p>
Requirements of candidate:	<p>Master degree: Yes</p> <p>Background:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least an MSc, MA or MPhil degree in business or economics, or from related fields to sustainability. • Excellent results in first degree/graduate study. • Explicit interest in and motivation for scientific research in corporate sustainability. • Experience with qualitative research preferred. <p>IELTS Grade: 7.0 (minimal 6.0 per component) or TOEFL: 100 (minimal 20 per component)</p>

Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
CSC PhD 2015 Project Description

<p>Supervisor information:</p>	<p>Prof. dr. Gail Whiteman gwhiteman@rsm.nl (Promoter) Dr. Steve Kennedy skennedy@rsm.nl (Daily Supervisor)</p> <p>Selected scholarly publications (last 5 years)</p> <p>Whiteman, G.M., Walker, B. & Perego, P.M. (2013). Planetary Boundaries: Ecological Foundations for Corporate Sustainability. <i>Journal of Management Studies</i>, 50(2), 307-336.</p> <p>Whiteman, G.M., Hope, Chris & Wadhams, Peter (2013). Response to Correspondence on Vast Costs of Arctic Change. <i>Nature</i>, 500, 529-529.</p> <p>Whiteman, G.M., Hope, Chris & Wadhams, Peter (2013). The vast costs of Arctic change. <i>Nature</i>, 499, 401-403.[go to publisher's site]</p> <p>Wright, Christopher, Nyberg, Daniel, De Cock, Christian & Whiteman, G.M. (2013). Future Imaginings, Organizing for Climate Change. <i>Organization</i>, 20(5), 647-658.</p> <p>Kraemer, Romy, Whiteman, G.M. & Banerjee, B. (2013). Conflict and astroturfing in Niyamgiri: The importance of national advocacy networks in anti-corporate social movements. <i>Organization Studies</i>, 34(5), 823-852.[go to publisher's site]</p> <p>Whiteman, G.M. (2013). Economics: Fixing the climate odds [Bespreking van het boek <i>The Climate Casino</i>]. <i>Nature</i>, 502, 444-444.</p> <p>Wright, Christopher, Nyberg, Daniel, De Cock, Christian & Whiteman, G.M. (2013). Voices from the front lines of the climate wars. <i>Organization</i>, 20(5), 743-744.</p> <p>Carmack, E. C., McLaughlin, F., Whiteman, G.M. & Homer-Dixon, T. (2012). Detecting and Coping with Disruptive Shocks in Arctic Marine Systems: A Resilience Approach to Place and People. <i>Ambio</i>, 41(1), 56-65.</p> <p>Elmes, M.B., Juisto, S. J., Whiteman, G.M., Hersh, B. & Guthey, G.T. (2012). Teaching social entrepreneurship and innovation from the perspective of place and place making. <i>Academy of Management Learning & Education</i>, 11(4), 533-554.[go to publisher's site]</p> <p>Elmes, Michael, Scott, J, Hersch, R., Whiteman, G.M. & Guthey, Greig (2012). Teaching Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation from the Perspective of Place and Place-Making. <i>Academy of Management Learning & Education</i>, 11, 533-554.</p> <p>Whiteman, G.M. & Cooper, W.H. (2011). Ecological Sensemaking. <i>Academy of Management Journal</i>, 54(5), 889-911.[go to publisher's site]</p> <p>Whiteman, G.M. (2011). Making Sense of Climate Change: How to Avoid the Next Big Flood (2011, april 01). Rotterdam: ERIM.</p>
---------------------------------------	--

	<p>Whiteman, G.M. (2011). Climate economics: Corporate Greening falls short [Bespreking van het boek Climate Capitalism: Capitalism in the Age of Climate Change]. <i>Nature</i>, 473, 149-150.</p> <p>Whiteman, G.M., Vos, Rene, Chapin, F.S., Yli-Pelkonen, V., Niemelä, J. & Forbes, B. (2011). Business strategies and the transition to low-carbon cities. <i>Business Strategy and the Environment</i>, 20(4), 251-265.</p> <p>Jolly, F. & Whiteman, G.M. (2011). Managing and Educating Outside: A Cree hunter's perspective. <i>Journal of Management Education</i>, 35(1), 27-50.</p> <p>Whiteman, G.M. (2010). Heart Matters. <i>Journal of Management Inquiry</i>, 19, 348-349.</p> <p>Loorbach, D., Van Bakel, J., Whiteman, G.M. & Rotmans, J. (2010). Business strategies for transitions towards sustainable systems. <i>Business Strategy and the Environment</i>, 19(2), 133-146.</p> <p>Whiteman, G.M. (2010). First you have to get outside: Reflections on the ecological location of qualitative fieldwork. <i>Organization and Environment</i>, 23, 119-131.</p> <p>Bruijn, E. & Whiteman, G.M. (2010). That which doesn't break us: Identity work by local 'stakeholders'. <i>Journal of Business Ethics</i>, 96(3), 479-496.</p> <p>Whiteman, G.M. (2010). Management Studies That Break Your Heart. <i>Journal of Management Inquiry</i>, 19, 328-337.</p> <p>Whiteman, G.M., Dorsey, M.K. & Wittneben, B.B.F. (2010). Business and biodiversity: They would say that. <i>Nature</i>, 466, 435-435.</p>
--	--