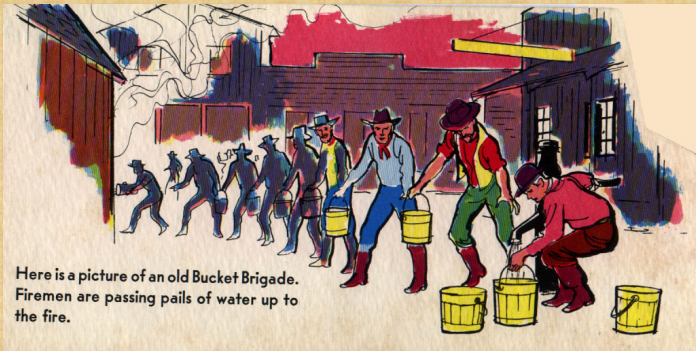


Populating the life cycle perspective

... about new methods for analysing social/organisational dimensions of product chains for management studies ...

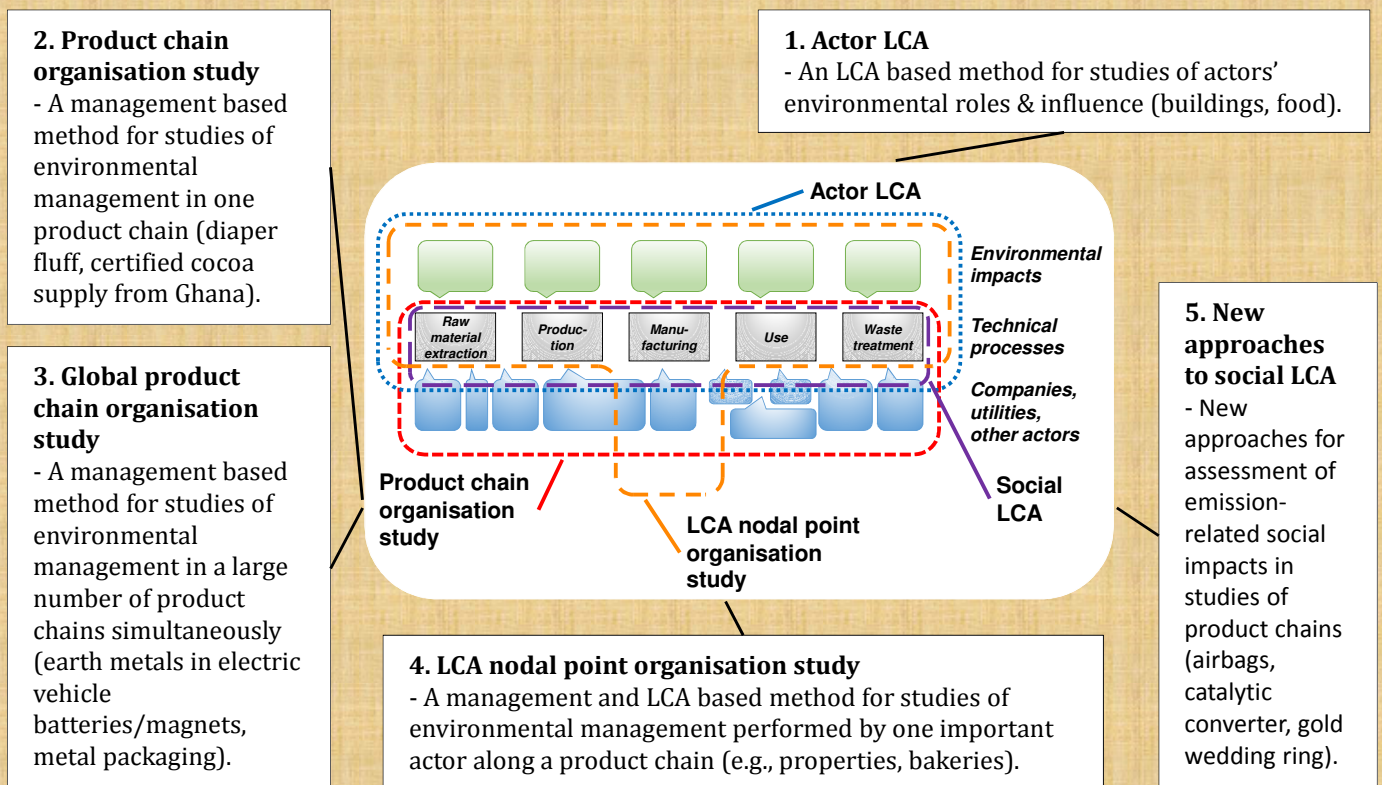


WHY LIFE CYCLE METHODS NEED 'POPULATING'?

The strength of the life cycle perspective is that it takes the whole product chain into account so that the shifting of environmental problems along the chain can be avoided. A weakness with conventional life cycle assessment (LCA) is that its enviro-technical analysis does not easily identify actors and their scope of action. However, it is actors and organisations that enable product flows, like the firemen passing water buckets.

FIVE NEW METHODS

Here we present the outcome of a decade of research: a portfolio of life cycle methods for management studies. Performed case studies are listed in the parentheses.



NEW MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS

Populated LCA methods can be used for analysis of and improving efforts in different organisations' sustainability work. They can be alternatives to or complement existing approaches found under labels such as:

- life cycle management
- supply chain management
- operations management
- corporate social responsibility



Assoc. Prof. Henrikke Baumann, Dr. Birgit Brunklaus, PhD Candidate Mathias Lindkvist, Dr. Rickard Arvidsson, Lic. Hanna Lindén, Dr. Jutta Hildenbrand

Environmental Systems Analysis, Chalmers University of Technology, SE-412 96 Göteborg, Sweden