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What a Waste

a norm-critical study on how waste is understood and managed through integrating perspectives

Fagerholm, Anna-Sara; Göransson, Karina; Haller, Henrik; Hedvall, Per-Olof

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LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117
221 00 Lund
+46 46-222 00 00



Book of Abstracts

The 28th Annual Conference,
International Sustainable Development
Research Society

“Sustainable Development and Courage.
Culture, Art and Human Rights”



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Preface to Book of Abstracts ISDRS 2022

This is the official *Book of Abstracts* of the 28th annual conference of International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS) in Stockholm and online: “ISDRS 2022” with the conference title of “Sustainable Development and Courage. Culture, Art and Human Rights”.

Its structure is simple. The ten parts of the Book of Abstracts are related to the ten themes of the ISDRS annual conferences. Within each part, you will find about 340 accepted abstracts to the many tracks that ISDRS has invited scholars to submit and present at the conference.

It is best used as a PDF in which you can search for authors or key words. The text here corresponds to the text you will find in the virtual conference programme, available for registered conference participants, that reveals when presentations will take place.

<https://virtual.oxfordabstracts.com/#/event/2619/program>

We hope that you will have most stimulating and successful conference days, and that you will have a lovely stay in Stockholm!

Organizing Committee of ISDRS 2022

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5. Production, Consumption and Innovation

5b. Design for sustainability

What a Waste – A norm-critical study on how waste is understood and managed through integrating perspectives

Senior Lecturer Anna-Sara Fagerholm¹, Senior Lecturer Karina Göransson¹, Senior Lecturer Henrik Haller², Associate Professor Per-Olof Hedvall³

¹Mid Sweden University, Sundsvall, Sweden. ²Mid Sweden University, Östersund, Sweden.

³Mid Sweden University, Lund, Sweden

Abstract

In previous research waste is described as a design flaw, as the processes that generate waste are a result of poor design (Anastas & Zimmerman, 2006; Ordóñez, 2017). Ekberg (2009) points out that waste is what is left behind when imagination fails and this also reflects a reconsidering of waste as resources if given another context.

In a globalized world with international trade, there is a greater range of products on the market and the amount of waste is constantly increasing (Avfall Sverige, 2021). A challenge is therefore to reduce the amount of waste. De Laney (2018) points out that there is a huge opportunity to reduce landfill waste and improve consumer habits through design. In this process, we must learn to include new and more inclusive ways of thinking and acting that support long-term social sustainability through design (Wikberg Nilsson & Jahnke, 2018).

More than forty years ago, Dilnot (1982) emphasized that through design, we humans give shape, direction and meaning to our individual and collective existence in the world. Today, there are different design solutions for household waste and recycling and Vollaard and van Soest (2020) argue that reducing unsorted waste normally requires little in the way of capital investment beyond buying a set of in-home recycling bins. Although, many times consumers aren't aware of the impact of their disposal decisions and many facilities for local waste disposal and recycling have processes that are unique to them that could cause confusion (De Laney, 2018). In accordance, we must find a way to get consumers to care and to motivate a change in habits.

The research question of this study is how waste is understood and managed and this is explored through a case study with a local housing company and waste management company, interested in improving waste sorting. In order to answer the research question, interviews are conducted with people living in the specific buildings belonging to the housing company, respondents from the local housing company and the waste management company and results are presented on perceptions of waste and what the barriers are to improve waste sorting. This is complemented by a literature review to provide a better understanding of universal design and waste.

This paper presents a norm-critical aspect on universal design and waste in a collaborative research project with the objective of creating more inclusive solutions for waste systems. The overall ambition of this study is to build on knowledge of the role of design as an activity of shaping the human surroundings and as an expression of the culture to which it belongs (Skjerven & Reitan, 2018).

The study is related to global goal number 2.5: by 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.