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978-1-107-07628-0 - Sustainability in the Global City: Myth and Practice

Edited by Cindy Isenhour, Gary McDonogh and Melissa Checker

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SUSTAINABILITY IN THE GLOBAL CITY

Myth and Practice

Cities play a pivotal but paradoxical role in the future of our planet. As world leaders and citizens grapple with the consequences of growth, pollution, climate change, and waste, urban sustainability has become a ubiquitous catchphrase and a beacon of hope. Yet we know little about how the concept is implemented in daily life – particularly with regard to questions of social justice and equity.

This volume provides a unique and vital contribution to ongoing conversations about urban sustainability by looking beyond the promises, propaganda, and policies associated with the concept in order to explore both its mythic meanings and its practical implications in a variety of everyday contexts. The authors present ethnographic studies from cities in eleven countries and six continents. Each chapter highlights the universalized assumptions underlying interpretations of sustainability while elucidating the diverse and contradictory ways in which people understand, incorporate, advocate for, and reject sustainability in the course of their daily lives.

Cindy Isenhour is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Maine.

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Melissa Checker is Associate Professor of Urban Studies at Queens College and Associate Professor of Anthropology and Environmental Psychology at the City University of New York Graduate Center.

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Published in conjunction with the School of Sustainability at Arizona State University and The Amerind Museum and Research Center in Dragoon, Arizona, *New Directions in Sustainability and Society* features a program of books that focus on designing a resilient and sustainable future through a rich understanding of past and present social and ecological dynamics. Collectively, they demonstrate that sustainability research requires engagement with a range of fields spanning the social and natural sciences, humanities, and applied sciences. Books in the series show that a successful transition to a sustainable future will depend on the ability to apply lessons from past societies and link local action to global processes.

For more information about the series, please visit <http://newdirections.asu.edu/>.

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32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

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Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107076280

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First published 2015

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Sustainability in the global city : myth and practice / edited by Cindy Isenhour, University of Maine; Gary McDonogh, Bryn Mawr College; Melissa Checker, Queens College, CUNY.

pages cm. – (New directions in sustainability and society series)

ISBN 978-1-107-07628-0 (Hardback)

1. Sustainable urban development. 2. Urban anthropology. 3. Urban ecology (Sociology) 4. Urbanization--Social aspects. I. Isenhour, Cindy, author, editor of compilation. II. McDonogh, Gary W., author, editor of compilation. III. Checker, Melissa, author, editor of compilation.

HT241.S86 2015

307.76--dc23 2014021015

ISBN 978-1-107-07628-0 Hardback

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project began in the spring of 2009, when Gary McDonogh issued a provocative call for papers to be included in a session of the upcoming American Anthropological Association meetings. Intriguingly titled “Sustainability as Myth and Practice in the Global City,” McDonogh’s call articulated the very paradoxes and promises of urban sustainability that Melissa Checker and Cindy Isenhour were encountering in their own ethnographic projects. Thus began a collaboration that has continued to deepen and expand, benefiting and taking inspiration from a wide variety of sources along the way.

We would specifically like to thank the original participants and attendees of our AAA session who sparked our imaginations and motivated us to take the project forward. In particular, our discussants, Robert Rotenberg and Alf Hornborg, offered insightful comments and encouragement. We next published a special issue of *City & Society* (2011: 23(2)), under the expert guidance of journal editor Petra Kuppinger who, along with the issue’s contributors, helped clarify our goals for the next phase of the project. Buoyed by the outcome of the special issue, we decided to expand the collection and issued a call for contributions to this collected volume. We are grateful to all those who responded, most especially the authors included in the following pages. Their commitment to urban sustainability and professionalism has made this project a true labor of love.

Our compilation also owes much to Cambridge University Press series editors Christopher Boone and Norman Yoffee, who supported our vision and prodded us to expand it by including voices from sustainability practitioners as well as academics. We are also grateful to Cambridge University Press editors Asya Graf and Isabella Vitti, copy editor Kevin Eagen and project manager Britto Fleming Joe for their care and precision in producing this volume. Larissa McDonogh-Wong completed the index, with some timely assistance from her sister, Graciela.

In a broader framework, we would be remiss without thanking our own varied institutions – in alphabetical order – Bryn Mawr College, City University

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of New York and Queens College, and the University of Maine, as well as our departments and colleagues. In addition, we acknowledge those friends and family who have stood with us throughout the project. For their sake, we hope that this volume contributes to serious considerations of sustainability and to new understandings of how the concept – as both myth and practice – can offer a promising way forward.