



CONFERENCE IN KARLSTAD

# PEOPLE AND NETWORKS MATTER

## ENABLING SUSTAINABLE BIOECONOMY TRANSITION

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**27–28 MARCH 2019**  
**KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY**

[KAU.SE/EN/CENTRE-REGIONAL-STUDIES](http://KAU.SE/EN/CENTRE-REGIONAL-STUDIES)

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Transforming the current economy into a ‘new’ bioeconomy needs changed institutional frameworks at regional and national level, sensitive to and inclusive of place-based knowledge.

New innovative products and services continue to emerge, which will further increase the demand for biomass. This transition leads to both an increased demand for land-based biomass and its multiple use. Important questions emerge: How to use the land? How can different interests be combined?

At this conference, industry, academia and public organisations will discuss challenges and opportunities and the role of people and networks in the new bioeconomy era. This conference seeks to better understand the role of people and networks in this transition.

### **THE CONFERENCE IS A PLACE FOR:**

- Interaction between practitioners, policy makers and academics
- Joint reflection and development of a roadmap, strategies and policy recommendations to enable smoother transition towards bio-based economies in the Nordic countries
- Practitioners to learn from good business cases and practices
- Networking: Meet businesses, academia and policy makers working for sustainable bioeconomy transition
- Co-creation of policy recommendations and contribution to policy briefs.

### **TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH**

**18:00    INFORMAL GET TOGETHER**

Location: The Bishops Arms (Elite Stadshotell Karlstad)

Please note: food and drinks on 26<sup>th</sup> of March are not included in the conference fee.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Dr. Gabriel Henrique Lui** – *Environmental Analyst and General-Coordinator of Forest Economy at the Secretariat of Climate Change and Forests in the Ministry of the Environment, Brazil.*



Gabriel Lui has held coordination and direction positions in socio-environmental management, rural sustainable development and control of deforestation with the Ministry of the Environment. He is a research associate at the Center for the Analysis of Social-Ecological Landscapes at Indiana University, USA and has his PhD in Applied Ecology from University of São Paulo, Brazil.

**Prof. Pekka Leskinen** – *Head of Bioeconomy Programme, European Forest Institute.*



Pekka Leskinen has broad research experience in the fields of sustainable use of natural resources, life cycle assessment and multi-criteria decision analysis. Before EFI, he has worked as a Research Professor at the Finnish Environment Institute, and for joint professor position of Finnish Environment Institute and University of Eastern Finland, School of Forest Sciences.

**Prof. Olav Wicken** – *Professor at the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture at University of Oslo, Norway.*



Olav Wicken's main research interests are in innovation processes and in the analysis of long term industrial development; primarily focusing on firms as well as industrial, regional and national development. His expert knowledge of renewable energy, industrial development, sustainability transitions and natural resources management in innovation processes, is of particular interest.

**Thea Lyng Thomsen** – *Development consultant at GreenLab, Denmark.*



Thea Lyng Thomsen is one of the driving forces behind initiative and development of the business park, which is located in Skive Municipality, Central Region Denmark. GreenLab is a green business park built upon a full-scale, integrated, intelligent net. Thea Lyng Thomsen works as a business platform driver with a focus on culture, innovation and impact. She has previously worked with the development of circular economy in a data driven perspective within construction and recycling of building materials in full-scale from a public position.

**The conference will also highlight some good examples from the region of Värmland: Forest based bioeconomy in Värmland – a diversity of actors working together.**

Examples from Värmland showing the work by different actors; business, university and regional authorities in collaboration with civil society, supporting a transition to a sustainable forest based bioeconomy.

# PROGRAMME

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## DAY 1 – WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH

Location: Innovation Park

### 08:30–09:00 REGISTRATION

### 09:00–09:15 WELCOME AND OPENING OF CONFERENCE

*Thomas Blom, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Karlstad University, Sweden.*

*Stina Höök, Regional Councillor, Region Värmland, Sweden.*

*Fredrik Lindroos, CEO, Innovation Park, Sweden.*

### 09:15–10:30 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**Keynote 1: Regions, natural resources and social development**

*Olav Wicken, professor at the Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture at University of Oslo, Norway.*

**Keynote 2: Driving a green transition in big bio clusters: the culture that we seek, and how global investments meets local ownership, knowledge and resources with an impact**

*Thea Lyng Thomsen, Development Consultant at GreenLab Skive in Region Midtjylland, Denmark.*

### 10:30 COFFEE AND TEA BREAK

Help yourself to coffee or tea and go to four parallel workshops.

### 10:30–12:00 PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

**Workshop A: Land-use conflicts, and management solutions to unlock the transition to a biobased economy**

Land is a finite resource different interests and agendas compete over. The protection of land through regulations and law has always caused controversy and conflict. With varying interests and objectives come also different means and modes of power. With a shift to a more enhanced bio-based economy, the competition over the use of land will become even more intense. In this session we welcome participants that contribute to a broadening of the understanding of land use conflicts and solutions in the Nordic countries.

*Chair: Elin Slätmo, Senior Research Fellow, Nordregio.*

### **Workshop B: Local innovation networks as drivers of the bioeconomy transition**

The transition from a fossil fuel-based to a bio-based economy and the development of innovations that can facilitate this transition, require a strong collaboration among different stakeholders. This session focuses on local innovation networks, as important transition drivers. In this session we will seek to illustrate how local innovation networks work in practice. This will be combined with a more scientific focus on the local dimension discussing how we can study and analyze such networks including what are the new opportunities and challenges.

*Chair: Julia Szulecka, Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture, University of Oslo, Norway.*

### **Workshop C: Power pitfalls in the sustainable bioeconomy transition: A governance perspective**

The Bioeconomy Transition involves different, multi-level, conflicting but interrelated interests. The questions of ‘how’ and ‘who’ can mobilize key resources are crucial to understand how power dynamics shape the transition pathway and its sustainable outcomes. In this parallel session, we would like to address ‘Governance’ as a process to manage, steer and coordinate activities of public and private bodies and their interaction. Therefore, in this session we will discuss on how governance can help foster collaboration and partnerships among different stakeholders, and social and environmental innovation in the bioeconomy.

*Chair: Bianca Cavicchi, PhD Fellow, Department of Economics and Society, NIBIO Norway.*

### **Workshop D: Bioeconomy in Nordic countries: Smart and innovative development opportunities or empty promises for communities and regions?**

The session will discuss socioeconomic impacts and processes related to bioeconomy-framed developments in Nordic countries or elsewhere. Presentations will include, for example, industrial developments and their role for local and regional development, innovative business models and different types of entrepreneurship associated with the bioeconomy.

*Chair: Olli Lehtonen, PhD, Luke – Natural Resources Institute Finland.*

**12:00–13:00      LUNCH AT NOVA MAT & MÖTEN**

**CASE: VÄRMLAND – THE LARGE SCALE DEMONSTRATOR OF FOREST BASED BIOECONOMY**

Location: Innovation Park and Karlstad University

**13:00–14:30 PLENARY PRESENTATIONS**

Forest based bioeconomy - the highest prioritised specialisation of Värmland's Regional Smart Specialisation Strategy

*Anders Olsson, Manager of Research and Innovation, Region Värmland, Sweden.*

We bring the forest into the future

*Maria Hollander, CEO of the cluster organisation Paper Province, Sweden.*

The Academy for Smart Specialisation - the research and innovation collaboration between Region Värmland and Karlstad University 2016–2020

*Håkan Spjuth, Head of External Relations at Karlstad University, Sweden.*

**14:30–15:00 COFFEE AND TEA BREAK****15:00–17:00 PARALLEL SESSIONS**

**Workshop 1: New ways of engaging with civil society**

The ERDF-funded project “Climate smart innovation”: examples of activities at municipal level of broad engagement in relation to a transition to sustainable development. How can bioeconomy transition be inspired by other types of broad civil-society collaboration and what tools to use in user-driver innovation involving citizens and customers?

**Workshop 2: Testbeds in Värmland as meeting places for researchers and regional firms**

Meet researchers at Karlstad University's research group “Pro2B – Processes and Products for a Circular Bio economy” and representatives from firms and projects in the region e.g. LignoCity and Wood Region. Demonstrations of some of the test beds at Karlstad University.

**Workshop 3: Supporting innovation in practice – regional innovation processes for the forest based bioeconomy**

This session focuses on innovation support particularly in relation to start-ups - from idea to commercialisation. Meet Victor Isaksen CEO of STING Bioeconomy incubator, Patrik Bångerijs innovation advisor at Karlstad University and one of the start-up firms.

**19:00 DINNER AT KARLSTAD CCC**

## **DAY 2 – THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH**

Location: "Pedagogisk verkstad" 21A 258 in building 21, Karlstad University

### **09:00–09:30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Keynote 3: From deforestation to forest restoration: options for integrating legal and economic instruments for increasing the forest area in Brazil

*Dr Gabriel Lui, Economy Department/Ministry of Environment, Brazil.*

### **09:30–10:30 THE FOUR PARALLEL WORKSHOPS (A-D) FROM THE MORNING OF 27<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH CONTINUES**

Focus on producing policy recommendations and presentations for plenum.

This block is a one hour workshop in the same groups as day 1.

### **10:30–10:45 COFFEE AND TEA BREAK**

### **10:45–12:00 PLENARY SESSION**

The Future of the bioeconomy in Norden and beyond

Results from the workshop discussions including policy recommendations.

The session pulls together input from keynotes, the parallel sessions and the Värmland case.

### **12:00–13:00 LUNCH AT KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY**

### **13:00–13:45 KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Keynote 4: Transition towards circular bioeconomy – the role of forests

*Pekka Leskinen, Head of Bioeconomy Programme, European Forest Institute.*

### **13:45–14:00 CLOSE OF CONFERENCE**

## **INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION**

Conference fee: 2 300 SEK exclusive VAT.

Last date of registration: 27<sup>th</sup> of February 2019.

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## **CONTACT**

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