



A socio-metabolic perspective on long-term forest change

For decades or even centuries, many industrialized countries of the Global North have experienced forest expansion and recovery. In my presentation, I will argue that this phenomenon is linked to larger scale changes in societal resource use, or social metabolism, in the course of industrialization.

Based on empirical work in national case studies in Europe and North America, I will explore in which ways industrialization enabled forest recovery, e.g. through shifting energy use, agricultural intensification, and growing international trade. I will conclude by discussing implications for forest-based climate-change mitigation today.

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