

Sustainability in the Anthropocene

1. By the early twenty-first century more than 80% of the people on Earth had life expectancies higher than those of people in the richest parts of the world as recently as 1950. And the fraction of the world's population living in absolute poverty was lower than it had ever been.

- William C. Clark and Alicia G. Harley “Sustainability Science: Toward a Synthesis” *ARER*

2. By the dawn of the twenty-first century, no corner of the Earth's environment had escaped transformation by human activities. ... its overall thrust showed few signs of abating, as reflected by increasing attention to the planet's great poisoning by toxic chemicals, the mass extinction of its biota, and above all its multifaceted climate crises.

- William C. Clark and Alicia G. Harley “Sustainability Science: Toward a Synthesis” *ARER*

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Measuring Progress Toward Sustainable Development

How to take work on multiple indicators that represent the past to become more predictive and can better evaluate tradeoffs?

What advances do we have in:

1. Forward-looking models?
2. Uncertainty including potential tipping points?
3. Valuation of Components of Sustainable Development?
4. Inequalities in the distribution of benefits and risks? and
5. Connections among places (e.g. trade patterns, externalities)?

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I would say that there exist a thousand unbreakable links between each of us and everything else, and that our dignity and our chances are one. The farthest star and the mud at our feet are a family; and there is no decency or sense in honoring one thing, or a few things, and then closing the list. The pine tree, the leopard, the Platte River, and ourselves - we are at risk together, or we are on our way to a sustainable world together. We are each other's destiny.

- Mary Oliver, *Upstream: Selected Essays*