

**15th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference  
July 5-8, 2009**

***"Taking up the Global Challenge: Analysing the implementation of  
innovations and governance for Sustainable Development"***

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**Additional Topical Track 0:**

*'Responding to the Financial Crisis: Opportunities for Ecological Transition  
from/within a Collapsed Economy'*

Jouni Korhonen (Abo Akademi University, Finland) and others to be confirmed,

**Call for Papers**

Complex systems such as economic, social and ecological systems evolve over time. System structure, organization, use of space, information flows and material flows represent the change. Older systems are generally more resistant to change than are younger systems. Change occurs either as small and incremental, or radical and paradigmatic.

The global economic system has been resistant to a change towards a sustainable economy. Such a transition would require a radical change, e.g. 80% of the world energy production relies on non-renewable, often imported, politically turbulent and emission intensive fossil fuels.

Theory of complex systems suggests that a paradigmatic transition can happen if the constraints and limitations of the existing institutionalized system weaken or break. Interestingly, we find the global economic system in such a stage right now.

This additional topical session of the 15th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference addresses the research question: Whether the current global financial crisis can be understood and utilized as a window of opportunity for radical and paradigmatic change towards a sustainable global economy? We aim for a special issue in one of the conference journals, e.g. Sustainable Development or Progress in Industrial Ecology.

In particular, we invite contributions to the following themes:

- Global financial crisis and theory of complex (global) systems;
- Global financial crisis and technological path dependency;
- The linkages between the financial crisis and the ecological and resource crisis;
- Identification of mayor constraints in the global financial/economic system and its possible remedies;
- Local, regional, national and global levels of the global financial crisis;
- Global financial crisis and the role of government intervention into markets;
- Competition versus cooperation after the global financial crisis;
- Short-term financial success VS. long term financial and ecological sustainability;
- Ecological economy (ecological economics), green economy, bio economy, industrial ecology for the New Economy