Materials and energy : a story of linkages

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Curriculum Vitae

René Kleijn was born in 1964 in Naaldwijk, The Netherlands. He graduated from secondary school Thomas More College in 1982 (HAVO). From 1982 to 1986 he studied applied chemistry at 'De Haagsche Analisten School' (HLO, BASc). In 1986 he joined the military for a year of compulsory service. In 1987 he continued his study of chemistry at Leiden University from which he graduated in 1990 (MSc). During his studies in Leiden he came in contact with the Institute of Environmental Sciences (CML) where he found an inspiring atmosphere for his further professional career. He was appointed as a researcher at CML in September 1990. At first, his work focused on substance flow analysis and environmental risk assessment. In the 1990s he worked on many projects related to the chlorine industry and agriculture, including life cycle assessments. In 1996 he became a member of the Steering Committee of ConAccount, a European funded concerted action which served as a scientific home for researchers involved in substance flow analysis and material flow accounting. In 2000 he became a member of the Steering Committee that established the International Society for Industrial Ecology. From 2003 to 2006 he served as a member of the Council of this society. In November 2001 he co-organised the first international conference of the Society that took place in Noordwijkerhout. From 2001 to 2006 he acted as a subject editor for the International Journal of Industrial Ecology. From 1990 to present he was a researcher and project leader in many European projects on topics ranging from the application of material flow analysis in small villages in developing countries to the development of indicators to measure eco-innovation. Together with colleagues from Leiden University, Delft University of Technology and Erasmus University he initiated the interuniversity MSc programme Industrial Ecology that started in 2004 as a track within the Leiden Chemistry program, and is now a full master programme of Leiden University and Delft University of Technology. Since 2004 he is a teacher and course coordinator in the MSc Industrial Ecology. In 2009 he was appointed as an assistant professor at CML. In 2003 he started a sustainability assessment of a transition to a hydrogen economy. This drew his attention to the amount of material resources that would be needed for such a transition. This work led to the idea to write a PhD thesis, presently before you, on the topic of the material requirements of a transition to a sustainable energy system. Currently his research is focused on the linkages between the use of natural resources and mineral scarcity.