

Copenhagen Business School, 2018-2021

Objective

To understand the role of sustainability standards and associated certifications in the governance of global supply chains, using novel methodological and theoretical approaches to conceptualize and critique the relationship between the production, trade, and marketing of certified Kenyan tea.

The Team



Hannah Elliott is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Management, Society and Communication at CBS, where she is responsible for conducting ethnographic research on plantations, smallholder farms and factories where tea is produced in Kenya, including sites in Kericho and Kiambu Counties.



Martin Skrydstrup (PI) is associate professor of globalization and sustainability in the Department of Management, Society and Communication at CBS. His research is situated at sites of the trade and procurement of certified tea, focusing in particular on auction houses and industry expos.



Matthew Archer is an assistant professor in the Department of Management, Society and Communication at CBS. His research examines the diverse standards and certification regimes that Kenyan tea producers are subject to, and the way these standards are developed, negotiated, and enacted along the supply

Three Research Lines

Research Line A examines the lives and livelihoods of tea farmers and factory workers in the tea producing regions of Kenya, tracing their relationships with each other, and with other actors in the supply chain such as regulators, traders, procurement managers, certification bodies, and auditors.

Research Line B follows research line A to sites of exchange, including tasting rooms where tea is graded, auction houses where it is priced and sold, and production centers where it is packaged and shipped.

Research Line C charts the view of standards organizations, certification bodies, and corporate sustainability managers through interviews and participant observation in the sites where these standards and conceptualizations of sustainability are negotiated and enforced.

Teaching and Supervision

Courses on corporate sustainability and sustainability supply chains, including Introduction to Sustainable Business, Critical Perspectives on Sustainability, Circular Economies and the Sustainable Development Goals, and Achieving the SDGs: Feeding the Future of Agricultural Sustainability

Supervision of bachelor's, master's, and PhD theses and projects related to SUSTEIN's research objectives

Sustainability's Infrastructures

A Novel Ethnographic Approach to the Global Value Chain of Certified Tea

