5S3: Circular textiles

April 12th 11.30
Michiel Scheffer en Paulien harmsen

The academic session would be to promote exchange of research and debate on ways to better assess and monitor the footprint of textile production including fashion. If we want as a world to be completely fossil free by 2050, we need to have good instruments to assess our current footprint, and even more instruments to monitor the footprint of consumption of clothing, production of textiles and extraction of raw materials, including the use of energy, water and chemicals. Recent studies for the Dutch government have demonstrated the lack of longitudinal data. The textile strategy of the EU has also highlighted the importance of better statistics. Currently research and policy is very much based on anecdotal data, simulations and approximations. Examples are the 8000 liter water needed to make 1 kilo of cotton, the environmental impact of leather production, the impact of fast fashion on textile consumption, the impact of re-use, resell and refurbish of clothing on overall textile consumption. While this type of information may fuel a call for action, it is to limited to choose strategies for change and to monitor the effect of those strategies.

The session would focus on papers presenting methods and evidence on better understanding aspects of the impact of textile production from agricultural economics to consumer studies, including industrial aspects. The session wants to present both papers Theme 4: Overview sessions/page 8 focusing on reduction of the footprint of consumption in developed and in developing countries. There is particular interest for studies focusing on cotton, on feedstocks for biobased fibres and on the quantitative impact of re-use and recycling. The session excludes papers based on anecdotal data and on one -off research, but wishes to select papers based on longitudinal data (or in the development of longitudinal data), on consumer panels, on long term value chain data. It may also serve to present results of studies and research on tracing value chains (e.g. through remote sensing, blockchain etc…). Finally research on sustainable labelling or other codes of conducts is welcome, as long as they present and inform about long term change and the possibility to monitor trends in the future.