

## Academic Biography

Michael Maniates

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Michael Maniates is Professor of Social Science and the founding Head of Studies of Environmental Studies at Yale-NUS College in Singapore. He holds a BS in Conservation and Resource Studies and an MA and PhD in Energy and Resources, all from the University of California, Berkeley. He was previously Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor of Environmental Science and Political Science at Allegheny College (1993 – 2013), and Senior Visiting Professor of Environmental Studies at Oberlin College (2011 – 2013), both nationally ranked liberal arts colleges in the United States. He joined Yale-NUS College in its inaugural year (2013) to guide the development of its environmental-studies program.

Professor Maniates studies systems of sustainable consumption and production, and the larger “politics of the possible” in mainstream environmentalism. His current research, with students at Yale-NUS College, investigates hidden, disabling assumptions about power and social change that infuse contemporary notions of sustainability. He is also completing a book on the evolution and implications of “green consumption,” and is initiating a research project on higher education and social innovation for a post-growth world. His recent publications include “Higher Education for A Post-Growth World” (in *State of the World 2017: EarthEd – Education for a Changing Planet*, Island Press, 2017), “Make Way for Hope: A Contrarian View” (in Nicholson and Jinnah’s *New Earth Politics*, MIT Press, 2016), “Power: The Missing Element in Sustainable Consumption” (*Journal of Cleaner Production* 2016) with Doris Fuchs et al., “Sustainable Consumption – Three Paradoxes” (*Gaia* 2014), “Teaching for Turbulence” (in *State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible?*, Island Press 2013), and *The Environmental Politics of Sacrifice* (edited with John Meyer, MIT Press, 2010). His first foray into the field of sustainable consumption came via *Confronting Consumption* (eds. Tom Princen, Michael Maniates, and Ken Conca, MIT Press, 2002), recipient of the Sprout Award for the best book in global environmental affairs. One of Maniates’ contributions to the book (“Individualization: Ride a Bike, Plant a Tree, Save the World”), which also appeared in the journal *Global Environmental Politics*, is among the most cited pieces from the journal.

In addition to his work as a scholar, Professor Maniates is also an experienced leader and administrator within higher education. At Allegheny College he assumed several administrative tasks, including chair of the Academic Support Committee, frequent participation on tenure sub-committees, and multiple years on the college’s Curriculum Committee. He was also chosen as the Inaugural Faculty Fellow in Strategic Planning and Public Affairs. In collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh and, later, the University of Virginia, Maniates also filled several administrative roles for the award-winning Semester at Sea program, including coordinator of the “all-ship” course for the Summer 2005 voyage, and Academic Dean of the Spring 2007 around-the-world voyage. In this latter role as Dean, Professor Maniates directed an international search for faculty, hired 31 professors, and led the academic program for 100 days through 11 countries. Since joining Yale-NUS College he has assumed increasing levels of administrative responsibility. These include past and ongoing responsibilities as Interim Head of Studies of Global Affairs, Head of Studies of Individual and Society, founding Head of Studies of Environmental Studies, Coordinator of Comparative Social Inquiry, inaugural Chair of Academic Integrity, Moderator of the Faculty (elected), Chair of the Task Force on Peer Observation, and multiple smaller and ad-hoc committee assignments and administrative duties.

Repeatedly recognized for his accomplishments in the classroom, Professor Maniates remains fiercely engaged in undergraduate instruction around vexing, disturbing, and often overwhelming issues of global environmental decline. He typically teaches two courses a semester while serving as a formal or informal advisor to more than a dozen students. He mentors junior faculty on course design and classroom dynamics, writes on the challenges of “teaching hope,” and periodically serves as an external evaluator and consultant for colleges and universities exploring programs in environmental sustainability. His creative unpredictability in the classroom (e.g. setting paper aflame in class to illustrate the laws of thermodynamics or screening choice clips from Monty Python and the Holy Grail to underscore the dangers of environmental surprise) contributes to his reputation as an in-demand instructor who is both engaging and demanding. At Yale-NUS he offers courses in global environmental governance, environmental policymaking, systems of sustainable production and consumption, energy technologies and trends, comparative social inquiry, and introduction to environmental studies.

Professor Maniates lives in Singapore with his wife Rebecca Maniates, a social-science librarian at Singapore Management University. They have two cats, an abundance of cookbooks, and a growing love of the cultural and culinary delights of Southeast Asia.