

WAYNE VISSER

BIOGRAPHY



SUMMARY

Dr Wayne Visser is a globally recognized ‘pracademic’, having been listed as one of the world’s Top 10 ESG speakers, Top 10 most influential faculty thinkers on issues of responsible business in social media, a top 100 influencer on CSR and sustainable business, a top 100 thought-leader in trustworthy business and a top 100 sustainability leader. He is also the recipient of the Global CSR Excellence & Leadership Award, the Emerald Literati Outstanding Author Contribution Award and the Outstanding Teacher Award of the Warwick MBA.

Dr Visser is a Fellow, Head Program Instructor and Lecturer at the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership. He is also a Visiting Professor at Antwerp Management School’s Sustainable Transformation Lab, which he established in 2017. He is Director of the think-tank and media company, Kaleidoscope Futures, through which he co-produced and presented the award-winning documentary film on the circular economy called *Closing the Loop*. In addition, he is Founder of CSR International and Board Member of the Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative (GRLI).

Dr Visser previously served as Director of Sustainability Services for KPMG and Strategy Analyst for Capgemini in South Africa. His work as a strategy analyst, sustainability advisor, CSR expert, futurist and professional speaker has taken him to 78 countries in the past 30 years to work with over 230 clients. He is the author of 44 books, including *Thriving*, an Amazon bestseller in 17 countries. He has also published over 375 chapters, articles and reports and been a guest columnist for *The Huffington Post*, *The Guardian* and the World Economic Forum.

In addition to his roles at the University of Cambridge and Antwerp Management School, Dr Visser has engaged with over 65 educational institutions in more than 25 countries. As a professional speaker and academic lecturer, Dr Visser has delivered over 570 keynote speeches, lectures, courses and workshops in over 50 countries. The topics that Wayne frequently talks on include: thriving, systems thinking, sustainable transformation, regenerative leadership, creating integrated value, sustainability innovation, becoming future-fit, and purpose-inspired change.

EDUCATION

PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) in Business and Management (specialising in Corporate Social Responsibility), International Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility, Nottingham University Business School, UK, 2003-2006.

MSc (Master of Science) in Human Ecology, Centre for Human Ecology, University of Edinburgh, UK, 1995-1996.

BBUSC (Bachelor of Business Science) in Marketing (Honours), Business Science Department, University of Cape Town, South Africa, 1988-1991.

WORK EXPERIENCE (SELECTION)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY (Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, Cambridge, UK, 2003-present): *External Examiner (2003-2005), Internal Examiner (2006-2008), Research Director (2006-2007), Senior Associate (2008-2015), Head Program Instructor (2011-present), Fellow (2016-present)*. Leading research, designing and lecturing on the Master in Sustainability Leadership and other programs, online tutoring on the Master and Business Sustainable Management course.

KALEIDOSCOPE FUTURES (London, UK, 2012-present): *Founder, Director*. Establishing and running a research and media think tank on building for smart, sustainable, shared, safe and satisfying futures.

ANTWERP MANAGEMENT SCHOOL (Antwerp, Belgium, July 2017-present): *Professor of Integrated Value (July 2017-present), Chair in Sustainable Transformation, Academic Director of the Sustainable Transformation Lab (October 2017-September 2023)*. Lecturing on sustainable transformation across 8 full time Master programs, contributing to the Executive MBA and Executive PhD, conducting research, delivering open programs, setting up and facilitating Corporate Leadership Groups, representing the school in key initiatives like PRME.

CSR INTERNATIONAL (London, UK, 2008-present): *Founder, Director*. Establishing and running a not-for-profit training organisation and knowledge platform promoting transformational approaches to business's role in society.

OMNEX (Ann Arbor, USA, 2014-2015). *Vice President: Sustainability Services*. Leading Omnex's global training and consulting services in corporate responsibility / sustainability and creating integrated value.

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA (Gordon Institute for Business Science, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2013-2019): *Transnet Chair in Sustainable Business (2013-2015), Visiting Professor (2013-2019)*. Teaching courses on corporate social responsibility and sustainability and innovation for future-fitness as part of the MBA Programme.

KPMG (Cape Town, South Africa, 1997-2002). *Director: Sustainability Services*. Establishing, building and managing a new consulting and assurance practice into a profitable business unit of 12 staff.

CAPGEMINI (Johannesburg, South Africa, 1994-1995). *Strategy Analyst*. Delivering a variety of consulting services, including strategy design, benchmarking, competitor analysis, customer profiling, industry profiling, business process mapping.

PUBLICATIONS (SELECTION)

- Visser, W. (2022) **THRIVING: The Breakthrough Movement to Regenerate Nature, Society and the Economy**. San Francisco: Fast Company Press.
- De Vos, A. et al. (2019) **GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS WORKBOOK**. Brussels: Lannoo.
- Visser, W. (ed.) (2016) **THE WORLD GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE ENTERPRISE: Volume 1 – Africa and the Middle East, Volume 2 – Asia Pacific, Volume 3 – Europe, Volume 4 – The Americas**. Sheffield: Greenleaf.
- Visser, W., Magureanu, I. & Yadav, K. (eds.) (2015) **THE CSR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COMPENDIUM: Volume 1 – Governance, Volume 2 – Environment, Volume 3 – Society**. London: Kaleidoscope Futures.
- Visser, W. (2015) **SUSTAINABLE FRONTIERS: Unlocking Change Through Business, Leadership and Innovation**. Sheffield: Greenleaf.
- Visser, W. (ed.) (2014) **DISRUPTING THE FUTURE: Great Ideas to Create a Much Better World**. London: Kaleidoscope Futures.
- Visser, W. (2013) **CSR 2.0: Transforming Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility**. New York: Springer.
- Visser, W. (2012) **CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY & RESPONSIBILITY: An Introductory Text on CSR Theory & Practice – Past, Present & Future**, London: Kaleidoscope Futures.
- Visser, W. (2012) **THE QUEST FOR SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS: An Epic Journey in Search of Corporate Responsibility**. Sheffield: Greenleaf.
- Visser, W. (2011) **THE AGE OF RESPONSIBILITY: CSR 2.0 and the New DNA of Business**, London: Wiley.
- Visser, W. & N. Tolhurst (eds.) (2010) **THE WORLD GUIDE TO CSR: A Country by Country Analysis of Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility**, Sheffield: Greenleaf.
- Visser, W. & Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership (2009) **THE TOP 50 SUSTAINABILITY BOOKS**, Sheffield: Greenleaf.
- Visser, W. & Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership (2009) **LANDMARKS FOR SUSTAINABILITY: Events and Initiatives that Changed Our World**, Sheffield: Greenleaf.
- Visser, W. (2008) **MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Purpose-Inspired Leadership for Corporate Sustainability & Responsibility**, Saarbrücken: VDM.
- Visser, W., D. Matten, M. Pohl & N. Tolhurst (eds.) (2007) **THE A TO Z OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY: A Complete Reference Guide to Concepts, Codes and Organisations**, London: Wiley.
- Visser, W., M. McIntosh & C. Middleton (eds.) (2006) **CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP IN AFRICA: Lessons from the Past, Paths to the Future**, Sheffield: Greenleaf.
- Visser, W. (2005) **BUSINESS FRONTIERS: Social Responsibility, Sustainable Development and Economic Justice**, Hyderabad: ICFAI University Press.
- Visser, W. & C. Sunter (2002) **BEYOND REASONABLE GREED: Why Sustainable Business is a Much Better Idea**, Cape Town: Tafelberg Human & Rousseau.

PRESENTATIONS (SELECTION)

AUSTRIA – *Beyond sustainability to thriving: Innovation to regenerate nature, society and the economy*, Responsible Management Education Research Conference, Innsbruck, September 2022.

AZERBAIJAN – *Sustainable Frontiers: Unlocking Change Through Business, Leadership & Innovation*, 1st Azerbaijan Conference on Sustainable Development and Corporate Social Responsibility, Baku, October 2015.

BELGIUM – *Systems Thinking*, Johnson & Johnson, Maastricht, June 2022.

BRAZIL – *A European Perspective on Regenerative Agriculture*, Roundtable on Responsible Soy, Sao Paulo, 4 October 2023.

CANADA – *Closing the Loop: Sustainability Innovation and Change Management*, Keynote, National Zero Waste Conference 2018, Vancouver, Canada, 8 November 2018

CROATIA – *Transformational Leadership & Becoming a Future-Fit Organisation*, IDOP, Zagreb, May 2018.

DENMARK – *Thriving: The Breakthrough Movement to Regenerate Nature, Society and the Economy*, Global DIY Summit, Copenhagen, June 2022.

ECUADOR – *Sustainability Leadership and Social Responsibility*, Secretaria de Ambiente del municipio de Quito, Quito, June 2016.

FINLAND – *Sustainability as a Strategic Choice: Creating Integrated Value through Thriving*, Office of the Prime Minister & Aalto University, September 2021.

GERMANY – *Trust, Sustainability and Thriving*, Roundtable on Responsible Soy, Monheim, November 2022.

ITALY – *Scanning the Horizon: The current state of play and what's next in the global fight for healthy seas*, Ocean Race Summit, Genoa, September 2019.

KOSOVO – *Systems Thinking & Global Trends*, Sustainability Leadership Kosovo Champions Program, Prishtina, September 2019.

MALAYSIA – *The Race Towards a Low Carbon Economy: Implications for Businesses*, Panel at the Cooler Earth Summit, Kuala Lumpur, September 2021.

MEXICO – *Competencies for Our Global Challenges: Leading Change Through Sustainable Innovation*, Monterrey Institute for Technology, Guadalajara, May.

NETHERLANDS – *ESG and the world, Act to Impact - Leading ESG Business Transformation*, Nyrode Business University, Breukelen, October 2022.

NEW ZEALAND – *Purpose-Inspired Leadership*, Sustainable Business Network, Auckland, June 2010.

NIGERIA – *CSR Challenges in Africa*, International CSR Conference, Lagos Business School, Lagos, February 2012.

PHILIPPINES – *Are You Fit for the Future? Global Trends Towards Integrated Value*, Keynote, League of Corporate Foundations CSR Expo, Manilla, July 2017.

PORTUGAL – *Sustainable Design, Innovation and Technology*, Sustain Azores, São Miguel, February 2020.

RUSSIA – *Creating Integrated Value: Transforming Corporate Sustainability & Responsibility*, DHL 2015 E-Tailing Summit, Moscow, June 2015.

SOUTH AFRICA – *The Disruptors: Reinventing Business & Society Through Conscious Capitalism*, Serious Social Investment Conference 2016, Tshikululu Social Investments and Gordon Institute of Business Science, Johannesburg, April 2016.

SOUTH KOREA – *Beyond CSR: Are You Fit for the Future?* Korea Social Responsibility Institute, Seoul, May 2013.

SPAIN – *Digitalization and Integrated Value*, DELMIA Quintiq World Tour, Barcelona, November 2019.

SWITZERLAND – *Five Strategies for Future Fitness*, Lorange Institute of Business Zurich, March 2013.

THAILAND – *Innovation for the Future Fitness*, Sasin School of Management, Bangkok, November 2019.

TURKEY – *Corporate Governance and Competitiveness*, 3rd International Corporate Governance, Istanbul, January 2010.

UAE – *Closing the Loop*, Masdar City, Abu Dhabi, UAE, December 2018.

USA – *Creating Impact*, ONE Doctoral Consortium, Academy of Management (AOM), Boston, August 2019.