And now for something completely different: Multi-Scale Integrated Analysis of Societal and Ecosystem Metabolism (MuSIASEM)

Jean Léon Boucher & Keith Matthews

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The James Hutton Institute

Introduction

- My fellowship
- Background
- Metabolism
- MuSIASEM in UK
- Discussion

Fellowship: Net Zero & MuSIASEM

- Fellowship in land use and societal metabolism
- Work in progress
- Scotland (the policy audience, but contextualized by UK) has a goal for net zero by 2045
  - How will this happen? Talk? and the walk?
  - Net zero means offsetting... & mention of afforestation (peatlands too) and carbon capture technologies
  - Not my critique at this point

Fellowship: Net Zero & MuSIASEM

- What is this? MuSIASEM? Multi-Scale Integrated Analysis of Societal and Ecosystem Metabolism
- Think: Russian dolls…
  - Successive embeddedness (vertical & horizontal)
  - Spatial/regional/national, sectoral, temporal (always ‘multi’) -
  - Holon: everything has parts and is part of something else
  - The black box… and ‘unblackboxing’

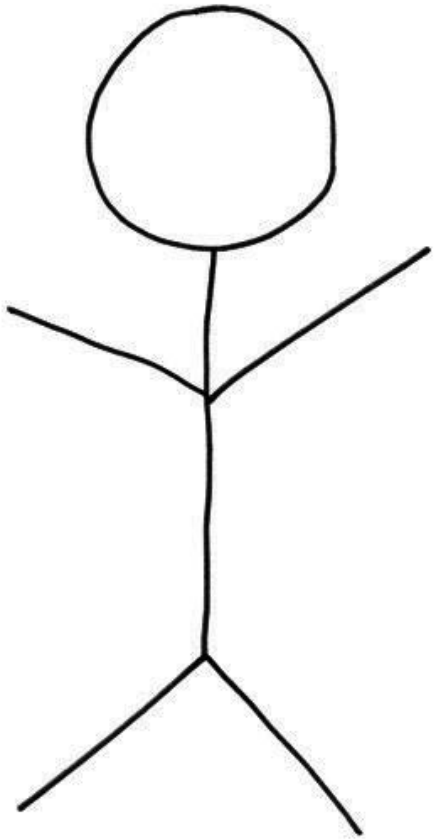
Fellowship: Net Zero & MuSIASEM

- It would be nice to compare Scotland to other places, but even Scotland is not consistent within itself
- We want multi-year too, but one step at a time
- The focal scale: start where we can (the data) and define where we end – much is data determined
- And go global?
- Grammars/narrative
- Why does all this matter? Let's see…

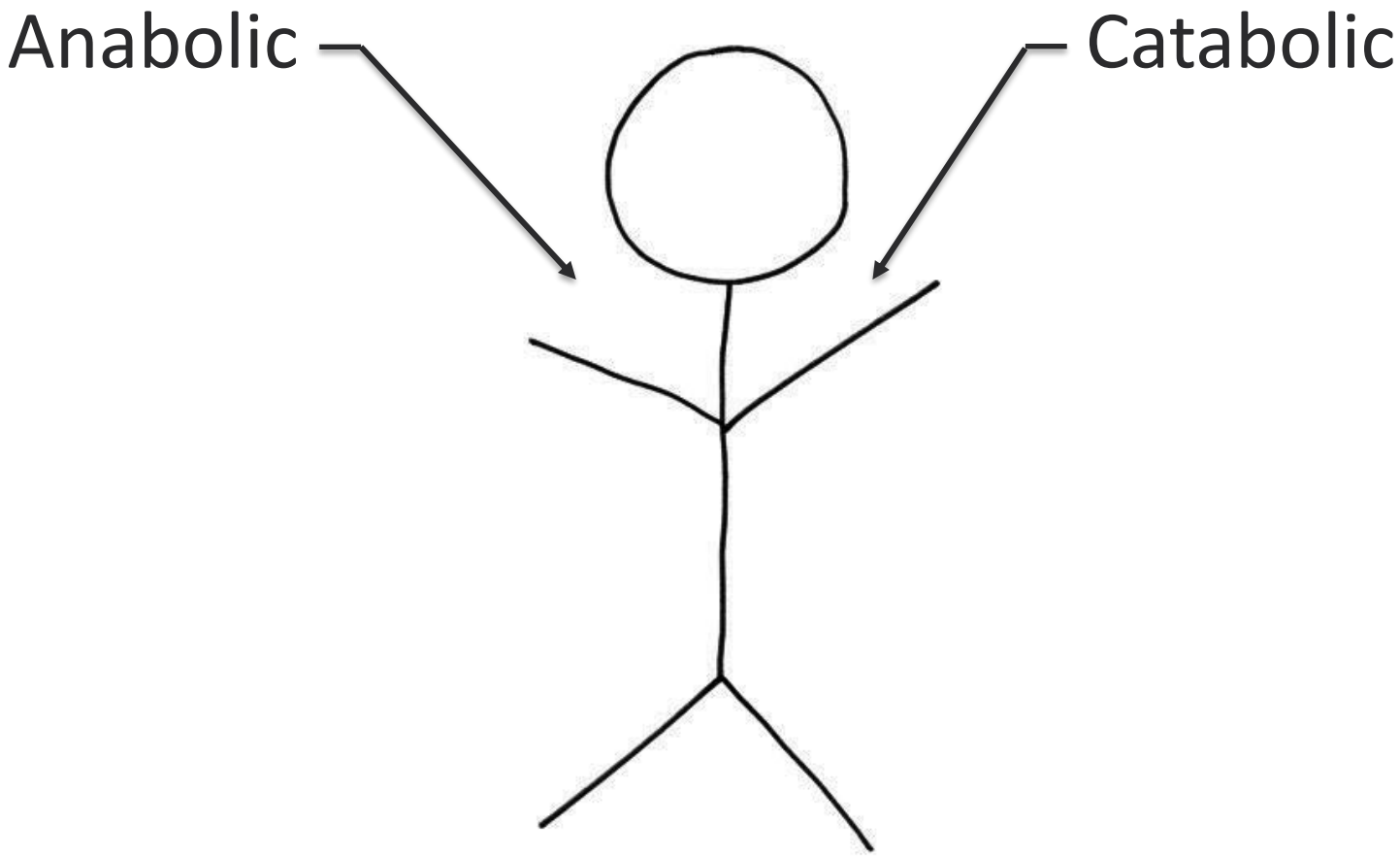
Background

- Jeremy – stocks/flows
- MuSIASEM - Fund-flow – self-maintains
  - Fund (Georgescu Roegen)
  - Cow, catchment, land, people…
- Organism – fund of funds
- Metabolism?

System Metabolism



System Metabolism



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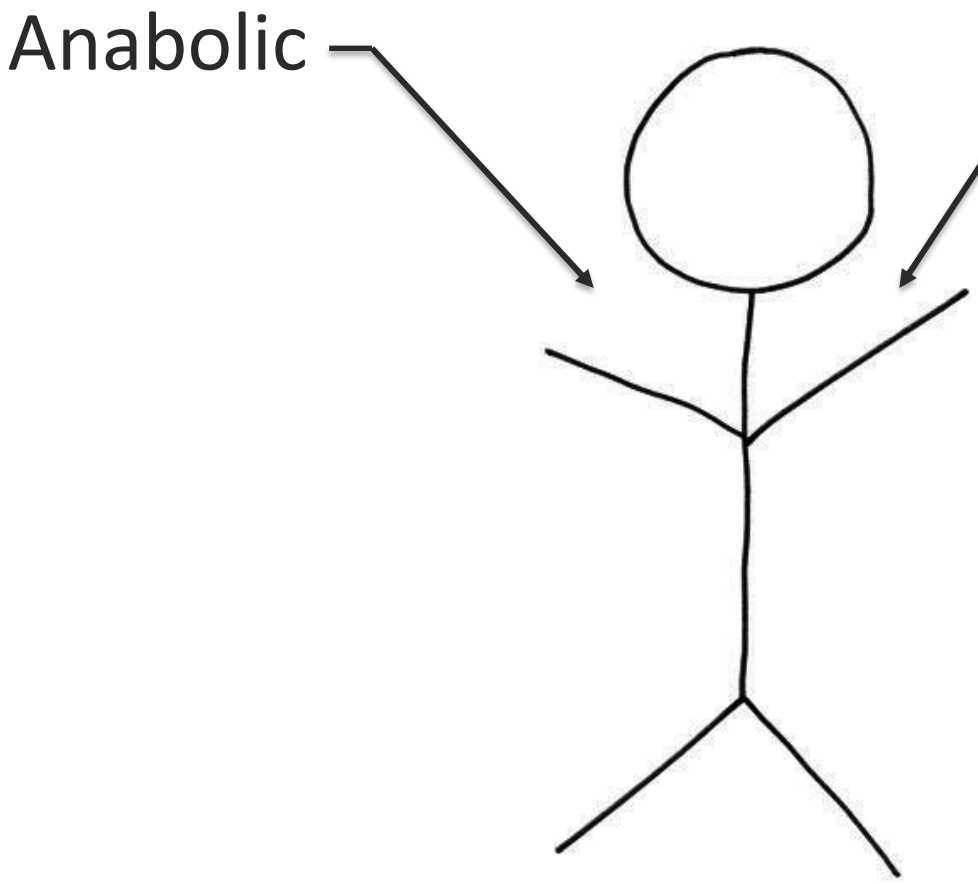
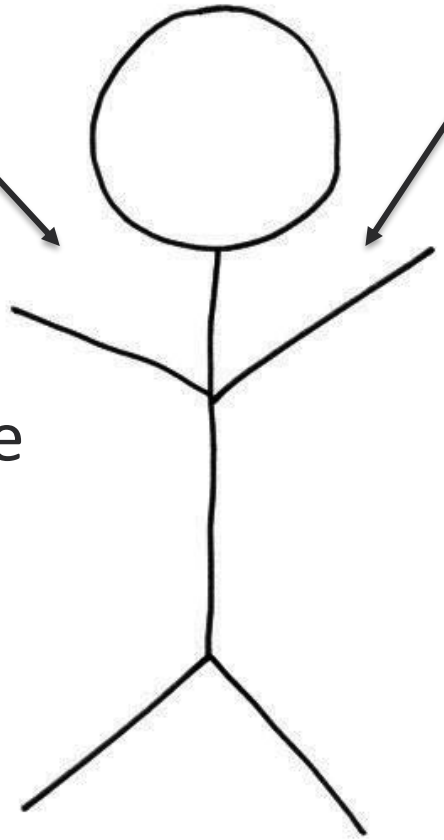


Energy Carriers

- Fats
- Proteins
- Carbohydrates
- Vitamins
- Minerals

Used by organs!

System Metabolism



Anabolic

Build-up

- Daily activities
- Self-maintenance
- Reproduction

Catabolic

Breakdown (energy use)

Energy Carriers

- Fats
- Proteins
- Carbohydrates
- Vitamins
- Minerals

Used by organs (funds)

System Metabolism

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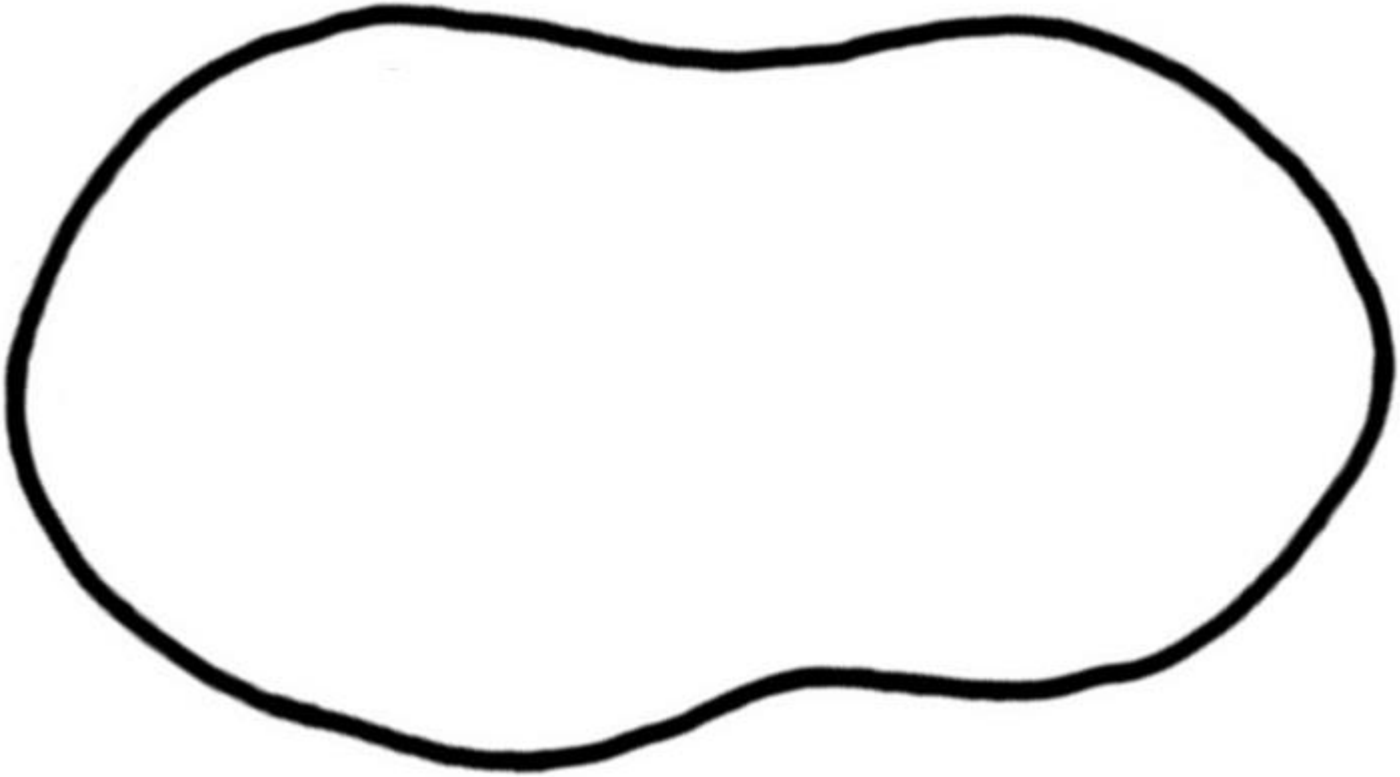
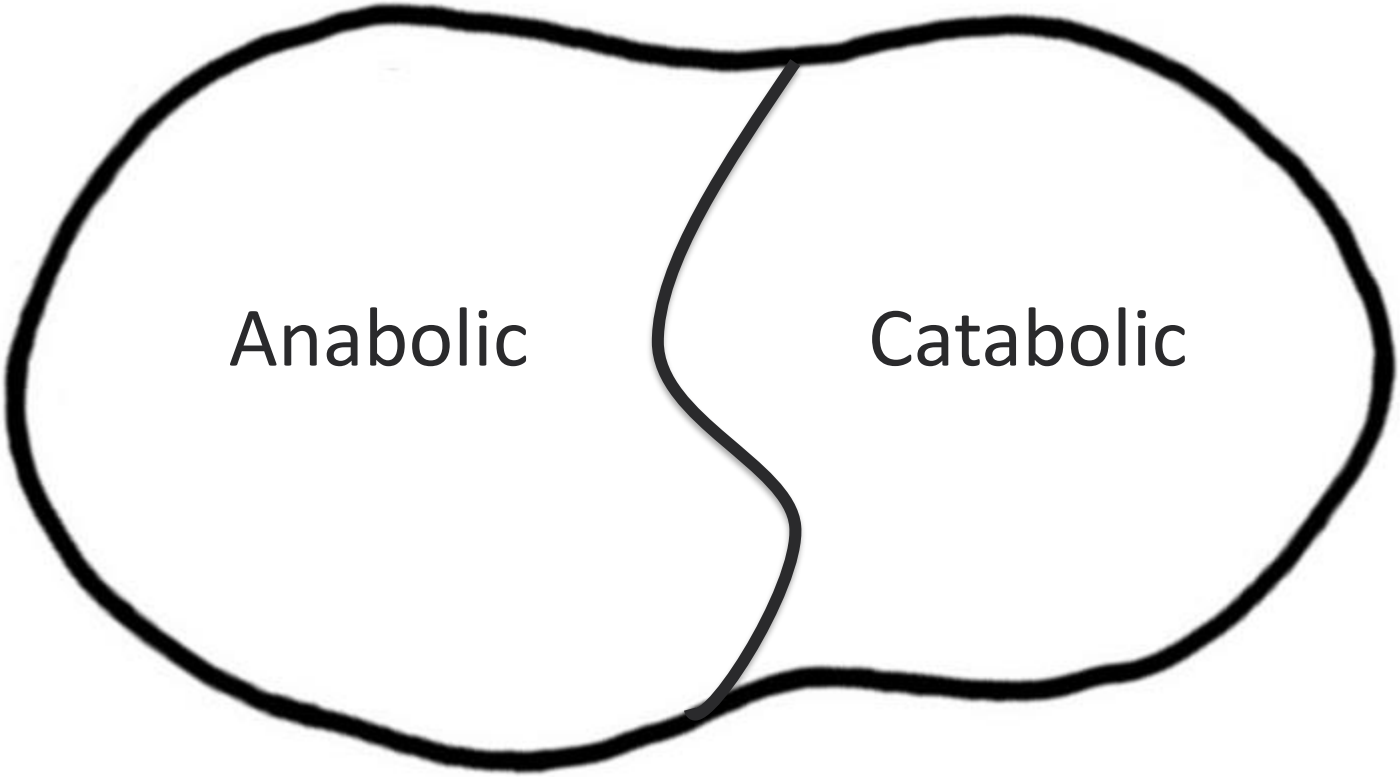


System Metabolism and Allocations



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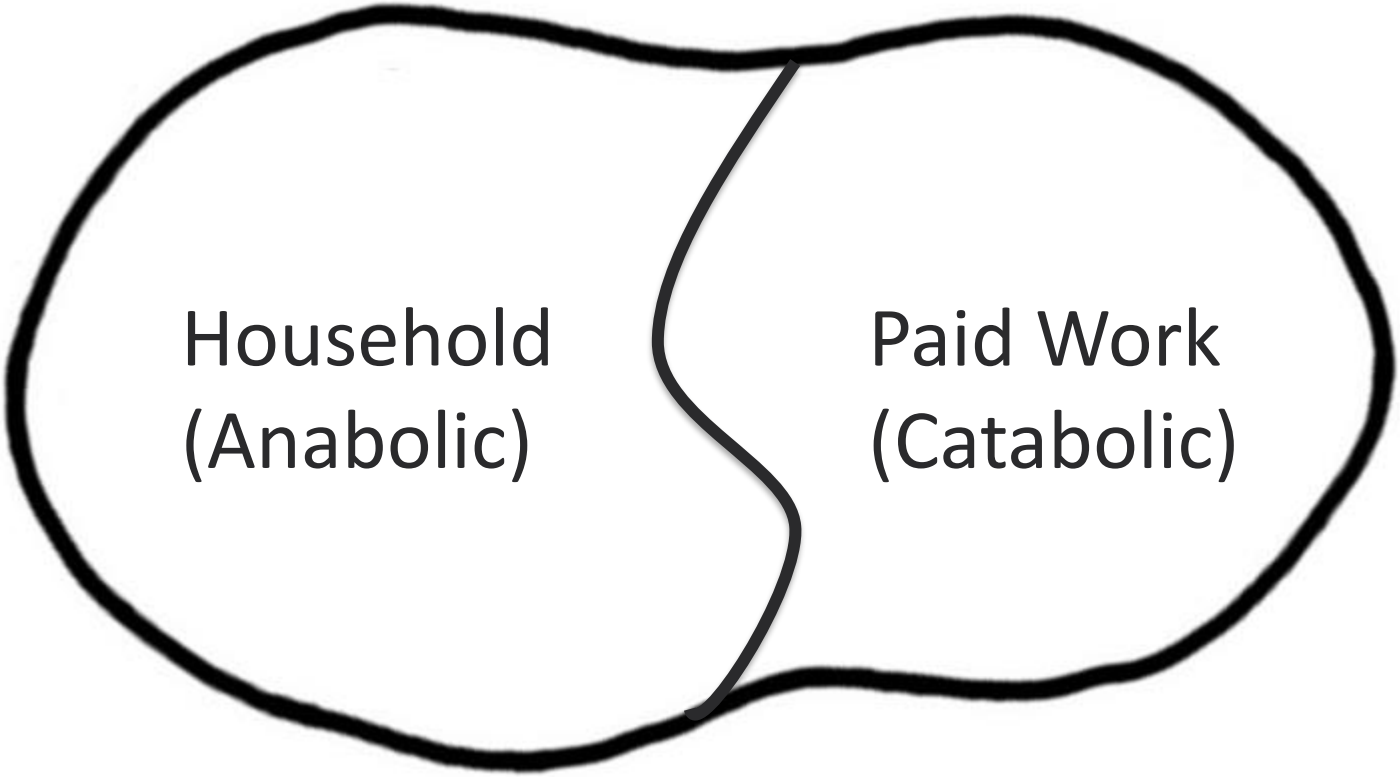

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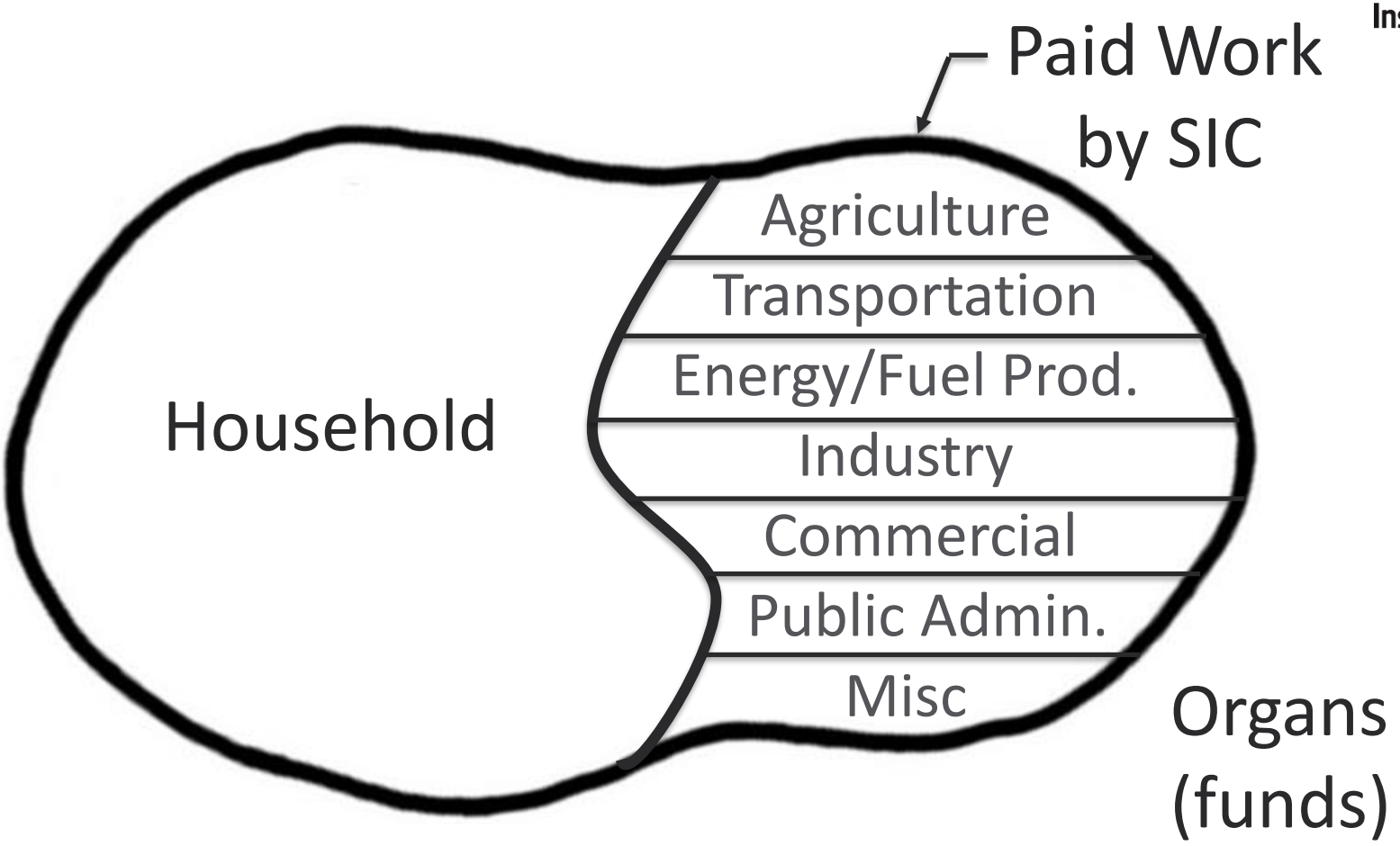
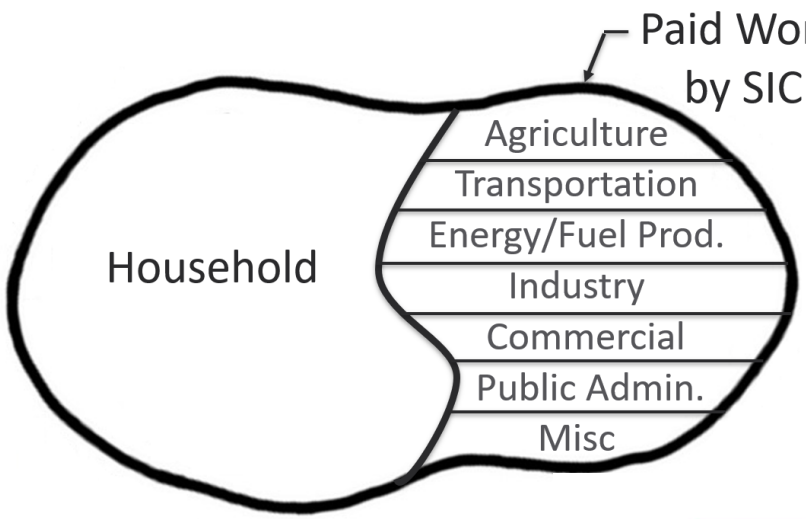
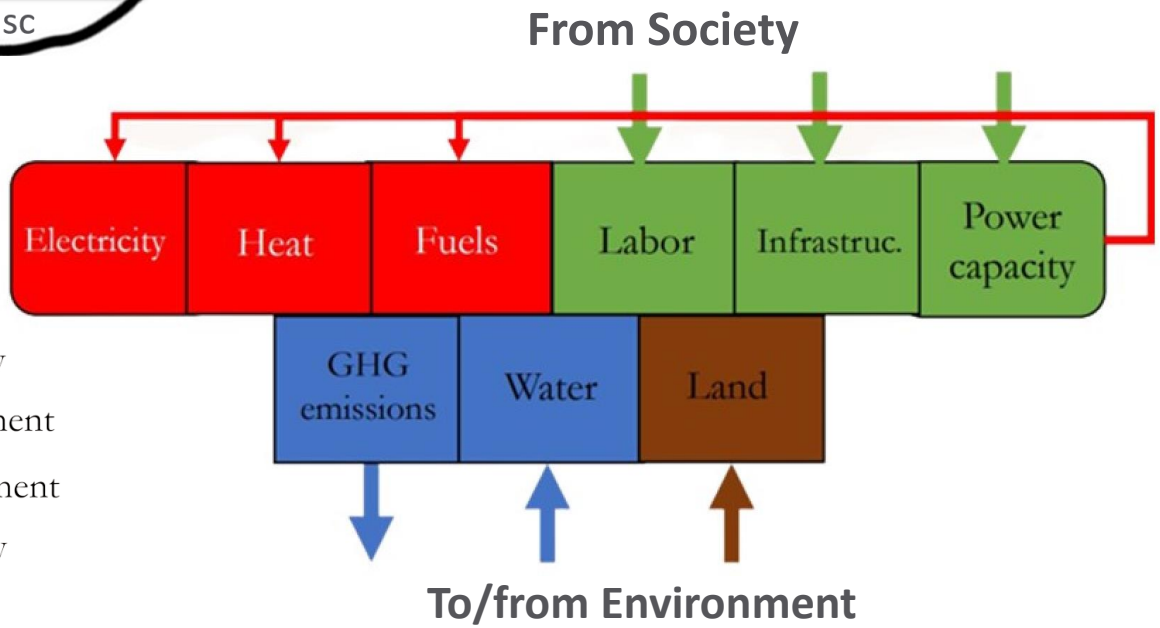


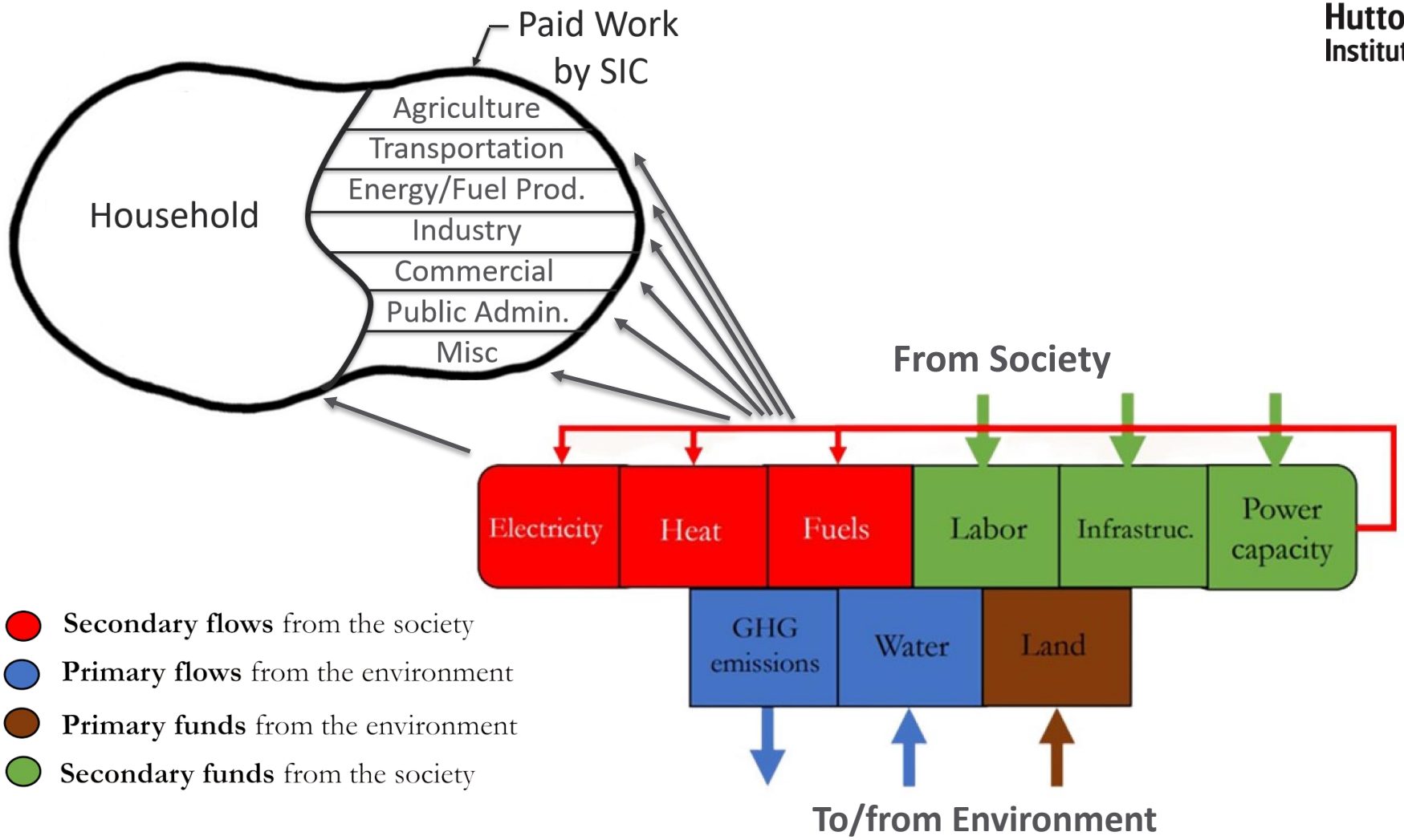
Energy Carriers and Usage





- **Secondary flows** from the society
- **Primary flows** from the environment
- **Primary funds** from the environment
- **Secondary funds** from the society

Energy Carriers and Usage



Energy Carriers and Usage

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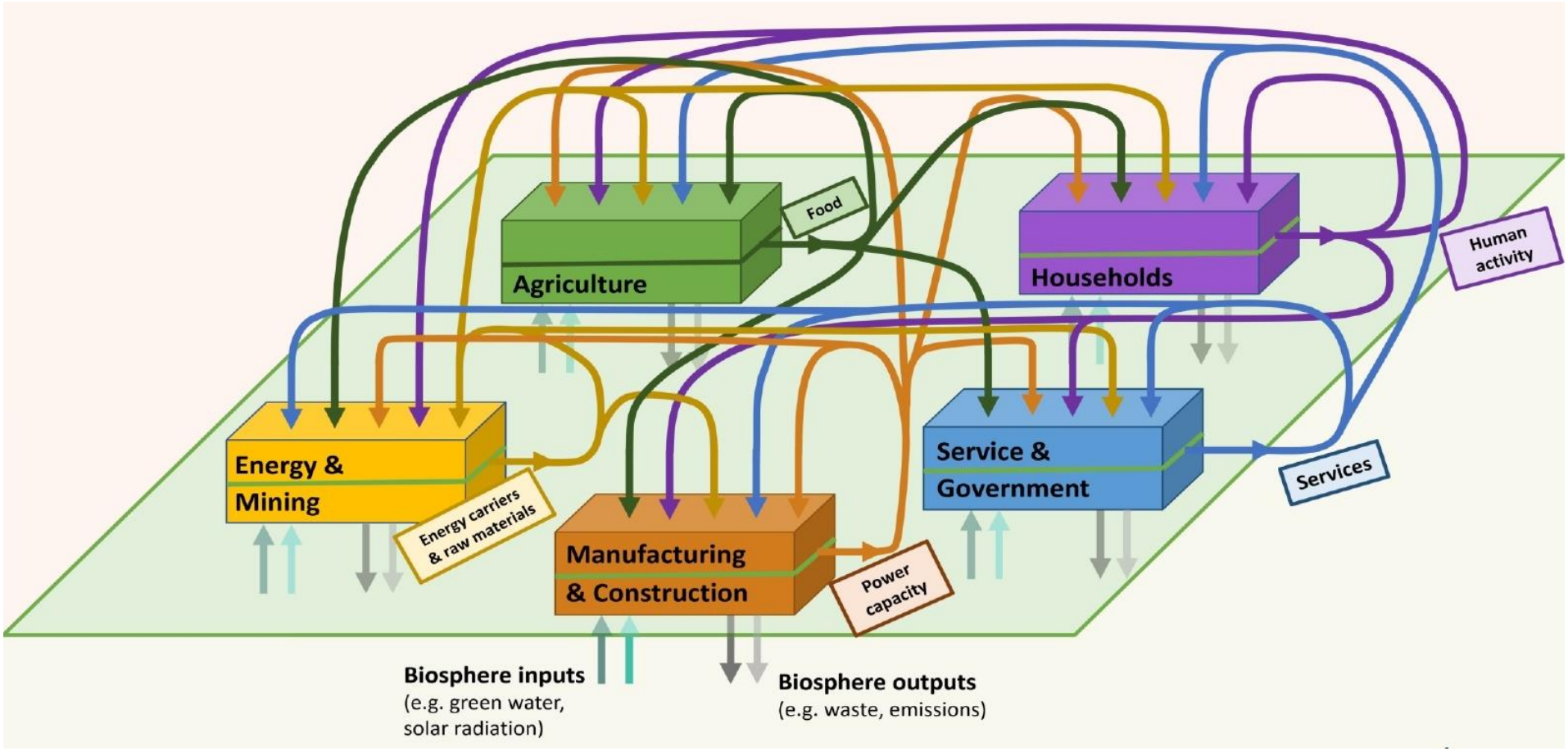

UK 2019 MuSIASEM

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		2019 UK - Multi-Scale Integrated Analysis of Societal and Ecosystem Metabolism (MuSIASEM)																	
		Total Hours of Human Activity	Energy Metabolic Rate				Economic Job Produc-tivity (GVA/Hr)	Energy Flow				Gross Value Added	Energy intensity of £	PW total Income (est)	PW intensity of GVA	GHG	Coupling		
																	GHG Intensity of Hour	GHG Intensity of Energy	GHG Intensity of £
		(Mh)	Total (MJ/h)	Elec (MJ/h)	Heat (MJ/h)	Fuels (MJ/h)	(£/h)	Total (PJ/yr)	Elec (PJ/yr)	Heat (PJ/yr)	Fuels (PJ/yr)	(M£)	(GJ/£)	(M£)	(£/£)	ktCO2e	ktCO2e/ Mh	ktCO2e/ TJ	ktCO2e/ M£
Level 1	**All Society**	585,140	11.1	2.1	4.1	4.8	3.4	6,469	1,238	2,415	2,816	2,017,344	3.2	688,517	0.34	447,877	0.8	69.2	0.22
Level 2 (HH & PW)	**Household Sector**	539,179	3.0	0.7	2.1	0.2	-	1,605	373	1,128	104	-	-	-	-	132,948	0.25	82.8	-
	Paid Work Sector	45,961	105.8	18.8	28.0	59.0	43.9	4,864	865	1,287	2,712	2,017,344	2.4	688,415	0.34	310,909	7	63.9	0.15
	Ratio PW to HH	0.09	35.6	27.2	13.4	306.8	-	3.0	2.3	1.1	26.2	-	-	-	-	2.3	27.4	0.8	-
Level 3 Paid work breakdown	**Agriculture**	271	225.1	56.1	33.6	135.4	50.9	61	15.2	9.1	36.7	13,802	4.4	2,598	0.19	47,352	175	776.3	3.43
	Transportation	1,185	1998.3	16.9	63.2	1918.3	36.8	2,368	20.0	74.9	2272.9	43,618	54.3	16,223	0.37	24,960	21	10.5	0.57
	Energy/Fuel Prod	436	1435.8	397.9	642.1	395.8	119.3	626	173.4	279.8	172.5	51,984	12.0	9,405	0.18	85,619	196	136.8	1.65
	Industry	7,359	132.1	45.1	71.8	15.2	48.0	972	331.9	528.6	111.7	353,544	2.7	114,182	0.32	109,826	15	113.0	0.31
	Commercial	20,449	27.1	12.7	11.0	3.4	54.4	554	260.0	224.8	69.0	1,113,378	0.5	313,739	0.28	28,940	1.4	52.3	0.03
	Public Admin	14,635	15.7	4.4	9.2	2.1	25.3	230	64.3	134.9	30.8	369,748	0.6	211,596	0.57	12,260	0.8	53.3	0.03
	Misc	1,613	33.2	0.0	21.5	11.7	44.2	54	0.0	34.7	18.8	71,270	0.8	20,672	0.29	1,954	1.2	36.5	0.03

- Land, Water, natural capitals, health measures? Net zero? Env. Justice?
- Borders? Input/outputs. Embeddedness/Sudoku

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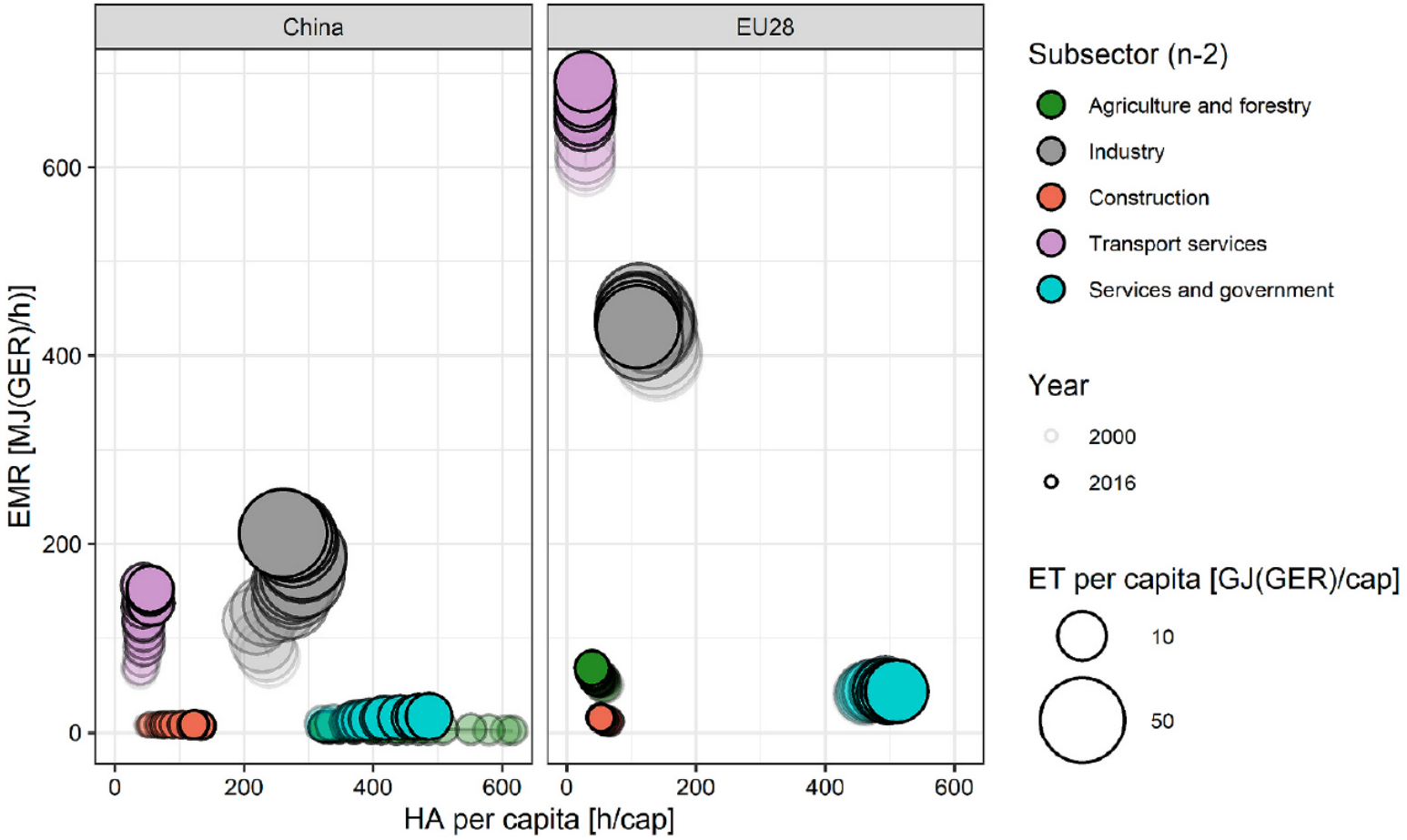
- Absolutes and relative values
- Differential impacts of sectors and qualitatively different from each other

China vs EU – Energy Metabolic Rate vs Human Activity (Velasco-Fernández et al. 2020)



Discussion

- What about Scotland? The same detail is not available.
- Can glean proportions from UK, but we know it's different, ie, AG and grazing land are different
- AG – low value, low employment, large area, small energy sector and might be small but it's a different policy environment than say commercial…
- Yes, metabolics is hard: need hold multiple pieces of information in head at same time. Multi-sector, multi-unit, non-equivalent items, and the trade-offs
- Kahneman's Systems 2 thinking – not easy, but more representative of socioecological systems

Discussion

- Systems in government are not set up for metabolic analysis; set up for economic analysis - generally everything gets reduced to pounds – this is not working
- This universal currency gives us sloppy grammars
- In the end, we can't externalize - climate change is witness to this.
- Problem shifting (sweep under rug); EU can't feed itself, externalizing emissions, China tends to get blamed
- Metabolic analysis can track all this… (well, tries!)

Thanks for listening…

- Please comment/critique (and got data?)
- Can we collaborate?
- Jean.boucher@hutton.ac.uk