

Environment & Travel Shaping Individual Identity

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Research Day

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2015: Digital Identity

- The majority of us have and maintain a web (social media) identity
- Visible record of our lives
 - Everything is documented
 - How does this shape our identity?
 - What will be the effects?
 - Short term and long term



(Michael Humphrey, CSU, 2015)

Natural Identity

- Thoreau, Muir, Leopold
 - Prominent from 1850-1950s
 - Forerunners in modern environmental identity
- NOLS, Outward Bound, and similar organizations
- Are our digital identities trumping our natural world identities?



Travel and Identity

- “To travel is to take a journey into yourself”
–Danny Kaye
- My personal experience
 - Kalmar, Sweden



Cosmopolitan Society

- Currently we are living in a global society: technology connects the world
- How can we find our own personal identity in this globalized society?
 - Are there implications?
- Moral obligations as cosmopolitan
 - What can we do as a global society?



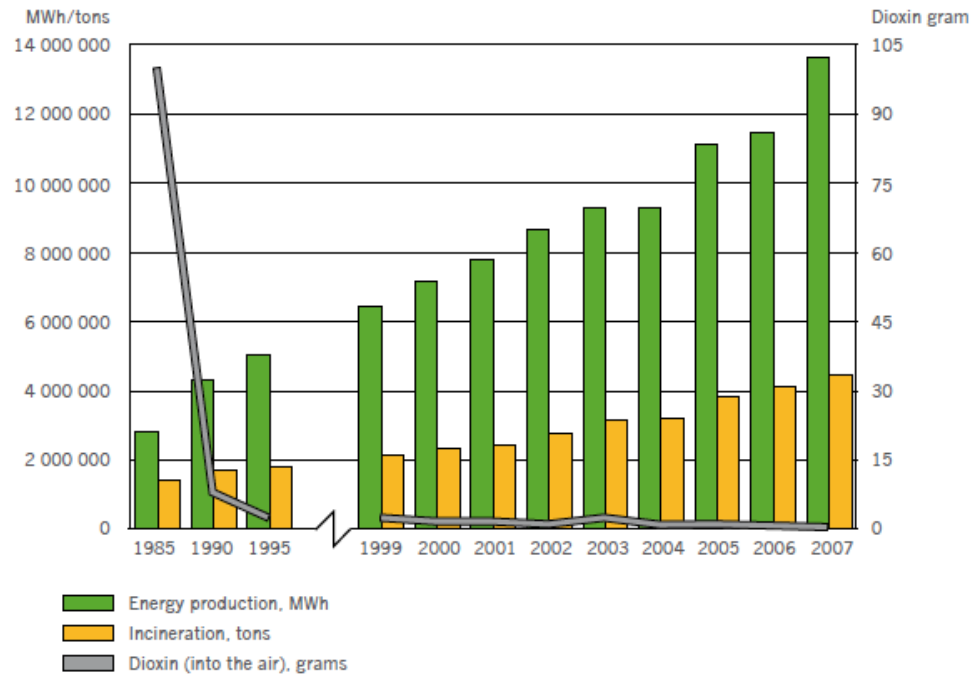
Sweden



Waste-to-energy



INCINERATION, ENERGY PRODUCTION AND DIOXIN INTO THE AIR FROM WASTE INCINERATION 1985-2006



Norway, Germany, UK

- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)
 - Affluent countries pledge \$ for rainforest preservation
 - Cosmopolitan ideal: Global resources
- Saving the environment for future generations



Wyoming (Home)

- I returned back with deeper understanding of my identity
- Recycling
 - Upcycle



The Future

- Travel and the Environment are crucial to the formation of our identities
- Environment is constantly changing
- What does the future hold in store for us?



- “It may be asked, what have mountains 50 or 100 miles to do with Twenty Hill Hollow? To lovers of the wild, these mountains are not a hundred miles away. Their spiritual power and goodness of the sky make them near, as a circle of friends. They rise as a portion of the hilled walls of the Hollow. You cannot feel yourself out of doors; plain, sky, and mountains ray beauty which you feel. You bathe in these spirit-beams, turning round and round, as if warming at a camp-fire. Presently you lose consciousness of your own separate existence: you blend with the landscape and become part and parcel of nature”

John Muir, A Thousand-Mile Walk to the Gulf, 1916

Questions?



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