

Sustainable Innovation 2016
'Circular Economy' Innovation & Design
21st International Conference
7th – 8th November 2016
University for the Creative Arts
Epsom, Surrey, UK
www.cfsd.org.uk



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Cindy Kohtala is a writer, teacher and researcher in the field of Design-for-Sustainability. She is currently a post-doc researcher in the Department of Design, Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture, examining collaborative design in material peer production communities and sustainable innovation processes. Her doctoral research explored the maker movement (Fab Labs and maker communities and spaces) and its environmental, social and economic sustainability issues, as mainly a longitudinal ethnographic study involving Symbolic Interactionist analysis.

Cindy Kohtala teaches Sustainable Product-Service System design and design for Distributed Economies. She is also a writer and editor and is co-author and co-editor of Product-Service System Design for Sustainability (Greenleaf, 2014) and Changing Helsinki? (Nemo, 2015). She has long been interested and involved in design activism, urban activism and the grassroots, DIY approach in how people design their own sustainable lifestyles in self-organizing communities.