



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

**Master of Science**  
**Ashley Mack**

Will present her scientific paper

**A Business Accelerator Model for  
Advancing Sustainability Transformations**

**Abstract**

Multi-scalar, integrated and transformational solutions are necessary to address the complex problems of climate change and sustainable development. Cities are using Urban Living Labs to develop and test such solutions; however, the pace of transformation does not yet match the urgency of the problems at hand. In business, accelerators are used to advance new and potentially transformational enterprises, giving fresh ideas an advantage over more established competition, thereby accelerating the pace of change in industry. This article examines the accelerator model and considers its adaptation to urban living labs that are aiming for system transformation. From the literature, a multi-scalar business accelerator model is proposed that addresses both individual and system interventions to advance sustainability transformations. Also proposed is a formative-evaluation framework to guide effective implementation of the sustainable business accelerator model. This article concludes with recommendations for scholars and practitioners working on urban living labs to utilize business accelerators to advance sustainability transformations.

Thursday, April 11, 2019

8:30 a.m.

Wrigley Hall, 102

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:  
Lauren Withycombe Keeler (Chair)  
Arnim Wiek  
Henrik von Wehrden