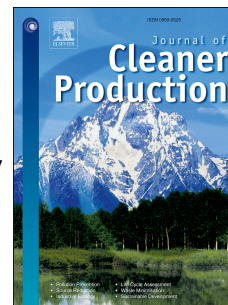


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Attributional or consequential Life Cycle Assessment: A matter of social responsibility

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Title page: Attributional or consequential Life Cycle Assessment: A matter of social responsibility

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Keywords:

value chain; supply chain; product life cycle; system modelling; sphere of influence

Highlights:

- Identifies 3 responsibility paradigms: Value chain, supply chain & product life cycle
- All social responsibility paradigms ultimately imply a consequential perspective
- Consequential life cycles measure the “impact” part of the sphere of influence
- Value chains and supply chains add activities on which an organisation has “leverage”
- The different paradigms can be combined in the same analysis

Abstract

Results of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) are critically dependent on the system boundaries, notably the choice of attributional or consequential modelling. Published LCA studies rarely specify and justify their modelling choices. Since LCA studies are typically performed within the context of social responsibility and product life cycle management, this article investigates the relationship between social responsibility paradigms and the system modelling choices in LCA. We identify three different social responsibility paradigms: Value chain

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