

## **Proposals for social impact categories from a philosophical perspective**

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*Purpose:* This paper aims at spelling out the area of protection (AoP), namely the general concept of human well-being and the impact categories in Social Life cycle assessment (SLCA). The applicability of the so-called capabilities approach – a concept frequently used for evaluating human lives – is explored. It is shown how the principles of the capabilities approach can be transferred to the impact assessment within SLCA.

*Results:* The main results are the following: (1) The AoP is defined as autonomy, well-being freedom and fairness. (2) Using the dimensions which constitute well-being together with the concept of fairness eight impact categories are proposed: life, knowledge and aesthetic experience, work and play, friendship, self-integration, self-expression, transcendence and fairness itself. (3) By examining the “Guide to Social LCA: Methodological Sheets” it is demonstrated that our proposed framework can be used for structuring the previous work on impact assessment.

*Conclusions:* The capabilities approach is one possibility for addressing the question ‘what is of importance in a human life?’ When applied in a practical field, like SLCA, this framework is not only useful for structuring data but also for disclosing our own normative assumptions about what counts as valuable in a human life. Thus, the normative evaluation is more coherent.