



#### SCORAI Board

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**Advisor:**  
Cindy Isenhour, University of  
Maine

July 2015

Dear Robert,

We hope you are all having a relaxing and rejuvenating summer. Here is another monthly dose of inspiring and exciting SCORAI news for you to enjoy.

Catie, Debbie, & Maurie

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## Report on Workshop on Energy Transitions and Sustainable Consumption



SCORAI, in cooperation with the [Henry J. Leir Luxembourg Program](#) at Clark University, the University of Vermont, and the [Helmholtz Alliance ENERGY-TRANS](#), sponsored a workshop on June 26-29 at the [Centre de Formation et de Seminaires](#) (CEFOS) in Remich, Luxembourg on the topic of "Energy Transitions and Sustainable Consumption." Organized by Halina Brown (Clark University), Jennie Stephens (University of Vermont), and Philip Vergragt (Clark University and Tellus Institute), the workshop

engaged a dynamic group of scholars involved in research on energy transitions, sustainable consumption, and risk governance and sought to identify common ground and potential research themes. Background for the discussions was the German *Energiewende* (energy transition or "turn-around") and transition to clean energy production in the state of Vermont in the United States.

The workshop consisted of five major sessions. The opening session (led by Jennie Stephens, Halina Brown, and Philip Vergragt) set the scene for the event and sought to establish a framework for discussion. The second session focused on framing and governing the energy transition and comprised papers by David Levy (University of Massachusetts at Boston), Aleh Cherp (Central European University), Pia Johanna Schweizer (University of Stuttgart), and Bert de Vries (Utrecht University). The third session took up challenges centered on engaging the public and policy makers with contributions by Maurie Cohen (New Jersey Institute of Technology), Derk Loorbach (Erasmus University), Thomas Webler (Western Washington University), and Miranda Schreurs (Free University of Berlin).

The second day of the workshop kicked off with a series of papers on energy transitions from consumers' perspectives by Florian Kaiser (Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg), Richard Watts (University of Vermont), and Elizabeth Wilson (University of Minnesota). The final session of the workshop shifted attention to institutional innovations with contributions by Audley Genus (Kingston University), Cindy Isenhour (University of Maine), and Jens Schippl (Karlsruhe Institute

A full workshop report will be posted in coming days to the SCORAI website.

-Submitted by Maurie Cohen

## SCORAI Website: Experiments & New Features

Robert Orzanna, the new SCORAI website administrator, has some announcements for the SCORAI community:

- The SCORAI website now features an article library and all affiliates are welcome to have a look at <http://scorai.org/library/>. You are of course invited to add your paper there. Please follow the guidelines on the page.
- Along with Marlyne Sahakian a new section on teaching resources is being developed and can be viewed at <http://scorai.org/teaching/>. Also here, feedback is most welcome!
- Ana Pocas (another new SCORAI member) and I would like to create some interesting podcast episodes in which we interview SCORAI members via Skype. We believe that podcasts are a great way of connecting to a wider public. At the moment, I am not aware of any good podcast series on sustainable consumption. Any interested members are welcome to contact me via email at [orschiro@gmail.com](mailto:orschiro@gmail.com) to schedule a date for the interview.
- More new features will follow soon, such as an online discussion forum (to move discussions from the mailing list), a Wikipedia presence for SCORAI, and a proper membership database. Have fun!



## "Beyond" Transition? Understanding and Achieving Sustainable Consumption through Social Innovation

transformative  
social innovation  
theory

SCORAI  
Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative  
EUROPE

SCORAI Europe and the [Transformative Social Innovation Theory \(TRANSIT\)](#) project are jointly organising a one-day workshop at the Impact Hub in Vienna on 17 November 2015. Workshop participants seek to contribute to theory development on and practical insight in social innovation and societal transformation. The following themes will provide the foci for our discussions:

- Similarities and differences between various conceptions of social change, transition, and transformation
- Case studies and examples of social innovation or sustainable consumption and their relevance to transformation.
- Roles and (inter-)actions of diverse participants (researchers, policy-makers, entrepreneurs, citizens) in potentially transformative social innovation or sustainable consumption initiatives.

Further information about the workshop is available at <http://scorai.org/vienna-2015/>.

The workshop is a precursor to the TRANSIT project mid-term conference "Social Innovation 2015: Pathways to Social Change - Research, Policies and Practices in European and Global

## Social Innovation 2015: Pathways to Social Change - Research, Policies and Practices in European and Global Perspectives



### Social Innovation 2015: Pathways to Social Change Research, policies and practices in European and global perspectives

Vienna, November 18-19, 2015

"Social Innovation 2015: Pathways to Social Change - Research, Policies and Practices in European and Global Perspectives" is going to be the key event on social innovation in the year 2015. The conference will connect researchers with policy makers and practitioners of social innovation. Presentations of interim research results, considerations and site visits primarily focus on:

- The state-of-the-art of conceptualizing and doing social innovation;
- Methods and good practices to create desirable social change;
- Resources, means and levers making social innovation processes effective
- International comparison of social innovation practices, policies and research

The conference is hosted by two projects under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme, Social Innovation - Driving Force of Social Change - SI-DRIVE, Transformative Social Innovation Theory - TRANSIT and NET4SOCIETY, a network of National Contact Points in Horizon 2020. They are joined by two collaborative partners: Creating Economic Space for Social Innovation - CRESSI and Boosting the Impact of Social Innovation in Europe through Economic Underpinnings - SIMPACT.

Further information about the workshop is available at [http://www.si-drive.eu/?page\\_id=1135](http://www.si-drive.eu/?page_id=1135)

## 2016 GAIA Masters Student Paper Award: Call for Contributions

# GAIA

  
**LEUPHANA**  
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Have your work awarded and published in a renowned scientific journal!

The international journal GAIA - *Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society* and Leuphana University Lüneburg invites Masters students to participate in the 2016 GAIA Masters Student Paper Award. Masters students are encouraged to publish their results from research-based courses/Masters theses in the field of transdisciplinary environmental and sustainability science.

For submission guidelines and more information [click here](#).

**Deadline for submission: November 2, 2015.**

One article will be selected by a jury and published in GAIA. The winner will be granted prize money of EUR 1,500 endowed by the Selbach Umwelt Stiftung, as well as a free one-year subscription to GAIA, including free online access.

Recipient of the 2015 GAIA Masters Student Paper Award is Ina Soetebeer, University of Freiburg, for her entry "Beyond Growth - Discursive Struggles in the German Enquete Commission".

[GAIA - Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society](#) is an inter- and transdisciplinary journal for scientists and other interested parties concerned with the causes and analyses of environmental and sustainability problems and their solutions. GAIA is listed in the Social Science Citation Index and Science Citation Index Expanded. The latest GAIA-Newsletter is available [here](#).

## Call for Papers for Special Issue of the *Journal of Consumer Policy*

### Call for papers for a Special Issue of the *Journal of Consumer Policy* on System Perspectives on Sustainable Consumption Policies



Guest Editors: André Martinuzzi, WU Vienna, Austria Lucia Reisch, Copenhagen Business School (CBS), Denmark

- **Submission of papers: September 30th, 2015**
- Planned publication: September 2016

Research on sustainable consumption in general and on consumer policies in particular has rarely made use of systems perspectives to date. Sustainable consumption has mostly been discussed in terms of changes in individual awareness, behaviour and consumer choices, development of societal practices, implementation of corporate strategies and as market phenomenon. Although it is broadly accepted that individual consumer behaviour is embedded in multiple contexts, such as social groups and milieus, institutions, sociocultural norms, socio-technical and socio-spatial systems; complexity theory and systems thinking approaches are comparably rare and publications are scattered across communities and academic journals.

System perspectives could inspire the development of more effective Sustainable Consumption Policies. In evaluating the effectiveness of sustainable consumption policies Tukker et al. (2008) identified a lack of systemic approaches in the development of SC policies which leads to ineffective policy instruments, blind faith in technological solutions, misbalances and incoherence in the policy mixes, and fragmentation of existing policy strategies and approaches, as well as implementation. Since then several projects have applied systems thinking in the area of sustainable consumption.

This special issue aims to introduce a systems thinking view to the scientific debate on sustainable consumption policies. This new perspective will offer more effective ways of dealing with complex situations, provide tools to work with different world views and paradigms, give proper attention to properties of systems that emerge unexpectedly, and help identify leverage points for policy interventions derived from a dynamic and holistic approach.

[For more information on the special issue click here](#)

## Job Opportunities



Sustainable Consumption Institute

**Research Associate Position at the University of Manchester (24 Months)**

**Deadline: July 17, 2015**

The University of Manchester is seeking an outstanding candidate to help develop the research agenda of the Sustainable Consumption Institute, with a particular focus on new methodological

approaches to studying the re-embedding of energy and food provision into local contexts.

You must hold a PhD in social sciences, preferably in economic sociology or innovation studies, display familiarity with the sociological literature on food provision, energy provision and/or sustainability, and have a thorough background in methodological approaches such as social network analysis or sequence analysis (full requirements are listed in the particulars).

You will be institutionally located in the Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI) in the Faculty of Humanities at The University of Manchester. You will work closely with Professor Frank Boons as well as other members of the SCI, on the project outlined in the particulars, and on associated tasks.

The SCI offers a vibrant context for the study of the interrelated practices of production and consumption. For further information, please visit: <http://www.sci.manchester.ac.uk/>

[Full details on the position can be found here.](#)

## New Publications



Borch, Anita, Gunnar Vittersø, and Eivind Stø. 2015. "Studying Sustainable Change: From ABC to Practice." *GAIA - Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society* 24 (2):102-7.

The Attitude-Behaviour-Choice (ABC) paradigm emphasizing the importance of individuals' freedom of choice represents a dominant way of understanding the world and how the world is created that is routinely practised within all parts of society, including in social research on environmental change. In effect, alternative views that presumably have a greater potential to change society in a more sustainable direction are being suppressed. To move society in a more sustainable direction, the influence of the ABC paradigm on current research has to be identified, dissolved, and replaced by alternative approaches. The analysis is primarily based on social practice theories as formulated by Elizabeth Shove and colleagues, as well as on methodological experiences and observations made in a 2011 study of barriers to sustainable change in Europe. [Get the article here.](#)

## Upcoming Conferences



### EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

**European Society of Ecological Economics 2015 Conference**

**ESEE 2015: Transformations**

June 30-July 3, 2015, Leeds, UK

Registration for the 11th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics opens at the beginning of February. The overarching theme of the conference is "Transformations", and presentations will cover: (1) post-growth economics; (2) natural resources, ecosystem services and environmental quality; (3) development, consumption and well-being; (4) power, politics, institutions and the reality of achieving change; (5) new business models and understandings of human behaviour; and (6) theory, methods and practice of ecological economics, as well as over 30 special session themes. [Visit the conference website.](#)

**Our Common Future Under Climate Change**

July 7-10, 2015, Paris, France

OUR UNDER  
COMMON CLIMATE  
FUTURE CHANGE

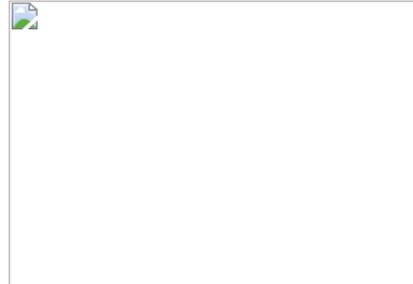
This four-day conference is the largest forum for the scientific community to come together ahead of the [COP21 of the UNFCCC in 2015](#). The Conference will address key issues concerning climate change in the broader context of global change. Organized around [daily themes](#), the Conference focuses on moving from present knowledge to future solutions. [Visit the conference website](#).

### **Beyond Oil: Geographies of Climate and Energy Transformation**

October 21-22, 2015, Bergen, Norway

Society is inevitably moving beyond oil. The challenge of climate change is well recognized, renewable energy technologies are increasingly important in energy systems, and sustainability has become a critical parameter for urban and regional planning. Even though most agree that the observed processes of change are far behind what the climate science suggests is necessary, and political, economic, cultural path dependencies are evident, the transition is now.

[Visit the conference website](#).



### **Beyond' Transition? Understanding and Achieving Sustainable Consumption through Social Innovation**

November 17, 2015, Vienna, Austria

The European branch of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI Europe) and the Transformative Social Innovation Theory (TRANSIT) project are jointly organising a one-day workshop. [Visit the conference website](#).



### **The 2nd International Workshop on the Sharing Economy**

January 28-29, 2016, Paris, France

How does the sharing economy disrupt individual behaviors, industries and public regulation?

Airbnb, Kickstarter, Uber, Fab Labs, The Food Assembly, etc.: the rise of these collaborative initiatives no doubt constitutes one of the most striking revolutions of the present day. However, despite the rise of the "sharing economy", no consensus about its definition yet exists. Botsman (2013) defines this sector as "an economic model based on sharing, swapping, trading, or renting products and services, enabling access over ownership."

It thus pertains to a broad set of industries, including collaborative finance (crowdfunding), collaborative production (3D printing, FabLabs, DIY, etc.) collaborative education (e.g. open education and open knowledge) and finally collaborative consumption.

[Visit the conference website](#).

## New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month which brings our total number to 788.

Yumiko Assayama  
Rebecca Duell  
Travis Dutton  
Ryan Gourley  
Heather Leslie  
Donna Lybecker  
Michael Meredith  
Ron Monhiet  
Ana Pocas  
Marc Wolfram  
Erika Wolters  
Aansan Yeh

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