



August 2011 Newsletter

Dear SCORAI,

Welcome to the August issue of the SCORAI newsletter! With this issue we launch two new features: the first celebrates the achievements of new PhDs in our community and the second reports on affiliates' career transitions. While we try at SCORAI Central to keep our communications antennae carefully tuned for this sort of information, we also welcome (and appreciate!) incoming announcements. Please send this information to Emily at huddartk@ualberta.ca by the 25th of the month. Also, you should feel free to forward this newsletter to interested colleagues as we are always looking to reach new people. Best wishes during these final few weeks of summer.

Maurie and Emily

Recent Graduates

SCORAI is delighted to announce that Marlyne Sahakian (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva) and Emily Huddart Kennedy (University of Alberta) have recently defended their PhD thesis. Abstracts of their dissertations appear below.

Staying Cool: Towards a Deeper Understanding of Household Energy Consumption in Metro Manila, the Philippines (Marlyne Sahakian)

This doctoral research in development studies is focused on understanding the meaning of environmentally significant consumption practices among households from different socio-economic groups in Metro Manila, the Philippines--from low-income housing communities to luxurious gated communities. Mixed methodology, including qualitative interviews, observations and discourse analysis, was used to uncover practices related to electricity consumption for lighting and cooling in the home. One main finding is that energy and electricity are not relevant in and of themselves: cool air provides comfort, a social construct, but also allows for adherence to western fashion clothing trends among the most affluent groups, what is being called a "secondary service" of cooling. In low-income housing and among the growing middle-income groups, the material dimension of housing structures may be locking-in energy consumption trends: mechanical ventilation is used in homes with no passive cooling capacity, and often designed with "west is best" housing style preferences that are inappropriate for local climatic conditions.

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Executive Board



Jeffrey Barber
Integrative Strategies Forum

Halina Brown
Clark University

Maurie Cohen
New Jersey Institute of
Technology

John Stutz
Tellus Institute

Philip Vergragt
Tellus Institute and Clark
University

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When assessing opportunities for transitions to reduced energy consumption in this context, the research concludes that an increasingly global discourse on individual responsibility when it comes to environmental issues may be deflecting attention away from citizenship and political action towards broader, institutional change.

Reclaiming Consumption: Sustainability, Social Networks, and Urban Context (Emily Huddart Kennedy)

Does the neighbourhood you live in change your consumption habits? Is there a relationship between quality of life and sustainable consumption? Reclaiming consumption is advanced as a theoretical lens through which to understand how some households are able to engage in a wide array of sustainable practices while also encouraging others to do the same. Domains of sustainable practices examined include eating, mobility, leisure and travel, and maintaining the household. Qualitative in-depth interviews were used to shed light on the importance of peer-to-peer learning for reclaiming consumption and to explore the potential of neighbourhood networks to act as agents of social change. A survey was used to compare the consumption practices of suburban and urban residents. The survey results show that suburban residents are more likely to adopt cost-intensive acts (e.g., buying high quality goods) than time-intensive behaviours (e.g., hanging laundry to dry). Reclaiming consumption is more readily achieved in an area with public meeting points, a conspicuous presence of households committed to reducing material consumption, and the opportunity to display one's sustainable actions to others.

SCORAI-ers in Transition

Diana Mincyte has recently moved from the Agrarian Studies Program at Yale University to the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies at New York University. She can be reached at dmincyte@sbcglobal.net.

Debbie Kasper has recently moved from Sweet Briar College to Hiram College. She can be reached at kasperdv@hiram.edu.

SCORAI Seeks Webmaster

The SCORAI website (<http://www.scorai.org>) is in need of refurbishment and updating. Ongoing management is also required. This is an excellent opportunity for a graduate student or rising scholar to contribute some voluntary service to the further development of our community. Training as necessary will be provided. Interested candidates should contact Maurie Cohen at mcohen@adm.njit.edu.

Positions for Aspiring PhD Students

The **International Centre for Integrated assessment and Sustainable development (ICIS) at Maastricht University (Netherlands)** has three PhD positions available.

- Globalisation, complexity and sustainability
- An integrated, dynamic sustainability assessment of CSP and CCS
- Homo Sustinens: towards a footprint of 1.0

Deadline for applications is August 1, 2011. A description of the positions can be found at <http://www.icis.unimaas.info/3-phd-positions-sustainability-science>.

PhD fellowship in sustainable consumption available at the **University of Oslo**. Relevant topics include: renewable energies; sustainable consumption; and climate change, both mitigation and adaptation. Deadline for application is August 1, 2011. A description can be found at: <http://uio.easycruit.com/vacancy/562441/65771?iso=no>.

Job Opportunities

The New Economics Institute (NEI)

The New Economics Institute seeks a President who will bring the characteristics and experiences needed to help NEI achieve an ambitious but essential agenda: to go beyond questioning the current economic model and begin to develop and promote a new one, transforming traditional definitions of progress and exploring areas of priority and policy where transformative change is now essential.

Requirements: Successful track record fundraising, prior experience managing staff, passion around new economy thought, able to travel internationally, based in New York City.

To apply: Please send a cover letter describing your interest and qualifications, your resume, and salary history to: nei-ceo@nonprofitprofessionals.com.

Demos' Sustainable Progress Initiative

The Demos' Sustainable Progress Initiative seeks a Sustainability Senior Policy Analyst. Based in New York City, the position is due to begin in September 2011, but applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please submit a relevant writing sample with cover letter and resume or CV to ldaly@demoss.org. Include in the subject line "Sustainability Senior Policy Analyst--Your Name." For more information about Demos, see <http://www.demos.org>.

Degrowth Photo Contest

Do you have a great degrowth photo?

In this critical time of austerity, debt, and ecological crises Research & Degrowth (R&D) is calling for a VISUAL illustration of the ideas, strategies, and dimensions of degrowth and thus make them understandable and known in society at large.

While degrowth is far from reality, some of its elements can be found here and now, and can be pinched on the street walls for reflection. The twelve best photographs will be published in a

degrowth calendar which will be distributed widely. We will also offer special artistic degrowth prizes to the 12 "winners." The winning photos will be presented on the R&D website, and possibly an exhibition will be organised. All photos will be under the creative commons label.

More information is at <http://www.degrowth.net>.

New Publications by SCORAI Members and Friends

Heinberg, R. 2011. [The End of Growth: Adapting to Our New Economic Reality](#). Gabriola Island, BC: New Society.

Prothero, A., Dobscha, S., Freund, J., Kilbourne, W., Luchs, M., Ozanne, L., Thøgersen, J. 2011. Sustainable consumption: opportunities for consumer research and public policy. *Journal of Public Policy and Marketing* 30(1):31-38.

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

Sustainability in Crisis: Faith Group Responses to and Action on Sustainability. September 26-28, 2011. Cambridge, UK (<http://www.sustainability-in-crisis>).

The RESPONDER Project. The project links sustainable consumption and growth debates and takes into account aspects of green growth, non-growth and degrowth. See <http://www.scp-responder.eu>.

Next events as part of RESPONDER:

19-21 October 2011 1st EU Dialogue on Sustainable Consumption and Economic Growth (Berlin)

26-27 January 2012 Multinational knowledge brokerage event on Sustainable Food Consumption (Lisbon)

15-17 February 2012 Multinational knowledge brokerage event on Sustainable Household Electronics (Vienna).

7-9 March 2012 Multinational knowledge brokerage event on Sustainable Household Savings and Debts (London).

21-23 March 2012 Multinational knowledge brokerage event on Sustainable Mobility (Bratislava).

28-30 March 2012 Multinational knowledge brokerage event on Sustainable Housing (Barcelona).

Localism: Sufficient and Fit for Purpose? November 3, 2011, University of Manchester Conference Centre, Manchester, UK (<https://eiemea.certain.com/rsa/getdemo.ei?id=1010023&s=50K0YSW2F>).

International Conference on Sustainable Consumption: Towards Action and Impact, November 6-8, 2011, Hamburg, Germany (<http://www.sustainableconsumption2011.org>).

Third German Environmental Sociology Summit (Innovation and Sustainability: Beyond Technology), November 16-18, 2011, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt, Germany

(<http://www.gesellschaftswissenschaften.unifrankfurt.de/gess>).

Eighth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic, and Social Sustainability, January 10-12, 2012, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada (<http://www.SustainabilityConference.com>).

European Seminar on the "Geography of Innovation," January 26-28, 2012, Saint-Etienne, France (<http://www.euolio.eu>).

New SCORAI Affiliates

SCORAI welcomes the following new affiliates to the network during the month of July. Total membership is currently 263 people.

Fabio Coltro
Rachel McCloy (University of Reading)
Aman Singh

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