



February 2012 Newsletter

Dear SCORAI,

This month's newsletter brings news and media from around the globe including a discussion of Goodall's "Peak Stuff" report, WEF's Scaling Sustainable Consumption Initiative and a short "op-doc" on dismantling Detroit.

You will also find job opportunities, fellowships, and upcoming events and conferences.

Enjoy and we hope this newsletter finds you all well!

Kate & Debbie & Maurie

CBC Highlights Goodall's Recent Report on "Peak Stuff"

A [recent interview](#) with Chris Goodall discussed his recent research report, "[Peak Stuff](#)" that asserts that the consumption of several physical resources peaked in the U.K. during the first half of the last decade. The report suggests, "economic growth in a mature economy does not necessarily increase the pressure on the world's reserves of natural resources and on its physical environment." The author mentioned several possible explanations of this phenomena including increased income inequality within the U.K., underestimation of consumption of resources occurring abroad, and "virtualization" of many goods. Despite the trends Goodall emphasized that dramatic changes were still needed in developed economies to avert environmental crisis such as global warming.

Dr. Brundtland Honored for Decades of Leadership in Science, Policy and the Environment

During the [12th National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment](#), held in D.C. two weeks ago, The National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE) [honored Dr. Gro Harlem Brundtland with the NCSE Lifetime Achievement](#)

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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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[Award](#). Dr. Brundtland delivered a brief lecture after accepting the honor and noted that, "Today, we face at least three fundamental challenges to human security and well-being: poverty, ecosystem degradation, and climate change. All of these challenges are connected."

DG Environment Consultation on Delivering more Sustainable Consumption and Production

The European Commission wants to gather views and additional information on the possible introduction of EU wide measures related to Sustainable Consumption and Production. The consultation also looks at Green Public Procurement (GPP), the Environmental Footprint of Products (PEF) and the Environmental Footprint of Organizations (OEF). For more information see [the background document](#).

The consultation offers an opportunity to all interested parties to express their views, to give their opinion on the proposed policy options. The consultation is not anonymous and allows only one reply per stakeholder and should be submitted by March 4, 2012. To submit contributions please use the unique forms for [citizens](#), [organisations](#) and [public authorities](#). Contact env-scp-review-ext-forward@ec.europa.eu with further questions.

Job Opportunities

University of Maryland, College Park. The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences is seeking computational social scientists to expand Maryland's strengths in the computational aspects of global environmental change. Rank will start at associate professor and tenure will be in the department closest to the applicant's background. Applicants should have backgrounds in the social sciences and advanced computational skills which include experience integrating social science data into computational models.

One appointment will be **in Economics/Geography** and experience is preferred in sustainability science in combination with one or more of the following: computational economics, economic geography, spatial modeling or data visualization. **Another appointment** will be **in Geography/Sociology**. For that position, experience with agent-based modeling, social networks analysis, computational input-output analysis or social accounting, or data visualization is preferred. For a detailed description of the positions and application submission instructions please visit the [web ad](#) (reference position 117853). Applications received by **March 2, 2012** will receive best consideration.

Eindhoven University of Technology has a vacancy for Lecturer (Docent) in System Innovation and Sustainability Transitions. More information is available [here](#).

Arizona State University is hiring faculty either at the

tenure-track assistant professor level or tenured associate professor level. The appointment is in an innovative interdisciplinary academic program in [sustainability](#). To review and apply to this position, please visit <http://www.academicjobsonline.org> and search for the Global Institute of Sustainability. The initial application deadline was January 8, 2012, however, applications will continue to be accepted and reviewed until the search is closed.

Fellowships

Sustainable Consumption Institute at The University of Manchester. A minimum of four funded studentships are available on the four year SCI CDT programme. The Sustainable Consumption Institute examines issues related to environmental sustainability through the lens of consumption. A key current focus is on climate change; it is imperative that international, national and company climate change strategies and targets are grounded in climate science. The challenge facing society means that we cannot rely only on technology based solutions to combat climate change and move to a low carbon based economy; it will be vital to also change patterns of consumption and production. The SCI currently has three interrelated themes to guide and organise research activities: Sustainable Consumer Behaviours and Lifestyles, Stimulating Eco-Innovation for Sustainable Production and Distribution and Climate Change and Carbon: Mitigation, Adaptation and Vulnerability.

Applicants are welcome to apply for specific projects or to submit their own project ideas. Applicants are required to hold a first class honours degree or equivalent, and/or distinction at Masters level. Full fees and stipend equivalent to UK research councils.

The closing date for applications for 2012 is February 29, 2012. Contact for further information: Sue Huzar, Senior Programme Administrator - sue.huzar@manchester.ac.uk.

The University of Sussex's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Doctoral Training Centre, in collaboration with the **STEPS Centre and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS)**, is looking to recruit seven doctoral students to join their vibrant research community.

Applications are invited from highly-motivated students, working in fields around development studies, science and technology studies, innovation and policy studies, and across agricultural, health, water or energy issues. Candidates whose projects demonstrate the potential to work in collaboration with or are supported by industrial; charitable or public sector organisations will be prioritised.

Two of the seven projects will be based at Institute of Development Studies; they will draw on the University of Sussex's ESRC recognised Masters courses, before progression to PhD study linked to the STEPS Centre. They

are linked to the following STEPS projects: (1) Climate change and uncertainty from 'below': perspectives from urban India (2) From bats to humans: understanding the social-ecological dynamics of disease transmission. For more details, visit the STEPS Centre [website](#).

Five studentships at Science and Technology Policy Research are offered in open competition but preference will be given to applications that connect productively with STEPS/SPRU research themes. For details about the SPRU projects, visit the SPRU [website](#).

For information about how to apply, visit the Sussex University [website](#). The deadline for applications is 5pm on Thursday February 16 2012. All studentships will be part of the Sussex ESRC DTC and jointly reviewed by the University of Sussex and the Institute of Development Studies.

Dismantling Detroit

Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady have created a short documentary, "[Dismantling Detroit](#)" which focuses on a group of young men who salvage scrap metal from Detroit's derelict buildings. This film finds one group illegally dismantling a former Cadillac repair shop. This short film draws from the filmmakers upcoming feature-length documentary, DETROPIA, which will be released at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival.

World Economic Forum Discusses "Scaling Sustainable Consumption"

[Sustainable Consumption](#) was one of several themes discussed at this year's World Economic Forum (WEF). The accompanying report, "[More with Less: Scaling Sustainable Consumption and Resource Efficiency](#)" focuses on how consumption can be made more sustainable through decoupling growth from environmental impact at the scale and speed required. The WEF's Scaling Sustainable Consumption initiative aims to help create an enabling environment for businesses to deliver more value with less impact on the environment.

New Publications and Reports by SCORAI Members and Friends

A new report by Demos, "[Beyond GDP: New Measures for a New Economy](#)", underscores the point that growth, as measured by GDP, does not equal progress. The report makes the case for why GDP is an incomplete measure and explains in depth what is missing from GDP that prevents it from measuring progress. To close the large well-being gap in our economy gap we need better metrics to improve our decision-making.

In addition to the report DEMOS has also created [a slide show](#) plotting GDP growth against other important trends including the national poverty rate, index of social health, median individual income, incarcerated population among others.

["Sustainability Science Needs to Include Sustainable Consumption"](#), by Halina Szejnwald Brown, offers a review of Robert Kates's "Readings in Sustainability Science and Technology-An Introduction to the Key Literature of Sustainability Science" and argues for the inclusion of an explicit discussion of patterns of consumption. As well as a re-examination of the idea that "economic growth in the rich countries of the world is unavoidable or outright necessary" as well as the assumption that "human well-being is tightly coupled with economic growth".

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

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:

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).

"Challenging Consumerism: Toward Living Well Sustainably". The Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) is collaborating with the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the One Earth Initiative Society to convene the Third SCORAI Workshop on the UBC campus on 8-10 March 2012.

The Partnership for Education and Research About Responsible Living (PERL) will host "Beyond Consumption. Pathways to Responsible Living" 19-20 March, 2012 in Berlin. You will find the Call for Proposals on the PERL website at <http://www.perlprojects.org/Project-sites/PERL/News-Events/News/PERL-conference-Berlin-March-2012>.

Planet Under Pressure: New Knowledge Toward Solutions, 26-29 March, 2012, London, UK. See www.planetunderpressure2012.net for more details on this conference relating to solutions to the global sustainability challenge.

European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption & Production (ERSCP), 2-4 May, 2012, Bregenz, Austria. See <http://www.erscp2012.eu> for more details.

International Conference on Degrowth in the Americas, May 13-19, 2012, Montreal, Canada. More information is at: <http://www.montreal.degrowth.org/index.html>.

The International Society for Ecological Economics is holding its next biennial conference in Rio de Janeiro, 29 May-1 June, 2012 to dovetail with Rio+20 UNCSO. For details see <http://www.ecoeco.org/content/2011/06/2012-isee-conference-call-for-papers>.

The International Association for Society & Natural Resources (ISSRM) is holding its annual symposium June 17-21, 2012 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. For details see <http://www.issrm2012.iasnr.org>

18th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference, 24-26th June 2012, University of Hull, UK. For details see <http://www.hull.ac.uk/isdrc18>.

The World Congress on Global Well-Being will be held July 16-21, 2012 in Melbourne, Australia. See the conference website for more details: <http://www.ifhe2012.org/>.

Summer School on Theories in Environmental and Economic Psychology (STEEP). STEEP will be held from 2-6 July 2012 in Aarhus, Denmark. The aim of the summer school is to provide PhD students in environmental and economic psychology the opportunity to collaborate with senior scholars in this field, and to meet with other PhD students that work in the same area. The application is available [online](#).

XIII World Congress of Rural Sociology, July 29-August 4, 2012, Lisbon, Portugal. Session 43-Consuming the Rural: Food, Nature, and Space. Apply at: <http://irsa2012.com/event/irsa-2012/proposals>.

The International Conference on Culture, Politics, and Climate Change will be held September 13-15, 2012 in Boulder, Colorado USA. For more details see <http://www.climateculturepolitics.org>.

3rd International Conference on Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity will be held September 19-23, 2012 in Venice, Italy. See the conference website for more details at <http://www.venezia2012.it>.

"Beyond the Culture of Nature: Rethinking Canadian and Environmental Studies" will be held September 29-30, 2012 at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. Please send queries and proposals to Matthew Evenden, Chair of Canadian Studies, UBC: CNS-conference2012@geog.ubc.ca.

New SCORAI Affiliates

SCORAI welcomes the following new affiliates to the network during the month of January. Total membership is currently 313 people. And remember, the 350th SCORAI affiliate will receive a free copy of the new boardgame **Catan: Oil Springs** courtesy of developer Erik Assadourian!

Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez
Dea Jacobs
Ruth Kaufmann
Ruth Mourik
Gregory Norris
Norma Schoenherr

Websites We Like

The Unconsumption project seeks to provide inspiration for everyday people to creatively reuse items and reduce waste. The Tumblr account provides creative ideas like using wine bottles as candle holders and turning board games into jewelry boxes.

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Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) | c/o Tellus Institute | 11 Arlington Street | Boston | NJ | 02116