



June 2012 Newsletter

Dear SCORAI,

We hope this newsletter finds you well! This month brings a number of new publications and updates from past meetings, including the recently held international workshop on Grassroots Innovations for Sustainability. There are also a number of exciting events just on the horizon, as well as news about the many significant changes being made to the SCORAI website.

Kate & Debbie & Maurie

International Workshop on Grassroots Innovations for Sustainability

"Community food projects are not about food, and community energy projects are not about energy" was one of the conclusions from an international workshop of experts on 'grassroots innovations'. The three-day workshop was organised by Dr Gill Seyfang (a senior lecturer in sustainable consumption, at 3S, UEA) and Dr Adrian Smith (a senior researcher in innovation and policy studies at SPRU, Sussex) from May 16-18th, 2012, and held at the University of Sussex.

It drew together experts in grassroots innovations to discuss their work studying community-based solutions for sustainable development across a range of sectors including food, energy, housing, finance, governance and consumption. These included community gardens, local currencies, eco-housing projects, community-owned renewable energy, low-carbon lifestyles, community-supported agriculture schemes and local car-sharing projects. This growing list of grassroots innovations all share the fact that they involve networks of activists and organisations generating novel bottom-up solutions for sustainable development; solutions that respond to the local situation and the knowledge, interests and values of the communities involved.

A key finding from the workshop was how vulnerable such initiatives are, being dependent on grant funding and volunteers, and needing support in terms of funding, information and expert advice. "Another challenge for these types of projects relates to how firmly rooted they are in local contexts, and rely on very specific types of people, skills and resources", commented Adrian Smith, "This rootedness is what makes these projects successful, but it also presents challenges when it comes to replicating the ideas elsewhere. Grassroots Innovations need

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Halina Brown
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Maurie Cohen
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John Stutz
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Philip Vergragt
Tellus Institute and Clark
University

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considerable support to spread and grow into wider society".

For more information, see: www.grassrootsinnovations.org

UNEP: "Humanity Can and Must Do More With Less"

A recent report from UNEP's International Resource Panel, (the fourth in a series) warns that given the Earth's finite resources potential higher levels of resource consumption are "far beyond what is likely sustainable." The report, "[Decoupling Natural Resource Use and Environmental Impacts from Economic Growth](#)" calls for improving the rate of resource productivity and at least freezing per capita consumption in wealthy countries.

"People believe environmental 'bads' are the price we must pay for economic 'goods.' However, we cannot, and need not, continue to act as if this trade-off is inevitable," UN Under Secretary-General Achim Steiner, UNEP's Executive Director says. "Decoupling is part of a transition to a low carbon, resource efficient Green Economy needed in order to stimulate growth, generate decent kinds of employment and eradicate poverty in a way that keeps humanity's footprint within planetary boundaries."

Festival of Transitions next week!

The future is hard to predict but one way or another our economy and society will change dramatically as we adapt to the end of cheap fossil fuels, address the threat of runaway climate change and fix our broken financial system. A new, positive approach to this transition is emerging which sees it as an opportunity to change all of our lives for the better.

The Festival of Transition is a series of events, talks, and walks up and down the country culminating in a nationwide day of action and re-imagining on Wednesday 20th June 2012, the first day of the UN Earth Summit in Rio. It's an invitation to explore how overcoming big challenges can lead to better lives for us all.

The festival includes Transition Walks, in association the Ramblers Association, which explore how great change happened in the past, is already happening and can happen. Additionally, museums, galleries and other public spaces will host events asking the question "what if?". Finally, on 20th June 2012, participants are invited to conduct their own real life experiment in living differently, in showing what's possible. Participants are encouraged to share photos, videos and stories, which will be broadcast directly in Rio and archived online to provide a lasting source of inspiration for public and policymakers alike.

New Publications & Reports by SCORAI'ers

McDonald, S., Oates, C.J., Alevizou, P.J., Young, C.W. and Hwang, K. (2012) "Individual Strategies for Sustainable Consumption." Special Issue of *Journal of Marketing Management* on Revisiting Contemporary Issues in Green/Ethical Marketing. 28(3-4): 445-468.

Wiese, A., Kellner, J., Lietke, B., Toporowski, W., Zielke, S. (2012) "Sustainability in retailing - a summative content analysis", *International Journal of Retail & Distribution Management*. 40 (4): 318 - 335.

Wangel, J. (2012) "Making Futures: On Targets, Measures and Governance in Backcasting and Planning for Sustainability." Doctoral thesis. KTH - Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden.

(For a digital copy of the entire thesis contact Josefin at josefin.wangel@abe.kth.se)

Kenneth E. Boulding Award

The International Society of Ecological Economics has awarded William Rees, Ph.D., FRSC and Mathis Wackernagel, as co-recipients of the 2012 Boulding Memorial Award. The award is given in honor of Kenneth E. Boulding (1910-1993) who was a leading systems thinker who integrated social theory with the natural sciences and moral philosophy. He was an eccentric, provocative critic of the fragmentation that characterized modern scholarship. Yet his creativity, seminal ideas, and constructive engagement with the scientific community were widely recognized, resulting in his being elected President of the American Economics Association and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Building on Rees' earlier work on human carrying capacity, William Rees and Mathis Wackernagel developed Ecological Footprint accounting (EFA) in the early 1990s. The 'Eco-footprint' has since become the world's premier measure of humanity's demand on nature. EFA estimates the physical area of land and water ecosystems any specified human population requires to produce the bio-resources it consumes and to absorb its carbon waste, using prevailing technology. Eco-footprinting shows unambiguously that the human enterprise is in 'overshoot', currently demanding up to 50% more of nature's annual production and assimilative capacity than is available--the world community is living unsustainably by depleting essential 'natural capital'.

The SCORAI Website is Getting a Facelift

Incremental improvements have been made to The SCORAI website over the last few days and more substantial changes are pending. Below are (will be) some of the new features of the website:

- (1) Allows SCORAI-ers to create their own publicly accessible profiles.
- (2) Serves as an archive for the issues of the SCORAI e-newsletter.
- (3) Enables the creation of a SCORAI-Europe page (and directory of subpages as necessary). (A similar arrangement has been established for the Global Research Forum. At the moment, the link on the landing page redirects to <http://grfscp.wordpress.com/>. This can be updated at any time.)
- (4) Contains a workshop archive.
- (5) Will allow SCORAI-ers and others to make voluntary monetary contributions to SCORAI-NA via PayPal.
- (6) Has options to link to the listserv, the new SCORAI twitter account, and the new SCORAI YouTube account via the "connect" tab.

Professional and Educational Opportunities

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in Japan is looking to host an additional researcher working on sustainable consumption. Potential candidates include a recent PhD graduate or someone currently working at an Associate Professor level. The duration could be as short as a few weeks or up to one year. Funding for this is from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Click here more information: http://www.jsps.go.jp/english/e-fellow/fy2013/appli_long_2013.html. To apply please contact Lewis Akenji, Senior Policy Consultant, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan at akenji@iges.or.jp

Economists at the Global Development And Environment

Institute (GDAE - at Tufts University, MA) are seeking a collaborator for revision of our micro and macro textbooks as well as creating a one-semester micro-macro text. The individual hired will work closely at GDAE with Neva Goodwin, Jonathan Harris and Brian Roach. The position will entail research, writing and editing, as well as activities to comply with the publisher's requirements for formatting, creating materials for students and teachers. The position will start in September 2012 (or sooner, if available), to continue for one year with the possibility of longer term continuation. Applicants should submit a resume, a writing sample, and two references to

Neva.Goodwin@tufts.edu

or Neva Goodwin at GDAE, 44 Teele Ave, Tufts University Medford, MA 02155. For more information, please see GDAE's openings <<http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gdae/resources/index.html>>.

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

Eindhoven University of Technology will also begin its new undergraduate major on 'Sustainable Innovation.' It is formally part of the bachelor of 'Innovation Sciences', which has repeatedly received top-ratings. Course topics include perspectives on sustainability, economics of innovation, technology in society, industrial ecology and various (engineering) courses on sustainable energy and sustainable living. More information can be found [here](#), including how to enroll:

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.

New SCORAI Affiliates

Below is a list of new SCORAI affiliates from April and May. Recent additions bring total number of SCORAI'ers to 387.

Julia Backhaus
Philip Barnes
Johnson
Tom Bauler
Rachael Berndtson
Sylvia Breukers
David Brodwin
Anil Kumar Choudhary
Rico Defila
Antonietta Di Giulio
Pacchi
Luke Dodds
Dena Fam
Tim Foxon
Jeff Gang
Shinn
Andrew Glover
Matt Godfrey
Michael Goodman
Theresa Heller

Cindy Isenhour
Kiersten
Aleksandra Lis
Jessica Marx
Lisa Mastny
Leonardo Mello
Emilia Melville
David Mick
Carolina
Ignacio Pisano
Colin Sage
Louise Salinas
Melissa
Tina Simcich
Anthony Sorgi
Bard Suen

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

Strategies for a New Economy. June 8th-10th at Bard College, in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York.

North West Sustainability Forum. This event was developed following the organizers' attendance at the Sustainability in Crisis conference which happened in September 2011 in Cambridge. The Forum will be held June 14th in Preston, UK.

The International Society for Ecological Economics is holding its next biennial conference in Rio de Janeiro, 29 June 16-19, 2012 to dovetail with Rio+20 UNCSD.

Global Research Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production, will be held in Rio de Janeiro June 13-15, just before the Rio+20 conference. This is a SCORAI style workshop, will discuss systemic change towards SCP. Participation is by invitation only; however if you are interested in participating contact Philip Vergragt.

The International Association for Society & Natural Resources (ISSRM) is holding its annual symposium June 17-21, 2012 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

18th Annual International Sustainable Development Research Conference, 24-26th June 2012, University of Hull, UK.

The World Congress on Global Well-Being will be held July 16-21, 2012 in Melbourne, Australia.

Summer School on Theories in Environmental and Economic Psychology (STEEP) will be held from 2-6 July 2012 in Aarhus, Denmark and will provide PhD students the opportunity to collaborate

with senior scholars and other PhD students in the same area.

XIII World Congress of Rural Sociology, July 29-August 4, 2012, Lisbon, Portugal. Session 43-Consuming the Rural: Food, Nature, and Space. Apply [online](#).

International Conference on Sustainable Development

2012. Montclair State University Montclair, New Jersey, August 1-2, 2012.

The International Conference on Culture, Politics, and Climate Change. September 13-15, 2012 in Boulder, Colorado USA.

3rd International Conference on Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity. September 19-23, 2012 in Venice, Italy.

"**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.

Sustainable Innovation 2012 Resource Efficiency, Innovation and Lifestyles will be hold their 17th International Conference 29th-30th October 2012 at Alanus University in Bonn Germany.

Boundaries of Consumption: Critical Perspectives on Race, Class, Gender, Citizenship and Space in Changing Markets. The conference will be held in San Francisco, CA from November 14-18.

Workshop: Responsible Supply Chains and Networks: Challenges for Governance and Sustainability. The conference will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, 22-24 November 2012.

Conference on Innovators and Concepts of Innovation 2012
November 22-23 2012, Friedrichshafen, Germany.

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