



April 2013

Dear SCORAI,

This month's edition brings a wealth of new publications and conference proceedings that we hope you'll enjoy exploring. Also, the SCORAI conference is also just around the corner; we look forward to having you join us for the event.

Enjoy the spring!
Kate & Debbie & Maurie

Nearing Final Countdown for SCORAI Conference at Clark University!

It is now less than 75 days until the SCORAI Conference at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts on June 12-14. Under the theme "The Future of Consumerism and Well-Being in a World of Ecological Constraints," the event will include more than 100 presentations by scholars working in the field of sustainable consumption, several policy briefings by national and international experts, and a concluding plenary dialogue. Please visit the [SCORAI website](#) for further details.

The conference also features keynote lectures by [John Fullerton](#) (founder of the Capital Institute), [Sheldon Garon](#) (Professor of History and East Asian Studies at Princeton University and author of *Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves*), and [Carol Graham](#) (Fellow at the Brookings Institution, Professor at the University of Maryland, and author of *The Pursuit of Happiness: An Economy of Well-Being and Happiness Around the World: The Paradox of Happy Peasants and Miserable Millionaires*).

The event will additionally include two pre-conference workshops. The first of these participatory sessions is organized by Richard Wilk and focuses on "Doing Something Now: Tactics for Attacking Consumerism." The second session is entitled "Systems Thinking: Framework and Methods for Working

Executive Board

Jeffrey Barber
Integrative Strategies Forum

Halina Brown
Clark University

Maurie Cohen
New Jersey Institute of
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Tellus Institute

Philip Vergragt
Tellus Institute and Clark
University

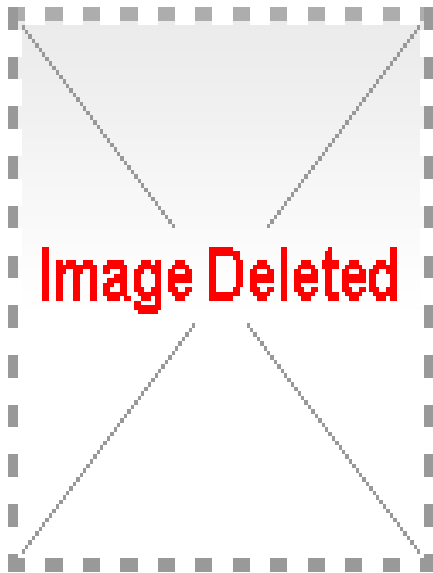
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Smarter Not Harder" and is led by Vanessa Timmer.

The conference schedule will include a business meeting where there will be a discussion of the future of SCORAI. Participation and broad engagement in this session is actively encouraged!

Worldwatch Institute: Is Sustainability Still Possible?



*Every day, we are presented with a range of "sustainable" products and activities—from "green" cleaning supplies to carbon offsets. But with so much labeled as sustainable, the term has become essentially **sustainababble**, at best indicating a practice or product slightly less damaging than the conventional alternative. Is it time to abandon the concept altogether, or can we find an accurate way to measure sustainability? If so, how can*

we achieve it? And if not, how can we best prepare for the coming ecological decline?

*In Worldwatch Institute's newest report, scientists, policy experts, and thought leaders tackle these questions, attempting to restore meaning to sustainability as more than just a marketing tool. *State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible?* explores these questions in depth in over 30 articles. As well, you'll find additional essays, videos, presentation materials, news updates, and events [here](#).*

Join them for a live webstream of the launch symposium in Washington on April 16th at 1.30pm. You can register to join either in DC or on the [web](#).

Publications of Interest

[Methods of Sustainability Research in the Social Sciences](#)

Edited by Frances Fahy & Henrike Rau and published by SAGE (London) this March is a systematic and critical review of the key research methods used when studying sustainable strategies and outcomes at local, regional and national level. Written by Irish and European contributors from across the social sciences, it is complete with case study material and practical advice for academic and non-academic audiences interested in sustainability research.

[Time Culture](#) is a [new publication](#) which explores how a temporal perspective can help conceptualise/operationalise

questions around sustainability. The author, Jeppe Graugaard from the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia also published [an intriguing post](#) on this publication on the Science, Society and Sustainability (3S) research group's blog.

"Equity within Limits. Theory and Practice" an e-book and accompanying [Background Paper](#) have recently been published. These publications were completed as part of an FP7 research project ([CONVERGE](#)). The authors sought out inspirational examples of initiatives from all fields of life - including policy, business, research and community initiatives, in different parts of the world that address the imperatives of both living within the limits of the planet (contraction) and sharing its resources equitably (convergence). The e-book provides a summary of the research with information on the methodology used, introduces the 28 case studies (initiatives) studied in detail and presents their analysis and evaluation.

A new blog post by SCORAI'er Ruben Anderson looks at the means of cultivating behavior change in his new post ["Compassionate Systems"](#) and [slidecast](#) on the same subject.

Sustainable Mobility for European Cities: Experts Sketch the Future

The [most recent RESPONDER brokerage event](#) was recently held in Vienna convened experts from 16 European countries to discuss the trends, barriers and approaches for sustainable mobility in European cities. Experts agreed that it is necessary to focus on clever combinations of technological and infrastructural solutions with measure to stimulate changes on the demand side. In a nutshell, sustainable urban mobility in the future has to opt for clean technologies, smart infrastructure to favor the change of modal split towards more walking, cycling, and public transport. For more information and background material on this and other projects please visit the [RESPONDER website](#).

Structural Prerequisites for Sustainable Societies?

An international workshop on ["Structural Prerequisites for Sustainable Societies and the Good Life - Taking the Sustainable Consumption Lens Seriously"](#) took place at the University of Muenster on March 21-22, 2013. The workshop inquired into the possibilities and conditions of a common vision of the good life, the structural changes needed to allow the societal development and pursuit of such a vision, and the most promising political intervention points on behalf of a societal transformation towards sustainable consumption and the good life. Debate centered on the relevance of power in sustainable consumption research and governance and the potential and limits for a diffusion and mainstreaming of local or regional sustainability initiatives. More information on the workshop's results will be provided soon

[here](#).

Challenging Consumption: Pathways to a More Sustainable Future - proceedings from the CONSENSUS International Conference 2012

The [CONSENSUS International Conference](#) took place at the National University of Ireland, Galway on the 18-20th of May, 2012. [CONSENSUS](#) (consumption, environment and sustainability) is a four-year, collaborative, Irish research project led by Trinity College Dublin in partnership with the NUIG and funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. This conference, provided an international forum for the exchange of pioneering research in the field of sustainable consumption and enabled the exploration of future research collaborations between prominent researchers and networks. A series of presentations and panel discussions at the conference provided a landscape of the breadth and scope of research currently being undertaken in the field of sustainable consumption. A document has recently been drafted that summarises the [principal conference proceedings](#) and discussion points. In particular, this document focuses on the practices, challenges and futures of sustainable consumption and related research across disciplines and international frameworks. It will be of interest to those involved in policy, research and business relating to matters of sustainable consumption. All other outputs from the CONSENSUS project can also be found [here](#).

For more information: Contact: [Laura Devaney](#), (085) 7190876
CONSENSUS PI: [Prof. Anna Davies](#), (01) 896 1554

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

The 2nd Multinational Knowledge Brokerage Events as part of the [RESPONDER project](#) will be:

- **Sustainable Food Consumption** will be hosted in **Lisbon (PT)** April 18-19th.
- **Sustainable Household Savings and Debts** in **Brussels (BE)** May 14-15th
- **Sustainable Housing** in **Barcelona (ES)** June 6-7th 2013

Global Sustainability Institute (GSI) 1st Annual Research Conference. The conference, which will take place in Cambridge on May 15th 2013, will investigate the big sustainability challenges we are faced with today and provide a range of creative solutions from different disciplines. Further details can be found [here](#).

Conference of Irish Geographers. The Conference, taking place May 16-18 2013, marks the 45th CIG and the 50th anniversary of Geography at NUI Galway. In addition to a call for

general papers, authors are encouraged to submit papers which address this year's conference theme - *Transformative Geographies: Critical Reflections on Environment, Sustainability and Governmentality*. There are a number of themed sessions dedicated to the theme of sustainable consumption and production. More information and registration for the event are available [here](#).

ECEEE 2013 Summer Study will be held June 3-8, 2013 at Belambra, Presqu'île de Giens, Toulon/Hyères, France. Please contact marlyne.sahakian@graduateinstitute.ch with questions.

The 19th International Sustainable Development Research Society Conference "Just Transitions: a global perspective" will be held from July 1-3, 2013 near Cape Town, South Africa. The Global Research Forum on Sustainable Consumption and Production (GRF-SPC) aims to organize a session, or a track of sessions, on SPC in Africa. For the ISDRC call for papers visit their [website](#).

"Capitalist Crises, Critique of Growth and the Perspectives for a Post-Growth Society" will be the title of the next European Sociological Association conference to be held in Turin, 28-31 August 2013.

The Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption 2013 at the 10th Biennial Conference on Environmental Psychology in Magdeburg, Germany. The Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption invites the submission of contributions for symposia on sustainability and consumption at the 10th Biennial Conference on Environmental Psychology, which will be held September 22-25 2013 in Magdeburg, Germany. The theme of the conference is "the role of the individual in the transformation of energy systems". You can read more about the conference at this [link](#).

New Global SCP Clearinghouse Launched

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as the Secretariat of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production, has pre-launched the online [Global SCP Clearinghouse](#). The Global SCP Clearinghouse is meant to offer a unique one-stop hub dedicated to advancing the implementation of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) worldwide. Through knowledge sharing, cooperation and participation tools, all stakeholders - governments, UN agencies and other international organizations, the business sector and civil society - will be offered the opportunity to:

- Participate and contribute to regional and thematic "communities of practice" dedicated to key SCP areas or sectors, such as sustainable food systems, sustainable

tourism, sustainable public procurement or lifestyles, education and youth;

- Share and find information on SCP through a worldwide SCP initiatives database, news and events;
- Build networks and identify partners with an interactive SCP cooperation marketplace, working groups and forums;
- Strengthen capacities with the experts / resource persons directory, a dedicated E-library and other tools included in MySCP, the members' personal space on the platform.
- The Global SCP Clearinghouse will also serve as the information platform of the [10YFP](#).

Find out about the Global SCP Clearinghouse and [take action!](#)
During the pre-launch phase you can:

- Join the launch [webinar](#) on April 4th at 10 AM EST
- Sign up and become a member: you will be among the first ones connected to the Global SCP Clearinghouse;
- Register as an expert or resource person;
- Share information about your SCP initiatives - policies, partnerships, projects, etc. to feed the worldwide SCP initiatives database;
- Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

The objective of the pre-launch is to engage the global SCP community and populate the database of the Global SCP Clearinghouse before it goes live in May. We are [one click](#) away!

New SCORAI Affiliates

Finally we would also like to newest affiliates who joined us this spring. They bring our number to 525.

Bettina Bluemling
Laura Devaney
Gert Spaargaren

Jane Daly
Rebecca Gresh

We are Constant Contact All Stars!



A fun bit of SCORAI trivia: we have one of the top 'open rates' of Constant Contact's 500,000+ users. So, a big thank you to all of our members for making us "all stars!" Keep reading!

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