



Cohen, Maurie <mcohen@njit.edu>

## Your campaign Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) Newsletter has been sent

1 message

Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com>  
To: mcohen@adm.njit.edu

Wed, Dec 4, 2013 at 8:30 AM



Dear SCORAI Maurie Cohen,

Your campaign '**Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) Newsletter**' was sent on 12/04/2013 around 08:30 AM EST.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports [in your account](#) to get real-time results and stats.

**Subject:** Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) Newsletter



**December 2013**

Dear SCORAI,

We hope this holiday season finds you well. This month's newsletter has several important updates as well as new videos, websites, and reading for you to check out.

All the best,  
Catie, Debbie, & Maurie

### Executive Board

**Jeffrey Barber**  
Integrative Strategies Forum

**Halina Brown**  
Clark University

**Maurie Cohen**

## Final Call for Papers and Participation for the Second Biennial Conference of the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF-SPaC)

New Jersey Institute of  
Technology

John Stutz  
Tellus Institute

Philip Vergragt  
Tellus Institute and Clark  
University

### [Global Transitions to Sustainable Production and Consumption Systems](#)

Fudan University, Shanghai, China  
June 8-11, 2014

#### **Deadline for submission December 15!**

Environmental deterioration, climate change, biodiversity loss, resource scarcity, as well as inequality and persistent poverty, are all linked to, and driven by, globally unsustainable production and consumption patterns and systems. As the traditional rules of the economic and financial system are called increasingly into question, the impacts of the expanding international consumer class become more directly apparent. At the same time, developing countries are working to overcome privation by growing their economies, while the middle classes in countries such as India and China are adopting increasingly material-intensive lifestyles.

Since the 1992 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the transition to sustainable production and consumption (SPaC) systems has been heralded as a global priority. Accordingly, the United Nations General Assembly launched in 2012 the Ten-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP). In addition, the International Human Dimensions Program (IHDP) initiated its own ten-year Future Earth research plan. The GRF-SPaC global conference will examine these and other approaches to produce the transdisciplinary knowledge and actions needed to support these activities during the coming decade.

Over the past two decades, extensive research regarding SPaC has been carried out covering issues such as the circular and green economy, the attitude-behavior gap, collaborative consumption, sustainable finance and investment, sustainable procurement, and green supply-chain management. Other work has sought to identify the underlying drivers of contemporary consumer culture and to examine the inherent problems with the prevailing economic growth paradigm. Emerging from this activity is appreciation for the complex challenges of systemic change, though actual progress is hindered by our limited comprehension of the multidimensional barriers that impede diffusion of more sustainable lifestyles and consumer practices. Further inquiry is necessary to understand these complexities and to more effectively guide the transition from research to policy.

Subscribe to our:

Listserv  
or  
eNewsletters

This conference provides a unique opportunity for Chinese and Asian SPaC researchers and practitioners to join together with others in the global community. The second GRF-SPaC conference will be a forum to present and discuss new research outcomes from the Asia-Pacific region, as well as from Latin America, Africa, Europe, and North America. The event will take stock of new issue framings and explore emerging research questions. The scope will cover local and global issues and interconnections across scales, linking regions and researchers. One of the aims is to strengthen the international community of SPaC researchers and practitioners and to open channels of communication with knowledge users in policy making, business, and civil society.

The conference will feature presentations by currently confirmed keynote speakers: Bill Rees, Zhu Dajian, Ashish Kothari, Zhang Zongyi, and others. Parallel sessions will integrate across regions and seek to forge global collaborations with other global networks. The conference will also include a poster session and further details about this part of the program are available on the [conference website](#).

Interested participants are invited to submit abstracts for papers, posters, and essays as well as session proposals by December 15. Please visit the conference website for further details. For information about GRF-SPaC, click on the [link](#) or email to [grfspac@gmail.com](mailto:grfspac@gmail.com).

## **October and November Reports from Halina Brown, SCORAI Liaison to the New Economy Coalition**

### **October 10 Meeting/Webinar of the Consultative Council of New Economy Coalition**

Asher Miller of Post Carbon Institute summarized the new report that he and Rob Hopkins of Transition Towns Network have just completed. The report is entitled "Climate After Growth" and is available [here](#). Its main thesis is that we have entered the era of three "new normals":

- *The New Energy Normal.* The era of cheap and easy fossil fuels is over, leading the industry to resort to extreme fossil fuel resources (tar sands, mountaintop removal coal mining, shale gas, tight oil, and deep water oil) to meet demand. These resources come with enormous environmental and economic costs, and in most instances provide far less net energy to the rest of society. They also create a drag effect on the economy. High energy prices and economic contraction are likely to continue a back-and-forth dance in the coming years.
- *The New Climate Normal.* Climate stability is now a thing of the past. As extreme weather events grow in severity,

communities are increasingly adopting strategies that build resilience against the effect of these and other climate shocks.

- *The New Economic Normal*. We've reached the end of economic growth as we have known it in the United States. Despite unprecedented interventions on the part of central banks and governments, the so-called economic recovery in the United States and Europe has been anemic and has failed to benefit the majority of citizens.

The report argues that responding to each of these new energy, climate, and economic normals will require one common strategy: building community resilience.

Marcie Smith, a law student at the University of North Carolina talked about youth engagement in the New Economy movement. Marcie has emerged as an energetic and inspired young leader, following the New Economy summits that took place on thirteen university campuses in the spring of 2013.

### **November 14 Meeting/Webinar of the Consultative Council of New Economy Coalition**

A conversation with Stewart Wallis, Executive Director of New Economics Foundation, [nef](#), in London. The conversation centered around five themes of nef's activities:

1. Co-production as a form of economic activity that delivers public services in an equitable way. Nef views it as a very important response to the austerity program in the UK, which results in a widespread loss of public services and increased unemployment.
2. Nef is supporting the development of new economic model that will lead the way toward re-balancing the economy: reducing private consumption without creating unemployment. The initial results of this work indicate that reducing income inequality is essential in rebalancing the economy.
3. Local economies. Here, the key question is: can we turn the multitude of local initiatives into a coordinated and coherent movement?
4. Role of business: the need to redesign the dominant business model: from the one that maximizes returns and views employees as a cost to the one that views jobs employees as assets. Replace the triple bottom line with a single bottom line.
5. Recently, nef played a pivotal role in developing and brokering a sustainable fisheries plan in Europe. The plan is widely considered to be a great success.

### **Call for Proposals: Energy in Transition**

## Sustainability Symposium

### [THE PRECARIOUS ALLIANCE](#) 2014: *Energy in Transition*

Delaware Valley College, in Doylestown, PA  
April 3-4, 2014

Conceived by College President Dr. Joseph S. Brosnan as a forum for the exchange of cross-disciplinary perspectives, civil dialogue, innovative thinking, and practical solutions, since 2010 The Precarious Alliance symposium has brought together academics, educators, business leaders, policymakers, environmental advocates, planners, engineers, attorneys, and farmers from around the world to discuss and debate current issues related to sustainability.

The 2014 symposium, subtitled "Energy in Transition," will be devoted to energy-related issues such as fossil fuels and renewables; green design and technology; federal and local energy policy; energy finance and economics; energy consumption and conservation cultures; boomtowns and transition towns; and social and environmental impacts.

Along with papers, panels, workshops, roundtables and interactive poster sessions, the conference will include a keynote address by Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature* and *Eaarth* and founder of [350.org](http://350.org), on the evening of April 3.

#### ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE

The Precarious Alliance is currently accepting abstracts and proposals for papers, panels, workshops, roundtables, and poster sessions related to the topic of energy in transition.

\* For poster sessions and papers: submit abstracts (250 words max.), along with a brief professional bio, including academic affiliations and specializations.

\* For themed panels, workshops, and roundtables: submit a proposal for a one-hour presentation that describes the topic and purpose of session (250 words maximum), together with abstracts and brief professional bios for each participant.

Direct all submissions and queries to Tanya Casas ([tanya.casas@delval.edu](mailto:tanya.casas@delval.edu)). The deadline for submission of proposals is December 1, 2013. Participants will be notified before January 1, 2014.

### **CONSENSUS: Announcing New Animations and Updated Website (<http://www.consensus.ie>)**

The Irish CONSENSUS research project on sustainable household consumption has designed a set of exciting, two-

minute video animations on their research (available [here](#)).

Since 2009, CONSENSUS has been conducting innovative social science research engaging over 100,000 members of the public and 100 government, private sector, and civil society stakeholders through workshops and interactive exhibits. The videos are showcased on a brand new project [website](#) containing CONSENSUS's latest research documents, publications and a regularly updated blog.

One animation provides an overview of CONSENSUS's research on sustainable transport, food, energy and water consumption (see [here](#)). Another animation describes CONSENSUS's collaborative visioning process that re-imagined how we might carry out our daily washing, eating and heating practices in the future (see [here](#)). This video makes the argument for re-framing the challenge of sustainable behavior change as a challenge of innovation in people's everyday practices, opening up a host of novel technology, educational and policy interventions. An animated infographic completes the video set depicting key results from CONSENSUS's all-Ireland survey of 1,500 households on sustainable consumption (see [here](#)).

Please get in touch to find out more and to get involved:  
<http://www.consensus.ie>.

## **Call for Proposals**

### **Working Title: *Consumers, Activists, and Environmental Governance: Advances and Applications in Social Practice Theories***

*Edited by Emily Huddart Kennedy, Maurie J. Cohen, and Naomi Krogman*

Genuine opportunities for sustainability transitions recognize the mutuality of lifestyle shifts, social mobilization, and new modes of governance. However, these three areas of research have been integrated in only a limited fashion. Social practice theories offer several advantages to enjoin these areas of study due to their ability to facilitate research that decenters the individual and instead focuses on everyday activities and their distribution across space and time. The proposed volume seeks to employ a global orientation and a strong empirical focus on social practices to explore how we might achieve this integration to more effectively enable sustainability transitions. While their ability to facilitate research that decenters the individual and instead focuses on everyday activities and their distribution across space and time.

Please submit your proposals to Emily Huddart Kennedy ([huddartk@ualberta.ca](mailto:huddartk@ualberta.ca)) by December 15, 2013.



## University of Manchester, Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI) PhD Studentships

The University of Manchester's Sustainable Consumption Institute will be offering fully funded PhD studentships to outstanding candidates wishing to commence their doctoral studies in September 2014.

The Sustainable Consumption Institute aims to bring insight and clarity to a key part of the sustainability challenge: the role of consumption. It takes original insights from across the Social Sciences and subjects them to critical empirical scrutiny in order to advance fundamental understandings about processes of consumption and innovation for more sustainable societies.

The studentships will need to be closely aligned with the research agenda and ongoing activities of the SCI, and so will focus on one or more of the following areas:

1. Everyday Practices: Understanding consumer choices, habits and routines, and how they can become more sustainable.
2. Innovation: Accelerating sustainable innovation in products, services and systems.
3. Visions and politics: Exploring alternative framings of sustainable consumption and the politics underpinning them.
4. Evidence: Developing novel methodologies to advance the evidence base on sustainable consumption.

Successful candidates will be funded by the SCI, supervised by at least one member of SCI research staff, and located within a host School. The exact location of the studentship will depend on the applicant's project, their interests and their supervisor. We anticipate that most candidates will be based in either the School of Social Sciences (SoSS) or Manchester Business School (MBS).

Candidates are invited to write a research proposal for a PhD project that complements and/or extends current SCI research projects. Proposals should be c.1500 words long and include a title, the background to the project, the research design and methodology and, a bibliography. Alternatively, we have proposed a number of PhD projects for candidates to consider. In these cases, applicants are required to write a statement (c.1500) detailing their suitability and motivation for their preferred project, and the ways in which they would approach (theoretically and/or methodologically) the research.

Either way, candidates are encouraged to learn more about the SCI and to get in touch with potential supervisors to discuss their ideas in advance of making an application.

**Studentship details** - The studentships comprise an annual stipend of £13,729, payment of fees up to the level charged for UK/EU students (currently £3,900, non-UK/EU students would need to pay the balance in fees themselves) and £1,000 for fieldwork and conference expenses. The studentship will be for direct entry onto the three year (+3) PhD programme. The programme will commence in September 2014. Continuation of the award is subject to satisfactory performance.

**Entry Requirements** - Applicants must hold a Bachelors degree equivalent to a First Class or Upper Second Class Honours UK degree. They must also have (or expect to gain) a UK Masters degree (or overseas equivalent) at Merit level (with a coursework/examination average of 60% or more AND a dissertation mark of 60% or more, with no mark below 50%) or above in a relevant social science discipline. Preference will be given to candidates whose Masters degree involves a significant element of social science research methods training, and those who performed at distinction level (70% or higher) or equivalent.

**How to apply** - Applicants should email [david.evans-2@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:david.evans-2@manchester.ac.uk) a full CV together with a covering letter and either a research proposal (for their own project) or personal statement (if applying for a specified project). The successful candidate will be required to submit a full University of Manchester on-line application, plus supporting documents (two academic references and degree transcripts) to fulfill the normal admissions procedures for the school in which they will be based.

**Further information** - see <http://www.sci.manchester.ac.uk/study> or e-mail [David Evans](mailto:David.Evans).

**Deadline** - The deadline for applications is 31st January, 2014.

## **Ecovillage Website Launched**

In a world of dwindling natural resources and mounting environmental crisis, who is devising ways of living that will work for the long haul? And how can we, as individuals, make a difference?

To answer these fundamental questions, Professor Karen Litfin embarked upon a journey to many of the world's ecovillages - intentional communities at the cutting-edge of sustainable living. From rural to urban, high tech to low tech, spiritual to secular, she discovered an under-the-radar global movement making positive and radical changes from the ground up.

Not only is another world possible, it is already being born in small pockets the world over. These micro-societies, however, are small and time is short. Fortunately - as Litfin persuasively argues - their successes can be applied to existing social



structures, from the local to the global scale, providing sustainable ways of living for generations to come.

To find out more, visit the recently launched companion website for Karen Litfin's new book, *Ecovillages: Lessons for Sustainable Community* [here](#).

## **New Article on Downshifting**

**Kennedy, E.H., Krahn, H., and N.T. Krogman. 2013. Downshifting: An Exploration of Motivations, Quality of Life, and Environmental Practices. *Sociological Forum*, 48(4):764-789.**

### *Abstract*

"Downshifting," reducing work hours, thereby income, to increase leisure time, offers a possible individual-level solution to the stress many experience from long working hours and work intensification. Recently, some have argued that an increase in leisure time with a reduction in income might also foster pro-environmental lifestyles as has been demonstrated for the "voluntary simplicity" movement. Quantitative research on the relationship between downshifting and quality of life is scant, with equivocal results, and studies of the relationship between downshifting and environmental lifestyles are even more rare. Survey data from a western Canadian city reveal nonsignificant impacts of downshifting on two measures of quality of life (subjective well-being and satisfaction with time use) as well as on sustainable transportation practices. However, downshifting is significantly associated with sustainable household practices. In order for downshifting to have more widespread positive effects, further structural changes in broader domains such as work culture, urban design, and support for families will be required.

## **Durban Fights Port-petrochem Damage**

A campaign is growing against a \$25 billion shipping and petrochemical expansion in South Durban, which is Sub-Saharan Africa's largest port and oil refinery site. Widespread hostility to container road freight is one of the advocacy entrypoints, and after 7000 truck accidents in Durban last year, including one on September 5 that killed 23 black working-class minibus commuters, residents are lobbying even harder against the mega-project. They propose a neighbourhood 'detox' including the 'million climate jobs' strategy, as well as low-cost housing and local labour-intensive manufacturing to replace - and shift consumption habits from - imports to the locally-produced basic needs (clothing, textiles, footwear, rudimentary appliances, etc) that prevailed prior to the neoliberal era's free-trade deindustrialisation.

With Walmart having just entered South Africa (and hence

Africa) through a major box-store network acquisition, whether South Durban should become a gateway for Western consumption norms and East Asian low-cost, low-quality imports is beginning to generate debate. Pressure on the South African government has generated early protective measures against fellow BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-SA) imports - such as poultry - as well as led to broken trade agreements with the European Union. However, if South Africa can arrange more financing (e.g. through the proposed new BRICS Bank), the South Durban mega-project will make the existing harbour deep enough for the 18 000-container super post-panamax ships (which in turn have catalysed a \$5 billion expansion of the Panama Canal) and will also include digging out the former airport for a new privatised port. Environmental Impact Assessment objections on grounds of local ecological destruction and climate change may slow port-builder Transnet's momentum.

The South Durban Community Environmental Alliance has rallied multiple community, environmental, labour and citizens groups, but says it may need to invoke financial sanctions against Transnet and the biggest oil companies (including Shell and BP), of the sort anti-apartheid activists developed and 350.org is using against fossil fuel corporations. Linking issues between all these forces and generating sufficient counter-power will require all the local creativity and international solidarity possible. For more, see a 6-minute documentary [here](#) and further information is at the South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA) [website](#), the groundWork [website](#), and the One Million Climate Jobs Campaign [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 597.

Ibrahim Abbas  
Sam Bliss  
Gino Borland  
Howard Carlson  
Michael Fabinyi  
Andrea Kim  
Deniz Koca  
Victoria Ligon  
Alice Lin  
Steven McGreevy

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to [mcohen@adm.njit.edu](mailto:mcohen@adm.njit.edu) by [mcohen@adm.njit.edu](mailto:mcohen@adm.njit.edu) | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

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