

March Newsletter ([webpage version](#))

March 2013

Dear SCORAI,

We hope this edition of the SCORAI newsletter finds you well and (for those in the northern hemisphere) getting ready for spring. Most importantly we want to pass on information about registering for the SCORAI conference coming up this June. And, as always, there are a number of new publications, educational opportunities, upcoming meetings, and announcements to learn about here.

Enjoy!  
Kate & Debbie & Maurie

### **Don't Miss the Early-Bird Registration Deadline for the SCORAI Conference**

There are only a few more days to take advantage of early-bird registration for the SCORAI Conference at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts on June 12-14. Participants who register before this date can attend the three-day event for a discounted fee of \$300 (afterward the regular registration fee increases to \$350). Visit the [SCORAI website](#) for further details. Also available is a downloadable copy of the draft program outlining 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.

The conference program additionally 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 conference schedule will also 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!

### **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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## Notes from the field: New Oregon initiative advances sustainable materials management

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) recently completed an innovative new strategy Materials Management in Oregon: 2050 Vision and Framework for Action which takes a more holistic, sustainable approach to managing the materials humans consume, recycle and discard. As an update to the state's more traditional waste management plan, the 2050 Vision reflects a shift from managing wastes to managing materials through the full life cycle of design, production and use.

The "vision" part of the document describes "a future where Oregonians produce and use materials responsibly - conserving resources, protecting the environment and living well. The "framework" section includes a variety of actions Oregon could take to engage designers, producers and consumers and will help DEQ effectively shape state policies and programs to address the plan's goals.

In developing the 2050 Vision, DEQ staff drew upon current research on such topics as sustainable production and consumption to inform their analysis of the most promising policy interventions. A number of white papers were published to support this strategy including:

- *Literature Review: Key Challenges in Sustainable Consumption*--This paper summarizes the literature addressing the challenges specific to sustainable consumption.
- *Literature Review: Alternatives for Advancing Sustainable Production and Consumption through Government Programs and Policies*--This document summarizes the results of a broad but limited literature review specific to program and policy alternatives that support sustainable production and consumption.

David Allaway led the research on consumption for DEQ and can be reached at 503-229-5479 or [Allaway.David@deq.state.or.us](mailto:Allaway.David@deq.state.or.us)

## Upcoming Webinar : "The Crises In Employment, Consumption, Economic Growth, and the Environment: Could a Shorter Workweek and a Greener Economy Provide Relief?"

The MIT SDM Systems Thinking Webinar Series will host a webinar on March 11th from noon-1 pm EDT, featuring Nicholas A. Ashford, PhD., JD.

The presentation will address the crises we encounter today, which could be described as a 'perfect storm.' The financial crisis has left many with too little money and/or willingness to spend. This results in too few goods and services being produced and too little being purchased. This exacerbates unemployment and underemployment. As a result, less money is spent, further worsening the crisis. On the other hand, some consume too much from an energy and resource perspective, exacerbating environmental problems. Two solutions are frequently

suggested to the present crises: spread work out through a shorter workweek and green the economy. An analysis of the likelihood of success of each is the focus of this presentation.

**Nicholas Ashford** holds both a Ph.D. in Chemistry and a law degree from the University of Chicago, where he also received graduate education in economics. In addition to his recent book, he has co-authored *Environmental Law, Policy and Economics: Reclaiming the Environmental Agenda* and has published six additional books and several hundred articles in peer-reviewed journals and law reviews.

**The MIT System Design and Management Program Systems Thinking Webinar Series** features research conducted by SDM faculty, alumni, students, and industry partners. The series is designed to disseminate information on how to employ systems thinking to address engineering, management, and socio-political components of complex challenges.

To register for this meeting go to <https://mit.webex.com/mit/j.php?ED=172598857&RG=1&UID=0&RT=MIMxMQ%3D%3D>

## **Book From SCORAI Princeton Workshop Just Published!**

*Innovations in Sustainable Consumption: New Economics, Socio-technical Transitions, and Social Practices* edited by Maurie Cohen, Halina Brown, and Philip Vergragt and published by Edward Elgar is now available. Most of the chapters in this volume derive from the second SCORAI workshop held in April 2011 at the Mountain Lakes House in Princeton, NJ. Contributors include Michael Bell, Bente Halkier, Jonathan Harris, David Hess, Sabine Hielscher, René Kemp, Emily Kennedy, Harvey Krahn, Naomi Krogman, Stephen McCauley, Inge Røpke, Gill Seyfang, Adrian Smith, Gert Spaargaren, Jennie Stephens, John Stutz, Emanuel Ubert, and Harro van Lente. See the [Edward Elgar website](#) for more information.

## **Interested in Contributing to SCORAI?**

Please note that the Newsletter now has two regular features: ***Notes from the Field*** and ***Bridging Research and Practice***.

***Notes from the Field*** reports on interesting cases of sustainable consumption work in practice. These are 250 word essays. If you would like to submit a "Note from the Field", please contact [Eleni Sotos](#) to discuss your idea and proposed topic.

To further facilitate bridges between researchers and practitioners, a new virtual bulletin board is being launched. ***Bridging Research and Practice*** is an opportunity to ask the sustainable consumption community specific questions, invite others to join in collaborative research and practice project opportunities, present case studies and data sets by practitioners which may be of use to

researchers, or search for empirical data from sustainable consumption practice. Send your postings to [Kate Hagemann](#). Please make sure to include your contact information with your posting.

## Publications of Interest

Cohen, Maurie J., Halina S. Brown, and Phillip J. Vergrat. *Innovations In Sustainable Consumption Innovations In Sustainable Consumption New Economics, Socio-technical Transitions and Social Practices*. [http://www.elgar.com/bookentry\\_main.lasso?id=14746](http://www.elgar.com/bookentry_main.lasso?id=14746)

Kennedy, E.H., H. Krahn, and N.T. Krogman. 2013. *Egregious Emitters: Disproportionality in Household Carbon Footprints*. *Environment and Behavior*, published online: <http://eab.sagepub.com/content/early/2013/02/12/0013916512474986.full.pdf+html>

## Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

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

- ["Towards Sustainable Mobility in European Cities"](#) hosted by the RESPONDER project will be held March 21-22 in Bratislava (SK).
- **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](#).

**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](mailto:marlyne.sahakian@graduateinstitute.ch) with questions.

**The 19<sup>th</sup> 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](#). The deadline for submission of abstracts is March 15.

## Passing of a SCORAI Colleague

It is with great sadness that SCORAI conveys news about the death of Eugene (Gene) Rosa who died at home on February 27. A Regents Professor at Washington State University, Gene participated in the inaugural SCORAI workshop at Clark University in 2009 and his work on the [STIRPAT](#) (Stochastic Impacts by Regression on Population, Affluence, and Technology) Model (with Tom Dietz and Richard York) provides important empirical evidence of the extent to which consumption practices contribute to global environmental stress. In addition to his research on the relationship between consumption practices and anthropogenic environmental pressures, Gene made important scholarly contributions to other fields including the politics of nuclear energy, risk analysis, and the human dimensions of global environmental change. A more detailed biography can be found on the [WSU website](#).

## New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to our newest affiliates who joined us in February who have brought our number to 526!

Vered Blass	Martha King
Scott Carlin	Kazuhiro Kurumi
Jesse Catlin	Melody LeHew
Eli Feghali	Mike Tennant
Danny Heptinstall	Roland Weber
Shauna Jin	Zhao Ping
Bi Jun	Esthi Zipori

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