



September 2013

Dear SCORAI,

We hope you are enjoying the change of seasons. It promises to be a busy fall, judging from the number of exciting events and workshops on the horizon!

All the best,  
Kate & Debbie & Maurie

### **Sustainable Consumption at Davos**

Professor Halina Brown (Clark University) will be a keynote speaker at the [World Resources Forum 2013](#) in Davos, Switzerland October 6-9. The title of her talk is "Transition to Sustainable Consumption?"

### **Is Different Really Enough?**

An excellent publication on sustainability and consumption, [Is Different Really Enough: Thoughts on a New Role for Consumption](#) is now available online. Among other points, the publication sheds light on the inherent problems of individualizing responsibility for changing our consumption-driven society.

### **New Economy Week Launched**

A coalition of organizations and individuals from across the United States will engage in [New Economy Week](#), a week of public-facing events, actions, reports, art, advertisements, and other projects designed to answer the question: what should our economy look like?

New Economy Week is an experiment in collective action designed to pierce the veil of invisibility that has hindered New Economy ideas and organizations from entering the mainstream of American culture, media, and politics. The goal is to raise both local and national awareness of solutions to our broken

### **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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economy. By coordinating our actions around a single thematic week, we can give greater voice to transformative ideas that groups are developing all across the nation. For more information and ways to get involved click [here](#).

### **Moving Beyond GDP: writing contest now open**

The International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change is inviting young scholars to [submit their articles](#) to contribute to an upcoming issue of the *Dimensions* magazine focused on discussing how to move [beyond GDP](#). Cash prizes are available for the winning contest entries.

### **Sustainable Living: Young Entrepreneurs Awards**

The Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership and Unilever have partnered to launch an international search for the next generation of sustainable living entrepreneurs. Anyone under the age of 30 is invited to submit their ideas for innovative, practical, tangible solutions to make sustainable living commonplace. More information is available [here](#).

### **Upcoming Workshop: Absolute Reductions**

This workshop will present the first results of the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF-SpaC)'s flagship research project "Absolute Reductions: Reducing Environmental Degradation & Unsustainable Consumption Trends & Impacts On Nature & Society: Research, Policy and Practice". A critical aspect of SCP is a global reduction (in quantity) of materials and energy consumption to within ecological limits. (Sustainable "non-use", "capping", "decoupling", "sufficiency" are related concepts.) . This project has as objectives to identify, describe and analyze approaches to reduction in material throughput in production-consumption systems. The aim is to demonstrate material and energy reductions that could be applied to as many sectors and through as varied intervention nodes as possible, to highlight effective characteristics and implementation mechanisms of reduction policies and/or practices, and suggest approaches on how to measure reduction.

Proposed Program:

Moderator: Philip Vergragt (Tellus Institute, Boston; and Clark University, Worcester, USA; and GRF-SpaC coordinator)

- Lewis Akenji (IGES, Japan): The Absolute REDUCTIONS project: introduction
- Halina Brown (Clark University, Worcester, MA, USA): Conceptual framework for REDUCTIONS project
- Sylvia Lorek (SERI Germany), Absolute reductions and the Good Life
- Andre Reichel (Zeppelin University Germany), Reduce to

- the max - Business strategies in the post-growth economy
- Philip Vergragt, Examples of new economic and business models in advancing absolute resource reduction
  - Paul Ekins (University College of London, Institute for Sustainable Resources): Discussant

*There will also be a workshop on the REDUCTIONS project at the World Resources Forum in Davos.*

## A New Look at Ecovillages

Karen Litfin has recently published a new book, **Ecovillages: Lessons for Sustainable Community**, which will be out this fall with Polity. Additionally SCORAIers will likely be interested in the [short video](#) that provides a window into Karen's travels to 14 ecovillages around the world. \*The book can be ordered here for a 20% discount with the code: PY461. Exam copies are free.

## Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

[The Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption](#) will be held at the **10th Biennial Conference on Environmental Psychology** in Magdeburg, Germany, September 22-25, 2013. The theme is "the role of the individual in the transformation of energy systems". Read more at this [link](#).

[Linking Policy and Science for Sustainable Innovation](#), Brussels, 10-11 October 2013. In the 3rd EU Dialogue on Linking SCP and Growth Debates, part of the EU project RESPONDER, a selected group of policy makers and researchers will come together to discuss areas of contention between sustainable consumption and economic growth from the perspective of innovation.

[The 2013 Solidarity And Green Economy \(SAGE\) conference](#) will be held November 9 & 10th in Worcester, Mass. For more information and to register online visit this [link](#).

[Radical Emissions Reduction Conference](#) will be held at the Royal Society, London on 10-11 December 2013. This conference will bring together academics and practitioners, engineers and economists, policy-makers and civil society to detail evidenced-based opportunities for delivering urgent and deep reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases.

[Capitalist Crises, Critique of Growth and the Perspectives for a Post-Growth Society](#), the theme of the next European Sociological Association conference, will be held in Turin, August 28-31 2013.

[The 2nd International Conference on ICT for Sustainability \(ICT4S\)](#) conference hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Communications and VU University Amsterdam will be held in

Stockholm, Sweden, 24-26 of August 2014. The theme of the 2014 conference is ICT and transformational change. ICT for sustainability is about utilizing the transformational power of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for making our world more sustainable: saving energy and material resources by creating more value from less physical input, increasing quality of life for ever more people without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs.

## **Job Opportunities**

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**The School of Innovation Sciences of Eindhoven University of Technology** has a vacancy for a lecturer in Sustainable Innovation. Details can be found [here](#).

The **University of Oxford** is looking for a Postdoctoral Research Associate, within the School of Geography and the Environment, (2 year fixed term: Vacancy ID: 108856) This position is part of the 'Closed Loop Emotionally Valuable E-waste Recovery' (CLEVER) project funded by the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The appointed Research Associate will undertake an extensive review of Social Life Cycle Assessment (SCLA) debates and methodologies, and will collect and analyse primary data. The closing date for applications is noon on 20 September 2013. Further information is available from The University of Oxford jobs [webpage](#).

## **Re-engineering Cultures to Create a Sustainable Civilization**

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SCORAI affiliate Erik Assadourian of the Worldwatch Institute has recently recorded an excellent [short video](#) on how we can begin to change lifestyles and consumption patterns to transform to a more sustainable culture.

The video provides an overview of his recent chapters in the [State of the World 2013, Is Sustainability Still Possible](#)" (Chapters 10 & 27: "Re-engineering Cultures to Create a Sustainable Civilization" & "Building an Enduring Environmental Movement.")

## **The Demise of the Car**

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In a [recent radio program](#) hosted by the Australian Broadcasting Company Maurie Cohen argues for adopting a longer-term perspective to better manage technological transitions. The interview emphasizes the need to reflect on different technologies, for example transportation systems, in their historical context.

## New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following SCORAI affiliates joining us who bring the total number to 567.

Sigrid Baringhorst  
Sebastian Becker  
Vera Buttmann  
Bin Chen

Veronica Ciambra  
Gianfranco Lazzarin  
George Pataki

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