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## [SCORAI-EUR] Swiss Sociological Association - call for abstracts on SC and social change

1 message

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Thu, Jan 26, 2017 at 10:50 AM

Dear colleagues, for any sociologists in Switzerland or others interesting in attending:

### Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association (SSA) 2017

Congress topic: "Common Good and Self Interest",

University of Zurich, 21-23 June 2017.

### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:

### WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Co-organized by Philip Balsiger (UniNE) and Marlyne Sahakian (UNIL)

While multiple approaches are necessary for addressing the complexity of environmental and social problems related to consumption, most efforts to date have focused on the idea of individuals as central to change – through their decision-making processes or their "uptake" of more efficient technologies. Perspectives that over-individualise responsibility can be problematic, however, as they do not always take into consideration the social and cultural settings in which consumption plays out, and tend to favour more privileged consumers with the financial or cultural capital to make more "sustainable" choices.

Sociology has a rich history of considering the culture of consumption and power dynamics of consumption, yet much of our resource-greedy consumption patterns are far from being conspicuous or status-seeking. The "social practice turn" in consumption studies has led to a rich body of conceptual and empirical research in recent years, in relation to material and energy consumption. Understanding consumption as a practice does not easily translate into understanding opportunities for how practices might change over time. With this in mind, this workshop proposes to engage with social practice theories and social change theories to understand how un-sustainable practices might transform over time to more sustainable patterns of consumption – both in terms of environmental promotion and social equity.

We invite contributions that focus on changes in consumption as taking place at both the household and societal level, and welcome in particular a consideration for everyday life and social practices in relation to mobility, food, electricity or housing – key environmental impact areas as when it comes to consumption. Perspectives that engage with social change and consumption in relation to power dynamics and social justice are also encouraged.

**Please send proposed abstracts to [philip.balsiger@unine.ch](mailto:philip.balsiger@unine.ch) and [marlyne.sahakian@unil.ch](mailto:marlyne.sahakian@unil.ch) by February 20, 2017.**

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New edited book just out:

Sahakian, M., C. Saloma and S. Erkman, Eds. (2016). **Food Consumption in the City: Practices and Patterns in Urban Asia and the Pacific**. Routledge Studies in Food, Society and the Environment. Oxon, UK; New York, USA, Routledge.

20% Discount Available - enter the code FLR40 at checkout:

<https://www.routledge.com/Food-Consumption-in-the-City-Practices-and-patterns-in-urban-Asia-and/Sahakian-Saloma-Erkman/p/book/9781138120617>

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