



February 2013

Dear SCORAI,

This month brings a flurry of new educational opportunities--including several upcoming webinars, workshops and conferences. There are also a number of new publications that focus on sustainable consumption. We encourage you to explore these and other opportunities included here!

All the best,
Kate & Debbie & Maurie

Bridging Across Communities and Cultures Towards Sustainable Consumption: A SCORAI Europe Workshop

[SCORAI Europe](#) has issued a Call for Papers and Participation for an exciting workshop titled "**Bridging Across Communities and Cultures Towards Sustainable Consumption**", taking place on June 4 directly before the [2013 ERSCP-EMSU at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul](#).

The workshop aims to explore how we can better apprehend existing changes towards more sustainable forms of consumption, as well as how such efforts could be replicated across different communities and cultures. We take a broad reading of "communities and cultures" to include varying geographic and social contexts, but also different types of interest groups, from the business community to civil society, from households to the public sector. See the [Call for Papers and Participation](#).

The format of SCORAI workshops is ideal for in-depth discussions, with papers not only presented by authors but also debated by assigned discussants. To submit your abstract and expression of interest (deadline: February 15), please email scoraieurope@gmail.com.

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SCORAI Draft Program Available

The draft program for the [SCORAI conference](#) to be held on June 12-14 at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts is now available via the [SCORAI website](#). An abstract book outlining the papers to be presented can be downloaded as well. The conference will comprise nearly 100 presentations by scholars working in the field of sustainable consumption, several policy briefings by national and international experts, and a concluding plenary dialogue.

Also part of the program will be 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** ([Brookings Institution](#) and 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! Further information on the conference and registration details are accessible via the link on the [SCORAI website](#).

Dispelling Myths About Sustainable Consumption: Upcoming Webinar

Successful strategies for promoting sustainable consumption require an understanding of human behavior, but most policymakers and other leaders don't have the time to become an expert in consumer decision making! The academic research on how to promote sustainable lifestyles is complex and comes from a range of disciplines. As a result, many rely on "common knowledge" and assumptions about consumer behavior, which may be only partially true if true at all.

This webinar presents the preliminary results of the project, funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, which aims to uncover existing scientific evidence on consumption and to **give policy makers a deeper understanding of the knowledge on consumption behavior in a more accessible format**, thereby challenging the myths and enabling effective policy.

This webinar discusses "myths" about consumption behavior such as:

- Green consumption is the solution to unsustainable

patterns and levels of consumption.

- If everyone does a little we will achieve a lot.
- More information leads to sustainable behavior.
- Consumption policies are too controversial and will not be accepted by the public.

When: **Tuesday 12 February, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Time Zone: **(GMT+01:00)** Amsterdam & Berlin

To join the meeting visit: <https://connect.sunet.se/scmyths/>

Feel free to email the project team ([Oksana Mont](#), [Kate Power](#)) if you plan on attending.

The Role of Green "ICT" in Sustainable Consumption

During the past months a series of knowledge brokerage events were held across Europe, each of them dealing with specific areas of sustainable consumption. At the most recent event that took place in Vienna (1/17-1/18), leading sustainability experts debated the [role of Green ICT for Sustainable Consumption](#) in Europe.

Modern Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) can have a great influence on shaping a more sustainable world. The mega-trends Cloud Computing and Smart Systems in the areas of energy, transport and housing, have the potential to substantially reduce environmental impacts and, thus, green Europe's future. The time to adjust the future development of these technologies is now, say Europe's leading ICT-specialists. Last week, more than 50 professionals from 20 countries across Europe, the US and Australia discussed in Vienna how ICT can increase energy and resource efficiency and make consumption more sustainable. In an ever faster digitizing world, the positive potentials of ICTs are great, say the experts. Yet, using the chances involves substantial challenges for policy makers and Europe's regulatory institutions. The event "Green ICT for Sustainable Consumption?" was organized by the Institute of the Environment and Regional Development of the Vienna University of Economics and Business. It is one of several events taking place in the course of the European Knowledge Brokerage project RESPONDER.

[RESPONDER](#) is a European project funded within the 7th EU Framework Programme, aiming to link research and policy making in the area of Sustainable Consumption with the debates about economic growth.

Publications of Interest

Anne Wiese, Waldemar Toporowski. 2013. "[CSR failures in](#)

[food supply chains - an agency perspective](#)", British Food Journal, Vol. 115(1):92-107.

Carolan, Michael S. [Society and the Environment: Pragmatic Solutions to Ecological Issues](#). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Gareau, Brian J. [From Precaution to Profit: Contemporary Challenges to Environmental Protection in the Montreal Protocol](#). Yale University Press. 2013.

Rob Dietz, R., O'Neill, D. [Enough is Enough: Building a Sustainable Economy in a World of Finite Resources](#).

Rico Defila, Antonietta Di Giulio, Ruth Kaufmann-Hayoz (eds.) 2012. [The Nature of Sustainable Consumption and How to Achieve It](#). Results from the Focal Topic "From Knowledge to Action - New Paths towards Sustainable Consumption". München: oekom Verlag.

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 at elenisotos@gmail.com 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.

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

The 3rd Annual European Postgraduate Symposium - "Sustainable Development Symposium" will be held February 13-15, 2013 at "Parthenope" University of Naples, Italy. You can find further information at: <http://sds2013.uniparthenope.i>

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). [Registration](#) closes 2/10/13.
- **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 identify and investigate the big sustainability challenges that we are faced with today and provide a range of creative solutions from different disciplines to address these. 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 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 ISDR 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 abstracts can be submitted through the [conference website](#) and the deadline has been postponed to 15 February.

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 but the organizers (*Alice Grønhøj* (alg@asb.dk) and *John Thøgersen* (jbt@asb.dk)) need to know about plans for symposia before March 1.

Second Annual Summer Institute on New Economics for PhD Students

Increasingly dire ecological news and the failures of the global economy are fueling interest in a "new economics" grounded in principles of ecological sustainability, equity and fairness, the democratization of wealth, community empowerment and social connection. Following the success of last year's first annual Boston College Summer Institute in New Economics, we will be holding another session from August 13-20. If you are a PhD student in the social sciences, you are invited to apply.

We will bring together a group of distinguished faculty who are pursuing research and practice in this emerging field. Together with a dynamic group of students, we will meet for an intensive program of classes, workshops and participatory sessions. Graduate students attending the Institute can expect to leave with a solid grounding in the latest research and theory, and as part of a network of faculty and other graduate students. If you are interested in attending this year's Institute, please be in touch with us at neueconomics@bc.edu.

New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to our newest affiliates who joined us in January! This brings our member total to 521.

Esther Banks	Ying Feng
Tyler Bateman	Garima Kaushal
Manjot Bhan	Xiao Lin
Christopher Boyce	Kate Power
Javier Caletrio	Jaco Quist
Elena Dawkins	Maryam Rezaei
Stephan Engelkamp	Susanne Sweet

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