



July 2013

Dear SCORAI,

As summer in the global north gets into full swing, we at SCORAI have some updates to share. First, for those of you who could not attend the SCORAI conference at Clark University, videos from the event are now posted online. Come check out what you missed! We also have an update from our SCORAI affiliates in Europe. Please feel free to share this widely! And, as usual, we have information about a number of interesting job opportunities, publications, and blog posts from our extensive and growing network.

Enjoy!

Kate & Debbie & Maurie

### **SCORAI Conference Videos Now Available!**

More than 100 researchers, policy makers, and other experts participated in the first SCORAI Conference at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts on June 12-14 under the theme "The Future of Consumerism and Well-Being in a World of Ecological Constraints."

The event began with two pre-conference workshops. The first of these sessions, organized by Richard Wilk, focused on **"Doing Something Now? Tactics for Attacking Consumerism."** The second session, led by Vanessa Timmer and Joe Hsueh, was entitled **"Systems Thinking: Framework and Methods for Working Smarter Not Harder."**

The main conference included over sixty papers and keynote presentations 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

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the World: The Paradox of Happy Peasants and Miserable Millionaires). [Bob Massie](#) (President of the New Economics Institute) gave an enthusiastic talk following dinner on the second day of the conference. The concluding session featured a plenary dialogue with [Juliet Schor](#) (Professor of Sociology at Boston College) and [John de Graaf](#) (Executive Director of Take Back Your Time Network) on Time, Self-Provisioning, and Happiness.

Videos of all keynote sessions are now available on the [SCORAI YouTube page](#).

## SCORAI Europe Workshop: Bridging Across Communities and Cultures



SCORAI Europe hosted a one-day workshop on June 4 just prior to the 2013 ERSCP in Istanbul, entitled Bridging Across Communities and Cultures: Towards Sustainable Consumption. This workshop aimed to explore how we can better comprehend existing changes towards more sustainable forms of consumption, as well as how such efforts could be replicated across different communities and cultures.

Approximately 30 participants joined in this one day intensive workshop. In lively discussions, they addressed issues of how to support positive, but also sometimes only provisional, shifts in consumption practices as well as the impact of a variety of interventions at a range of scales (community level to national level) and sectors. Regarding the scaling-up and scaling-out of more sustainable consumption practices, focal points for discussion included how to measure and communicate consumption changes, e.g. how to incorporate green consumption into traditional indicators such as GDP, and the contribution of social innovation to the fulfilment of 'needs'.

Additional issues addressed included the facilitation of learning processes among stakeholders, and the role of research in this arena, as well as the significance of offering diverse alternative sustainable consumption choices, catering to people's diverse needs, interests, and practices. The workshop closed with an exciting session exploring possible future SCORAI Europe

workshops and potential themes were proposed for future events focusing specifically on issues of design, research methodologies, and bridging the research-practice divide. More information about SCORAI Europe and the Istanbul workshop can be found on the [SCORAI website](#) where the workshop proceedings are also soon to be published. For more information or to join SCORAI Europe, please e-mail [scoraieurope@gmail.com](mailto:scoraieurope@gmail.com).

## SPREAD Sustainable Lifestyles 2050



The [SPREAD Sustainable Lifestyles 2050 Social Platform Project](#) explored key challenges to sustainable living in Europe and identified possibilities to overcome these current challenges.

The SPREAD project ran from January 2011 to December 2012 and invited business, research, policy and civil society stakeholders to join in a process of developing a vision for sustainable lifestyles in 2050.

The outcomes of the SPREAD project are now [online](#). Get acquainted with the problems considering lifestyles in the baseline report; learn about different scenarios for sustainable living; get to know the different pathways to achieve sustainable lifestyles in the Roadmap and accompanying timeline, and find out more. All the publications can be found [here](#).

If you want to share your knowledge on this topic, discuss with other people in this field, or hear about other projects going on, take a look at our networks!

[Global Network on Sustainable Lifestyles](#)  
[Global Network on Sustainable Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#)

## Job Opportunities

### Research Fellow in Low Carbon Transition Pathways, University of Leeds, UK

Seeking a Research Fellow to undertake research on an EPSRC-funded project on 'Realising Transition Pathways: Whole Systems Analysis for a UK More Electric Low Carbon Energy Future', within the Sustainability Research Institute at the University of Leeds, UK. The successful candidate will be expected to undertake research to develop and apply a framework and analytical tools for exploring the co-evolutionary processes within transition pathways to a UK low carbon electricity system, and how actors' choices influence them, in order to overcome lock-in of current

systems. The research is likely to involve comparative analyses of recent energy policy developments in selected European countries, including moves towards 'smart grids' and implications for a European 'super-grid' and application of transition pathways and branching points analysis to current UK energy policy developments.

For further information, and to apply (by 18 July 2013), please go to <http://jobs.leeds.ac.uk/> and enter reference number ENVEE0173. Informal enquiries may be made to Tim Foxon, tel: +44 (0)113 343 7910, email: [t.j.foxon@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:t.j.foxon@leeds.ac.uk).

## Two opportunities at **Science and Technology Policy Research (SPRU) at the University of Sussex, UK**

- 1) [Professor of energy policy](#)
- 2) [Research Fellow](#) post in the governance of infrastructure transitions as part of the Infrastructure Transitions Research Consortium. It is 18 months fixed term (though may be extended). The successful candidate will work on the policy and governance issues associated with infrastructure interdependencies (e.g. between energy and water or energy and ICTs) through historical case studies and contemporary policy analysis.

## **Publications of Interest**

A new report from IPPR, "[Sustainable consumption in the UK: A selection of case studies](#)" presents case studies of best practice in achieving sustainable consumption in the UK. These case studies exemplify ways in which people can be helped, encouraged or compelled to live more sustainably, either directly or indirectly.

[Sustainable Street 2030](#)" proposes a vision of sustainable food, mobility and housing. It contains more than 70 posters of promising and sometimes provoking snapshots of the future and, thus, triggers social conversation about sustainable policy solutions in 2030. The eBook also serves as a toolkit to support collaborative scenario building as a knowledge brokering approach.

Opinium Research has published a new report on [The Sharing Economy in the UK](#). The global Sharing Economy is a new and emerging market already estimated to be worth over \$533 billion (£330 billion) p.a. In the UK it is valued at £22.4 billion which is 1.3% of GDP and predicted to rise to 15% within five years.

Feng, K., S. Davis, L. Sun *et al.* "[Outsourcing CO2 within China](#)." PNAS (2013).

Yu, Y., Feng, K., Hubacek, K., "[Tele-connecting local consumption to global land use](#)" *Global Environmental Change* (2013).

## **A special issue of the Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization**

SCORAI'ers may be interested in the recently published issue of the *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* titled "[Evolution as a General Theoretical Framework for Economics and Public Policy](#)". This supplementary issue of the Journal is based on a collaborative project between the Evolution Institute and the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center that started in 2009 with a NESCent catalysis meeting titled "The Nature of Regulation: How Evolution Can Inform the Regulation of Large-scale Human Social Interactions".

## **A fresh look at waste and recycling**

Bill Sheehan the director of the Product Policy Institute has recently published a blog post "[CATO Unbound: An Alternative to Municipal Recycling](#)" an interesting look into the arguments surrounding our material economy and the changing awareness from both ends of the political spectrum that problems with our waste and recycling system need to be addressed at the source of the problem.

## **Public Procurement: a new report from the OECD**

The OECD has turned its attention to public procurement in a new publication, [Leading Practitioners on Public Procurement](#). Public procurement represents a significant driver in the global economy and therefore presents one of the most promising means of encouraging SCP. The publication offers several lessons learned from public procurement systems.

## **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.

**[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 next European Sociological Association conference, will be held in Turin, August 28-31 2013.

### **Death of Philip Slater, Early Champion of Sustainable Consumption, Announced**

Philip Slater, a former chair of the Sociology Department at Brandeis University and an early contributor to work on sustainable consumption, passed away at age 86. Slater lived in Santa Cruz, CA and authored the 1970 best-seller, *The Pursuit of Loneliness*, which sold 500,000 copies. The New York Times published [an obituary](#) in the June 30 edition.

### **New SCORAI Affiliates**

A warm welcome to the following SCORAI affiliates joining us:

Kevin Durand	Bill Sheehan
Sarah Gabriel	Edina Vadovics
Thomas Janvier	Damian White
Barbara Jaros	David Wingate
Tamar Makov	Tracey O'Conner

& The Society for Responsible Consumption Romania

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