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SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)

1 message

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Wed, Oct 1, 2014 at 7:02 AM

**October 2014***Dear (Contact First Name),*

October brings many great events and opportunities for the SCORAI community. We hope you'll enjoy learning about current consumption-related activities. Remember to send along your news and updates so that we can share them widely!

All the best,
Catie, Debbie, & Maurie

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**Updates on the SCORAI Colloquium on
Consumption and Social Change**

After the summer break, the SCORAI Colloquium on [Consumption and Social Change](#) resumed its monthly gatherings in Boston on September 4. John Sterman, Professor of Management at the MIT Sloan School of Management, gave a talk entitled Cultural Change to Sustainable Consumption: A Dynamic System Perspective. Using the system dynamics approach Prof. Sterman argued that technological solutions promoting ecoefficiency and new, sustainable industries, while necessary, are not sufficient to address the ecological unsustainability problem. He also demonstrated the systemic dynamic nature of mass consumption as a cultural, technological and economic phenomenon. The video of the seminar can be accessed [by clicking here](#). Ethan Goffman, Associate Editor of [Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy](#), commented on Sterman's presentation in his regular blog, which can be accessed [here](#).



The next seminar in this series will be given by Juliet Schor on October 15. Prof. Schor's talk is entitled: The New Sharing Economy: Paradoxes of Openness and Distinction.

International Journal of Consumer Studies Call for Papers: Special Issue



**Special Issue on Consumption, Lifestyle and Social Movements:
September 2015**

Call for Papers and Peer Reviewers/ Referee

Interesting topics are such as:

- Lifestyles and consumption as individual and collective action
- Alternative modes of consumption
- Sustainable consumption as social movement
- Consumption, citizenship and political participation
- Ideologies and values in consumption lifestyles
- Consumer policy: governing consumption, consumer protection
- Disadvantaged consumers: inequalities, exclusion and consumer voice
- Transnational consumer movements and global justice
- Gender issues
- Food movements
- Quotidian disruption, austerity, households and consumption
- Mobilization, protest and empowerment

The deadline for finished manuscripts is **31st December 2014**. Authors may write to the guest editors of this issue, Dr Stefan Wahlen and Mikko Laamanen, at the address below in advance of this date with an expression of interest and an outline or 500-word abstract.

Dr Stefan Wahlen
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Job Announcements



The **Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy of the University of Michigan** invites applications from outstanding candidates to fill a tenure-track position that focuses on the behaviors of individuals and institutions on issues of sustainability. Our preference is to hire at the assistant professor level, although we are open to more senior candidates with exceptional qualifications. A postdoctoral position is also possible. Applicants should demonstrate expertise in the role of public policy in advancing the goals of sustainability. Applications are welcome from a range of policy science disciplines, including psychology, sociology, political science, economics, and history, with particular interest in candidates who transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries.

This university-year appointment will begin on September 1, 2015. Initial consideration will be given to applications received by **October 1, 2014**, but applications will be considered until the position has been filled. The following application materials should be sent in PDF format to sustainability@fordschool.umich.edu: letter of interest, curriculum vitae, writing samples, statement of current and future research plans, statement of teaching philosophy and experience, teaching evaluations, and three letters of recommendation. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. The University of Michigan is an AA/EEO employer and is supportive of the needs of dual career couples.

Tenure-track Faculty Position in Sustainability and Human Well-Being

The **School of Sustainability at Arizona State University** invites applications for a tenure-track position, at the assistant professor level, in the field of Sustainability and Human Well-being. Many economic, social and ecological factors contribute to human well-being. Nevertheless, most commonly reported indicators of well-being fail to adequately capture its multi-dimensional, dynamic, and system-dependent nature. Sustainability requires that well-being, however measured, be maintained or improved across generations. We invite applications from scholars engaged in conceptual or applied research to improve the conceptualization and measurement of human well-being in the context of sustainability. More information [here](#).



Spotlight on SCORAI Affiliates: Bill Rees and Peter Victor Elected to Club of Rome



SCORAI-ers William (Bill) Rees and Peter Victor have been elected to full membership in the [Club of Rome](#). This October, they will attend the Club of Rome's Annual Conference in Mexico City with the title "Renewable Energy for Efficient Economies and Sustainable Cities: The Role of Science and Technology."

New Publications



Prell, Christina, Kuishuang Feng, Laixiang Sun, Martha Geores, and Klaus Hubacek. 2014. "The Economic Gains and Environmental Losses of US Consumption: A World-Systems and Input-Output Approach." *Social Forces*, April, sou048. doi:10.1093/sf/sou048.

Abstract

Although research has shown that countries' world-systems positions can predict levels of pollution and wealth, there has been little research looking at how consumption in the core triggers both pollution and wealth elsewhere in the world economy. In this article, we track how consumption in the United States, a core country, triggers value added and pollution throughout global commodity chains. We track these distributions for all commodities and services consumed in the United States, then for six commodity groupings, and finally for two case studies, "Motor Vehicles" and "Wearing Apparel." Our findings show how the production of commodities for US consumption tends to reify inequalities in the world-system: Larger shares of value added (in comparison to shares of pollution) are generally prompted within the core, whereas the opposite effect tends to be experienced in the non-core. We also discuss interesting exceptions to these general trends occurring at different levels of analysis. Finally, we draw special attention to China, the elephant in the room that exhibits both core and peripheral characteristics.

Get the full article [here](#).

Upcoming Conferences



EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS

Call for Papers for European Society of Ecological Economics 2015 Conference ESEE 2015: Transformations June 30-July 3, 2015, Leeds, United Kingdom

The conference topics include: post-growth economics; natural resources, ecosystem services and environmental quality; development, consumption and well-being; power, politics, institutions and the reality of achieving change; new business models and understandings of human behaviour. We would like to invite proposals for special sessions (deadline 15 October 2014) and abstracts for papers (deadline 30 November 2014) relating to these topics.

[Visit the conference website](#)



PERL International Conference: A Decade of Responsible Living: Preparing, Engaging, Responding and Learning March 10-11, 2015, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France

The conference will focus on the future and its challenges using the experience of a decade of dedicated activity by PERL partners. The goal of the conference is to encourage a new decade of innovative initiatives about responsible living.

The PERL international conference will be retrospective, showing what has been accomplished by the CNN/PERL networks in relation to the development of policies about sustainable lifestyles; the creation of awareness about consumer citizenship, civic involvement and environmental stewardship; the adaptation and implementation of teaching methods and materials; and research, projects and publications about education for responsible living. The conference will also be interactive and illustrative providing insights/case studies/best practices through presentations, exhibitions, world café, round tables, etc. Additionally, the conference will examine ways of contributing to processes leading to a more just and sustainable world for all.

[Visit the conference website.](#)



THE EUROPE WE WANT

17th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production
Research | Experience | Development
14.-16. October 2014 | Portorož, Slovenia

The Europe We Want: 17th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production. October 14-16, 2014, Slovenia

The ERSCP is one of Europe's most remarkable conferences in its field and has taken place periodically since 1994. ERSCPs favor discussions about the key issues in sustainable consumption and production; the exchange of thoughts, knowledge, experiences and SCP proposals; and the creation of a European (also worldwide) community of research and practice in sustainable consumption and production. The keynote speakers are:

1. Prof. Dr. Adisa Azapagiè, The University of Manchester

Keynote lecture: Sustainable consumption and production: integrating environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability

2. Prof. Dr. Luèka Kajfez Bogataj, Top International Central European Climatologist
Keynote lecture: Is the world we live in the world we want?

3. Prof. Don Huisingh, University of Tennessee
Keynote lecture: Why do YOU think YOU/WE can make improvements in society?

4. Dr. Heinz Leuenberger, Director, Environmental Management Branch, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
Keynote lecture: Green industry for inclusive and sustainable industrial development

5. Assistant Professor Dr. Rodrigo Lozano, Copernicus Institute for Sustainable Development, Utrecht University
Keynote lecture: The education we want: preparing students to make societies more sustainabl

[Visit the conference website.](#)



World Resources Forum
October 19-22, 2014, Arequipa, Peru.

The World Resources Forum (WRF) is the global science-based platform for sharing knowledge about the economic, political, social and environmental implications of global resource use. WRF promotes innovation for resource productivity by building bridges among researchers, policymakers, business, SMEs, NGOs and the public.

[Visit the conference website.](#)



Global Cleaner Production & Sustainable Consumption Conference: Accelerating the Transition to Equitable Post Fossil-Carbon Societies
November 1-4, 2015, Sitges, Barcelona, Spain

Elsevier will host this conference to celebrate more than two decades of the Journal of Cleaner Production, with an international scientific team drawn from more than fifty regional and global sustainability networks. The conference is being designed to be holistic, integrative, trans-disciplinary, and trans-sectorial in nature. It will focus on strategic, and preventative concepts and approaches, which are being implemented to speed up the great transition to post-fossil carbon societies, and that are ecologically, ethically, socially, culturally, and economically sustainable. methods, tools, policies, and examples being applied in different contexts (e.g. global warming, chemical pollution, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, water and food security, erosion of social systems, human population growth, and other sustainability challenges).

[Visit the conference website.](#)

New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month which brings our total number to 679.

Cathleen Balantic
Carrie Behar
Manuela Bernauer
Janine Bogar
Christopher Clement
Aleksandra Cofala
Kristofer Dittmer
Regan Fink
Lauren Fisher
Nick Hollely
Victoria Johnson
Richard Manton
Solomon Mungure
Rohit Nishant
Daniel O'Neill
Robert Orzanna
Irene Queen
Bonnie Reese
Åsa Svenfelt
Faye Wade
Mariola Zalewska

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