



## November 2011 Newsletter

**Dear SCORAI,**

Greetings!

There are two intriguing examples of sustainable consumption crossing disciplinary boundaries in this month's newsletter: an exhibit on water use in the Dublin Science Gallery and a strategy game premised on principles of sustainability.

Also, our field of study is part of a Section-in-Formation with the American Sociological Association. Anyone who is a member of ASA may wish to support the endeavor by adding the Consumers & Consumption section to their membership.

Of course, the newsletter also has the usual content as well: special issues seeking papers, conferences, and publications.

All the best to you this November,

Emily and Maurie

### **Consensus Research Project--Exhibit in the Dublin Science Gallery**

Trinity College researchers from the "ConsEnSus: Consumption, Environment and Sustainability" research project have developed an installation for the Dublin Science Gallery's current exhibition 'Surface Tension: The Future of Water' (21 October-20 January 2012). The installation, 'WaterWise: Washing Futures' is based on participatory backcasting research undertaken by Ruth Doyle (Doctoral Candidate-[rdoyle4@tcd.ie](mailto:rdoyle4@tcd.ie)) and Professor Anna Davies (Principal Investigator-[daviesa@tcd.ie](mailto:daviesa@tcd.ie)) that led to the formation of three alternative scenarios for how we might make our washing practices more sustainable in the future. Working with artist Chris Judge, scenario illustrations were designed for display in the Science Gallery. See: <http://www.sciencegallery.com/surfacetension/waterwise>

The exhibit aims to promote critical reflection among visitors of all ages. It encourages them to consider how our washing habits might evolve to adapt to scarce water conditions, technological advances, cultural shifts or stricter regulation. Visitors are asked to provide feedback contributing to the iterative and participatory nature of the research, the ultimate aim of which is

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#### **Executive Board**



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#### **Quick Links**

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to develop policy recommendations for encouraging the transition to more sustainable washing practices in Irish households. Consensus is funded by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency.

For further information contact: PhD Candidate, Ruth Doyle (rdoyle4@tcd.ie) or Professor Anna Davies (daviesa@tcd.ie), Geography Department, Trinity College Dublin or visit the Science Gallery website: <http://www.sciencegallery.com>.

## **Oil Discovered on the Island of Catan**



Catan update from Erik (with a 'k') Assadourian:

For those of you familiar with the award-winning board game The Settlers of Catan, there is a new sustainability scenario for the game. Catan: Oil Springs, developed by the Transforming Cultures Project at Worldwatch Institute adds a new resource to the game--oil--which offers faster growth but at a significant cost: the risk of pollution and climate change. The scenario provides players with an opportunity to balance competing desires of maximizing short-term growth and ensuring long-term success and survivability. You can learn more at <http://www.oilsprings.catan.com> and download the rules and components there.

## **Consumers & Consumption in the American Sociological Association (ASA)**

Recently, the group 'Consumers & Consumption' was granted ASA Section-in-Formation status, which means the group has 2 years to get at least 300 members.

To become an official member, you must add Consumers and Consumption to your section membership when you renew (or purchase) an ASA membership. Right now it costs only \$5/year--in the future, the dues will remain at \$5 for students and probably \$12 for faculty.

See <http://www.asanet.org/members/join.cfm>.

## **Special Issues Seeking Content**

### **Nature and Culture**

*Nature & Culture* announces plans for a special issue on "Nature, science and politics, or: policy assessment to promote sustainable development?" The deadline for abstract submissions (400-500 words) is **November 30, 2011**.

This Special Symposium's focus is how the utilization of scientific knowledge in policy making, and its impact on the policy process, can be better understood. There are many mechanisms for embedding scientific knowledge in policy-making; we

particularly focus on policy impact assessment and its ability to promote sustainable development.

There are already a large number of concepts to theorize science-policy interaction. But apolitical, one-directional knowledge transfer models still inform much of the debate, particularly around policy assessment systems. We aim to move the debate on, while investigating the remarkable persistence of these linear models, by inviting empirical work and case studies that elaborate on the following questions: How are knowledge production and decision making processes interrelated and intermingled? What is the relationship between evidence use and policy outputs? How can evidence-based processes help to achieve more sustainable outcomes? By drawing on wider perspectives on the science-policy-politics relationship and research on how science and politics interact in practice, the Symposium aims to enrich the theory and inform the practice of policy assessment for sustainable development.

Submissions should be sent to the editors ([sabine.weiland@fu-berlin.de](mailto:sabine.weiland@fu-berlin.de), [vivien.behrens@ufz.de](mailto:vivien.behrens@ufz.de), and [j.turnpenny@uea.ac.uk](mailto:j.turnpenny@uea.ac.uk)).

### **Natural Resources Forum**

*Natural Resources Forum* announces plans for a special issue on Long-term Sustainable Development Scenarios to be published in 2012. The deadline for submission is **November 15, 2011**.

This special issue will take stock of recent advances in the development of long-term sustainable development scenarios. Scenarios have become a standard tool in the analysis of global issues, including climate change, energy, land, and water. There have also been efforts to extend the coverage of models and scenario exercises to go beyond individual sectors and provide integrated analyses, simultaneously considering economic, social and environmental objectives, as well as multiple sectors. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("Rio+20"), to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, will be an occasion to reflect on progress in model-based scenario analysis and trends in the interface between scenario modeling and policymaking.

Articles should contain original material and should be between 6,000 and 8,000 words in length. Contributions to the journal are accepted at NRF's manuscript submission site at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nrf>. Please consult the Author Guidelines at <http://www.wiley.com/bw/submit.asp?ref=0165-0203>. Questions and comments can be addressed to: [nrforum@un.org](mailto:nrforum@un.org)

### **Sustainability: Science, Practice, and Policy**

The journal *Sustainability: Science, Practice, and Policy* has issued a call for contributions to a special issue on "Sustainable Food Consumption: Current Trends, Policy Approaches, and Future Scenarios."

Food is a major issue in the politics of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) because of its impact on the environment, health, social cohesion, and the economy. Achieving sustainable food consumption requires the design and implementation of policies that tackle the problems of both over- and under-consumption, together with food-safety issues in affluent societies, and food-security considerations in the poorer regions of the planet.

This special issue will focus on food consumption in the context of unsustainable environmental, health, social, and economic trends, among other topics. Abstracts of up to 500 words should be sent by **December 1, 2011** to Michal Sedlacko, Research Institute for Managing Sustainability (RIMAS), Vienna University of Economics and Business, E-mail: [michal.sedlacko@wu.ac](mailto:michal.sedlacko@wu.ac). See the following link for more detailed information: <http://sspp.proquest.com/about/special.html>

### **Journal of Nonprofit and Public Sector Marketing**

The *Journal of Nonprofit and Public Sector Marketing* announces plans for a special issue on Transformative Ethical/Sustainable Consumption Research. The deadline for submission is December 30, 2011. The special issue is scheduled to be published in Issue 4 2012.

In this call for papers we contend that the time to just "describe the phenomenon" has passed and thus seek rigorous ethical consumption research that provides actionable insights for practitioners and consumers. In this light, after two rounds of academic review, we will facilitate the collaboration of leading ethical consumption practitioners/marketers with the authors of accepted papers to co-develop relevant insights and practical guidance for marketing managers. These insights will form Managerial Implications sections at the end of each paper in the special issue.

Prospective contributors are welcome to contact the Special Issue Co-Editors to clarify questions about the potential suitability of topics: Dr Iain Black ([iain.black@ed.ac.uk](mailto:iain.black@ed.ac.uk)); Dr Terry Newholm ([terry.newholm@mbs.ac.uk](mailto:terry.newholm@mbs.ac.uk)); and Michal Carrington ([m.carrington@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:m.carrington@latrobe.edu.au)). Please submit your papers for peer review for the Special Issue by **December 30, 2011** to Michal Carrington.

### **New Publications by SCORAI Members and Friends**

Kennedy, E.H. 2011. Rethinking ecological citizenship: the role of neighbourhood networks in cultural change. *Environmental Politics*, Forthcoming (November).

### **Upcoming Conferences & Workshops**

Localism: Sufficient and Fit for Purpose? November 3, 2011, University of Manchester Conference Centre, Manchester, UK

(<https://eiemea.certain.com/rsa/getdemo.ei?id=1010023&s=50K0YSW2F>).

International Conference on Sustainable Consumption: Towards Action and Impact, November 6-8, 2011, Hamburg, Germany (<http://www.sustainableconsumption2011.org>).

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Young researchers in sustainable consumption and sustainability sciences are warmly invited to attend the pre-conference "Research on Sustainable Consumption--Present and Future Perspectives for Young Academics" on Sunday, 6th November 2011, from 9am to 5pm. More information can be found at: [http://www.sustainableconsumption2011.org/frontend/index.php?folder\\_id=136&ses\\_id=5dc909cabaab48291ef05c7bc44384cb](http://www.sustainableconsumption2011.org/frontend/index.php?folder_id=136&ses_id=5dc909cabaab48291ef05c7bc44384cb).

Third German Environmental Sociology Summit (Innovation and Sustainability: Beyond Technology), November 16-18, 2011, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University, Frankfurt, Germany (<http://www.gesellschaftswissenschaften.unifrankfurt.de/gess>).

Eighth International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic, and Social Sustainability, January 10-12, 2012, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada (<http://www.SustainabilityConference.com>).

The RESPONDER Project. The project links sustainable consumption and growth debates and takes into account aspects of green growth, non-growth and degrowth. See <http://www.scp-responder.eu>.

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Next events as part of RESPONDER:  
26-27 January 2012 Multinational knowledge brokerage event on Sustainable Food Consumption (Lisbon)  
15-17 February 2012 Multinational knowledge brokerage event on Sustainable Household Electronics (Vienna).  
7-9 March 2012 Multinational knowledge brokerage event on Sustainable Household Savings and Debts (London).  
21-23 March 2012 Multinational knowledge brokerage event on Sustainable Mobility (Bratislava).  
28-30 March 2012 Multinational knowledge brokerage event on Sustainable Housing (Barcelona).

European Seminar on the "Geography of Innovation," January 26-28, 2012, Saint-Etienne, France (<http://www.euolio.eu>).

"Challenging Consumerism: Toward Living Well Sustainably". The Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) is collaborating with the Liu Institute for Global Issues at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the One Earth Initiative Society to convene the Third SCORAI Workshop on the UBC campus on 8-10 March 2012. Abstracts of 250 words should be sent to Maurie Cohen ([mcohen@adm.njit.edu](mailto:mcohen@adm.njit.edu)) by **November 7**.

The Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living (PERL) will host "Beyond Consumption. Pathways to Responsible Living" 19-20 March, 2012 in Berlin.

You will find the Call for Proposals on the PERL website <http://www.perlprojects.org/Project-sites/PERL/News-Events/News/PERL-conference-Berlin-March-2012>. Deadline for proposals is **November 15** (250 words). Ideas beyond the classical paper proposals (e.g. interactive workshops, arts) are especially welcome!

European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption & Production (ERSCP), 2-4 May, 2012, Bregenz, Austria. The deadline for submission of abstracts for papers or posters is **November 30**. See <http://www.erscp2012.eu/> for more details.

The International Society for Ecological Economics is holding its next biennial conference in Rio de Janeiro, 29 May-1 June, 2012 to dovetail with Rio+20 UNCSO. Abstracts: maximum of 700 words, submit online via the conference website at <http://www.isee2012.org> by **November 15**. For details see <http://www.ecoeco.org/content/2011/06/2012-isee-conference-call-for-papers>.

The World Congress on Global Well-Being will be held July 16-21, 2012 in Melbourne, Australia. See the conference website for more details: <http://www.ifhe2012.org/>.

The International Conference on Culture, Politics, and Climate Change will be held September 13-15, 2012 in Boulder, Colorado USA. Deadline for abstracts: **January 10**.

3rd International Conference on Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity will be held September 19-23, 2012 in Venice, Italy. See the conference website for more details at <http://www.venezia2012.it>.

## **New SCORAI Affiliates**

SCORAI welcomes the following new affiliates to the network during the month of October. Total membership is currently 293 people.

Renata Blumberg  
David Chittenden  
Jeremiah Couey  
Jennie Curtis  
Brendan Golubjatnikov  
Ruth Legg  
Sheda Morshed  
Kyle Paulin  
Geertje Schuitema  
Michael Spears  
Jeremy Taylor  
Celia Willis  
Jiyun Kang



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