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## SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)

1 message

**SCORAI (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)**

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Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 7:31

AM


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**Halina Brown**  
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of Technology

**John Stutz**  
Tellus Institute

**Philip Vergragt**  
Tellus Institute and Clark  
University

### December 2014

Dear (Contact First Name),

If you have missed some of the recent worldwide SCORAI events, this newsletter will bring you up to speed. In addition to job announcements, publications, and events, are reports from SCORAI happenings in Europe, North America, and China!

All the best,  
Catie, Debbie, & Maurie

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## SCORAI China Launched at Workshop in Beijing

SCORAI China, a new member of SCORAI family, was launched at the International Workshop on Sustainable Consumption Research in China on November 16, 2014 at Renmin University of China in Beijing. This workshop was initiated by SCORAI, organized by the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Renmin University, and supported by the Chinese Environmental Sociology

Committee of the Chinese Sociological Association.

A SCORAI China Working Group, including representatives from SCORAI and China, coordinated and organized this event. The aim of the workshop was to start to develop a network of Chinese researchers in the field of sustainable consumption and to connect this network with the global SCORAI network. Approximately [thirty invited researchers](#) from China, the United States, and Europe attended the event.



The vice-president of Renmin University, **Professor Dayong Hong**, opened the workshop and his [welcoming remarks](#) were followed by introductions on SCORAI North America by **Maurie Cohen**, on SCORAI Europe and research in Europe by **Gert Spaargaren**, and a review of sustainable consumption research in China by **Wenling Liu** and **Lei Zhang**. A copy of the full workshop program is available [here](#).

The idea of establishing an academic network on sustainable consumption in China was warmly embraced by the participants and many expressed their strong interest in its future development. Such a network will be extremely important and timely in breaking down the isolation of Chinese researchers in this field and promoting knowledge sharing, collaboration, and joint development of projects.

**Lei Zhang** will be the primary point of contact on SCORAI China and interested individuals are encouraged to contact her at [LLLLLEI63@hotmail.com](mailto:LLLLLEI63@hotmail.com). Chinese language press releases about the event are available [here](#) and [here](#).

## Recent SCORAI Sustainable Consumption Workshop in London



Kingston University London

A two-day workshop on sustainable consumption was held in London on September 30-October 1 at the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce. Its goal was to develop our understanding of innovative approaches to sustainable consumption by sharing and reflecting upon research and practice relevant to themes suggested by participants in recent SCORAI (Europe) workshops. A link to the full workshop report is available [here](#).

To give a brief summary, the workshop was attended by a diverse mix of 20 practitioners and academics from the UK, Europe, the United States, and Japan, and included researchers from the fields of innovation studies, science and technology studies, geography, sociology, as well as activists. The workshop findings emphasized:

1. The myth of "sustainable consumption."
2. The paradox of rebound effects associated with the adoption of measures to reduce consumption.

3. The importance of understanding the relationship between consumption and production.
4. The propensity of sustainable innovations to fail to live up to expectations.
5. The potential contribution of do-it-yourself (DIY) and "slow" design and the sharing economy to reduce consumption though acknowledging the capacity for international capital to undermine or co-opt citizen action and modes of provisioning based on social solidarity.
6. The significance of combinations of social practices, institutional rules, entrepreneurial design activists (e.g., urban farmers) and supportive policy and social structures and material infrastructure to making "real" transformations which have the potential to endure.
7. The importance of historical perspectives to understanding innovation success and failure, the "life course" of consumers' relationships with use (e.g., in relation to transportation or using energy in the home) or learning from past exemplars such as the UK-based socially useful production movement of the 1970s.
8. Mutually productive and problem-centered engagement among practitioners, academic researchers, policy, and business actors.

The workshop was convened by **Audley Genus**, YTL Professor of Innovation and Technology Management, Kingston University London. Key speakers included Adrian Smith (University of Sussex) and Ann Thorpe (a design activist). The workshop was the latest in a series of events organized by the research networks SCORAI (Europe) and SCORAI (North America). Selected papers from the workshop will be published by Springer in the form of an edited book, provisionally titled *Sustainable Consumption: Perspectives, Design and Practice*.

## SCORAI Colloquium Series on Consumption & Social Change: Summary of Session with Doug Holt

Report by Halina Brown



On November 19, **Douglas Holt**--founder and president of the [Cultural Strategy Group](#) (Boulder, CO) and a consultant, writer, and academic--gave a talk entitled "New Great Transition Strategies" as part of the SCORAI Colloquium Series on Consumption and Social Change. Holt challenged the prevalent approach used by environmental leaders and organizations to mobilize the public and to change behaviors toward sustainability. The logic of this approach, which he calls the "ethical values paradigm," assumes that at the core of consumerism is a set of values (e.g., materialism, possessive individualism, narcissism, and others); and that a transition to sustainable consumption requires a cultural shift away from these orientations and toward more environmental/ethical values and a more reflexive mindset with regard to consumption. In practice, the ethical values paradigm relies on a set of big (and rather abstract) ideas, such as environment, carbon pollution, climatic events, and others, to communicate its key message and to seek cultural and behavioral change.

But the evidence accumulated over the past twenty five years overwhelmingly indicates that within that paradigm little progress has been made toward more sustainable consumption. Holt argues that a different paradigm is needed, which he calls that "market construction paradigm." In this framework, consumption is not the result of "wrong values" but rather is a constructed behavior, just as markets for various types of goods are constructed. Holt illustrates this paradigm with the case of single-use bottled water, showing how a market for it emerged over the past two decades through a convergence of several factors related to health concerns and general mistrust of public institutions, with profit-seeking companies cleverly stepping in to exploit these concerns. Subsequent vigorous

campaigns against bottled water have failed, Holt argues, because they sought to reform consumers. Instead, the strategy should be to reform the bottled water market, based on a deep understanding of how that market has been constructed and how it works. Such strategies have a greater chance of success because they are a bridge between the abstract "big" ideas and the daily social practices and understandings in people's lives.

Much of the discussion focused on ways to integrate the two paradigms; and the feasibility of trying to reform markets for an endless myriad of goods in everyday life. Holt acknowledged the challenge and pointed out that the focus should be on the markets associated with high ecological impacts. Examples include personal mobility, housing, and food. Aggregate multiple strategies for different markets might converge if their underlying market logics are related, such as health concerns, and become a powerful bottom-up force.

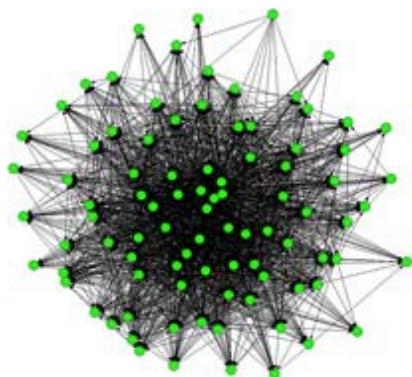
The market-based approach to change toward more sustainable consumption does not preclude policy interventions, both national and local in scope, including carbon pricing. Its primary value is to de-emphasize the ethical basis for a transition to sustainable consumption, and instead to devise any interventions strategically, based on the knowledge of the market, its construction and its leverage points. There is a lot for SCORAI affiliates to learn from the market-construction paradigm. The social practice research community may be especially interested in this perspective. There is also room for potentially insightful research projects. For instance, in an analogy to the case of bottled water, the current trend toward more, bigger and more luxurious bathrooms in family homes is closely related to people's preoccupation with physical health, including a search for a private sanctuary for relaxation away from the hectic pace of life. Thinking about it as a constructed market, and analyzing its emergence, functioning and leverage points, may open new opportunities for effective interventions to reverse that trend.



Videos and other material from prior SCORAI colloquium sessions, featuring **David Snow**, **Claus Offe**, **John Sterman**, and **Juliet Schor** are available [on the SCORAI website](#). A full schedule of upcoming colloquium sessions in 2015 is also posted.

## SCORAI-USDN Workshop "The Role of Cities in Advancing Sustainable Consumption"

*Report by Philip Vergragt*



The workshop "The Role of Cities in Advancing Sustainable Consumption" took place in Eugene, Oregon on October 29 to November 1. Its goal was: "to advance the work of researchers and practitioners in understanding and fostering ways in which living in an urban environment may accelerate a shift beyond consumerism--toward more sustainable consumption. Through intense interactions, researchers will better understand consumption behaviors in the urban environment, the role of policy in promoting sustainable consumption, and potential contributions of further research; and practitioners will better understand leverage points for policy interventions that may support the transition beyond consumerism and have a better idea how to formulate researchable questions for

researchers."

The workshop was jointly organized and funded by the Urban Sustainable Directors Network (**Babe**

**O'Sullivan**) and SCORAI (**Maurie Cohen and Philip Vergragt**). The 43 participants came from USDN, Environmental Protection Agency Regions 9 and 10, several civil society organizations, and SCORAI. The Eugene workshop followed in the footsteps of a prior SCORAI workshop focusing on bringing together researchers and practitioners that was held in Vancouver in 2012.

Two three-member panels opened the workshop and framed the subsequent discussions. The first panel of researchers included **Halina Brown** (Clark University) who talked about the central role of well-being in the potential transition to less consumerist lifestyles; **Cindy Isenhour** (University of Maine) who discussed building socially-embedded economies; and **Maurie Cohen** (New Jersey Institute of Technology) who considered the early signs of a shift toward a post-consumerist future.

The second panel of practitioners included **Babe O'Sullivan** (City of Eugene) who gave an overview of sustainable consumption in a municipal context; **David Allaway** (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality) who addressed the three "myths" of sustainable consumption; and **Lauren Norris** (City of Portland) who described [Resourceful PDX](#) in Portland, Oregon, a tool to help citizens make changes in their lives. The follow-up plenary discussion touched upon such issues as house sizes, carbon taxes, community initiatives, the need for effective toolkits; the impacts of the sharing economy; the Spanish cooperative Mondragon as an example of successful cooperatives; producer responsibility; materials analysis, taxation policies, declining middle class, and others.

The afternoon of the first day featured a World Café in which small groups discussed the following questions: What could be the role of municipal governments in advancing sustainable consumption? How can municipal governments influence local consumption behaviors? What mix of regulatory and outreach approaches can have the most impact? How do we account for differences in income, culture, and urban context in attempting to shift consumption behavior? What research is needed to help inform a municipal government strategy? What can the research community provide to help advance this work? In the plenary a number of research questions were harvested.

At the end of the first day we enjoyed visiting a special consumption-themed photographic exhibition at the [Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art](#) located on the campus of the University of Oregon. It was great to see this exhibition being dedicated to the USDN-SCORAI workshop. We enjoyed a nice dinner in the hotel, where we were welcomed by the Mayor of Eugene.

The second day started with a panel on "Intersections of Sustainable Consumption and Equity", with [Julian Agyeman](#) (Tufts University) and [Doug Holt](#) (Cultural Strategies Group), both speaking through skype. In the plenary session that followed, [Bill Rees](#) (University of British Columbia) gave a passionate speech about how society is heading toward ecological disaster; and how current policies and political actions are dealing with symptoms rather than with root causes. In the "Fish Bowl" that followed the opening plenary and discussion, several prominent citizens from Eugene (including the City Manager) were asked to respond to the following question: What role could Eugene play in advancing sustainable consumption? The lively discussion included the members of the audience, who in the Fishbowl setting could tap the original panelists and replace them in the discussion circle. In the afternoon, after another plenary discussion, several working groups were created around specific topics chosen by the workshop participants.

[Babe O'Sullivan](#) opened the third day of the workshop by proposing a set of guiding principles and policy framework for cities that are aiming for a transition toward sustainable consumption. These principle drew on the outcomes of the first two days of the workshop. Participants found this extremely helpful to keep the workshop focused. The rest of the short third day of the workshop was dedicated to working group discussions and reports. These included: a proposal from the "strategy group" to conduct a literature review on key drivers and municipal decisions to embark on city policies and programs on sustainable production and consumption; a proposal to frame the role for cities to advance sustainable production and consumption; a proposal from the "framing group" to prepare a "Eugene Declaration" on the framing of and the guiding principles for sustainable consumption and the unique role of cities; a proposal for a research project on sumptuary codes in cities to reduce consumption (see article block below); a discussion for the role of local governments in enabling a grassroots sharing economy and sharing neighborhoods; and a proposal for a research project on post-automobile futures and urban form. Other groups focused on sustainable food, urban metabolism, institutional and government purchasing, carbon tax, and on surveys of public values. [Terry Moore](#) (ECO North West) gave a moving summarizing statement about his personal interpretation of sustainable consumption and well-being.

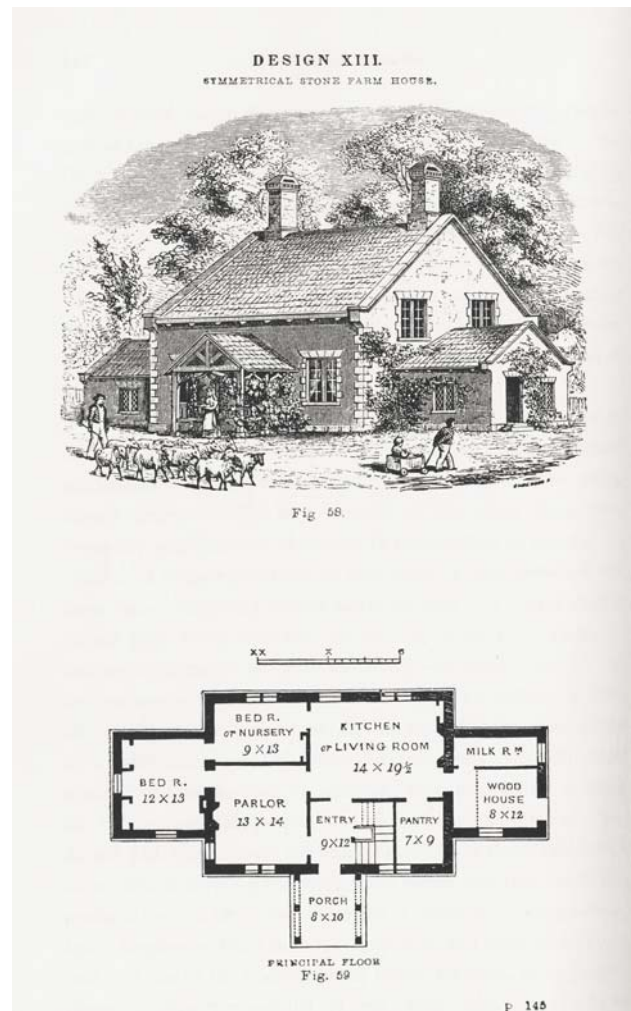
The workshop evaluations were very positive and follow-up actions will include a report by Babe O'Sullivan; a [webinar](#) on December 2 hosted by the [EPA West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum](#); and a videorecording from the workshop to be posted on the SCORAI and USDN websites. Some of the working groups will continue the activities started at the workshop and a number of other follow-up activities are being considered by USDN and SCORAI.

For more information or interest in participating in working groups contact Philip Vergragt [pvergragt@tellus.org](mailto:pvergragt@tellus.org).

## Research Proposal: Urban Sustainability & Sumptuary Codes

Sumptuary codes are an archaic form of social regulation which require that some, or all citizens must, or must not, consume a particular community resource. In contemporary society we tend to think that this kind of social regulation disappeared a very long time ago. It has, for example, been almost five centuries since Queen Elizabeth I (1533-1603) dictated the color, pattern, and material of clothing that her subjects could wear in public. We do, however, continue the use of sumptuary codes, implicitly and explicitly, to regulate many things. For example, the clothing children can wear to school (uniforms), Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (alcohol consumption), the volume of solid waste that households can send to the landfill (pre-paid garbage bags), how we dry our clothes (the banning of clothes lines by home-owners associations), how we keep our front yards manicured (the requirement to irrigate or not irrigate), or the amount of water we consume (graduated rates of consumption). These are but a few of the contemporary sumptuary codes created and enforced by municipalities, homeowners associations and other civil society groups that either positively, or negatively, influence the sustainable consumption of community resources, and thus climate change.

The proposed project is in two-phases: Phase 1 collaborators will document existing sumptuary codes that are effective or ineffective in the equitable reduction of carbon emissions in three diverse North American cities? Modest funding by municipalities will be required to gather and interpret the data required to ask a second question in Phase 2: What new sumptuary codes might be more effective in reducing emissions? This phase can be characterized as action research because it will attempt to implement and measure the effectiveness of the proposed sumptuary codes in the reduction of municipal carbon production in the same three cities. The purpose of the research is not to define "best practices" that can be reproduced universally. Rather, the research seeks to understand how municipal governments can make context-dependent social regulation (including those by homeowners associations, neighborhood planning groups, schools, and civil society groups) useful in the effort to equitably mitigate climate change. Significant funding by federal or foundation sources will be required to support this longer term project.



To begin this project, letters of support are required from three research partners ([SCORAI](#), [USDN](#), and the [University of Texas Center for Sustainable Development](#)); three cities (Austin, Eugene and one other); local grass-roots organizations; and three local universities (UT, UO, and one other). In addition to the implemented codes, products of the research would include peer-reviewed publications in an academic journal, a publicly interactive website/data-base, and a permanent archive.

Please contact Steven Moore at [samoore@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:samoore@austin.utexas.edu) with any inquiries or interest into the proposed research project.

## Research Opportunities in Sustainable Purchasing



The [Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council](#) (SPLC) and the [EPA West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum](#) (WCCMMF) in the United States seek research support for their efforts to facilitate sustainable purchasing by governments, universities, and other large purchasers. Details about these opportunities are available by clicking this [link](#).

The SPLC is a not-for-profit organization that supports and recognizes purchasing leadership that accelerates the transition to a prosperous and sustainable future. The Council's programs and community of practice help institutional purchasers to 1) prioritize opportunities to influence the social, environmental, and economic life cycle impacts of purchased goods and services; 2) identify existing leadership standards and approaches that address these priorities; 3) benchmark progress toward goals; and 4) receive recognition for advancement.

The WCCMMF is an EPA-led partnership of western cities and states that are developing and sharing ways to integrate life cycle materials management policies and practices into climate actions. The Government Purchasing for Climate Protection Workgroup, a current project of the Forum, is a collaborative effort between west coast public institutions (local government and higher education) to identify the highest carbon impact categories of purchasing of goods and services, to develop a web-based toolkit to assist institutions in tackling these categories, and to institute pilots to measure the results of lower-carbon purchasing, as well as demand reduction strategies.

Key contacts:

SPLC: Christina Macken ([christina@sustainablepurchasing.org](mailto:christina@sustainablepurchasing.org) )

WCCMMF: Leslie Kochan ([lkochan.leslie@deq.state.or.us](mailto:lkochan.leslie@deq.state.or.us) )

## Report on the Conference "Coping with Scarcity" at CalTech

*Submitted by Richard Wilk*

The conference "[Coping with Scarcity: Energy Shortages, Food Crises, Drought, and Critical Materials in the Modern World \(c. 1800 to the present\)](#)" was convened under the auspices of the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Resnick Sustainability Institute at Caltech

on November 14-15. The event was organized by historians John Brewer and Frank Trentmann and included an interesting mix of people from many different disciplines including economics, history, engineering, resource management, sociology, and one lone representative of anthropology--namely me). Participants successfully avoided clashes of paradigms and arguments over vocabulary, though it turned out that "scarcity" means something different for an economist and a sociologist.



The case studies considered many kinds of shortages from wartime rationing to a lowering water-table, and the political nature of claims about scarcity was widely acknowledged. The conference included a number of contributions that will be of interest to SCORAI members, particularly:

- Fredrik Albritton Jonsson (University of Chicago), "The Origins of Cornucopianism: A Preliminary Genealogy"
- Heather Chappells (Saint Mary's University), "Everyday Encounters with Drought and the Dynamics of Disruption"
- Stephen J. Scanlan (Ohio University), "What Kind of Scarcity and for Whom? Justice, Sustainability, and the Global Dynamics of Food Insecurity"
- Hiroki Shin (University of Manchester) and Frank Trentmann (Birkbeck College, University of London), "Energy Shortages and the Reproduction of Social Life: Resilience, Redistribution, and 'Normality' in the Twentieth Century"
- Hugh Rockoff (Rutgers University), "The American Economy in World War II as a Model for Dealing with Climatic Disaster: Parallels and Pitfalls"
- Harry Atwater (Caltech), "Renewable Energy: A Story of Scarcity or Abundance?"

One paper of particular interest was:

- Giorgos Kallis (ICREA), "Limits without Scarcity" considered various approaches to setting limits on extraction and consumption before the existence of scarcity. Like many others at the conference, Kallis was very critical of approaches that depend on market mechanisms to regulate consumption, a topic I took up in my own paper entitled ["Rethinking Shortage, Poverty, and Hunger."](#) This led to an animated discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of different forms of regulation and management of common-pool resources.

The organizers are planning a publication--but in the meantime interested individuals can email the participants to ask for copies of their papers.

## Journal of Industrial Ecology Call for Papers: Special Issue





The Journal of Industrial Ecology is pleased to announce a call for papers for a special issue on

### Linking Local Consumption to Global Impacts.

For the full call for papers, please go to: <http://jie.yale.edu/jie-cfp-local-global>.

Globalization increases the interconnectedness of people and places around the world through markets, flows of capital, labor, services, information, and human migration. Goods and services consumed in one country are often produced in other countries and exchanged via international trade. As such, local consumption can have negative impacts on both the local and global environment, contributing to climate change, water scarcity, deforestation and other land conversions, all of which impact important ecosystem services. The goal of this special issue is to bring together different approaches including global supply and value chain analysis, material flow analysis, life-cycle assessment, integrated impact assessment, and social network analysis to account for and analyze drivers of globalization and their global environmental impacts and global inequalities in wealth by explicitly linking the local to the global.

Appropriate paper topics include:

- Theorizing, describing and analyzing the local to global links between consumption and production within their biophysical, socio-economic and institutional contexts
- Assessing how consumption and production impact the environment and society at different spatial and temporal scales
- Calculating the main environmental indicators (e.g. carbon, water, land, air pollution) and socio-economic indicators (e.g. jobs, value added, wealth distribution) for different development scenarios and strategies
- Synthesizing current datasets and performing analyses on trade-offs and win-win strategies towards a more sustainable future

**Submission deadline: January 15, 2015.**

Guest Editors

[Klaus Hubacek](#), University of Maryland College Park, USA

[Kuishuang Feng](#), University of Maryland College Park, USA

[Bin Chen](#), Beijing Normal University, China

[Shigemi Kagawa](#), Kyushu University, Japan

The Journal of Industrial Ecology is an international peer-reviewed bimonthly, owned by Yale University, headquartered at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, and published by Wiley-Blackwell.

## Job Announcements and Other Opportunities



HARVARD Kennedy School

**MOSSAVAR-RAHMANI CENTER**  
for Business and Government

*Sustainability Science Program*

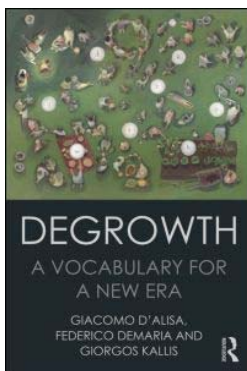
**Sustainability Science Fellowships at Harvard University: Doctoral, Post-doctoral, and Mid-career Fellowships**

The Sustainability Science Program at Harvard University invites applications for resident fellowships

in sustainability science for the academic year beginning in September 2015. This year's competition is focused on three thematic areas related to energy and sustainability. We are seeking applications

focusing on: 1) decarbonizing energy systems in the European Union; 2) designing, developing, and/or implementing sustainable energy technologies and policies in China; and 3) the impacts of fossil fuel subsidies on economic, environmental, and health indicators and the actions that can be taken to reduce them. The fellowship competition is open to advanced doctoral and post-doctoral students, and to mid-career professionals engaged in research or practice to facilitate the design, implementation, and evaluation of effective interventions that promote sustainable development. The thematic areas are led by Professors Henry Lee and Joseph Aldy. The Program is also open, however, to strong proposals in any area of sustainability science. In addition to general funds available to support this fellowship offering, special funding for the Giorgio Ruffolo Fellowships in Sustainability Science is available to support citizens of Italy, China, or developing countries who are therefore especially encouraged to apply. For more information on the fellowships application process click [here](#). Applications are due **February 2, 2015** and decisions will be announced in March 2014.

## New Publications



Giacomo D'Alisa, Federico Demaria, and Giorgos Kallis, eds., *Degrowth: A Vocabulary for a New Era* (New York: Routledge, 2014).

### Summary

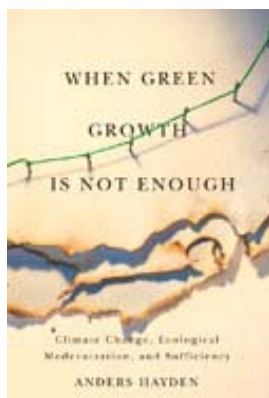
Degrowth is a rejection of the illusion of growth and a call to repoliticize the public debate colonized by the idiom of economism. It is a project advocating the democratically-led shrinking of production and consumption with the aim of achieving social justice and ecological sustainability. This overview of degrowth offers a comprehensive coverage of the main topics and major challenges of degrowth in a succinct, simple and accessible manner. In addition, it offers a set of keywords useful for intervening in current political debates and for bringing about concrete degrowth-inspired proposals at different levels--local, national and global. The result is the most comprehensive coverage of the topic of degrowth in English and serves as the definitive international reference. More information is at [vocabulary.degrowth.org](http://vocabulary.degrowth.org). Watch the [promotional video](#) and click [here](#) for purchase options.

Robert Boyer, "Sociotechnical Transitions and Urban Planning A Case Study of Eco-Cohousing in Tompkins County, New York." *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 34(4):451-464 (2014).

### Abstract

The sociotechnical transitions framework describes how novel practice emerges from marginal "niche" contexts to the mainstream. Scholars of various fields have used sociotechnical transitions to explain processes of structural change for sustainability, yet little research examines the role of local plans or planners in transition processes. The author offers an in-depth case study following the evolution of an eco-cohousing model from its grassroots origins to its current application in the housing market of Ithaca, New York. Planners used existing planning documents to translate innovative practices to the public, defying assumptions of the rational-linear model still common in planning scholarship. Get the full article [here](#).





Anders Hayden. *When Green Growth is Not Enough: Climate Change, Ecological Modernization, and Sufficiency* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014).

### Summary

Is the pursuit of endless economic growth compatible with the deep reductions in greenhouse gas emissions required to avoid the worst extremes of climate change? In *When Green Growth Is Not Enough*, Anders Hayden analyzes the political battle between three competing approaches to this question and how it has played out in Canada and Britain.

Defenders of the "business-as-usual" approach reject climate action as too costly and in conflict with economic growth, while downplaying the severity of climate change. Supporters of ecological modernization, or "green growth," on the other hand, aim to use technology and efficiency to delink economic expansion from emissions and find business opportunities through environmental action. While mainstream debate has focused on these two pro-growth models, Hayden pays particular attention to the struggles and limited inroads of a third, more radical perspective: the idea of sufficiency, which challenges the continued growth of production and consumption in the already-affluent global North and asks, How much is enough? Drawing on interviews, participation in climate-related events, and analysis of key documents, Hayden shows the role these paradigms have played in Britain, one of the world's leaders in climate reform, and in Canada, a nation at the bottom of international climate change rankings.

Rich in detail, *When Green Growth Is Not Enough* is a lively account of the theory and real-world politics of climate action. Get the book [here](#).

## Upcoming Conferences



### 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 the Global Cleaner Production & Sustainable Consumption 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 Global Cleaner Production & Sustainable Consumption 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. [Visit the conference website.](#)



**FUTURES STUDIES TACKLING  
WICKED PROBLEMS:**  
Where futures research,  
education and action meet  
11–12 June 2015, Turku, Finland

### **Futures Studies Tackling Wicked Problems: Where Futures Research, Education and Action Meet .** June 11-12, 2015, Turku, Finland

This conference leads the way in combining academic conference tradition with new ways of participation. We are happy to organize a forum for the philosophies, ideas, methods and concrete examples of what's happening on the field of futures thinking and acting. Sub-themes: Philosophy of Futures Studies; Methodologies; Futures Education and Learning; Studies on Futures Research; Evolving Identity of Futures Research; Futures Movement and New Creative Cultures. [Visit the conference website.](#)



### **Our Common Future Under Climate Change** July 7-10, 2015, Paris, France

This four-day conference is the largest forum for the scientific community to come together ahead of the [COP21 of the UNFCCC in 2015](#). The Conference will address key issues concerning climate change in the broader context of global change. Organized around [daily themes](#), the Conference focuses on moving from present knowledge to future solutions.

[Visit the conference website.](#)



### **Funded Workshop: Climate Change Policy and Governance: Initiation, Experimentation and Evaluation**

March 12-13, 2015, Helsinki, Finland

This workshop takes a fresh look at what can be learned from experiments and attempts at experimentation in the context of climate change governance. The focus is on experimenting as a broader societal/governance phenomenon and on the ways experiments materialize and challenge existing policies, practices and regulatory systems. This fully funded workshop encourages exploration of experiments from many different angles with the aim to catalyse thinking about experiments, processes of experimentation and the use of experiments. It is expected to bring together new empirical and theoretical analyses. The workshop welcomes theoretical papers, methodological papers, conceptual and empirical studies, or combinations thereof. The aim is to eventually publish the contributions presented at the workshop, subject to normal review process, as a special issue in a suitable journal. [Visit the workshop website.](#)



## From Contention to Social Change: Rethinking the Consequences of Social Movements and Cycles of Protests

ESA Research Network on Social Movements - Midterm Conference

February 19-20, 2015, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain

A considerable amount of recent research has been devoted to the effects of mobilization with the intent of specifying how social movements produce social changes of various sorts. Political outcomes - including the responsiveness of decision-makers - have been studied the most, but scholarly interest in other types of effects is also growing. Among the effects that have drawn the attention of scholars are the changed behavior of economic actors and market institutions (economic effects); opinions, beliefs and collective identities of the movements' participants and of their audience (cultural impacts); as well as variations in the life-course of individuals who participate in movement activities (biographical consequences). Sometimes these effects are intentional and sometimes not. In fact, on occasion they are contrary to the aims of those who produce them. Still, it is clear that contentious actions - whether they take the form of small local petitions, large street demonstrations or transnational campaigns mobilized on-line - transcend the internal life of social movements and have an influence on the rest of society. [Visit the conference website.](#)



## 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 submission deadline for abstracts for the 11th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics has been extended to December 14th. The overarching theme of the conference is "Transformations", and the conference topics include: (1) post-growth economics; (2) natural resources, ecosystem services and environmental quality; (3) development, consumption and well-being; (4) power, politics, institutions and the reality of achieving change; (5) new business models and understandings of human behaviour; and (6) theory, methods and practice of ecological economics. [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.](#)

## New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month which brings our total number to 709.

Nurwati Badarulzaman  
Jessica Bede  
Luca Casetti  
Matthew Daly  
Sunayana Ganguly  
Vibeke Myrtue Jensen  
Erin Kennedy  
Fredy Lopez  
Jixia Lu  
Ahmad Mahdavi  
Xanat Vargas Meza  
Aviad Oren  
Ida Nilstad Pettersen  
Alex Pont  
Jakub Rok  
Dave Schmetterer  
Christy Shelton  
Viki Sonntag  
Kwok Yingchen  
Dunfu Zhang

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