



Cohen, Maurie <mcohen@njit.edu>

# Your campaign SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative) has been sent

1 message

Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com>

Mon, Feb 2, 2015 at 9:02 AM

To: mcohen@adm.njit.edu



Dear SCORAI Maurie Cohen,

Your campaign 'SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)' was sent on 02/02/2015 around 09:00 AM EST.

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**Subject:** SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)



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## February 2015

Dear SCORAI,

We are happy to share with you another newsletter packed full of scholarly activities related to sustainable consumption. As a result of SCORAI's growing global community and partnership-building, you'll notice that we have included overviews of what's happening with the different SCORAI networks in Europe, China, and North America.

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Catie, Debbie, & Maurie

## Summary of SCORAI Europe Activities for 2015



### EUROPE

Submitted by Marlyne Sahakian, Frances Fahy, Sylvia Lorek, and Audley Genus

SCORAI Europe is anticipating an extremely busy year in 2015! First, the University of Lausanne was awarded a three-year grant by the Sustainable Development at Universities Programme

of the Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences to promote sustainable consumption research and teaching in Switzerland. The first milestone was a SCORAI Europe workshop in December 2014, co-hosted by Marlyne Sahakian and Suren Erkman of the University of Lausanne and Antonietta Di Giulio of the University of Basel, with the goal of taking stock of existing research and complementary approaches. The workshop proceedings will be made available over the next few weeks, including the identification of areas for future research related to the themes: energy and food consumption, the solidaristic economy, and the good life. In the coming years, the research team will be working with SCORAI Europe to strengthen the sustainable consumption research community in Switzerland, building on our European network. We will also release initial results from a benchmarking exercise on sustainable consumption teaching around the world.

Second, SCORAI Europe will also be holding a one day workshop on May 23 at the National University of Ireland (NUI), Galway. The workshop is open to all SCORAI members and the roundtable discussion will offer opportunities to reflect on the discussions and outputs from previous SCORAI events with a view to informing future activities and potential research proposals. This workshop will be organized by the CONSENSUS researchers at NUI Galway (see <http://www.consensus.ie>). The event follows the second CONSENSUS international sustainable consumption conference on the theme of "Sustainable Consumption Transformations: Implementation and Impacts." This two-day conference is funded by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency and will take place on May 21-22 at NUI Galway.

Third, we expect that lots of SCORAI scholars will be in Barcelona in November for the conference being organized by Elsevier to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the *Journal of Cleaner Production*. Back to back with this event, SCORAI Europe will be convening a workshop open to sustainable consumption researchers from other global regions, especially from Asia and Latin America. Stay tuned for more information in coming months!

Finally, an edited book from the SCORAI Europe workshop held in London in September is now in preparation and due for publication by Springer in 2015. Edited by Audley Genus, the volume will feature contributions from workshop participants and carries the provisional title of *Sustainable Consumption: Perspectives, Design, and Practice*.

## Summary of SCORAI China Activities for 2015

*Submitted by Lei Zhang*

[SCORAI China](#) was launched in November 2014 at a workshop at Renmin University on the theme of "Sustainable Consumption Research in China." This event was also the first working meeting of the small group of researchers who have been active in the field of sustainable consumption in China. In following up on the strong interest displayed by the workshop participants, SCORAI China will be pursuing activities in the coming year with respect to organizational development, information sharing, and project acquisition.



First, in terms of organizational development, SCORAI China is not currently an officially registered organization in China, but operates as regional network of SCORAI. A more formal organizational form may be required in the future as SCORAI China begins to develop its membership and to independently organize events. We plan to explore several options in 2015:

- 1) To create a research center on sustainable consumption within Renmin University that would also function as the secretariat of SCORAI China
- 2) To seek cooperation with the existing Environmental Sociology Research Institute at Renmin University and to develop links to its network
- 3) To serve as a contact point of SCORAI in China and to urge Chinese researchers to become affiliates of SCORAI.

Second, SCORAI China will gather and share via the SCORAI website information on sustainable consumption studies in China. Participants who attended the workshop at Renmin University last year will be encouraged to introduce new members to the network, to contribute their knowledge and insights on sustainable consumption in China, and to participate in activities organized by SCORAI. We will be seeking to recruit researchers in different regions and provinces in China to serve as local contact points.

Finally, it is more feasible to support the activities of SCORAI China with funding from projects and we are currently teaming up with various partners including the Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) in Germany and are planning to submit a proposal to the National Social Science Fund of China during the second half of 2015.

Other SCORAI-ers interested in sustainable consumption research in China are encouraged to contact me at [lllei63@hotmail.com](mailto:lllei63@hotmail.com).

## Summary of SCORAI North America Activities for 2015



The coming year promises to be a busy one for SCORAI North America. The [colloquium series](#) on "consumption and social change" that began last year continues in Boston through the early part of 2015. The January meeting welcomed Erik Olin Wright to discuss "[Transcending Capitalism and Consumerism through Real Utopias](#)." A video of the session is available via the [SCORAI website](#) or can be directly accessed from [here](#). The two remaining sessions in the colloquium will feature George Ritzer (on February 11) and Dorothy Holland (on March 11). All

SCORAI-ers based in the Boston area or traveling through town are welcome to attend. If you plan

to join please send an email to Ruby Woodside at [rwoodside@clarku.edu](mailto:rwoodside@clarku.edu) as space is limited.

The colloquium will move toward conclusion with a workshop in October designed to synthesize lessons learned and to open up new issues for consideration on the general topic of consumption and social change. The final event associated with this stream of activity will be a conference in June 2016 (stay tuned for more details in coming weeks!).

In October of last year, SCORAI North America convened a workshop in collaboration with the [Urban Sustainability Directors Network](#), the [West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum](#), and the [City of Eugene](#) (Oregon) on "[The Role of Cities in Advancing Sustainable Consumption](#)." The outcomes of this event were profiled in a subsequent [webinar](#) and plans for follow-up programs and projects are currently under active development. SCORAI-ers interested in the interface between municipal planning and sustainable consumption are encouraged to contact a member of the SCORAI Executive Board.

In partnership with the University of Vermont, Clark University, and the Helmholtz Alliance ENERGY-TRANS Program, SCORAI North America is sponsoring a workshop on "Energy Transitions and Sustainable Consumption" that will be held in Luxembourg in June. The goal of this event is to co-develop a research agenda connecting research on sustainable consumption with scholarship on energy transitions, to consider policy making and implementation at this intersection, to analyze how a major energy transition can also facilitate changes in consumption patterns, and to initiate collaborative research projects.

Finally, the publisher Edward Elgar will be releasing later this year a second book conceived under the auspices of SCORAI North America. Edited by Emily Huddart Kennedy, Maurie Cohen, and Naomi Krogam, the volume is entitled *Putting Sustainability into Practice: Advances and Applications in Sustainable Consumption Research*. The book brings together several papers originally presented in sessions on social practice theory at the SCORAI conference at Clark University in 2013 and also includes a number of other invited contributions.

## Sustainable Consumption Webinar Series



## West Coast Climate & Materials Management Forum

The [West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum](#) hosts an annual webinar series featuring speakers who are experts in the field of climate change, sustainable materials management, life cycle analysis, sustainable consumption and production, and other relevant areas. The webinar series is intended to get participants thinking and talking about new strategies for achieving environmental goals.

The January webinar focused on "Measuring Public Attitudes about Consumption" and featured Wendy Philleo (Executive Director of the [Center for a New American Dream](#)) and Tom Bowerman (Project Director of [PolicyInteractive](#)). Participants discussed the national survey that the Center for a New American Dream conducted last year on attitudes about wealth, sharing, materialism, and more. They found some important shifts in America's consumption patterns and a strong foundation for a more sustainable approach. This webinar explored these survey results and how they compare to similar polling on issues of well-being, climate change, and consumption. A recording of the video is available [here](#).

The next installment of the webinar series is on February 10 (9:30-11am Pacific Standard Time) and

and will discuss "Food: Too Good to Waste-Success and Lessons from Communities." The webinar will feature Ashley Zanolli (USEPA Region 10), Viki Sonntag (Food to Good to Waste Lead Researcher), Karen May (King County (Washington State) Solid Waste Division), Jennifer Jordan (Iowa City Landfill and Recycling Center), and Dave Rocheleau (Rhode Island Food Policy Council). Advance registration is required by filling out the form available [here](#).

Complete information about the webinar series is available on the website of the [West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum](#).

## SCORAI Colloquium Series on Consumption & Social Change: Summary of Session with Erik Olin Wright

The [SCORAI Colloquium Series on Consumption and Social Change](#) resumed in January after a holiday break with a presentation by sociologist [Erik Olin Wright](#) on the topic of "Transcending Capitalism and Consumerism through Real Utopias." This work is derived from a multi-year project that he has led to develop a conceptual framework for the pragmatic consideration of alternative futures.



Wright's presentation was a customized reconsideration of remarks that informed his presidential address a few years ago at the annual conference of the American Sociological Association and focused on advancing a theory of "emancipatory social science." He asserted that the expansion of markets and pressures for endless growth in material consumption are not contingent features of a dynamic capitalist economy but are instead intrinsic to an economy rooted in the competitive drive for profits and capital accumulation.

He argued that any serious effort to counteract systemic consumerism must also attempt to transcend capitalism. While capitalism has become more destructive both to the lives of people and the health of the environment, it seems to most observers to be an unalterable force of nature or to be backed by unassailably powerful social forces. Social democratic hopes of taming capitalism by neutralizing its harmful effects through decisive state regulations have been undermined by the globalization and financialization of capital. Wright went on to claim that evolutionary ambitions of smashing capitalism through a ruptural seizure of state power, a coercive dissolution of capitalist institutions and their replacement by an emancipatory alternative, lack credibility. Are there other ways to proceed?

Wright outlined a different route, one that points beyond capitalism and that seeks to erode capitalism by building emancipatory alternatives in the spaces and cracks within capitalist economies and struggling to defend and expand those spaces. This approach will resonate with many SCORAI-ers as it strikes close to the notion of "strategic niche management" that has figured prominently in work on sociotechnical transitions of production-consumption systems over the past two decades.

A video of Erik Olin Wright's presentation is available [here](#). Downloadable recordings of material from prior SCORAI colloquium sessions featuring **David Snow, Claus Offe, John Sterman, Juliet Schor, and Doug Holt** are accessible on the [SCORAI website](#). A full schedule of future meetings is also posted.

## SSPP Call for Papers



The editors of [Sustainability: Science Practice, & Policy](#) (SSPP) invite submission of papers for publication. In recognition of completing the tenth volume of SSPP, the regular publication fee is being waived for authors who have previously published articles in the journal. Manuscripts submitted on this basis will be reviewed in the regular manner and to qualify must be received before June 1, 2015.

SSPP, a peer-reviewed, open-access journal, publishes original research, case studies, and policy analyses intended for scientists and practitioners interested in solving sustainability problems. Articles can address sustainable or unsustainable human practices. They should emphasize new knowledge that their analyses reveal and discuss potential solutions or innovative practices. These articles should be timely, informative, and written in a clear, accessible style. Sustainable consumption has over the years been a prominent focus for consideration in the journal.

Read the latest Fall 2014 issue and recently published articles [here](#).

Prospective contributors are invited to visit the SSPP website and to review the information under the [For Authors](#) tab regarding guidelines and submission instructions.

## New Film Explores the Intersection of Consumerism and Immigration in American Culture

[XMAS WITHOUT CHINA](#) is an intimate portrait of families wrestling with our drive to consume cheap products, but also with our desire for human connection and a sense of who we are in a fast-changing world.

Pride and mischief inspire Chinese immigrant Tom Xia to challenge the Americans in his Southern California suburb to celebrate Christmas without any Chinese products. With deep ties to his extended family back home, Tom is incensed by how he considers China is misunderstood, particularly by the American media. But he gets more than he bargains for when he meets the Joneses, a young family trying to keep their children safe as a wave of Chinese toy recalls forces them to have their son tested for lead poisoning.



The Joneses start to give up not just toys, plates, lamps, and clothes, but the beloved hair dryer, coffeemaker, X-box, and many Christmas decorations, challenging the way they live everyday life and how they celebrate Christmas. Meanwhile, Tom's parents are constructing a new home, proudly using Chinese materials to build their American dream. As they decorate for Christmas for the first time and the interactions between the Xias and the Joneses intensify, Tom realizes that he's on a deeper journey to understand the complexities of his own divided loyalties between America and China.

[Watch the trailer here](#)

## Future Earth and ISSC Call for Proposals



A new long-term vision to address today's great challenges of global environmental change and sustainability via enduring social transformations and social change is being launched with an initial 2.7 M € three-year commitment from the International Social Science Council.

The ISSC and its partners are inviting applications for proposals for Transformative Knowledge Networks for the recently launched [Transformations to Sustainability Programme](#). Three Transformative Knowledge Networks will each be supported with up to €900,000 over three years.

The Transformations to Sustainability Programme seeks to address global sustainability challenges by supporting research on the complex processes of social transformation needed to secure effective, equitable and durable solutions. It will enable social scientists to develop knowledge networks that will both strengthen social science leadership in global change and sustainability research and to foster on-the-ground progress towards greater sustainability.

The Knowledge Networks will be led or co-led by social scientists in low- and middle-income countries, and will involve the relevant academic disciplines, as well as societal stakeholders, in truly co-designed and co-implemented solutions-oriented research.

More information is available [here](#).

## Update on Sustainable Built Environment (SBE) Series



The Sustainable Built Environment (SBE) series of conferences began in 2000, operates on a three-year cycle and now includes four international organizations as co-owners:

- *International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction* (CIB, [www.cibworld.nl](http://www.cibworld.nl))
- *International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment* (iiSBE, [www.iisbe.org](http://www.iisbe.org))
- *Division of Technology, Industry and Economics* (DTIE) of the *United Nations Environment Programme* (UNEP-SBCI, *Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative*, [www.unep.org/sbcil/](http://www.unep.org/sbcil/))
- *International Federation of Consulting Engineers* ([www.fidic.org](http://www.fidic.org))

The SBE conference series is unique in its mix of plenary presentations and refereed papers on sustainable building and construction. Each event has its own special themes, but all reflect the wide

concerns of sustainability, including sustainable consumption and production. Current efforts are focused on organizing the 2016 national/regional events, and so far 17 countries have either been selected or are preparing proposals. The global event will take place in Hong Kong in 2017.

For information, contact:

Nils Larsson, FRAIC  
 Representative for the SBE series co-owners  
 CIB, iisBE, UNEP-SBCI and FIDIC  
 email: [larsson@iisbe.org](mailto:larsson@iisbe.org)

## Response to the Updated Planetary Boundaries Analysis in Science



With analysis of Planetary Boundaries updated in Science recently, Adrian Smith from the Science Policy Research Unit and STEPS Centre at Sussex University recalled responses to an earlier generation of earth systems science that emphasized issues of values and power. The team behind the Latin American World Model argued for quite a different approach to navigating boundaries and delivering environmentally sustainable and socially just development. Responses to the current analysis might similarly consider initiatives that pilot alternative possibilities now.

Read the response [here](#).

## Special Issue of *Management Revue* Perspectives on Sustainable Consumption

The problem of sustainability has received serious attention since the Club of Rome pointed to the limits of growth in 1972. Addressing ecological, economic and social issues, it is still a major - perhaps the biggest - challenge humanity faces. The problem demands attention by actors from all social levels. On the micro-level, sustainable consumption is often regarded as the major way how individual consumers can contribute to sustainable development. By now a growing number of people are aware that many consumption habits have to be changed because they are in conflict with the goal of sustainable development. Yet, there is a gap between knowledge and action. Much research has been done in the last 30 years on sustainable consumption, exploring the motivations, practices, opportunities, and drivers for sustainable consumption from economic, psychological and sociological perspectives. Despite this multidisciplinary effort and the often interdisciplinary nature of research on sustainable consumption, there is room for broadening the perspectives further. In particular, the link between political participation and sustainable consumption as a political statement as well as the link between various forms and objectives of political consumption deserves more attention. Further, the impact of societal inequality on sustainable consumption has not gained much attention. Especially research on the interaction between inequality, issues of security and precariousness, political participation and consumption behavior is lacking.

**management  
 revue**

In the special issue and the corresponding seminar (IUC Dubrovnik, <http://www.iuc.hr/>, 20-24 April 2015), we would like to discuss our topic in an adequately broad and interdisciplinary way. We are particularly interested in questions such as:



- Inequality (e.g., precariousness) and sustainable consumption
- Citizenship and consumption
- Sustainable consumption as a political statement
- Quantitative and qualitative empirical studies on these issues

This is not an exhaustive list.

### Deadline

Potential contributors to the **seminar at the IUC Dubrovnik** are encouraged to submit an **abstract of 1-2 pages before February 7th, 2015** electronically via Management Revue's online submission system at <http://www.management-revue.org/submission/> using 'IUC Dubrovnik' as article section.

All contributors to the seminar are invited to submit their paper for the **special issue of management revue**. **Full papers must be submitted by July 31, 2015**. All contributions will be subject to a double-blind review. Papers invited to a 'revise and resubmit' are due October 31, 2015. Please submit your papers electronically via the online submission system at <http://www.management-revue.org/submission/> using 'SI Sustainable Consumption' as article section.

## European Environment Agency Report: Waste Prevention in Europe

The European Environment Agency has published a new report entitled **Waste Prevention in Europe: The Status in 2013**. Preventing waste is a top priority of waste policy in the European Union with potential economic and environmental benefits. The Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) that set a legal obligation for European Union (EU) Member States to adopt waste prevention programmes by 12 December 2013. The European Environment Agency (EEA) has been asked to review the progress of the 'completion and implementation of the programmes' annually. This report presents a first review of waste prevention programmes across Europe.

The report is available [here](#).

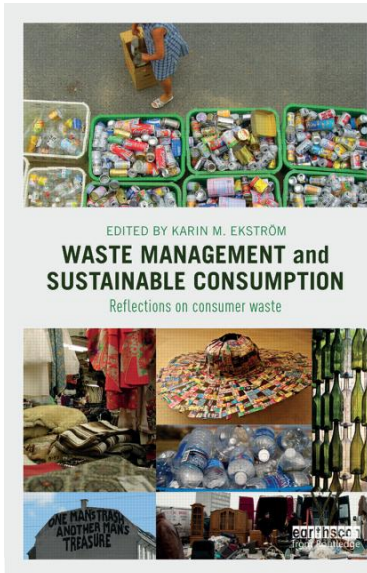


## New Publications

Ekström, Karin M., ed. 2014. *Waste Management and Sustainable Consumption: Reflections on Consumer Waste*. New York: Routledge.

The accelerated pace of global consumption over the past decades has meant that governments across the world are now faced with significant challenges in dealing with the dramatically increased volume of waste.

While research on waste management has previously focused on finding technological solutions to the problem, this book uniquely examines the social and cultural views of waste, shedding new light on the topic by emphasising the consumer perspective throughout. Drawing on a wide variety of disciplines including environmental, economic, social and cultural theories, the book presents philosophical reflections, practical examples and potential solutions to the problem of increasing



waste. It analyses and compares case studies from countries such as Sweden, Japan, the USA, India, Nigeria and Qatar, bringing out valuable insights for the international community and generating a critical discussion on how we can move towards a more sustainable society.

This book will be of great interest to post-graduate students and researchers in environmental policy, waste management, social marketing and consumer behaviour, as well as policymakers and practitioners in consumer issues and business. It includes chapter's from SCORAI affiliates Richard Wilk and Maurie Cohen.

Get a copy [here](#).

Kennedy, Emily H., Harvey Krahn, and Naomi T. Krogman. 2014. "Are we counting what counts? A closer examination of environmental concern, pro-environmental behaviour, and carbon footprint." *Local Environment*, 20(2):220-236.

behaviour, and carbon footprint." *Local Environment*, 20(2):220-236.

Three parallel lines of inquiry regarding individuals' support for the environment have developed within the environmental social sciences. These include individuals' concern for the environment, research on private sphere pro-environmental behaviour (PEB), i.e. household actions seeking to improve the environment (e.g. buying better light bulbs), and more recently, ecological and carbon footprints. Researchers have noted that the correlates of this third form of support for the environment are not necessarily the same as the predictors of the first two forms. Using Canadian survey data, this study examines the relationships among, and predictors of, all three forms. Evidence that there is not a link between private sphere PEB and household carbon footprints, and that measures of socio-economic status (education and income) have different effects on different types of support for the environment, invites a discussion of whether environmental social scientists are really counting what counts.



Get the article [here](#).



Graugaard, Jeppe. 2014. *Transforming Sustainabilities: Grassroots Narratives in an Age of Transition*. PhD Thesis. University of East Anglia.

This thesis investigates how sustainability transitions involve not only socio-technical change but a deeper transformation in the worldview(s) that underpin high consumption lifestyles. Building a theoretical understanding of how transformations in worldviews can be conceptualised and studied, it examines the way 'sustainability' is imagined, storied and enacted within the Dark

Mountain Project, a network of writers, artists and thinkers who inquire into cultural responses to social-ecological crises. The work shows how engaging with the beliefs and assumptions inherent to dominant meta-narratives can open up for new knowledges and actions to address the sustainability challenge.

Read more [here](#).

Hobson, Kersty. 2015. "Closing the loop or squaring the circle? Locating generative spaces for the circular economy." *Progress in Human Geography*.

Heightened concerns about long-term sustainability have of late enlivened debates around the circular economy (CE). Defined as a series of restorative and regenerative industrial systems, parallel socio-cultural transformations have arguably received less consideration to date. In response, this paper examines the contributions human geographical scholarship can make to CE

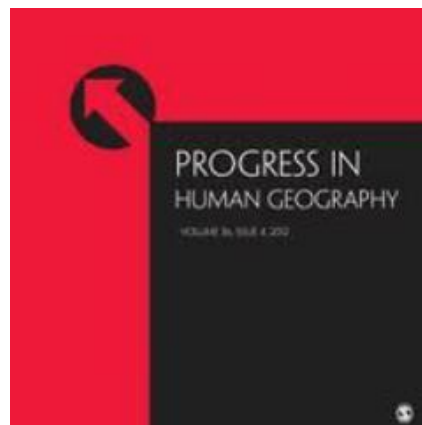
debates, focusing on 'generative spaces' of diverse CE practices. Concepts infrequently discussed within human geography such as product service systems and 'prosumption' are explored, to argue that productive potential exists in bringing these ideas into conversation with ongoing human geographical research into practices, materialities, emergent political spaces and 'everyday activism'.

Get the article [here](#).



Lorenz, Stephan. 2015. "Having no choice: Social exclusion in the affluent society." In: *Journal of Exclusion Studies* 5(1) (forthcoming)

The article discusses social exclusion in the affluent society. It suggests a change of perspective from the typical focus on the generation of income and resources to the opportunities of using them, from means to ends. Therefore, an updated conception of affluent society will be outlined first. It is centered on the importance of having access to a variety of options and freedom of choice. Then, corresponding social positions of relevance to analyses of inequality and marginalisation, namely having choices, having to make choices and having no choices, will be distinguished. Having no choices will be shown to be an analytical criterion for social exclusion. This will be illustrated by the empirical example of charitable assistance by food banks.



## Upcoming Conferences



### 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](#)

**PERL International Conference: A Decade of Responsible Living: Preparing, Engaging,**



## Responding and Learning

March 10-11, 2015, 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, roundtables, and so forth. Additionally, the conference will examine ways of contributing to processes leading to a more just and sustainable world for all.

[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](#)



**Where innovation starts**

### Biofuels and (ir)responsible innovation conference

April 12-14, 2015, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

For as long as biofuels have prominently appeared in EU policy, they have been a contested energy source. Crops such as jatropha have been hailed as a "wonder crop," only to experience an "extraordinary collapse" within a decade. From the food vs. fuel discussion to indirect land use change, wicked problems have plagued biofuel developments and continue to provoke disagreement between societal actors. The impacts of biofuels' tumultuous history have been felt particularly in the Global South, where land grabbing and opportunistic behaviour of investors have

caused great social and ecological problems. Proponents of biofuels claim that this is all the more reason to continue with investments and innovation: new sources of biofuels, such as plant residues and algae, will eventually solve all our problems. Given the great uncertainties and past harms, however, these claims should not be accepted lightly, nor should we assume that all encountered problems are technology-specific. Rather, we should realise that biofuels as a case study raise fundamental questions with regard to policy and governance, responsible innovation and sustainable development.

This conference is devoted to addressing these fundamental questions from a multidisciplinary perspective. As such, we welcome contributions from (but not limited to) the following disciplines: development studies; economics; environmental studies; ethics; policy studies; political ecology; science and technology studies and sociology.

[Visit the conference website](#)



**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.](#)



**EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR  
ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS**

**European Society of Ecological Economics 2015 Conference  
ESEE 2015: Transformations**  
June 30-July 3, 2015, Leeds, UK

Registration for the 11th International Conference of the European Society for Ecological Economics opens at the beginning of February. The overarching theme of the conference is "Transformations", and presentations will cover: (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, as well as over 30 special session themes.

[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](#)

OUR UNDER  
COMMON CLIMATE  
FUTURE CHANGE



**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](#)

## New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month which brings our total number to 742.

Ksenia Benifand  
Robert Douglass  
Asun Cano Escoriza  
John Frieslaar  
Eun-Sook Goidel  
Shula Goulden  
Meaghan Guckian  
Fan Guozhou  
Bridgett Luther  
Jennifer Ott-Rol  
Mary Lavelle  
Christine Parker  
Erik Poulsen  
Daniel Stewart  
Taylor Swaffield  
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