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SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)

1 message

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Mon, Jan 5, 2015 at 8:02 AM

**Executive Board****Jeffrey Barber**
Integrative Strategies Forum**Halina Brown**
Clark University**Maurie Cohen**
New Jersey Institute
of Technology**John Stutz**
Tellus Institute**Philip Vergragt**
Tellus Institute and Clark
University**January 2015***Dear (Contact First Name),*

We hope you had some time to relax over the holidays and are ready to dive into the latest news and publications of your SCORAI colleagues. Wishing you all the best in the new year!

Catie, Debbie, & Maurie

**Subscribe to
SCORAI:**[Listserv](#)[eNewsletter](#)**New Look for the SCORAI Website!**

The new year brings a new look to the [SCORAI website](#). Please check it out and send us your feedback. Special thanks to Tiy Chung, Philip Vergragt, and especially Sam Kaplan for work to make this happen! An entirely new section on educational resources is currently under construction and will be unveiled in a stepwise process over the course of the coming year.



SCORAI Europe Workshop

Summary submitted by Marlyne Sahakian



On December 8-9, SCORAI Europe hosted a workshop titled "**Sustainable consumption problem framing and research design: Can we be inter- and transdisciplinary and do we truly want to be?**" co-organized by Antonietta Di Giulio of the University of Basel's

Research Group Inter-/Transdisciplinarity and Marlyne Sahakian of the University of Lausanne's Industrial Ecology Group. Thirty-eight people attended the workshop, including SCORAI members from Europe, North America, and Asia, as well as researchers new to SCORAI. Approaches, blindspots and research questions were discussed in relation to three thematic areas: energy consumption (chaired by Audley Genus and Philip Vergragt); food consumption (chaired by Henrike Rau); the solidaristic economy (chaired by Maurie Cohen); and the "good life" (chaired by Antonietta Di Giulio and Daniel Fischer). Several research ideas emerged in relation to these themes, which will be further explored as part of a three-year project at the University of Lausanne to strengthen sustainable consumption research and teaching in Switzerland and with international partners. Prior to the workshop, a smaller group also discussed current best practices in "teaching sustainable consumption," as well as ideas for further supporting teaching at both the graduate and under-graduate level. After the workshop, a special session on "bringing participative methods to life" engaged participants in trying out research tools, such as role-playing and visioning toward more sustainable consumption. Conference proceedings will be available by February 2015. For more information about this workshop, please contact marlyne.sahakian@unil.ch.



SCORAI Colloquium Series on Consumption & Social Change

The SCORAI Colloquium series on Consumption & Social Change will resume later this month with Erik Olin Wright on January 21st. Wright, who is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will speak about proposals and models of radical social change, drawing on his Real Utopias Project.



For now, catch up on videos and other material from prior SCORAI colloquium sessions, featuring **David Snow**, **Claus Offe**, **John Sterman**, **Juliet Schor**, and **Doug Holt** - all available on the [SCORAI website](#). A full schedule of upcoming colloquium sessions in 2015 is also posted.

Job Announcements and Other Opportunities



**Stony Brook
University**

Graduate Assistantships for Doctoral Students in Energy-Environmental Systems Transitions and Science and Technology Diffusion

The Technology & Society Department at Stony Brook University invites applications from prospective PhD students to work in the areas of energy-environmental systems transitions and/or science and technology diffusion. These fellowships are part of a robust initiative to inform decision-making on modalities and inter-dependencies which define how change emerges and evolves. Such work could encompass topics such as the adoption of electric vehicles and the spread of Ebola. Desired experience/interests include bibliometrics, systems analysis (integrated case assessments, modeling, or statistical analysis), and work with intellectual property.

Funding for accepted students will cover 4 years with associated teaching assistantships. To learn more, visit <http://www.stonybrook.edu/est>.

For questions specific to the above research, prospective students should contact Dr. Kathy Araújo at kathleen.araujo@stonybrook.edu.

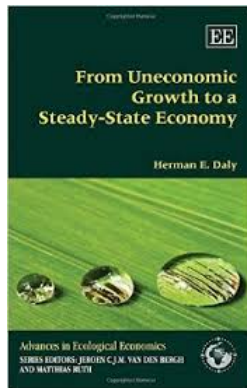
New Publications

Stephens, Jennie. 2015. *Smart Grid (r)evolution: Electric Power Struggles*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

The term "smart grid" has become a catch-all phrase to represent the potential benefits of a revamped and more sophisticated electricity system that can fulfill several societal expectations related to enhanced energy efficiency and sustainability. Smart grid promises to enable improved energy management by utilities and by consumers, to provide the ability to integrate higher levels of variable renewable energy into the electric grid, to support the development of microgrids, and to engage citizens in energy management. However, it also comes with potential pitfalls, such as increased cybersecurity vulnerabilities and privacy risks. Although discussions about smart grid have been dominated by technical and economic dimensions, this book takes a sociotechnical systems

perspective to explore critical questions shaping energy system transitions. It will be invaluable for advanced students, academic researchers, and energy professionals in a wide range of disciplines, including energy studies, environmental and energy policy, environmental science, sustainability science, and electrical and environmental engineering.

Get the book [here](#).



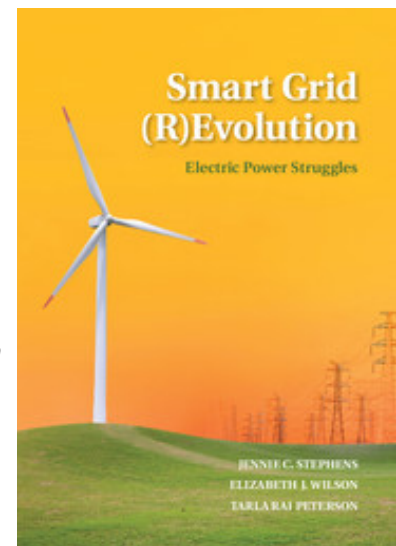
Daly, Herman E. 2015. *From Uneconomic Growth to a Steady-State Economy. Advances in Ecological Economics Series*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.

In this important book, Herman E. Daly lays bare the weaknesses of growth economics and explains why, in contrast, a steady-state economy is both necessary and desirable. Through the course of the book, Daly develops the basic concept and theory of a steady-state economy from the 1970s limits to growth debates. In doing so, he draws on work from the classical economists, through both conflicts and agreements with neo-classical and Keynesian economists, as well as recent debates on uneconomic growth.

Editorial-style policy essays substantiate Daly's argument and he provides specific application of steady-state economics to important current issues, including monetary reform, tax reform, international trade and population. The book also includes discussion and critique of ethical, as well as biophysical, presuppositions of growth.

From Uneconomic Growth to a Steady-State Economy is essential reading for academics, students and researchers in the fields of ecological economics, environmental studies, economic development, resource economics and public policy.

Get the book [here](#).



Call For Papers: Biofuels and (ir)responsible innovation



Where innovation starts

Eindhoven University of Technology, 13-14 April 2015

The first day of the conference will be devoted to scientific research; the second day will bring scientists in contact with policymakers and other societal stakeholders to discuss practical implications of the research presented.

Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. Jennifer Baka (the London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK)
- Dr. Atakilt Beyene (The Nordic Africa Institute, Uppsala, Sweden)

- Dr. Carol Hunsberger (University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, Canada)
- Dr. Lena Partzsch (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany)
- Dr. Joachim Spangenberg (UFZ Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Halle, Germany)

Background: 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.

Abstract submission: We welcome abstracts of no more than 500 words (excluding references) that connect at least two of the conference's themes: "biofuels and biofuel policy," "responsible innovation," and "sustainable development." The deadline for abstract submission is 1 February 2015; notification of acceptance will be sent out before 1 March 2015. Authors of accepted abstracts are expected to send us (first drafts of) their papers no later than 1 April 2015 so that we can circulate them among the conference attendees.

Abstracts and papers can be sent to the organisation at a.j.k.pols@tue.nl. As the conference is aimed at an interdisciplinary audience, please make sure that your abstract and presentation are accessible to non-specialists.

Participation: Participation in the conference is free of cost, but registration is required. You can register by sending an email to the organisation at a.j.k.pols@tue.nl. Please register no later than **March 15, 2015**.

Travel grants: A limited number of travel grants are available for researchers from developing countries and for non-tenured junior researchers, whose abstracts have been accepted for a presentation. If you would like to be considered for a grant, please contact the organisation at a.j.k.pols@tue.nl.

Website: Updates will be posted to the conference website. This website can be found under our project's website at http://w3.ieis.tue.nl/en/groups/tis/tis_education/ctdg/tdg_research/biofuel_research/.

Organisation: Evelien de Hoop, MPhil; dr. Auke Pols; dr. Henny Romijn (Eindhoven University of Technology).

New York Times Article on Sustainable Home

Exhausted by a House That Saves Energy: Was It Too Soon to Be Sustainable?



Warren, Vt. - Dotty Kyle and Eric Brattstrom had an ambitious vision for the home they would build when they sold their bed-and-breakfast here seven years ago and retired.

They were environmental and community advocates, so they wanted it to be as sustainable as possible - ideally net-zero, producing as much energy as it used. And because they would be living on a modest fixed income, they needed to make sure it was inexpensive to maintain.

But they didn't want to scrimp on luxury or size, so against their architect's advice they insisted on 5,000 square feet, enough space to accommodate all their children and grandchildren at the same time. And a \$30,000 hydraulic elevator, so they could age in place. And a separate apartment for the inevitable time when extra help was needed.

The indoor pool was just for fun.

[Continue reading the article here.](#)

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, 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.](#)



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.](#)

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



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

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

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.](#)



**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.](#)



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 724.

Kate Bailey
Megan Curtis-Murphy
Leonie Dendler
Louise Driffill
Joanna Dyer
Rebecca Freedman
Sabrina Gogol
Anna Jenkins
Gianna Lazzarini
Randi Mail
Tyler McCreary
Caroline Mitchell
Jacqueline Nguyen
Jordan Palmeri
Effie Papargyropoulou
Saskia Sanders
Hanna Selm
Linden Skjeie
Willi Zimmermann

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