



Cohen, Maurie <mcohen@njit.edu>

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

2 messages

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**Constant Contact** <support@constantcontact.com>  
To: mcohen@adm.njit.edu

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 9:59 AM



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Dear SCORAI Maurie Cohen,

Your campaign '**SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)**' was sent on 08/01/2014 around 09:58 AM EDT.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports [in your account](#) to get real-time results and stats.

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

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**August 2014**

Dear SCORAI,

Happy August, SCORAI-ers. We hope you are finding time for both work and play in these summer months and either enjoying or escaping the heat (if you think it's hot now, check out this [interactive map](#) that shows how hot US cities will be in 100 years!).

We always delight in reading about the activities of our SCORAI

colleagues and hope you do as well--keep up the good work!

All the best,  
Catie, Debbie, & Maurie

## Press Release: Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF-SPaC) Conference



### Fudan Tyndall Centre Hosts Second Biennial Conference of the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption

*Shanghai, People's Republic of China - June 27, 2014* - The Fudan Tyndall Centre, a joint initiative of the UK's Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, and the Research Institute for Global Environmental Change at Fudan University in Shanghai hosted the Second Biennial Conference of the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF-SPaC) on June 8-11 under the theme "Global Transitions to Sustainable Production and Consumption Systems."

The conference brought together more than 100 scholars and practitioners, representing 23 countries and all five continents, to consider the latest research in the field and connect with Chinese colleagues who have become increasingly active in drawing attention to the risks inherent in current domestic consumption and production trends.

The event featured four keynote presentations, two panel discussions, more than thirty parallel sessions, and a world café reflection session. Following opening remarks by Fudan University Vice Presidents Lin Shang-li and Feng Xiao-yuan, Philip Vergragt, co-founder of the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption, and Trevor Davies, co-director of the Fudan Tyndall Centre, the first keynote address was delivered by John Ashton, former Special Representative for Climate Change for the UK Office of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Ashton highlighted the domestic and global challenges associated with China's growing volume of material throughput and articulated his personal vision of a Chinese dream as a possible response.

Ashish Kothari, founder of the Indian environmental movement organization Kalpavriksh, discussed opportunities to advance

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sustainable consumption in ways consistent with radical notions of ecological democracy in his presentation.

William Rees, Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia, devoted his keynote address to exploring cultural propensity to deny the current conditions of global ecological overshoot and the social inequities of the dominant development pathway. He sought to derive inspiration from the Chinese concept of "ecological civilization" as a way to transcend current circumstances.

Finally, Dajian Zhu, Professor of Economics at Tongji University, outlined hopeful signs of a transition toward sustainable systems of production and consumption in China.

The focused parallel sessions covered both the width and depth of the conference theme, including presentations on the development of eco-cities in China and elsewhere, the creation of sustainable agro-food systems, the modeling of household energy use, the design of low-carbon innovations, and the facilitation of sustainable lifestyles. Other sessions considered business perspectives on sustainable consumption (and production), sustainable mobility, and carbon labeling. A particular emphasis on practitioner engagement was evident in presentations by leaders of sustainable consumption-related projects undertaken in China and Malaysia with financial support from the European Union-funded SWITCH Asia Network Facility. Another interesting series of sessions was devoted to food-waste recycling programs in large cities with special attention centered on community-based initiatives in Shanghai.

Co-chairs of the conference were Maurie Cohen (New Jersey Institute of Technology), Philip Vergragt (Tellus Institute and Clark University), Leonie Dendler (University of Manchester), Lin Shang-li (Fudan University), Trevor Davies (Fudan Tyndall Centre and University of East Anglia), Chen Shiyi (Fudan University), and Ren Yuan (Fudan University).

Conference sponsors included the [SWITCH Asia Network Facility](#), [Institute for Global Environmental Strategies \(Japan\)](#), [Tyndall Centre](#) (UK), [Tellus Institute](#) (United States), [New Jersey Institute of Technology](#) (United States), [OneEarth Initiative](#) (Canada), [World Resources Forum](#) (Switzerland), and [European Environment Agency](#).

For further information on the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption and its current and future activities, please visit <http://grf-spc.weebly.com>.

Contacts:

Leonie Dendler  
E-mail: [leonie.dendler@mbs.ac.uk](mailto:leonie.dendler@mbs.ac.uk)

Maurie Cohen  
E-mail: [mcohen@njit.edu](mailto:mcohen@njit.edu)

Philip Vergragt  
E-mail: [pvergragt@tellus.org](mailto:pvergragt@tellus.org)

## Spotlight on SCORAI Friends: Capital Institute



Despite its remarkable achievements during the 20th century, the economic system of

the past cannot continue into the future without a fundamental transition. The science is irrefutable. The exponential growth of compound investment returns and, by extension, the exponential growth of the economy's material throughput demanded by the financial system, has positioned our global economy on a collision course with the finite physical boundaries of the biosphere. At the same time, this relentless and narrow pursuit of exponential growth of returns on invested capital, without reference to universally acknowledged moral and ethical values, is contributing to an ever-widening and destabilizing wealth gap, and security crises around the globe.

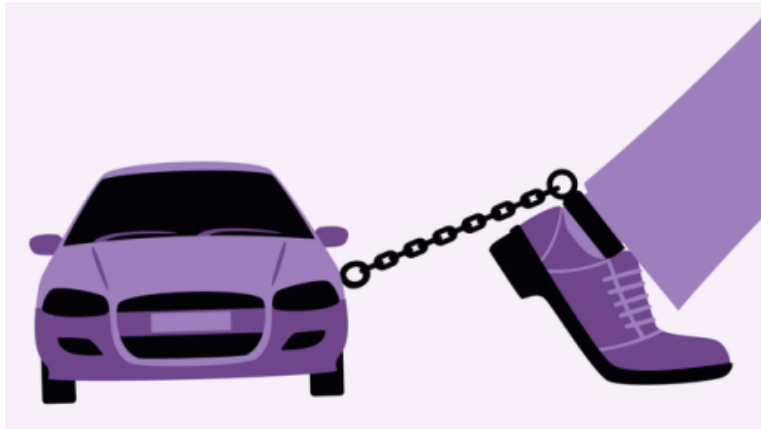
Our finance-driven economic system is in urgent need of a new story, with a new roadmap. This new story must be aligned with the laws (not theories) of natural systems and our current scientific understanding of how the world works, which is remarkably aligned with the compassion and mindfulness embodied in all wisdom traditions.

In close collaboration with visionary practitioners and a global network of transdisciplinary thought leaders, Capital Institute is working to tell this new story and to construct this new roadmap by diagnosing the financial system from within. Capital Institute is redefining wealth and reimagining finance in service of the emergence of an ecologically and socially regenerative economy that promotes equitable development and shared well-being while respecting vital ecosystem function.

Since its founding, Capital Institute has emerged as a provocative new voice grounded in a deep understanding of mainstream finance and become a sought-after and trusted new economy resource, committed equally to groundbreaking thought leadership, deep analysis of successful and transformative regenerative economy models, and the collaborative sharing of knowledge with partners and an expanding community around the world. Capital Institute is committed to sharing a new story to catalyze system transformation.

For further information on Capital Institute see  
<http://www.capitalinstitute.org>.

## Announcement on Post-Automobility



### Resource on Post-Automobility

SCORAI-er Esthi Zipori works on the topic of "post-automobility" and has developed an increasingly popular crowdsourcing resource that gathers together news articles and other informational bits on current efforts by urban planners, health advocates, and others to overcome current patterns of automobile dependency. She also maintains a website ([A Post-Automobile World](#)) that regularly posts new items pertaining to a transition beyond consumerist-propelled automobile reliance. Esther can be reached directly at [ezipori@gmail.com](mailto:ezipori@gmail.com).

## Special Issue of *Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy*



The Fall 2014 (Volume 10 Issue 1) issue of *Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy* is now available at <http://sspp.proquest.com>.

This special issue: **Applications and New Perspectives in Sustainable Consumption Research** provides a platform for considering sustainable consumption and related questions, wherein researchers engage in thinking about agents and strategies for change while drawing on a knowledge base brought here by communities of scholars, social and business innovators, and other engaged practitioners.

The issue begins with an editorial from **Halina Szejnwald Brown** (Clark University, USA) entitled, [The next generation of research on sustainable consumption](#).

Articles include:

- [Complementary currencies: what opportunities for sustainable consumption in times of crisis and beyond?](#)  
Marlyne Sahakian, *University of Lausanne, Switzerland*
- [Institutional change for strong sustainable consumption: sustainable consumption and the degrowth economy](#)  
Joachim Spangenberg, *UFZ Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany*
- [Conceptualizing sustainable consumption: toward an integrative framework](#)  
Antonietta Di Giulio, Daniel Fischer, Martina Schäfer, & Birgit Blättel-Mink, *University of Basel, Switzerland*
- [Going beyond efficiency: including altruistic motives in behavioral models for sustainability transitions to address sufficiency](#)  
Niko Schöpke & Felix Rauschmayer, *Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany*
- [How much is too much? A public opinion research perspective](#)  
Tom Bowerman, *Institute for Sustainability Education and Ecology, USA*

The issue also contains the Community Essay

- [Social norms, happiness, and the environment: closing the circle](#)  
John F. Helliwell, *University of British Columbia, Canada*

For more information about *Sustainability: Science, Practice, & Policy*, please access <http://sspp.proquest.com>.



## Special Updates on the upcoming Degrowth Conference in Germany

resourcecapcoalition



Between 2-6 September, at the Degrowth conference in Leipzig, Germany, CEEweb for Biodiversity and GreenDependent Institute, members of the Resource Cap Coalition in cooperation with the Absolute Reductions project are organizing two related events on 4 September.

In the morning, at a scientific session entitled Sustainable consumption: the chance for absolute reductions?, through presentations and a moderated discussion, organizers will attempt to answer questions like:

- Can absolute reductions in material throughput and energy use be achieved within a "reasonable" timeframe?

- Are there examples where reductions have been demonstrated?
- What structural changes would be needed in society; what institutions?
- What about regions or populations where consumption needs to increase to meet minimum needs of people?
- Is a new sustainability science approach needed?

In the afternoon, at the workshop on Respecting Planetary Boundaries While Enhancing the Well-being of All an even more interactive approach will be taken and through world café-type discussions researchers together with practitioners will address questions like:

- How would a quota scheme distributed to individuals effect every-day life?
- What are the pros and cons of using market-based instruments to regulate energy/resource use?
- Is the sustainable carbon footprint possible at the individual/household level? Can we imagine ourselves living with a sustainable footprint?
- How could decision-making by politicians be influenced more effectively in order to take steps towards equity as well as respecting planetary boundaries?

Registration for the Degrowth conference closes on 11 August, or sooner if 2,500 participants are reached. At the moment, 300 places are still available.

If you have questions about these events, please write to Sylvia Lorek (scientific session) or Edina Vadovics (workshop).

## GRF-SPaC Regional Workshop in Arequipa, Peru



The Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF-SPaC) is in the process of organizing a regional workshop in Arequipa, Peru, back-to-back with the global conference convened by the World Resources Forum on October 19-22. Information of this conference can be found [here](#).

This workshop is still under development; more information to follow. Please contact [pvergragt@tellus.org](mailto:pvergragt@tellus.org) if you are interested in participating or helping to organize.

## Job Announcements



**Lecturer/Associate Professor in  
Ecological Economics,  
Sustainability Research Institute**

We are looking for an enthusiastic and self-motivated ecological economist with relevant water-related research interests to develop and enhance links across water@leeds and to key stakeholders. You will be able to apply socio-economic analysis, valuation and/or modeling techniques to understand water and other environmental issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. You should have a PhD, research experience and publication track record relevant to the area and grade of the appointment. We particularly welcome candidates with the ability to bridge analysis and policy, and build research with relevant business and public sector stakeholders.

For more information on the job see [this posting](#).

Closing date: **August 20, 2014**.

**Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Centre  
for Sustainable Fashion,  
London College of Fashion**



This is a unique opportunity to develop and locate your post-doctoral research and practice within the research aims and remit of Centre for Sustainable Fashion, at London College of Fashion. You will develop and engage in practice based research projects, contributing to the developing profile of the Centre and College both nationally and internationally. This role will focus on practice led research relating to fashion design for sustainability and the development of related research methodologies. It may involve contributing to the development of curricula and student teaching and learning in these fields. The post will support outcomes and impacts of the College and contribute to its events as required.

More information available [here](#).

Closing date: **August 25, 2014**.

## Climate: An All-Consuming Problem

An *Anthropology News* Article by  
University of Maine Anthropology  
Professor, Cindy Isenhour

**The Mother of Them All**

Research in many of the world's  
most consumptive societies





suggests that large majorities are now aware of the ubiquitous "simple steps" individuals can take to "save the climate." These prescriptions-advanced by an unlikely coalition of environmentalists working to expand notions of personal responsibility and market advocates aiming to shift environmental governance from state regulators to market actors-encourage consumers to turn off the lights, turn down the thermostat, buy energy-efficient appliances and properly inflate tires.

Those who follow these simple steps are promised savings in direct energy use, a more rational lifestyle and reduced climate impact-a clear triple win. Certainly the approach makes sense given that it doesn't threaten contemporary lifestyles or the economy - and research suggests that there is significant untapped potential. In a 2013 study Laitner and his colleagues estimated that all but about a fifth of the energy we burn in the US is currently wasted.

The theory goes that ecological modernization doesn't have to hurt. Sweden, for instance, has achieved iconic international status for its efficiency gains, contributing to nearly a 75% reduction in the carbon intensity of their economy since 1972. Meanwhile, however, Swedish household expenditures have doubled in the last several decades, increasing market demand and contributing to a 40% increase in imports between 2000 and 2008. This trend is certainly not unique to Sweden but is common among wealthy, post-industrial nations. As such, efficiency gains are being rapidly outstripped by consumption. Efforts to reduce direct energy are certainly important, but households are also significant consumers of indirect energy-that which is embedded in the goods and services we buy (curtains from Bangladesh, cars from Korea, beef from Argentina, and plastic toys from China). While many goods are more efficient, using less energy per unit and saving consumers money, as long as consumers use those savings to buy more each year, the result will be net growth in energy use and emissions, regardless of our best intentions.

If we account for direct and indirect energy consumption, approximately three quarters of US energy use can be tied to the fulfillment of consumer demand. But it is also important to note that 17% of US GDP is associated with imports, all of which can be linked to energy consumption outside US borders and carbon pollution without borders. Similarly, state sponsored studies in Sweden and the UK have suggested that when consumption-based emissions are accounted for, their emissions inventories suggest fairly significant, consumer-driven contributions to a net increase in global emissions.

This growing recognition of the climate impact of consumption and the potential for environmental impacts beyond national borders led the European Environmental Agency to recently suggest that consumption is the "mother of all environmental issues," spawning and feeding global climate change, resource depletion, pollution and biodiversity loss alike....

....continue reading the next sections: *Transforming the Culture of Consumption and Anthropology, Material Culture and the Climate*

by clicking [here](#).

## New Publications



Feng, K., Pfister, S., Yang, Y., Hubacek, K. 2014. "Virtual water stress in China." *Environmental Science & Technology* 48 (14), pp 7704-7713.

### Abstract

Water footprints and virtual water flows have been promoted as important indicators to characterize human-induced water consumption. However, environmental impacts associated with water consumption are largely neglected in these analyses. Incorporating water scarcity into water consumption allows better understanding of what is causing water scarcity and which regions are suffering from it. In this study, we incorporate water scarcity and ecosystem impacts into multiregional input-output analysis to assess virtual water flows and associated impacts among 30 provinces in China. China, in particular its water-scarce regions, are facing a serious water crisis driven by rapid economic growth. Our findings show that inter-regional flows of virtual water reveal additional insights when water scarcity is taken into account. Consumption in highly developed coastal provinces is largely relying on water resources in the water-scarce northern provinces, such as Xinjiang, Hebei, and Inner Mongolia, thus significantly contributing to the water scarcity in these regions. In addition, many highly developed but water scarce regions, such as Shanghai, Beijing, and Tianjin, are already large importers of net virtual water at the expense of water resource depletion in other water scarce provinces. Thus, increasingly importing water-intensive goods from other water-scarce regions may just shift the pressure to other regions, but the overall water problems may still remain. Using the water footprint as a policy tool to alleviate water shortage may only work when water scarcity is taken into account and virtual water flows from water-poor regions are identified.

Get the full article [here](#).

Fischer, D., & Barth, M. 2014. "Key Competencies for and beyond Sustainable Consumption: An Educational Contribution to the Debate." *GAIA - Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society*, 23(S1), 193-200.

### Abstract

Sustainable consumption is a field characterized by complex system relations that do not allow prescribing easy solutions for changing consumer behavior. This paper provides an educational perspective



on the controversial debates that have evolved in GAIA and the broader scholarly literature about the roles and responsibilities of individuals in the context of sustainable consumption. We introduce an educational key competencies approach comprising of seven generic competencies, and argue that the promotion of key competencies is a transversal contribution to this debate, as it does not favor any particular normative position, but is relevant across all. We advocate for a more comprehensive and effective conception of an educational contribution to promoting sustainable consumption that goes beyond the narrow focus of training skills, providing information, and testing for results.

Get the full article [here](#).

## Upcoming Conferences



**The International Society for Ecological Economics**  
August 13-15, 2014 in Reykjavik, Iceland

ISEE is a not-for-profit, member-governed, organization dedicated to advancing understanding of the relationships among ecological, social, and economic systems for the mutual well-being of nature and people. ISEE International Biennial Conference: "Wellbeing and Equity Within Planetary Boundaries." [Visit the conference website.](#)



**4th Degrowth Conference**  
Leipzig, Germany, September 2-4, 2014

The focus of the 2014 conference is on concrete steps towards a society beyond the imperative of growth. The conference will give room for scientific debates, exchange between activists and economic pioneers as well as artistic approaches to the subject. Both scientific insights and concrete projects and policies will be presented, experimented with and discussed. It is part of an international cycle of events: so far, there have been conferences on degrowth in Paris 2008, in Barcelona 2010 and

in Venice and Montreal 2012. [Visit the conference website.](#)



## THE EUROPE WE WANT

17th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production

Research | Experience | Development

14.-16. October 2014 | Portorož, Slovenia

### The Europe We Want: 17th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

October 14-16, 2014, Slovenia

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



## World Resources Forum

### World Resources Forum

October 19-22, 2014, Arequipa, Peru.

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

GLOBAL CLEANER PRODUCTION  
AND SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION  
CONFERENCE

SITGES, BARCELONA, SPAIN

1-4 NOVEMBER

2015

### Global Cleaner Production & Sustainable Consumption Conference: Accelerating the Transition to Equitable Post Fossil-Carbon Societies

November 1-4, 2015, Sitges, Barcelona, Spain

Elsevier will host this conference to celebrate more than two decades of the Journal of Cleaner Production, with an international scientific team drawn from more than fifty regional and global sustainability networks. The conference is being designed to be holistic, integrative, trans-disciplinary, and trans-sectorial in nature. It will focus on strategic, and preventative concepts and approaches, which are being implemented to speed up the great transition to post-fossil carbon societies, and that are ecologically, ethically, socially, culturally, and

economically sustainable. methods, tools, policies, and examples being applied in different contexts (e.g. global warming, chemical pollution, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, water and food security, erosion of social systems, human population growth, and other sustainability challenges). [Visit the conference website.](#)

## New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month which brings our total number to 660.

Evelien Boonstoppel  
Emile Cavallo  
Fabrizio Ceschin  
Sophie Dubuisson-Quellier  
Holly Lahd  
Donnie Maclurcan  
Evelyn Markoni  
Magali Outters  
Iris Vidonne  
Helen Williams

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**Cohen, Maurie** <[mcohen@njit.edu](mailto:mcohen@njit.edu)>  
To: [tiy chung](mailto:tiy chung@gmail.com) <[tiy chung@gmail.com](mailto:tiy chung@gmail.com)>

Wed, Sep 24, 2014 at 4:53 PM

August...

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