



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

Mon, Jun 30, 2014 at 11:36 AM



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Dear SCORAI Maurie Cohen,

Your campaign '**SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)**' was sent on 06/30/2014 around 11:35 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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**July 2014**

Dear SCORAI,

The SCORAI community is as active as ever this summer. In this newsletter you will find new inspiration, collaborations, and paths for action. We already look forward to hearing more from you all next month!

All the best,  
Catie, Debbie, & Maurie

## New SCORAI Mission Statement - Revised -

### Our Mission

The Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) is a knowledge network of professionals working at the interface of material consumption, human well-being, and technological and cultural change. We aim to foster a transition beyond the currently dominant consumer society.

The network provides a forum for scholars and practitioners striving to understand the drivers of the consumerist economy in affluent technological societies; to formulate and analyze options for post-consumerist lifestyles, social institutions, and economic systems; and to provide the knowledge for emergent grassroots innovations, social movements, and public policies.

### Our Partners

The SCORAI network collaborates with several affiliated organizations. It is a founding member of the [North American Roundtable on Sustainable Production and Consumption \(NARSPAC\)](#) and a member of the [New Economy Coalition](#). International partners include [SCORAI-Europe](#) and the [Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption \(GRF-SPaC\)](#). The SCORAI network is actively involved in encouraging and facilitating development of sister organizations in China and other parts of the world and engages with the [United Nations Environment Agency](#) (formerly the United Nations Environment Programme) and its constituent programs.

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



### Global Research Forum On Sustainable Production and Consumption

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

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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 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>.

## Keynote at the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF-SPaC)



Keynote Summary: **Overcoming Denial: Toward an "Ecological Civilization"**

*William E. Rees, PhD, FRSC  
School of Community and Regional Planning  
University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, Canada*

### Setting the Stage

The goal of global economic development today is to maintain economic growth in ways that maximize economic production and consumption, i.e., by integrating national economies (globalization) and increasing factor productivity (technology); by exploiting cheap labour and ecosystems; and by capitalizing on economies of scale, free-market efficiencies, specialisation and trade, and corporate mergers. A major socio-economic effect is to generate unprecedented profits for a relative few, thus enabling economic and political elites to consolidate their positions of wealth and power while claiming to generate the revenues needed to repair 'the environment' and alleviate poverty. Market externalities (unaccounted costs) include the simplification of local economies, loss of community resilience, economic insecurity for many, unsustainable inter-dependences, plunging biodiversity, runaway pollution and accelerated ecological degradation to the point of 'overshoot'. This economic system (corporate capitalism) is ultimately socially and ecologically self-destructive since it exploits ordinary people, discounts social relationships, depletes natural capital and undermines the biophysical life-support functions upon which it depends, all without ending poverty. Indeed, unsustainability to the point of potentially irreversible

systems collapse, is an inevitable 'emergent property' of this or any other economic model based on continuous, parasitic exponential growth on a finite planet.

Now imagine an economic system structured to satisfy people's biophysical needs in ways that respect the dignity of individuals, nurture their home-places and social communities, diversify local economies and maintain the circular flows and functional integrity of connected ecosystems. Properly planned and regulated, the resulting socio-ecosystem system would optimise long-term population well-being through a combination of material sufficiency, regional self-reliance, economic security, relative equity, community resilience, and ecological stability. With maturity, growth would be restrained and the system ultimately brought into a dynamic 'steady-state' (continuing to improve qualitatively) at a population and material scale compatible with the regenerative and waste-assimilation capacities of supportive ecosystems. Such economies would be self-sustaining at both local and global levels so human communities could theoretically thrive indefinitely. Indeed, sustainability would be a natural 'emergent property' of this or any similar socio-economic system designed to nourish human and social capital while functioning as an integral, contributing component of local ecosystems and the ecosphere.

### The choice before us

The future of *H. sapiens* depends on whether the global community can transition successfully from today's growth-based consumptive economy as described in the first paragraph above, to the 'steady-state' eco-economy described in the second. The motivating logic (if not the switch itself) is simple-perpetual unequal growth is self-destructive; the equitable steady-state is self-perpetuating. The real question is whether modern humans are capable of overcoming deep cultural denial of reality and rising to their full, uniquely human potential. Success (a true 'ecological civilization' on Earth) demands high intelligence, inclusive morality, evidence-based policies and cooperative planning for the long-term common good. Failure (ignominious decline and collapse) requires little more than business-as-usual, the relentless playing out of short-term reptilian logic-continuous, competitive, self-interested material accumulation on a finite planet.

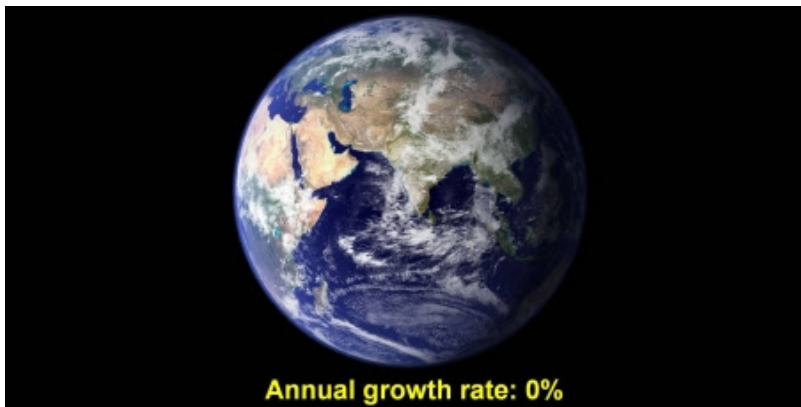
## GRF-SPaC Regional Workshop in Arequipa, Peru



GRF-SPaC is in the process of organizing a regional workshop in Arequipa, Peru, back-to-back with the global conference organized by the World Resources Forum on October 19 to 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 to participate or to help organize.

## **Endless growth on a finite planet? Demand economic alternatives! Petition for Research Funding for Non-growing Economies**



Check out more information on the petition [here](#) and watch this [youtube](#).

*A message from ecological economist Miklós Antal for the petition:*

Endless economic growth is not sustainable on a finite planet. This common sense argument is supported by strong scientific evidence. Major environmental problems that undermine human well-being - such as climate change, various types of pollution and the destruction of ecosystems - are largely driven by rising consumption that increases the use of natural resources.

However, current economies are dependent on growth. Too low or negative growth creates all sorts of economic and social problems. Rising unemployment, increasing poverty and mounting social tensions are just a few of these.

To resolve the conflict between environmental and socio-economic objectives, a new economic model is needed, one that is not based on growth. At a very minimum, we should try to reduce our dependence on growth. Given the severity of environmental problems and the fact that increasing wealth does not bring happiness above a certain threshold, one would assume that economists and other researchers are busily working on finding alternative economic models. They are not.

Currently, there is minimal research on growth dependence. Leading economists, for example, never question growth. The empty promise of politicians is "smart, sustainable and inclusive growth". Similarly, the environmental strategy of the OECD and the World Bank is just "green growth", there is no "Plan B". And - as of now - there is no funding for research on growth dependence, which can make one pessimistic about progress.

But this we can change! By demanding funding for research on growth dependence, we can encourage thinking about the many complexities that need to be addressed in non-growing economies. In this way, new voices will be amplified in economics. If economists change, policy advice will change. Furthermore, public discourse will change. And, eventually, the world may change.

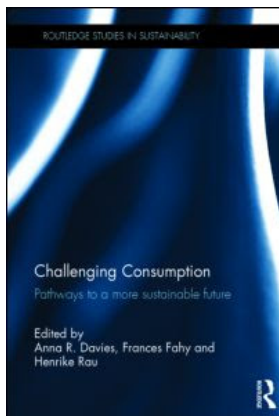
Please demand funding for research on economic systems that do not have to grow endlessly to avoid social problems. This is an inevitable first step towards sustainable prosperity.

Thank you for signing and sharing the petition!

## News from SCORAI-Europe



### 'Challenging Consumption' new book by CONSENSUS research



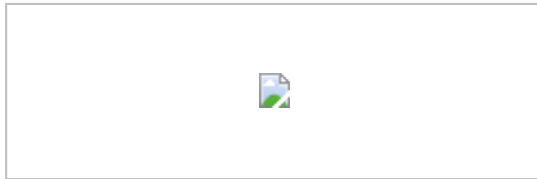
Davies, A.R., Fahy, F. & Rau, H. (2014) *Challenging Consumption: Pathways to a more sustainable future*, Routledge, London.

The [CONSENSUS](#) team from Trinity College Dublin and National University of Galway, have worked over the past five years to identify, develop and evaluate more sustainable consumption practices. The results of this work have been published in a new book [Challenging Consumption: Pathways to a More Sustainable](#)

[Future](#) available for pre-order from Routledge. Informed by a number of disciplinary perspectives, Challenging Consumption is structured around four key themes in sustainable consumption research: Living, Moving, Dwelling and Futures. The collection successfully balances theoretical insights with grounded case studies, on mobility, heating, washing and eating practices, and concludes by exploring future sustainable consumption research

pathways and policy recommendations. Theoretical frameworks are advanced throughout the volume, especially in relation to social practice theory, theories of behaviour change and innovative backcasting methodologies. The book draws on conceptual approaches which move beyond the responsibility of the individual consumer to take into account wider social, economic and political structures and processes to highlight both possibilities for and challenges to sustainable consumption. This approach enables students and policy-makers alike to easily recognise the applicability of social science theories. [More](#).

## The SWITCH-Med SCP Policy Toolkit is Now Available Online



The objective of the EU funded [SWITCH-Med Programme](#) is to facilitate the shift toward Sustainable Consumption

and Production - SCP - in the Southern Mediterranean Region. The programme is about changing the way goods and services are produced and consumed, so that human development and satisfaction of human needs is decoupled from environmental degradation. It will support industry, emerging green entrepreneurs, civil society and policy makers through policy development, demonstration activities and networking.

SWITCH-Med has developed a new publication titled "Toolkit for SCP Policy Makers in the Mediterranean" aiming at mainstreaming sustainable consumption and production into four key areas for sustainable development in the region: food and agriculture, goods manufacturing, tourism, and housing and construction.

This SCP toolkit is mainly addressed to policy makers and representatives of local, regional and national administrations in Mediterranean countries. Other interested stakeholders who want to learn more about an SCP approach and examples of its implementation in the region will certainly benefit from this new publication. The SCP toolkit provides a set of effective tools and instruments, case studies and lessons learned which can help to build national SCP frameworks and further integrate SCP into national and sectorial policies.

To learn more about the toolkit, click [here](#).

## Ph.D. Course: "Consumption, Capitalism and Everyday Life: Understanding the Social Dimensions of the Growth Imperative"



The [Centre for Development and the Environment's](#) (SUM)

research area on Energy and Consumption and SUM Research School, University of Oslo are pleased to invite applications to the doctoral course

'Consumption, Capitalism and Everyday Life: Understanding the Social Dimensions of the Growth Imperative.'



The course will be held in Oslo, Norway, at the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM), 8 - 10 December, 2014. The application deadline is **15 September, 2014**.

The principal objective of this PhD course is to connect "development studies" and "consumption studies". It approaches the linkages between consumption and socio-economic change from different disciplinary perspectives, drawing on theoretical approaches as well as cases from the global North and South in an attempt to understand the many connections and disconnections between development and consumption.

More information on the course can be found [here](#).

## Sustainable Consumption & Production Research & Coordinator Positions with IGES



The [Institute for Global Environmental Strategies](#) (IGES) is looking for talented researchers/project coordinators to fill several positions that have opened up in its Sustainable Consumption and Production Area (SCP Area).

Are you a highly-motivated, talented person who could fill a position as a researcher or project coordinator? Would you like to be involved in several international projects related to research as well as programme design and implementation on sustainable consumption and production (SCP), sustainable resource management, and waste management and recycling focusing on policy challenges mainly related to developing Asia?

More information on these opportunities can be found [here](#). Any potential candidate can contact Lewis Akenji directly at [akenji@iges.or.jp](mailto:akenji@iges.or.jp)

## New Publications



Brizga, Janis, Kuishuang Feng, and Klaus Hubacek. 2013. "Drivers of CO2 Emissions in the Former Soviet Union: A Country Level IPAT Analysis from 1990 to 2010." *Energy* 59 (September): 743-53.

**Abstract** There are a small number of countries that have managed to decrease emissions over the last two decades - most of them emerged from the FSU (former Soviet Union). CO2 emissions for these countries combined have decreased by 35% between 1990 and 2010, while global emissions increased by 44%. Most studies investigate the FSU as a single block ignoring the significant and persistent diversity among countries in the region. This study is the first providing detailed country by country analyses determining factors for changes in post-Soviet republics by applying a disaggregated version of the commonly used (IPAT) index decomposition analysis including energy intensity, affluence industrialization, energy mix, carbon intensity and population. These factors play different roles during different stages of economic development: during economic growth affluence increases emissions being only partly compensated by decreasing energy intensity; whereas during economic recession emission decrease is mainly driven by decreasing affluence and a declining share of fossil fuels. However, there are large and persistent variations in affluence, industrialization, energy intensity and population change among the analyzed countries. These differences should be taken into account when studying energy consumption and carbon emissions in the FSU.

Get the full article [here](#).

Brizga, Janis, Kuishuang Feng, and Klaus Hubacek. 2014. "Drivers of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Baltic States: A Structural Decomposition Analysis." *Ecological Economics* 98 (February): 22-28.



Since the mid-1990s three Baltic States have significantly increased their per capita gross domestic product (GDP) and at the same time have managed to keep the CO2 equivalent (CO2e) emissions low. We used structural decomposition analysis to identify the drivers of change for CO2e emissions in these countries between 1995 and 2009, a period that includes the collapse of the Soviet Union, restructuring and economic growth and the great recession. The results show that final demand has been the main driving force for increasing emissions in the Baltic States and would have caused an 80%, 64% and 143% emission increase in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, respectively, all other factors kept constant. This increase has been partly offset by a declining emission intensity of the economy, especially in Latvia and Lithuania; whereas in Estonia, which has one of the highest emission intensities in Europe, a shift in consumption patterns

towards low carbon consumption items and a decarbonizing economic structure were the main balancing factors. It is likely that the Baltic States will experience a continuation of economic growth given their relatively low per capita GDP, which is less than half of the European Union average thus adequate carbon policies are paramount.

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.](#)



**International Society  
for Industrial Ecology**

### ISIE Biennial Conference at the University of Surrey "Taking Stock of Industrial Ecology"

July 7-10, 2015, Guildford, UK

The International Society for Industrial Ecology is an interdisciplinary forum of natural and social scientists, engineers, policymakers, and practitioners that advances systems based analysis methods, tools, and solutions in pursuit of sustainable technology, product and service systems, and economies. The International Society for Industrial Ecology aims to promote the use of industrial ecology in research, education, industrial practices, policy, and community development in order to transform society and achieve a more sustainable economy.

[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 & 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 651.

- Panayiota Alevizou
- Vincent Aurez
- Graham Bullock
- Deric Gruen
- Ashraf Hamad
- Claudia Henninger
- Anna Kuokkanen
- Jingsong Li
- Claire McIlvennie
- Xinfang Wang

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**Cohen, Maurie** <mcohen@njit.edu>  
To: tiy chung <tiy.chung@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 24, 2014 at 4:53 PM

July...  
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