



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 2, 2014 at 7:48 AM



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Dear SCORAI Maurie Cohen,

Your campaign '**SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)**' was sent on 06/02/2014 around 07:47 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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**June 2014**

Dear SCORAI,

Happy summer everyone! While there are exciting updates in every newsletter, this one is particularly loaded with global events, innovative activities, and inspiring research. Enjoy.

All the best,  
Catie, Debbie, & Maurie

## SCORAI Mission Update

The SCORAI Executive Board, in its half-yearly retreat May 28; has updated the SCORAI mission. This new version will be posted on the website. Your reactions and suggestions are welcome; please send them to Philip Vergragt, [pvergragt@tellus.org](mailto:pvergragt@tellus.org); we will discuss them in our next retreat.

### Our Mission

Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) is a North American knowledge network of professionals working at the interface of material consumption, human well-being, and technological and cultural change. Our mission is to foster a transition beyond the currently dominant consumer society. The network provides an intellectual platform for scholars and practitioners who are seeking to better understand the drivers of the consumerist economy in affluent technological societies; to formulate options for post-consumerist lifestyles, social institutions, and economic systems; to provide the knowledge base for emergent processes of socio-technical change through grassroots innovations, social movements, public policy, and cultural transitions.

### Our Partners

The SCORAI network partners with several 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](#). Internationally, it partners with SCORAI-Europe and with the [Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption \(GRF-SPaC\)](#). It is actively involved in the development of sister organizations in China and other parts of the world. It engages with the United Nations Environmental Agency (formerly United Nations Environmental Programme, UNEP) and its constituent programs. participation.

## New SCORAI Working Groups

The SCORAI Board decided that we will promote SCORAI working groups. These working groups will evolve from existing activities; or will be newly initiated over the next 6-12 months. Initial ideas for working groups are:

- post-automobility (Maurie Cohen)
- German Energy transition (Philip Vergragt; jointly with SCORAI Europe members)



### 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

### Subscribe to SCORAI:

[Listserv](#)

[eNewsletter](#)

- Theories of Social Change (following the colloquium and workshop in 2015) (John Stutz)
- Sustainable consumption in Cities (following the workshop in October 2014)
- Teaching modules (Jointly with SCORAI Europe) (Halina Brown)
- Design working group (Maurie and Philip)

If you are interested, contact the relevant person. If you have ideas for spearheading another working group; please contact one of the Board members. The format for the working groups is under development: it minimally needs a convener, a brief description of subject and goal(s); and a list of participants. Goals could be for instance: a publication; organizing a workshop; developing a strategy; developing policy proposals; influencing existing programs (German energy transition), etc. As this is new for SCORAI, this is an opportunity for your active participation.

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



GRF-SPaC will have its 2nd global conference June 8-11 2014 in Shanghai; with close to 100 papers and more than 100 participants. For more information see this [website](#).

Papers are accessible for SCORAI members using the password **fudan2014**. On Friday June 13 GRF will host a strategy meeting in Shanghai; please contact [pvergragt@tellus.org](mailto:pvergragt@tellus.org) if you are interested to attend or have inputs for that meeting.

GRF-SPaC submitted four seed funding proposals to the Future Earth/ISSC [Transformations to Sustainability research program](#). These funding proposals will probably soon be posted on the GRF website. Next to this call another call will follow in the fall.

GRF-SPaC is in the process of organizing a regional workshop in Arequipa, Peru, back-to-back the [global conference organized by the World Resources Forum October 19-22](#). 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.

The [Absolute Reductions project](#) issued a call for papers for a Special Issue of the Journal of Cleaner Production. These papers are now in the review process. Information and if you are

volunteering to review papers for this project, please contact Lewis Akenji [akenji@iges.or.jp](mailto:akenji@iges.or.jp).

Elsevier and the Journal of Cleaner Production will host the [Global Cleaner Production & Sustainable Consumption Conference: accelerating the Transition to Equitable Post Fossil-Carbon Societies](#) in Sitges, Barcelona, November 1-4, 2015. SCORAI and GRF-SPaC participate in the organization of this event.

Philip Vergragt, GRF-SPaC coordinator

## Halina Brown Updates on the New Economy Coalition



### NEW ECONOMY COALITION

Formerly the New Economics Institute

#### Notes from a May New Economy Coalition Consultative Call



Ed Whitfield, Executive Director, [Fund for Democratic Communities](#), Greensboro, North Carolina, talked on "Building New Economies in The American South."

The Fund for Democratic Communities was conceived in 2007, and works to build authentically south-wide movement around economic justice and grassroots democratic economies. The Southern Federation of Worker Cooperatives hosted gatherings in 2012 and 2013, which are geared towards people most affected by a broken economy- African American community, poor white community, immigrant community, women.

Ed's work in Jackson, Mississippi, began in the spring of 2012, initially with a gathering of 80-90 people. The city of Jackson needed a large gathering: white flight had led to economic decline, but the city remains a transportation crossroads and state capital, and has an organized core of people. [Jackson Rising](#) -- a large gathering of the cooperative movement -- has been its most successful project to date. It focused on capacity building and learning.

Ed reported on the growing interest among the philanthropic organizations in supporting the movement. Some of the key questions being discussed: 1) in what way can the micro lending structure be adjusted to support cooperatives, and how can we make sure there is adequate partnership and training and 2) relation to the divest/invest movement.

The discussion focused on the fundamental question for the New Economy Coalition: creating a unity among groups representing different constituencies and types of grievances. Ed stressed that resistance to the status quo is the unifying force.

## The Great Transition Initiative Launches New Website

GREAT TRANSITION INITIATIVE  
TOWARD A TRANSFORMATIVE VISION AND PRAXIS

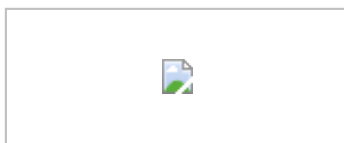


The Great Transition Initiative at Tellus Institute has launched a new website <http://greattransition.org>, which seeks to be a platform for essays, interviews and discussions that may be of interest to the SCORAI community.

Currently, two SCORAI-ers posted contributions on that website: Maurie Cohen posted an essay on the possible demise of consumer society in the US; and Halina Brown posted a book review that addresses the future of cities in the US and their role in sustainable consumption.

## News from SCORAI-Europe

### The Industrial Ecology Group at the University of Lausanne Awarded Sustainable Consumption Grants



The [Industrial Ecology Group](#) at the University of Lausanne has been awarded two grants by the [Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences](#), Sustainable Development at

Universities Programme, focused on both 'sustainable consumption' teaching and research. Antonietta Di Giulio at the Inter-/Transdisciplinarity Research Group at the University of Basel, in partnership with Marlyne Sahakian at the University of Lausanne will be leading a three-year project titled 'Anchoring inter- and trans-disciplinary sustainable consumption research in Swiss universities'. Building on the SCORAI network, we plan to bring together researchers and practitioners from different academic disciplines and professional fields, to further develop and deliver 'sustainable consumption' research proposals that include Swiss researchers. One of the first steps will be to identify key methodological challenges in sustainable consumption research. With Suren Erkman at the University of Lausanne, Marlyne Sahakian will also be leading a project titled 'Teaching '(un)sustainable consumption' at Swiss universities' which would involve identifying best practices and innovative approaches in

teaching, building on the experiences of the SCORAI network, and ultimately developing a model course in 'sustainable consumption'. If you are interested in being involved in this process, please contact [marylne.sahakian@unil.ch](mailto:marylne.sahakian@unil.ch).

## 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, 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.](#)



**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.](#)

## Feminist Review Call for Articles: special issue on food

**Feminist Review is calling for articles and Open Space pieces for a special issue on Food.**



Food is a feminist issue. From production, distribution and consumption, the gendered dynamics of all aspects of this arena of social, cultural and biological life repay feminist interrogation. This special issue invites contributions probing the politics, economics and affects associated with food at every stage of its lifecycle. The issue aims to encourage discussion and debate by focusing on a broad range of food-inspired issues, including, but not limited to: questioning the intersectional issues provoked by food; exploring and

analysing the economics, politics and ethics of food; revisiting the ongoing but unfinished feminist analysis and critique of embodied food politics and body management and ethics. Critically, the issue aims to both reclaim the centrality of feminist perspectives on food, from the analysis of food security to food and subjectivity, and to establish new and provocative agendas for engaging the pleasures and dilemmas of thinking through food.

Please read the full Call for Papers [here](#) for details on suggested submission topics.

Abstracts to be submitted by 1 September 2014. Submission deadline for articles based upon approved abstracts is 3 January, 2015.



## Juliet Schor Graduate Student Workshop at NEC Conference Update



As part of the New Economy Coalition's annual conference, "CommonBound: Moving Together Towards a New Economy," Juliet Schor will be convening a half-day research workshop for graduate students on the New Economy at Northeastern on June 6. Approximately 10 graduate students from around the country will be presenting their work.

We are also excited to announce that Juliet Schor was named the Matina S. Horner Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University for 2014-15. More information can be found [here](#).

## Achieving Sustainable Development on a Mountainous Island: Marina Fischer-Kowalski reports on an Erasmus Course

**April 30 - May 12, 2014, organized by the Institute of Social Ecology, Vienna. Responsible Prof. Marina Fischer-Kowalski**



The course was designed as a nine days excursion to the island of Samothraki in Greece with the aim to learn and apply social ecology approaches in a local setting while building synergy with an on-going UNESCO Man and Biosphere process. Since 2007, the [Institute of Social Ecology Vienna](#) (SEC) has coordinated research on Samothraki, an archaic mountainous island in the north-eastern corner of the Aegean archipelago endowed with high cultural and natural assets. However, imminent threats (unplanned tourism, overgrazing, waste accumulation) to the island's heritage prompted SEC, in collaboration with locals, to develop a vision to transform the island into a UNESCO Man-and-Biosphere Reserve. In a participatory process the initiative was gradually transferred to a broader base of local stakeholders and

the island is soon to become the first new generation BR in Greece. This on-going process, sponsored by the Austrian MAB committee, has been highly acknowledged, including the Sustainability Award 2010 it received from the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research.

Both students and teachers were absolutely enthusiastic about the course, extremely hard working (everybody climbed several hundred meters up and down the mountains every day), and in the end very interesting research results were produced that will be used to inform the stakeholders on the island.

A more detailed description of the course can be found [here](#).

Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Panos Petridis  
Collaborating teachers: Pernille Gooch (Lund University), Henrike Rau (Galway University), Simron Singh (Univ. of Waterloo, CA), Tamara Fetzel (SEC, AAU), Raffael Hickisch (SEC, AAU), Sheba Schilk (SEC, AAU)

## New Publications



Sahakian, M. and H. Wilhite. 2014. "Making practice theory practicable: towards more sustainable forms of consumption." *Journal of Consumer Culture*. 14(1): 25-44

### Abstract

In recent years, there has been growing interest in applying social practice theory to theorizing consumption, specifically in relation to transforming practices that have problematic environmental impacts. In this paper, we address the questions: how do changes in practices occur, and what are the levers for influencing change towards more sustainable consumption practices? We argue that a view of agency distributed across people, things and social contexts is fruitful. We also explore learning through membership in communities of practice, where people are involved in experiments with or exposure to new practices. We relate three case studies in the arena of food consumption practices then discuss the practicalities and pitfalls involved in translating social practice approaches into practicable recommendations for encouraging more sustainable forms of consumption.

Get the full article [here](#).

## New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month which brings our total number to 641.

Katarzyn Gruszka  
Niklas Lollo  
James Kinder  
Jeremy Taylor  
Anne Sherman

[Forward email](#)



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Wed, Sep 24, 2014 at 4:52 PM

Here is June.  
[Quoted text hidden]