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## SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)

1 message

**SCORAI (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)**

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Mon, Mar 5, 2018 at 3:01 PM



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### March 2018

Dear Robert,

The SCORAI community have been prolific publishers in the last month. Read on to see the intellectual contributions made by your colleagues in addition to a variety of exciting upcoming events!

Best,

Darcy and Maurie

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## Session on Sustainable Consumption Featured at IPCC Conference

SCORAI and the Future Earth Knowledge-Action Network on Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production will participate in the inaugural [Cities and Climate Change Conference](#) sponsored by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change due to be held on March 5 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. A session entitled "Climate Change and the End of Consumer Society" will include invited presentations by Halina Brown, Maurie Cohen, Manu Mathai, Bill Rees, and Philip Vergragt. Other co-sponsors of the conference include Future Earth, C40, ICLEI, the City of Edmonton, the United Nations Environment Program, and numerous others. The April issue of this newsletter will include a detailed summary of the conference geared specifically to the interests of SCORAI affiliates.

## SCORAI on the Web

Make sure to regularly check our website [scorai.org](http://scorai.org) and join 68,722 other visitors to the page. We maintain an active catalogue of [publications](#) and upcoming [events](#). Furthermore we spread your news across [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Lastly, make sure to contribute to our [Wikipedia page](#) and the [Q&A on sustainable consumption](#).

## Upcoming Collaborative Charrette

The [Future Earth Knowledge-Action Network \(KAN\) on Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production \(SSCP\)](#) is hosting on Tuesday, March 20 a "collaborative charrette" (via webinar) to discuss and seek feedback on its draft Research and Engagement Plan.

The 90-minute webinar will begin at 22:00 (Japan), 14:00 (Europe), 13:00 (UK/Ireland), 9:00 (East Coast of US), 7:00 (Mountain Zone of US) and 6:00 (West Coast of US). Participants should confirm the hour that corresponds to their respective part of the world (particularly because daily savings time is due to begin over the next couple of weeks on a rolling regional basis) and register by completing the form [here](#). All interested individuals are invited to join this event, but advanced registration is required to ensure receipt of the webinar link and access to relevant preparatory materials. General information about the KAN is available at <http://futureearth.org/future-earth-sscp>.

Questions can be directed to [sscp\\_kan@futureearth.org](mailto:sscp_kan@futureearth.org).



## Measuring the True Impact of Research

SCORAI members Dr. Henrike Rau (LMU Munich, Germany), Dr. Frances Fahy, and Dr. Gary Goggins (NUI Galway, Ireland), were invited to write a contribution for the London School of Economics Impact Blog about their recent publication on measuring the impact of research. The LSE Impact Blog is a widely read resource for researchers, students, think tanks, government, and anyone else interested in maximizing the impact of academic work in the social sciences and other disciplines. The blog is based on their article "[From invisibility to impact: Recognising the scientific and societal relevance of interdisciplinary sustainability research](#)" published in Research Policy. You can read the blog [here](#).



## Postdoctoral Research Opportunity

Two full-time postdoctoral researchers (24-month contract each) are sought to work with Professor Anna Davies on the SFI-funded spoke ENABLE: Connecting Communities to Smart Urban Environments through the Internet of Things. The postdoctoral researchers will contribute to the citizen engagement stream of ENABLE, specifically focusing on citizen-centric smart and sustainable cities research.

Deadline: Friday 30th March.

Interviews will take place in mid-April with the appointment expected to be effective from 1st June or shortly thereafter.

General enquires concerning these posts should be addressed to [daviesa@tcd.ie](mailto:daviesa@tcd.ie). Full details are available from Trinity College Dublin jobs page: <https://www.tcd.ie/>.

## Invitation to Present in Panel During the 10th Conference of the Nordic Latin America Research Network

### Understanding entrepreneurial dynamics in post-extractive transition economies

The current academic debates on extractivism and post-extractivism remain relatively disconnected from other academic discourses like evolutionary economics. Within evolutionary economics, the narrative about economic restructuring goes in the line that some activities become replaced by others as result of agency of innovative firms and entrepreneurs. Theorizing within an evolutionary perspective, gives a high prominence to the potential of innovative/entrepreneurial firms and individuals to tackle market externalities as poverty, environmental degradation, or inequity (Dean and McMullen 2007; Allen and Malin 2008; Miles, Munilla, and Darroch 2009; York, O'Neil, and Sarasvathy 2016). This emerging area of research includes topics as eco-innovation, i.e., the creation of new products, processes or business models which lead to positive environmental effects to the firm and the society (Bossle et al. 2016). A narrative becomes more and more present that entrepreneurs developing these eco-innovations can be agents of change to achieve societal transformation (Muñoz and Dimov 2015; Sarkar and Pansera 2016). However, the connections between the sustainable entrepreneurship/eco-innovation and extractivism narratives remain rather disconnected.

Based on this research gap, the planned research seminar seeks to tackle some overreaching research questions like:

1. What insights can provide evolutionary theories of knowledge-based development to the debates about extractivism and post-extractivism?
2. What similarities and differences can one infer from the Nordic and Latin-America post-extractivism discourses and how the evolutionary concepts fit in these?
3. How to best develop educational programs merging entrepreneurship training with post-extractivism with an action-based pedagogical inspiration?
4. How entrepreneurship training with focus on opportunity recognition and creativity can be connected with macro-economic transformation concepts as post-oil?

Session chair/Convener

Antulio Rosales, Center for Environment and Development, University of Oslo.

For more information please contact [Roberto Rivas Hermann](mailto:Roberto.Rivas.Hermann@tcd.ie). The full Call for Paper available [here](#).

## Survey for a Social Movement: Mapping degrowth worldwide

This survey is an initiative of individuals involved in the coordination and organization of the international conferences on degrowth (the so called Support Group). It represents an attempt to bring groups and individuals together for political and practical actions on degrowth that go beyond the biennial conferences. In order to organize ourselves and build synergies for joint action on degrowth we need to know who we are and what are your/our thoughts/ideas.

To this aim we suggest:

To start a map and then, if there is sufficient impetus, to evolve into a (loose) network. The map will aim to facilitate those interested in degrowth to join a nearby group and work together on the territory, while connecting already existing groups. Through it, you can join a mailing list (with a contact person for each organization or group) for internal coordination. This will facilitate the creation of synergies among the different organizations: for instance, it will be easier to co-organize collective actions.

If you wanna be part of this process, **please fill in the [Survey!](#)**

Please note that this proposal is not just about creating another online network, but rather to ease face-to-face meeting. For instance, you are invited the day before the next International Conference on Degrowth in Malmo (at the same venue) to share ideas, experiences, and expectations. Come if you want to get to know each other and think jointly how to bring about the change we wish to see.

## **Framing the Economy** **Report by NEON, NEF, Frameworks Institute, and PIRC**

What is the story of the economy in Britain? Who gets to shape public opinion about what it's for, how it's broken, and how it can be fixed? These are the questions the Framing the Economy project set out to answer. We wanted to help civil society communicate and organise more effectively, to help bring about the changes needed to move to a sustainable, equitable, and democratic economy.

Read it [here!](#)

## **Featured Publications**

Carragher, V., B. O'Regan, M. Peters, & R. Moles. 2018. "Novel resource saving interventions: The case of modelling and storytelling." *Local Environment*

<https://doi.org/10.1080/13549839.2018.1434493>

Climate change communication to the Public is in general presented in a negative fashion and often depicts the resultant costs and impacts as distant. Its substantial gloom together with the less immediate consequences significantly weaken responses. Narratives and stories are potent arbiters of meaningful communication and are an important vehicle for communication in our information-rich lives. Importantly, they reduce jargon, gather and translate information, provide insight, reframe evidence and engage audiences. It has been argued by many observers that stories are potentially useful in driving change; presenting a way to value what is gone, expressing emotions, and helping us assert

our determination to salvage something and work towards the future. This paper details the methods utilised by the authors to generate stories and case studies in a community in Ireland over a 4-year research period. The aim of the work was to identify and assess the salience and potency of storytelling - as part of a "co-creation" process - with regard to galvanising local action in the generation of sustainable models of lifestyle practice for residents. In this paper, co-creation includes the planning phase of co-design and the implementation phase of coproduction.

The demonstration of these sustainable lifestyle practices was a strong driver for the sustainable transition of this community supporting the reduction of its ecological footprint by 28% over 4 years, evidence of which is highlighted in this paper.

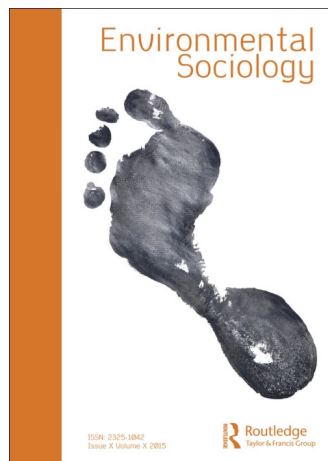
Hubacek, K., Baiocchi, G., Feng, K., Patwardhan, A. 2017. "Poverty eradication in a carbon constrained world." *Nature Communications* 8:912.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change aims to keep warming below 2degree C while recognizing developing countries' right to eradicate extreme poverty. Poverty eradication is also the first of the Sustainable Development Goals. This paper investigates potential consequences for climate targets of achieving poverty eradication. We find that eradicating extreme poverty, i.e., moving people to an income above \$1.9 purchasing power parity (PPP) a day, does not jeopardize the climate target even in the absence of climate policies and with current technologies. On the other hand, bringing everybody to a still modest expenditure level of at least \$2.97 PPP would have long-term consequences on achieving emission targets. Compared to the reference mitigation pathway, eradicating extreme poverty increases the effort by 2.8% whereas bringing everybody to at least \$2.97 PPP would increase the required mitigation rate by 27%. Given that the top 10% global income earners are responsible for 36% of the current footprint of households, the discourse should address income distribution and the carbon intensity of lifestyles.



<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-017-00919-4>

Kennedy, E. H., & Kmec, J. 2018. "Reinterpreting the gender gap in household pro-environmental behaviour." *Environmental Sociology*, 1-12.



Research has identified a gender gap in household-level environmental protection, with women engaging more frequently than men. However, this gender gap is rarely seen as problematic; environmental sociologists have referred to household-level pro-environmental behaviour (PEB) as 'low-hanging fruit' in the pursuit of ecological sustainability - actions that are easy to adopt and reduce environmental impact. To date, environmental sociologists have neglected to ask how women's higher rate of engagement in these behaviours relates to women's outcomes more generally. In this article, we draw on past literature within and beyond environmental sociology to develop a theoretical approach for future research on the gender gap in PEB. We also use descriptive statistical analyses of cross-national survey data to demonstrate our argument. Not only do we show that women's engagement in PEB is tied to her economic status in ways that are distinct from men's engagement in PEB, we see that this difference persists across varying household

arrangements of paid work. Understanding this as evidence of a gendered relationship between household PEB and economic status, we recommend future directions of research. Given that household environmental protection is a gendered practice, we feel environmental sociologists are poised to make important contributions to research on gender.

Limited copies available here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/XFIH73wifvQXw94VmxE5/full>

Genus, A. & M. Iskandarova. 2018. "Responsible innovation: its institutionalisation and a critique." *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*

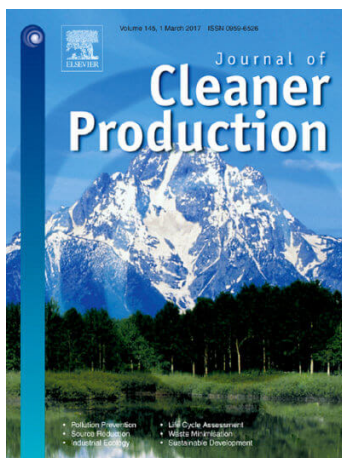
There is a growing body of literature on responsible innovation (RI). RI is prominent in debates and policies regarding the governance of research and innovation, particularly in the EU and USA. The paper brings together sociologically-informed institutional analysis and critical discourse analysis into a discourse-institutional perspective, which is applied

to review the emergence of and scholarly contributions to literature on RI. It generates insights into the role of language use in the institutionalisation of RI from detailed analysis of a foundational text. The paper identifies evidence for the institutionalisation of RI, how this has been accomplished and by whom. The paper considers opportunities for and limitations of RI research and policy in connection with its potential to foster effective anticipatory governance of science and innovation while facilitating inclusive deliberation in society. The conclusion suggests that RI is a developing area of research and practice in which there are dominant perspectives, practices and actors, which combine to inhibit the building of a truly responsive, inclusive and reflexive approach to governing innovation.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0040162516304322>



Schanes, K., K Dobernic, & B. Gozel. 2018. "Food waste matters: A systematic review of household food waste practices and their policy implications." *Journal of Cleaner Production* 182: 978-991



In recent years, food waste has received growing interest from local, national and European policymakers, international organisations, NGOs as well as academics from various disciplinary fields. Increasing concerns about food security and environmental impacts, such as resource depletion and greenhouse gas emissions attributed to food waste, have intensified attention to the topic. While food waste occurs in all stages of the food supply chain, private households have been identified as key actors in food waste generation. However, the evidence on why food waste occurs remains scattered. This paper maps the still small but expanding academic territory of consumer food waste by systematically reviewing empirical studies on food waste practices as well as distilling factors that foster and impede the generation of food waste on the household level. Moreover, we briefly discuss the contributions of different social ontologies, more particularly psychology-related approaches and social practice theory. The

analysis reveals food waste as a complex and multi-faceted issue that cannot be attributed to single variables; this also calls for a stronger integration of different disciplinary perspectives. Mapping the determinants of waste generation deepens the understanding of household practices and helps design food waste prevention strategies. Finally, we link the identified factors with a set of policy, business, and retailer options.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652618303366?via%3Dihub>

Goggins, G. 2018. "Developing a sustainable food strategy for large organizations: The importance of context in shaping procurement and consumption practices." *Business Strategy and the Environment*, 1-11

Organizations such as hospitals, educational institutions and workplaces feed thousands of people every day and are key intermediaries in the food system. They are in a position to significantly shape the production, processing and distribution of food as well as food-related practices of large groups. These activities have a significant impact on sustainable development, the global economy and health and wellbeing. Using a qualitative approach that draws on 21 interviews with key decision-makers based in eight large national and multinational organizations, this research examines the most important contextual factors that influence food provisioning across organizations. The study identifies opportunities and constraints for improving food sustainability that are likely to apply within and across different organizational contexts, and provides recommendations for implementing a sustainable food strategy. The findings provide interesting theoretical



insights and have practical implications that are relevant for practitioners, business managers and sustainability consultants.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/bse.2035>

## New Publications in Sustainable Consumption Research (February 2018)

Chang, H.J., Watchravesringkan, K. (2018)

Who are sustainably minded apparel shoppers? An investigation to the influencing factors of sustainable apparel consumption

*International Journal of Retail and Distribution Management*, 46 (2), pp. 148-162.

Denegri-Knott, J., Nixon, E., Abraham, K. (2017)

Politicising the study of sustainable living practices

*Consumption Markets and Culture*, pp. 1-20. Article in Press.

Geiger, S.M., Otto, S., Schrader, U. (2018)

Mindfully green and healthy: An indirect path from mindfulness to ecological behavior

*Frontiers in Psychology*, 8 (Jan), art. no. 8.

Hellwig, K., M. Sahakian, and F. Morhart (2018).

Societal Factors and the Emergence of the Sharing Economy. In *The Rise of the Sharing Economy: Exploring the Challenges and Opportunities of Collaborative Consumption*. P. A. Albinsson and B. Y. Perera. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.

Jaca, C., Prieto-Sandoval, V., Psomas, E.L., Ormazabal, M. (2018)

What should consumer organizations do to drive environmental sustainability?

*Journal of Cleaner Production*, 181, pp. 201-208.

Jellil, A., Woolley, E., Rahimifard, S. (2018)

Towards integrating production and consumption to reduce consumer food waste in developed countries

*International Journal of Sustainable Engineering*, pp. 1-13. Article in Press.

Sacchi, G. (2018)

The Ethics and Politics of Food Purchasing Choices in Italian Consumers' Collective Action

*Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*, 31(1), pp. 73-91.

Vojtovic, S., Stundziene, A., Kontautiene, R. (2018)

The impact of socio-economic indicators on sustainable consumption of domestic electricity in Lithuania

*Sustainability*, 10(2), art. no. 162.

## Upcoming Conferences



[More information here!](#)



[More information here!](#)



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION  
 of GEOGRAPHERS  
 ANNUAL MEETING

**AAG 2018 CfP: Dwelling on Energy: Exploring Social and Cultural Influences on Domestic Energy Use in International Contexts**

Association of American Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting,  
 New Orleans, 10-14, April 2018

Session Organizers:  
 Gary Goggins and Frances Fahy,  
 Geography, National University of Ireland, Galway

Reducing residential energy use and related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is a key policy focus across many developed countries. Yet, despite ongoing efforts, prevailing market-based and technological focused approaches have had limited success in bringing about long-term reductions in domestic energy use. Without adequate consideration for the social, cultural and contextual influences on residential energy use, it is highly unlikely that dominant efficiency-driven approaches will deliver the necessary reductions in energy demand. Social-scientific approaches will need to play a key role if sustainable energy transitions at the household level are to be successful. Social practice theory, for example, has been increasingly utilized by geographers to demonstrate that household energy use varies among different socio-demographic groups, and across cultures and contexts. But, despite gaining traction in some academic circles, complex social-scientific



approaches have had limited impact on non-academic stakeholders and public policy, not least because of the difficulty in translating findings into concrete policy recommendations.

This session will advance social-scientific debate through theoretical development and empirical investigation related to the social and cultural influences on household energy use. We are particularly interested in papers that deal with cross-cultural variations in household energy use. Papers may include, but are not limited to, topics such as:

- Comparing and contrasting energy use across cultural contexts
- The role of government and intermediary actors in influencing routine energy use
- Innovative energy reduction initiatives at the household or community level (including Living Lab approaches)
- International case studies which reflect the drivers of individual and collective energy choices and energy-related practices
- Socio-technical innovations and cultural influences

Ultimately, this session aims to bring together papers that offer international insights that explore the significance of socio-cultural perspectives and practices involved with transitions to a low-carbon society and future. We welcome theoretical and empirical contributions from a broad geographical spread. More [here](#).



June 11 - 13, 2018  
Annapolis, Maryland, USA

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF), Resources for the Future (RFF), and University of Maryland (UMD) is convening an international symposium to bring together leaders, emerging scholars, and other key individuals interested in innovating research and processes for solving socio-environmental problems.

The symposium will explore the current state of socio-environmental systems research, recent advances in the field, and the unique challenges and opportunities engendered by the questions and approaches of socio-environmental systems research. In addition, the symposium will catalyze and inspire new collaborative and interdisciplinary communities of research and practice. More info [here](#).



More [here](#).



**THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS**  
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**Third International Conference of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI)**

"Sustainable Consumption: Fostering Good Practices and Confronting the Challenges of the 21st Century"

June 27-30 2018

See [here](#) for complete information. We look forward to seeing you there!



This XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology will focus on how scholars, public intellectuals, policy makers, journalists and activists from diverse fields can and do contribute to our understanding of power, violence and justice.

Although the scientific consensus on causes and implication of global warming is well established, the climate crisis has provoked three distinct political-economic projects, rooted in differing class fractions and social interests, which currently vie for hegemony at different levels and regions of the world-system. Carbon capitalism is a project of 'business as usual' (in the Stern report's terminology), with efficiency improvements (and possible sunseting of coal) but no major changes to the political ecology of contemporary capitalism. Climate capitalism proposes the ecological modernization of the energy base of capitalism, by redirecting flows of capital away from fossil fuels, and toward more climatically benign sources of energy including hydropower, solar, wind and nuclear. The first two projects are capital-centric: they leave the class structure of capitalism untouched, including the concentration of economic power in the hands of a relatively small group of major investors, executives and corporate directors. In contrast, energy democracy finds its social base in environmental and other progressive movements, including sections of the labour movement. It mandates a dual power shift, from fossil-fuel power to renewables (decarbonization) and from corporate oligarchy to public, democratic control of economic decisions (democratization). This session welcomes papers exploring the sociology of these projects, singly or in combination, especially analyses that foreground issues of political economy and political ecology. For more information on this session see [here](#).



The 2016 Paris Climate Agreement heralded unprecedented international consensus on the need to transition from fossil fuels within the next few decades. The uneven responses from state, corporate, and civil actors across the world clearly signify the challenges - and opportunities - that lie ahead. On the one hand, they demonstrate the enduring power of oil and

gas as the industry seeks to adapt to the post-Paris world in various ways - exploration, expansion, technical development, political and media management. On the other, the responses have inaugurated a range of efforts to break free from the 'lock-in' of the fossil-fuel system and realize a host of potential alternative scenarios. Any initiatives towards future 'sustainability', meanwhile, are contextualized by intensifying claims to energy security, sitting uneasily alongside the reality of rising global energy demand.

Petrocultures is motivated by the core notion that the humanities and social sciences have significant input to add to both knowledge of oil and energy and the irrevocable process of transformation. The international field has grown rapidly since the inaugural conference in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in 2012, producing scholarly and creative work across numerous platforms, disciplines, genres, and territories. While much work has been done to highlight the social and cultural significance of fossil fuels, the ecological unfeasibility of high-carbon life urgently compels us to think, imagine and realize a world 'after oil'. The organising theme of Petrocultures 2018 is Transition. We anticipate its cultural interpretation in a variety of ways. The conference will provide an important forum for examining and extending existent framings and sitings of oil and petroculture, while also striving to consider the social, cultural, and aesthetic life of alternative forms of energy, such as wind, solar, and hydro power.

Petrocultures 2018 will bring together scholars, policy-makers, industry employees, artists, and public advocacy groups from across Europe, North America, and beyond.

We seek proposals for papers, workshops, and special panels that address themes related to transition and/or petrocultures more generally. Papers and panels can be academic, creative, or any combination of the two. We are open to suggestions for other formats. We ask that paper proposals be no more than 200 words in length, and that panel proposals have a 200-word description of the topic along with a list of paper titles. All submissions must include a 100-word biographical statement for each presenter. Please send proposals as soon as possible, but no later than **February 2nd, 2018**.

Please send proposals and biographical info as soon as possible, but no later than February 2nd, 2018 to [petrocultures2018@gmail.com](mailto:petrocultures2018@gmail.com)

More info [here](#).



## New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month, bringing our total membership to 973 individuals:

Lucy Atkinson  
Holly Berman  
Alexander Berth  
Alexandra Breyer  
Sayeh Dastgheib-Beheshti  
Ajith Francis  
Anneli Heinrich  
Mohammad Arif Kamal  
Barbara Ribeiro  
Uthpala Sankalpani

Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI), c/o Program in Science, Technology, and Society, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Newark, NJ 08540

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