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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, Dec 4, 2017 at 6:58  
PM


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## December 2017

Dear Robert,

As always, SCORAI-ers have come together to share a plethora of resources, opportunities and insights in this latest newsletter. We hope you enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Best,  
Darcy and Emily

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## Last month of the SCORAI 2017 Fundraising campaign

Dear SCORAI-ers,

Thank you for raising \$3252 this fall. This includes a \$1000 gift by an anonymous donor and \$25-\$50 gifts from about 45 SCORAI affiliates. We are still far from our 2017 aim of \$10 000. Please donate \$25 (student) or \$50 (professional) now to cover the costs of running this low-budget, all-volunteer organization. These contributions are tax-deductible so this is the right time to do well by doing good and to reduce your budget for conspicuous consumption. Please contact us if you have ideas on fundraising for the future.

Next year at the third bi-annual Conference in Copenhagen we will again organize a business meeting to discuss past performance and future plans for SCORAI. Your contribution is essential to keep SCORAI alive, including its website, listserv, newsletter, workshops and meetings, conferences, and supporting research and outreach.

Thanks again for your support.

Philip Vergragt on behalf of the SCORAI Board

## **Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy Journal Relaunch**

The journal ***Sustainability: Science, Practice, and Policy (SSPP)*** is currently being relaunched with an explicit commitment to expand understanding of the challenges surrounding "systems of sustainable consumption and production." Acquired in recent months by Taylor & Francis, Maurie Cohen continues to serve as Editor-in-Chief and is supported by a newly appointed **Editorial Board**. Since its inception in 2005, SSPP has been a pioneer in the development of the open-access model and its current management team remains committed to this mode to ensure the widest possible distribution of published work.

For its current volume, SSPP welcomes submissions that delineate the underlying precepts and obstacles associated with the design and implementation of "systems of sustainable consumption and production." Complex and diverse arrays of societal factors and institutions will in coming decades need to reconfigure agro-food supply chains, implement renewable energy sources, and reinvent housing, modes of mobility, and lifestyles for the current century and beyond. These innovations will need to be formulated in ways that enhance global equity, reduce unequal access to resources, and enable all people on the planet to lead flourishing lives within biophysical constraints. Contributions to this issue of the journal should seek to advance scientific and political perspectives and to cultivate transdisciplinary discussions involving researchers, policy makers, entrepreneurs, and others. Especially encouraged are submissions that interrogate the deployment of both local experiments and system innovations that actuate a more sustainable future by empowering individuals and organizations and facilitating processes of social learning.

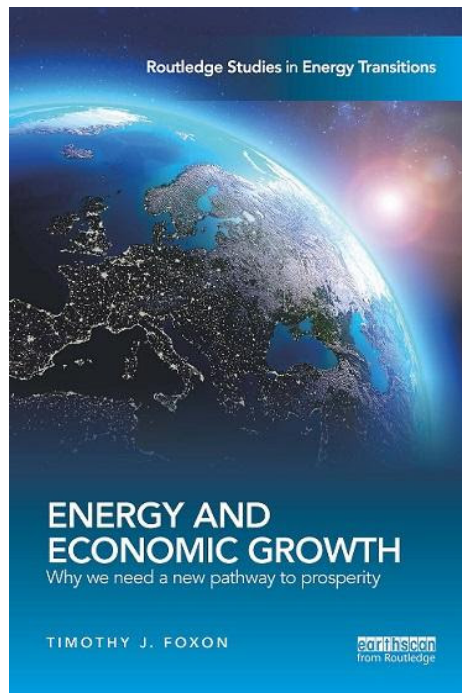
Manuscripts that contribute to framing debates or analytically investigating the issues outlined above should be submitted by March 31, 2018 directly via the SSPP website (<http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/tsus20/current>). Inquiries from prospective authors are actively encouraged and can be directed to Maurie Cohen at [mcohen@njit.edu](mailto:mcohen@njit.edu). Provisions are available to waive on the basis of expressed need the author fee for accepted papers.

## **Energy and Economic Growth: Why we need a new pathway to prosperity by Tim Foxon**

This book by SCORAI member Tim Foxon provides historical and ecological perspectives on the current challenge of a transition to a low carbon economy. The book examines the role of access to new sources of energy and their efficient conversion to provide useful work as drivers of economic growth since the industrial revolution. However, to meet national and international targets for reducing carbon emissions, Western countries need to radically transform their energy systems, and examine how to do this in a sustainable and equitable way. This requires understanding of the dynamics of economic and industrial change with appreciation of the

dependence of economies on ecological systems.

*Energy and Economic Growth* examines the links between three issues: history of energy sources, technologies and uses; ecological challenges associated with the current dominant economic



growth paradigm; and the future low carbon energy transition to mitigate human-induced climate change. Providing a historical understanding of the relevant connections between physical, social and economic changes, the book aims to help the reader to better understand the connection between their own energy use and global economic and environmental systems, and to be able to ask the right questions of our political and business leaders. [More information](#)

## **Engaging to solve the grand challenge of sustainability: Interdisciplinary workshop on participatory and engaged research - Nottingham 15th and 16th February 2018**

The workshop seeks to engage a small community of scholars around the following overarching question: How can research in the field of corporate sustainability become more forward-looking and future-shaping?

This event will be structured around two distinct days.

Day 1 is specifically for PhD students and early career researchers in management who do research across the fields of sustainability, CSR and business ethics. We invite those who are passionate about driving change for sustainability through their research and want to learn about participatory and engaged methodological approaches. The day will consist of interactive masterclasses from speakers from disciplines outside management, a panel of editors' discussion and collective reflections around key questions identified by participants. The event aims to be a platform for discussing the "how" of conducting such types of research - details that often remain absent from publications. We see this event as an opportunity to support young researchers in our field and encourage mentoring within the community.

Day 2 will be focused on advancing sustainability in production and consumption networks. The audience for this day are academics at all stages of their careers who identify with this theme. Day 2 is an agenda-shaping event and will require some preparation so that we engage in constructive discussions - without being too onerous. We will seek to surface the key research questions for the field, particularly around how to move towards meaningful change. This will entail reflecting on what assumptions/theories and research questions we should be asking but also on who we should engage with.

This will be a small-scale event in order to maximise the experience for everyone involved, hence places on each day will be limited.

The workshop will be free to attend and will be held at Nottingham University Business School. For more information contact [Dr. Anne Touboullic](#).

## Special Issue: Sustainable Food Consumption, Urban Waste Management and Civic Activism, Lessons from Bangalore/Bengaluru, India

"Editors' notes:

This special e-issue of *International Development Policy* focuses on practices and policies that link sustainable food consumption with challenges in urban solid waste management in one of India's fastest growing metropolises, Bangalore. Home to the country's IT industry and to innovative forms of civic activism, the city hit the national and international media headlines in 2012 due to a dramatic breakdown of its garbage collection and disposal systems. Contributors to this issue draw on their empirical research in the city to explore the ongoing changes in patterns of domestic and restaurant food consumption among the middle classes, who are also actively involved in shaping public policy. Authors argue that the role of urban middle classes as consumers and as citizens is key to understanding urban environmental governance in India, which in turn offers lessons for the global South. The special issue ties together questions of food consumption patterns and of waste generation with problems of waste segregation and disposal, on the one hand, and with new forms of activism, mobilisation and citizen participation in policy making, on the other, in order to highlight social and institutional innovations towards more sustainable practices.



Editors: Christine Lutringer and Shalini Randeria"

Available here: <http://poldev.revues.org/2475>

## A Review of the Journal of Industrial Ecology's Circular Economy Issue

SCORAI-er John Mulrow and co-author Victoria Santos reviewed the recent issue of the Journal of Industrial Ecology with a focus on a *shrinking* material throughput.

### Moving the Circular Economy Beyond Alchemy

"One of the great battles of modern scientific understanding was fought in the 17th century among "chymists" who claimed to be deciphering the composition and workings of nature. Many of these chymists - or alchemists as we now call them - believed that everything was composed of one or more of four elements: air, water, fire and earth. And indeed, alchemists could demonstrate that the burning of wood yielded all four, in the form of rising smoke, bubbling vapors, flames, and ash. This was one of their most common experiments. But in 1661 Robert Boyle, a young Oxford scientist, published *The Sceptical Chymist*, a work which threw the alchemists' definitions and lines of inquiry into question and helped to birth the modern scientific method.

Boyle urged chymists to seek deeper explanations for physical transformations beyond the four elements, writing that alchemists' explanations were too vague to yield valuable knowledge. They "write darkly, not because they think their notions too precious to be explained, but because they

fear that if they were explained, men would discern that they are far from being precious"[i] Boyle put his skepticism to use, developing repeatable laboratory methods for investigating the nature of the "elements" and he is most well-known today for developing Boyle's Law, which describes the relationship between the pressure and volume of a gas.

This little history of Robert Boyle and the alchemists provides some framework for considering the recently-published issue of the Journal of Industrial Ecology titled, "Exploring the Circular Economy." In it, academics and practitioners alike pick apart the Circular Economy buzz, its history, and its underlying theory. Like Boyle, the authors in this issue have largely focused on the Circular Economy's main "elements" - as they are commonly stated in popular and corporate literature - but point out that these elements are far too simplistic to yield the global sustainability results that motivate CE practitioners. Some authors even claim that this simplicity risks moving us away from desired outcomes." Continue reading [here](#).

## Featured Publications

Soper, Kate (November, 2017). "A New Hedonism: A Post-Consumerism Vision." Next System Project, available at <https://thenextsystem.org/learn/stories/new-hedonism-post-consumerism-vision>

The [Next System Project](#) is proud to share its latest report, *A New Hedonism: A Post-Consumerism Vision*. Written by Dr. Kate Soper, emerita professor of philosophy at London Metropolitan University, the report presents an overview of the systemic drivers of consumerism as well as the changes we would need to make as a society to transcend our commodity-driven culture and hasten a transition to a more sustainable and rewarding way of living.

While reviewing some of the current policies and practices that partially challenge the dominant paradigm of consumerism, Soper stresses the need for a full cultural revolution in order to achieve an "alternative politics of prosperity based on a sustainable economic order." In particular, she calls for a "break with the social and environmental exploitations of money-drive, high-speed ideas of progress" and instead dedicate ourselves to actively promote new forms of ownership and control and "hybrid ways of making and doing that draw on traditional methods alongside newly emerging green technologies."



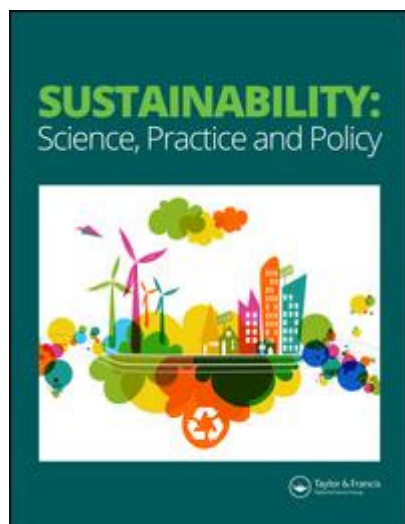
The report is the second of Next System Project's new series *Transformations: Systemic Challenges & Solutions in 21<sup>st</sup> Century America*, created to provide policy-oriented ideas to help address the systemic challenges United States now faces while also moving us toward a new system. The Next System Project has also a weekly podcast and other on-going series and publications, all aimed to discuss movements, models, and pathways toward a new system capable of delivering superior social, economic and ecological outcomes. Past publications and podcasts that might be of interested include:

- John Duda, Thomas Hanna, Matthew Burke. *Building Community Capacity for Energy Democracy: A Deck of Strategies*. Next System Project (June, 2017).
- Johanna Bozuwa, *Power for Puerto Ricans, not Private Investors*. Next System Project (October, 2017):
- Marjorie Kelly, *Capital Bias vs. Generative Design*. Next System Project, Podcast (September, 2017).
- Kate Raworth, *Doughnut Economics*. Next System Project, Podcast (August, 2017).
- Denise Fairchild, *Energizing Democracy by Democratizing Energy*. Next System Project, Podcast (October, 2017).

- Gus Speth, *The Joyful Economy: A Next System Possibility*. Next System Project, New Systems: Possibilities and Proposals Series (April, 2017).
- Gar Alperovitz, *Principles of a Pluralist Commonwealth*. Next System Project (June, 2017).
- David Korten, *The New Economy: A Living Earth System Model*. Next System Project, New Systems: Possibilities and Proposals Series (August, 2016).

To learn more about the Next System Project and its work, please visit [www.thenextsystem.org](http://www.thenextsystem.org) and sign up to its newsletter to receive the latest updates.

Andrew Glover, Yolande Strengers & Tania Lewis. (2017). "The unsustainability of academic aeromobility in Australian universities" *Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy* Vol. 13 , Iss. 1



This article analyzes how certain forms of unsustainable hypermobility - primarily air travel - are embedded in the institutional orientations of Australian universities, and hence, into the professional practices of academics in the country. Academic air travel is commonly recognized as a key component of a scholar's ability to cultivate and maintain international collaborations, achieve high-impact journal publications and win large research grants. Despite the environmental sustainability implications that regular international and domestic air travel entails, a normative system of 'academic aeromobility' has developed. We discuss the results of a qualitative textual analysis of Australian university-sustainability policies as well as research and internationalization strategies. We find that the ambitions of academic institutions to reduce carbon emissions from air travel are discordant with broader policies and strategic orientations around international mobility. These findings foreground the paradoxical relationship between many university-sustainability policies and the sector's broader strategic aims of

internationalization and mobility of staff and students, suggesting the limits to piecemeal approaches to organizational policy and practices pertaining to sustainability. We conclude by discussing the role of technology and 'slow scholarship' as a means to reduce academic aeromobility.

Available here: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15487733.2017.1388620>

## New Publications in Sustainable Consumption Research (November 2017)

Anantharaman, M. 2017. Elite and ethical: The defensive distinctions of middle-class bicycling in Bangalore, India. *Journal of Consumer Culture*, 17 (3), pp. 864-886.

Falcone, P.M., Imbert, E. 2017. Bringing a sharing economy approach into the food sector: The potential of food sharing for reducing food waste. *Food Waste Reduction and Valorisation: Sustainability Assessment and Policy Analysis*, pp. 197-214.

Lorenz, B.A., Langen, N. 2017. Determinants of how individuals choose, eat and waste: Providing common ground to enhance sustainable food consumption out-of-home. *International Journal of Consumer Studies*. Article in Press.

Melkonyan, A., Krumme, K., Gruchmann, T., De La Torre, G. 2017. Sustainability assessment and climate change resilience in food production and supply. *Energy Procedia*, 123, pp. 131-138.

Mylan, J. 2017. The Business of "Behaviour Change": Analysing the Consumer-Oriented Corporate Sustainability Journey of Low-Temperature Laundry. *Organization and Environment*, 30 (4), pp. 283-303.

Retamal, M., Schandl, H. 2017. Dirty Laundry in Manila: Comparing Resource Consumption Practices for Individual and Shared Laundering. *Journal of Industrial Ecology*. Article in Press.

Tung, T., Koenig, H.F., Chen, H.-L. 2017. Effects of green self-identity and cognitive and affective involvement on patronage intention in eco-friendly apparel consumption: A gender comparison *Sustainability (Switzerland)*, 9 (11), art. no. 1977.

Wang, Y. 2017. Promoting Sustainable Consumption Behaviors: The Impacts of Environmental Attitudes and Governance in a Cross-National Context. *Environment and Behavior*, 49 (10), pp. 1128-1155.

## Upcoming Conferences



The 3rd edition of the the **NEST-conference** , "**New Frontiers in Sustainability Transitions**" , follows the successful first two editions in April 2016 in London (Greenwich) and April 2017 in Lausanne (EPFL). The conference will take place March 15-16, 2018 at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development at Utrecht University in The Netherlands.

The conference is organized by NEST, the Network of Early Career Researchers in Sustainability Transitions , formerly known as the PhDs in Transitions Network. NEST is a part of, and serves as a complement to, the Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN), and caters specifically to the needs of researchers new to the field of sustainability transitions. The name change was effected to make our network more inclusive and reaffirm our founding commitments to create a safe space for new entrants in the field of sustainability transitions.

The aim of the upcoming conference is to discuss and exchange work in progress, leading to fruitful debates and feedback (from both peers and senior researchers) to help you further your current research. We welcome contributions at any stage of progress. Discussions will be on the methodological, empirical, conceptual, and/or contextual part of the study, depending on the research stage and need of the presenter. We invite all PhD students and ECRs working on sustainability transitions to submit a **400-word abstract by Friday, December 15, 2017 for a 15 minute presentation followed by a 10 minute discussion . The abstract should be accompanied by a short biography of no more than 100 words** . We ask interested parties to link their project to sustainability transitions as discussed below. This description is based on the STRN research agenda. The full research agenda can be found online on the STRN homepage .

**Please submit the abstracts for your presentation and accompanying biographies in PDF format to [nest.conference@uu.nl](mailto:nest.conference@uu.nl) by Friday, December 15, 2017. We will respond to all applications with our decision by the 15th of January 2018.**



## 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:

Dr Gary Goggins and Dr 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.



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**Fair Trade International Symposium**  
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**XIX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY**  
 Toronto, Canada | July 15-21, 2018 | Metro Toronto Convention Center

**POWER, VIOLENCE AND JUSTICE: REFLECTIONS, RESPONSES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

isa International Sociological Association

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](#).

## New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month, bringing our total membership to 966 individuals:

Stefania Benetti  
Justin Bishop  
Ewa Charkiewicz  
Alexandra Cohen  
Rosemary Cooper  
Ines Marten del Real  
Satu Lähteenoja  
Deepti Mahajan  
Carla Santos  
Monika Schappert  
Anne Touboullic  
Florence Ziesemer

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