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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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Thu, Feb 1, 2018 at 2:05 PM



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February 2018

Dear Robert,

Read on for exciting news about the upcoming SCORAI conference and other great opportunities to get together and discuss sustainable solutions!

Best,

Darcy and Maurie

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Draft Program for SCORAI 2018 Now Available

The Third International Conference of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative will be held on June 27-30, 2018 at the Copenhagen Business School. Keynote speakers for the conference will be the Jan Gehl (sustainable cities champion) and the Mary Mellor (expert on the future of money). The conference will also include keynote panels featuring leading Danish sustainability policy makers as well as more than 50 parallel sessions, a poster exhibit, book presentations, and a variety of opportunities for networking and informal discussions. Details about the conference are available by clicking [here](#).

Co-chairs of the conference are Maurie Cohen, Lucia Reisch, Wencke Gwozdz, and Emily Huddart Kennedy. SCORAI is grateful to Professor Jeremy Moon, VELUX Endowed Chair in

Corporate Sustainability at the Copenhagen Business School, for generous financial support. Other organizational partners of the conference include the Future Earth Knowledge-Action Network on Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production, the Virtual Community in Research in Sustainable Consumption, and the European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ERSCP).

Second Virtual Community Forum Hosted by the Future Earth Knowledge-Action Network on Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production



The Future Earth Knowledge-Action Network (KAN) on Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SSCP) is pleased to announce that the second event in its series of three Virtual Community Forums (via webinar) will be held on February 13 (the last session will be on February 27). This session will highlight the ongoing activities of the Working Group on Social Change Beyond Consumerism and the Working Group on Green Value Chains.

The 90-minute webinar will begin at 23:00 (Japan), 15:00 (Europe), 14:00 (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 and register by completing the form available [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.

Making Sense by Democracy, Non-violence, and Conviviality: A Summer School on Degrowth and Environmental Justice

June 24-July 6, 2018
Barcelona (Spain)/Cerbère (France)

The world we see today around us seems increasingly reactionary and conservative. The rise of right-wing parties across the globe disfavors the spaces for civil society's proposal for radical change. Basic human rights are curtailed as violence, racism, and xenophobia emerge under different forms. Defenders of livelihoods, land and environments, culture and traditions face violent repercussions both in the South and in the North.

Yet we also observe the strengthening of Degrowth as intellectual and practical attempt to re-politicize the debate on the much-needed socio-ecological transformation. Simplicity, conviviality, and sharing are principles in multiple initiatives that, in their diversity, converge in seeking just environments. More and more allies from eco-feminist, anti-capitalist, and other social movements help us engage in mutual learning. The scientific literature on Degrowth keeps expanding.

As we advance toward a vision of societies living in just environments, within their ecological means and distribute resources more equally through new forms of democratic institutions, we cannot obviate the alarming backdrop. The fifth edition of the Summer School on Degrowth and Environmental Justice responds to this burning challenge by disseminating cutting-edge research on degrowth and environmental justice focused on:

- How can communities that center on sustaining life in non-violent, democratic, autonomous, and convivial ways flourish under the hegemony of imposing powers that strive for economic growth?
- How to articulate stable collaborations between activists and researchers for mutual learning on radical socio-ecological transformations?

The school will focus on three primary aspects--the challenges, the proposals, and the processes. Lectures and workshops will help in theorizing the challenges, understanding grassroots environmental justice activism, and the politics of degrowth will be the entry point into the proposals and working in small groups with more collaboration and understanding academic-activist engagement for creating a better community will help in discovering the processes. You can find the [tentative program here](#).

More information is at <https://summerschool.degrowth.org/>.

Featured Publications

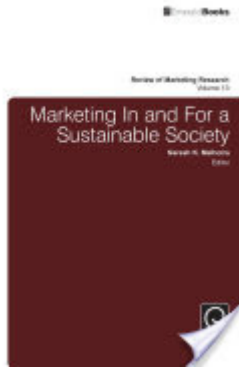
Genus, A. and A. Stirling (2018) "Collingridge and the Dilemma of Control: Towards Responsible and Accountable Innovation", *Research Policy* 47:61-69.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.respol.2017.09.012> (Open Access)

The paper critically reviews the work of David Collingridge in the light of contemporary concerns about responsibility and accountability in innovation, public engagement with science and technology, and the role of scientific expertise in technology policy. Given continued interest in his thoughts on the 'social control of technology', and the 'dilemma of control', this attention is both timely and overdue. The paper illuminates a mismatch between the prevalence of citations to Collingridge's work on the dilemma of control in the literature on responsible innovation, and the depth of engagement with his arguments. By considering neglected aspects of Collingridge's substantive, methodological and philosophical analysis, important implications can be drawn for theory and practice relating to the governance of innovation and co-evolution between technology and society. The paper helps to improve understandings of wider political contexts for responsible innovation, especially in relation to anticipatory, participatory and institutional aspects of governance.



McDonald, S., Oates, C. and Alevizou, P. (2016) "No Through Road: A Critical Examination of Researcher Assumptions and Approaches to Researching Sustainability" in Volume 13 of the Emerald Review of Marketing Research Series, Varey, R. and Malhotra, N. (Eds) *Marketing in and for a Sustainable Society* (Chapter 5 pp. 139-168).



The purpose of this paper is to examine the ways in which academic researchers frame and conduct sustainability research and to ask to what extent we are limited by these frames. Our approach is based on an epistemological critique. We begin with a discussion of the ways in which sustainable consumption has been conceptualised within marketing; we question the influence of positivist social science research traditions and examine how research on sustainability is impacted by the structure of academia. Our critical reflection leads us to suggest three ways in which sustainability research might be re-framed: a reconsideration of language, a shift in the locus of responsibility and the adoption of a holistic approach. We propose that in order to make progress in sustainability research, alternative frames, terms, units of analysis, method(ologies) and research ambitions are needed. By making visible our collective, unexamined

assumptions, we can now move forward with new questions and agendas for sustainability research.

<http://www.emeraldinsight.com/doi/abs/10.1108/S1548-643520160000013014>

New Publications in Sustainable Consumption Research (January 2018)

Collins, A., Galli, A., Patrizi, N., Pulselli, F. (2018)
Learning and teaching sustainability: The contribution of Ecological Footprint calculators
Journal of Cleaner Production 174:1000-1010.

Hale, L.A. (2018)
At home with sustainability: From green default rules to sustainable consumption
Sustainability, 10(1), art. no. 249.

Hüttel, A., Ziesemer, F., Peyer, M., Balderjahn, I. (2018)
To purchase or not? Why consumers make economically (non-)sustainable consumption choices
(2018) *Journal of Cleaner Production* 174:827-836.

Isman, M., Archambault, M., Racette, P., Konga, C., Llaque, R., Lin, D., Iha, K., Ouellet-Plamondon, C. (2018)
Ecological Footprint assessment for targeting climate change mitigation in cities: a case study of 15 Canadian cities according to census metropolitan areas
Journal of Cleaner Production 174:1032-1043.

Johnson, K., Liu, R., Minton, E., Bartholomew, D., Peterson, M., Cohen, A., Kees, J. (2017)
U.S. Citizens' representations of God and support for sustainability policies
Journal of Public Policy and Marketing 36(2):362-378.

Laureti, T., Benedetti, I. (2018)
Exploring pro-environmental food purchasing behaviour: An empirical analysis of Italian consumers (2018)
Journal of Cleaner Production 172:3367-3378.

Torma, G., Aschemann-Witzel, J., Thøgersen, J. (2018)
I nudge myself: exploring 'self-nudging' strategies to drive sustainable consumption behaviour
International Journal of Consumer Studies 42(1):141-154.

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

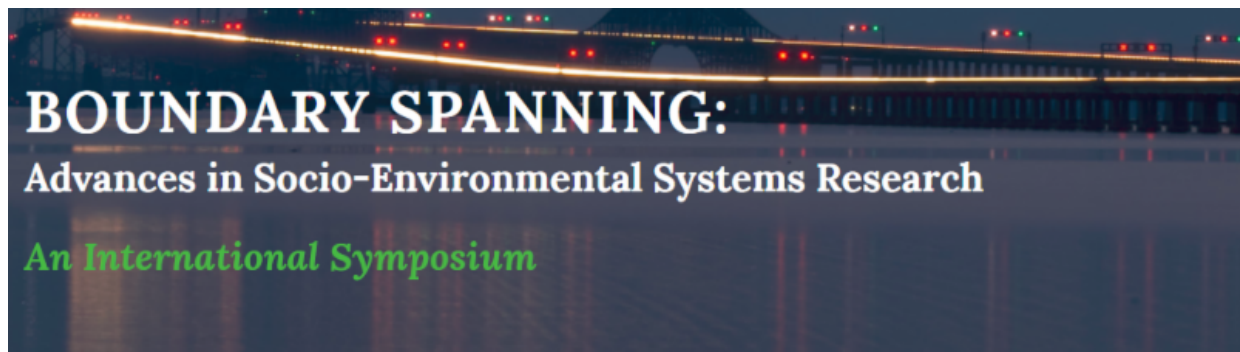
Reducing residential energy use and related CO₂ emissions is a key policy focus across many developed countries. Yet, despite ongoing efforts, prevailing market-based and technological focused approaches have had limited success in bringing about long-term reductions in domestic energy use. Without adequate 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
 VILLUM FONDEN & VELUX FONDEN

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

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 968 individuals:

Fanny Brun
Anna Berka
Israel Dunmade
Marlies Gude
Lukas Sattlegger
Sara Skarp
Brid Walsh

2/2/2018

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