



Robert Orzanna <orschiro@gmail.com>

SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)

1 message

SCORAI (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)

Tue, Aug 1, 2017 at 12:02

<emily.kennedy@wsu.edu>

PM

Reply-To: emily.kennedy@wsu.edu

To: robert@orzanna.de



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Dear Robert,

With many of us busy preparing Fall Semester courses in sustainable consumption, this issue highlights some of the many [teaching resources](#) provided by SCORAI. Did you know you can find more than [50 course descriptions](#) from sustainability related courses across the globe on the SCORAI website?

Keep reading this issue for innovative approaches to student engagement discussed at the recent GRF conference and an editorial about higher education from Michael Maniates.

Stay tuned for more exciting teaching developments on the SCORAI website!

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Cheers,

Darcy & Emily

Special Session on Sustainable Consumption Teaching Ends the GRF Conference with a Bang

On June 28 and in the very last session slot at the "Sustainable Lifestyles, Livelihoods and the Circular Economy" GRF conference in Brighton, a group of people got together to discuss innovative approaches to sustainable consumption teaching. Four short and dynamic presentations were given by session co-organizers.

(1) Gill Seyfang (UEA) presented "Theoretical Theatre" and the use of comedy in the classroom (more resources can be found here: <https://comedyintheclassroom.org>).

(2) Lucie Middlemiss (University of Leeds) offered some insights into "Using lectures to tackle students' uncritical assumptions", showcasing an approach to teaching that will also form the basis of her forthcoming textbook on sustainable consumption (Taylor and Francis).

(3) Marlyne Sahakian (University of Lausanne / University of Geneva) presented "Future-Wheel participative methods in the classroom", drawing on research by Antonietta Di Giulio and Rico Defila and translating the approach into the classroom setting.

(4) Manisha Anantharaman (St Mary's College, CA) demonstrated how "Tracking supply chains in classrooms" can lead to transformative learning among her students.

In addition, two other members of the SCORAI community offered insights into SC teaching with their presentations, including: Julia Steinberger (University of Leeds), with "Sustainability teaching in a post-truth era" and how to engage students in critical thinking; and Ulf Schrader (TU Berlin), with "From classroom to reality - and vice versa", demonstrating action learning in the classroom, on campus and in the community. Using a World Café format, the participants were then invited to travel between three work areas to discuss the following topics: 1) Share creative ideas from your teaching; 2) Where do you get your teaching ideas from? and 3) What resources or support do you need to be more effective in your teaching?

Would you like to hear about these results and be a part of a growing community interested in sustainable consumption teaching? Please contact marlyne.sahakian@unil.ch and visit the SCORAI Europe Teaching pages, <http://scorai.org/teaching>. You will find a list of courses, teaching resources and a new short-video series to support teaching in and outside of the classroom. Feel free to let us know if you would like your course to be included in this online review, and/or if you would like to be on a mailing list for the SC Teaching project.

Higher Education for a Post Growth World

Michael Maniates in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 12 June 2017 (online), print publication forthcoming.

"President Trump's repudiation of the Paris climate accords has not gone unchallenged by leaders of U.S. higher education. In the seven days following Trump's decision, more than 200 college and university presidents and chancellors joined hundreds of cities, states, and businesses in promising to meet the Paris emissions targets. More colleges and universities will surely follow.

The roots of such broad resistance to the White House lie in a campus environmental revolution some 20 years in the making. Sustainability offices that track resource use and promote eco-efficiency are becoming the norm. The number of academic programs in sustainability science and environmental studies has increased, as have enrollments. New academic journals devoted to sustainability have flourished. More than 500 institutions have committed to eventual carbon neutrality. Anthony Cortese, an early advocate of environmental stewardship within higher education, got it right when he recently described all this activity as 'a beacon of hope in a sea of turbulence.'

Cortese's beacon shines as an affirming rejoinder to the President's imprudence. And yet, as successful as they have been, college sustainability programs must now evolve, along with their institutions. The reason is both straightforward and stark: Contrary to the promise of eye-popping economic growth that Trump used to justify his decision, we are getting our first real experience of a post-growth world. Rapid and sustained economic growth is becoming a thing of the past, and it looks to be a bumpy ride. Higher education is uniquely positioned to help us move beyond the environmentally destructive imperative of ever-continuing economic growth. But higher education is also a creature of the high-growth world from which we must exit. Colleges and universities depend upon economic growth and often promote it. As a result, their sustainability efforts are often tailored to it. If how we school our children is an important part of the puzzle of human prosperity, few tasks are more important than reorienting higher education toward a post-growth future."

Continue reading [here](#).

From the Global Research Forum Conference on "Sustainable Lifestyles, Livelihoods and the Circular Economy"

By Halina Brown

The international conference organized by the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF) took place on June 27-29 in Brighton (UK) at the University of Sussex [co-sponsored by the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS)]. The event featured over thirty breakout sessions and five plenary presentations. It attracted about 150 participants: academics, development practitioners, civil society representatives as well as policymakers from the European Union and the UK. Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the businesses community were also present. The conference brought together several distinct intellectual communities, including international development, sustainable consumption and production, sustainable business, social justice, environmental impact and management, industrial ecology and others. This coming together of multiple intellectual communities which do not often meet was strongly reminiscent of past SCORAI conferences in 2013 and 2016, and it produced a rich intellectual exchange.

Steve Cayzer has posted a conference report on the SCORAI website. In this brief article I would like to highlight one important accomplishment of the conference, namely that it revealed the tension between two very different perspectives on the usefulness of the concept of a circular economy. On one hand, this notion has brought to the fore the need to focus on material throughput in the economy, which has been relatively neglected over the past two or so decades by climate-protection researches, activists, and policy makers interested in reducing the use of fossil fuels. Many proponents of the idea of a circular economy also point out its potential to contribute to solving pressing issues in developing countries including burgeoning waste in mega cities, livelihoods of the poor, inadequate sanitation, and associated health impacts.

On the other hand, the concept of a circular economy is an easy target for co-optation as a new cover for the old topics of material flows and waste management. Should that take place, it would be a setback for research and debate on sustainable consumption because it would invite a narrowly focused technocratic approach to the unsustainable throughput of energy and materials in the economy and it would encourage a disregard for the fundamental drivers of consumer society (these are quite familiar to the SCORAI community).

There are indications that this co-optation process might be well under way: the popularity of the circular economy concept within the business and policy-making communities is growing, reminiscent of the popularity of the now faded concept of corporate social responsibility during

the 1990s and 2000s; the flow of funding for research and pilot projects on circular economy has begun to achieve generous proportions; and the size of the academic community engaged with this concept is growing in leaps and bounds. Motivations vary: from intellectual attraction, to internalizing organizational prerogatives, to following career opportunities, to fundamental belief in small incremental changes on the margins. But as Maurie Cohen alerted the conference participants during the final plenary session the circular economy has become the new bright shiny object in the room and we are currently seeing people rush to get close to it. Hopefully, a critical examination of the new gold rush will closely follow.

See below for links to videos of GRF conference proceedings.



New Videos on SCORAI Website

Got a free minute to relax and enjoy a little bit of cinema? Watch the latest videos from the GRF conference on sustainable lifestyles, livelihoods and the circular economy. A great opportunity for all who missed being there physically:

[Watch here!](#)

Speaking of the SCORAI website, we need your feedback. How can the online components of SCORAI become more useful and valuable to you? Remember, we have a website, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube accounts. All those tools are there to serve you and as a member of SCORAI you have access to all of them.

Share your feedback with us on how SCORAI Online can better work for you by following this [link](#).



Call for Participation in the Third International Conference of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative

June 27-29, 2018

Sustainable Consumption: Fostering Good

Practices and Confronting the Challenges of the 21st Century

Mitigating the social and environmental impacts of contemporary provisioning systems constitutes a grand challenge the 21st century. Academics and practitioners from across disciplines as diverse as architecture, business, industrial ecology, sociology, and beyond are actively engaged both in deepening understanding of the scale of these problems and articulating solutions. Yet movement to implement sustainable consumption lags significantly behind these advances in knowledge.

In collaboration with the VELUX Endowed Chair in Corporate Sustainability and hosted by the Copenhagen Business School, the Third International Conference of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) will be held in Copenhagen on June 27-29, 2018. The event will comprise paper presentations, panel discussions, and keynote presentations by acclaimed speakers. Copenhagen has been in the vanguard of cities around the world actively engaged in facilitating more sustainable lifestyles and the conference will enable participants to learn firsthand about some of the world's most sustainable solutions to challenges in the domains of transportation, food, energy, and urban design.

Building on earlier events at Clark University (2013) and the University of Maine (2016), the conference is expected to attract an international assemblage of researchers who value close interaction with policy makers and practitioners while pursuing co-designed interventions to enable progress toward a more sustainable future. We therefore enthusiastically encourage participation from representatives of academia, industry, government, and civil society organisations. Across these sectors, we invite those with recognized and emerging expertise in topics related to sustainable consumption from interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and disciplinary perspectives.

Conference Co-chairs

- Maurie Cohen (New Jersey Institute of Technology)
- Lucia Reisch (Copenhagen Business School)
- Wencke Gwozdz (Copenhagen Business School)
- Emily Huddart Kennedy (Washington State University)

Additional details about SCORAI are available at <http://scorai.org>. Questions regarding SCORAI

2018 should be directed to Louise Thomson, Conference Coordinator, at lth.msc@cbs.dk.

Postdoctoral Opportunity with SHARECITY

Assessing the practice and sustainability potential of urban food sharing

Closing date: 12 Noon September 4th 2017.

This position is a fixed term contract for two years. The successful applicant will be a core member of the SHARECITY team. For details of the project visit: <http://sharecity.ie> The researcher will contribute to the third phase of the SHARECITY project, specifically focusing on a) conceptual and analytical development of metrics and measures of sustainability impacts as they are created through diverse practices of urban food sharing and b) the co-design of a toolkit to assist in the demonstration of sustainability impacts of food sharing initiatives that will be made available as an online resource. The successful candidate will be hosted in the Department of Geography, School of Natural Science, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. Applications via email to daviesa@tcd.ie, including: Full CV with contact details of 2 referees and including academic results, and a cover letter outlining relevant experience and motivations for applying for the post (max. 1000 words). Deadline 12 Noon September 4th 2017. General inquires concerning this post should be addressed to daviesa@tcd.ie

Edited Volume Announcement

Dr. Jukka Heinonen from the University of Iceland and Dr. Juudit Ottelin from Aalto University in Finland are guest editing a Special Issue called "Transition towards low-impact and regenerative human settlements" for Sustainability (IF 1.789). The issue focuses on the transition from current to low-impact and further to regenerative cities and other human settlements.

Topics of interest in the special issue include, but are not limited to:

- Regenerative human settlement concepts
- Carbon, material, biodiversity, ecological and other footprint assessments of present situation in various types of cities and other human settlements

- Carbon balance of human settlements
- Impacts of land-use change
- Carbon sequestration in the built environment
- Regenerative solutions in the built environment
- Carbon negative technologies in the built environment
- Assessment method development
- Environmental policy-making

The submission deadline is 31 March 2018, but papers are published per acceptance. For further information, please follow the link to the Special Issue Website at: http://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/human_settlements.



Publication of Workshop Report by Future Earth KAN on Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production

The Future Earth Knowledge-Action Network on Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production is pleased to announce publication of the final synthesis report on its workshop held on May 1-3, 2017 in Annapolis, Maryland, USA and sponsored by the [National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center](#). The document is available as a pdf download from <http://futureearth.org/future-earth-sscp>. The report will be an important source of input for the KAN's Research and Engagement Plan which will be drafted over the next couple of months. Members of SCORAI and other related networks are encouraged to provide feedback. Communications should be directed to Sachiyo Hayata at sscp_kan@futureearth.org.

--submitted by Maurie Cohen



KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm Put in Charge of Sustainable Consumption Program

As sustainable consumption climbs to a more prominent place on the global agenda, MISTRA (Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research) is investing SEK45 million to fill knowledge gaps to further society-wide environmental change. After a rigorous application process with many worthy proposals the selection panel, headed by Dale Southerton, Professor

of Sociology at the University of Manchester, the decision was to give the programme to a consortium led by KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. Another seven research groups and 24 other partners will be engaged in the programme. The group's application is entitled 'Sustainable Consumption: from Niche to Mainstream'.

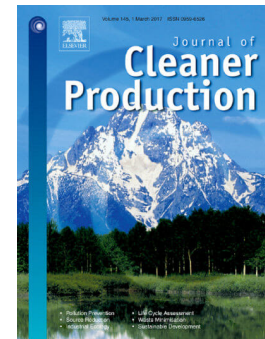
'This is a programme that aspires to social change in a broad sense. We have proficient researchers in sustainable consumption and the programme can muster the forces of skilled purchasers. Personally, I like its approach - going from niche behaviour to the mainstream. It's close to the soul of Mistra,' says Åke Iverfeldt, Mistra's Chief Executive.

- adapted from <http://www.mistra.org/>

Featured Publications

Fischer, D., Stanzus, L., Geiger, S., Grossman, P., & Schrader, U. (2017). Mindfulness and Sustainable Consumption: A Systematic Literature Review of Research Approaches and Findings. *Journal of Cleaner Production*. Advance online publication

Mindfulness, derived from Buddhist origins, refers to deliberate, unbiased and openhearted awareness of perceptible experience in the present moment. With its focus on cultivation of benevolent and clear-headed values and actions to self, others and the world, as well as its possible value in fostering greater coherence between values, attitudes and behavior, the concept of mindfulness has most recently attracted the interest of scholars in sustainable consumption research. So far, however, research on the connection between mindfulness and sustainable consumption is scattered across different disciplines and lacks integration. This paper contributes to a consolidation of the field. Based on a systematic literature review (Ninitial sample=1,137 publications, Npreliminary sample=32, Nfinal sample=7), it represents a stocktaking exercise to evaluate the research methodologies used and findings reported in the emerging field of empirical research relating mindfulness to sustainable consumption...



Article here: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2017.06.007> or [here](#).

Ivanova, D., Vita, G., Steen-Olsen, K., Stadler, K., Melo, P., Wood, R. & Hertwich, G. (2017). Mapping the Carbon Footprint of EU Regions. *Environmental Research Letters* 12(5)



While the EU Commission has encouraged Member States to combine national and international climate change mitigation measures with subnational environmental policies, there has been little harmonized effort towards the quantification of embodied greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from household consumption across European regions. This study develops an inventory of carbon footprints associated with household consumption for 177 regions in 27 EU countries, thus, making a key contribution for the incorporation of consumption-based accounting into local decision-making. Footprint calculations are based on consumer expenditure surveys and environmental and trade detail from the EXIOBASE 2.3 multiregional input-output database describing the world economy in 2007 at the detail of 43 countries, 5 rest-of-the-world regions and 200 product sectors. Our analysis highlights the spatial heterogeneity of embodied GHG emissions within multiregional countries with subnational ranges varying widely between 0.6 and 6.5 tCO₂e/cap. The significant differences in regional contribution in terms of total and per capita emissions suggest notable differences with regards to climate change responsibility. The study further provides a breakdown of regional emissions by consumption categories (e.g. housing, mobility, food). In addition, our region-level study evaluates driving forces of carbon footprints through a set of socio-economic, geographic and technical factors. Income is singled out as the most important driver for a region's carbon footprint, although its explanatory power varies significantly across consumption domains. Additional factors that stand out as important on the regional level include household size, urban-rural typology, level of education, expenditure patterns, temperature, resource availability and carbon intensity of the electricity mix. The lack of cross-national region-level studies has so far prevented analysts from drawing broader policy conclusions that hold beyond national and regional borders.

Article here: <http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aa6da9/pdf>

Interactive version of the maps here: <http://www.environmentalfootprints.org/regional>

Henninger, C.E., Alevizou, P.J., Goworek, H. & Ryding, D. Eds. (2017) *Sustainability in Fashion: A Cradle to Upcycle Approach*. Springer

This book provides a critical insight into sustainability and fashion in a retailing and marketing context. Examining a truly global industry,



Sustainability in Fashion offers international application with a view to contextualising important developments within the industry. Contributors use their diverse backgrounds and expertise to provide a contemporary approach in examining key theoretical concepts, constructs and developments. Topics include consumer behaviour, communications, circular economy and supply chain management. The individual chapters focus on sustainability and provide a range of fashion sector examples from high street to luxury apparel.



Find it here: <http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319512525>

New Publications in Sustainable Consumption Research (July 2017)

Baumann, S., Engman, A., Huddart Kennedy, E., & Johnston, J. (2017). Organic vs. Local: Comparing individualist and collectivist motivations for "ethical" food consumption. *Canadian Food Studies/La Revue canadienne des études sur l'alimentation*, 4(1), 68-86.

Baumann, S., Szabo, M., & Johnston, J. (2017). Understanding the food preferences of people of low socioeconomic status. *Journal of Consumer Culture*, 1469540517717780.

Boström, M., & Klintman, M. (2017). Can we rely on 'climate-friendly' consumption?. *Journal of Consumer Culture*, 1469540517717782.

Boucher, Jean Léon. 2016. "Culture, Carbon, and Climate Change: A Class Analysis of Climate Change Belief, Lifestyle Lock-in, and Personal Carbon Foot-print." *Social Ecology: Journal for Environmental Thought and Sociological Research*, 25(1-2):53-80.

Boucher, Jean Léon. 2017. "The Logics of Frugality: Re-producing Tastes of Necessity among Affluent Climate Change Activists." *Energy Research & Social Science*. (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214629617301718>).

Colby, A., & Kennedy, E. H. (2017). Extension of What and to Whom? A Qualitative Study of Self-Provisioning Service Delivery in a University Extension Program. In *Food Systems and Health* (pp. 177-198). Emerald Publishing Limited.

Fischer, D., Böhme, T., & Geiger, S. (2017). Measuring Young Consumers' Sustainable Consumption Behavior: Development and Validation of the YCSCB Scale. *Young Consumers*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1108/YC-03-2017-00671>

Stanszus, L., Fischer, D., Böhme, T., Frank, P., Fritzsche, J., Geiger, S., Harfensteller, J., Grossman, P. & Schrader, U. (2017). Education for Sustainable Consumption through Mindfulness Training: Development of a Consumption-Specific Intervention. *Journal of Teacher Education for Sustainability*, 19(1), 5-21.

Upcoming Conferences



Fifth Annual International Conference on Sustainable Development (ICSD)

Which will take place on 18 & 19 September, 2017, at Columbia University in New York City, is rapidly approaching!

The overarching conference theme is *The World in 2050: Looking Ahead for Sustainable Development*. Abstracts should be directly relevant to one of the 27 conference topics, which cover all 17 SDGs and a number of crosscutting issues. A full list of conference themes and the [complete call for abstracts](#) are available online. We hope you will join us!



Transformations2017: Transformations in Practice
30th August - 1st September 2017, Scotland, UK

Transformations 2017 is the third in a biennial series of international interdisciplinary conferences that focuses on transformations towards sustainability: addressing contemporary challenges and creating conditions for enhancing people's wellbeing, today and in the future, while strengthening the Earth's support system.

[Visit the conference website.](#)

SustEcon Conference – The contribution of a sustainable economy to achieving the SDGs



SustEcon Conference - The contribution of a sustainable economy to achieving the SDGs

September 25-26, 2017

Freie Universität - Berlin, Germany.

The focus of the conference will be on the contribution of the sustainable economy to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs). This contribution can be observed on a number of different levels: Innovations toward achieving the SDGs are to be as much a topic at the conference as methodological questions about measuring sustainability. In addition to that, the differences between various discourses and concepts and their respective contributions to the sustainable economy are also to feature prominently in the conference. A further topic of interest will be the (political) framework conditions and barriers to a sustainable economy as well as the contribution of science to the

SDGs.

Registrations for the conference are available from 05 June 2017 and can be made [here](#).

Visit conference webpage [here](#).



**18th Conference on the European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production:
Towards a GREener Challenge and Evolution in the Framework of the Circular Economy**
1-5 October, 2017 - Skiathos Island, Greece

The ERSCP is one of Europe's most remarkable conferences in its field and has taken place periodically since 1994. ERSCPs favour 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. The main goal of the ERSCPs is to encourage discussion amongst stakeholders involved in sustainable consumption and production: businesses, public institutions, universities, institutes and research centres, NGOs, SMEs, professional associations, decision-makers, etc.

We plan to bring together more than 400 stakeholders, from businesses, cities and communities, public institutions, universities, institutes and research centres, NGOs, SMEs, professional associations, decision-makers.

Conference website [here](#).



Knowledge/Culture/Ecologies International Conference

November 15-18, 2017 - Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago - Chile

Knowledge/Culture/Ecologies is the 4th conference in the Knowledge/Culture series, a sequence of international conferences created by the Institute for Culture and Society (ICS), Western Sydney University, Australia. The conference is hosted by Universidad Diego Portales in partnership with Pontificia Universidad Católica; Núcleo Milenio de Investigación en Energía y Sociedad (NUMIES); and Centro de Estudios de Conflicto y Cohesión Social (COES).

Ecological change and catastrophe are proliferating in a world in flux and crisis. These new socio-ecological assemblages are creating forms of interspecies intimacy and environmental emergency that challenge existing knowledge practices and demand different modes of collaborating and acting. If life on earth is changing for everybody and everything how can we invent different habitats, milieus, ways of being together that enable more things to matter and

make a difference? How are novel forms of social cohesion emerging around socio-environmental conflicts and justice? What experimental knowledge and political practices do we need to understand these emergent socioecologies and provoke new ones? And how do these profound earthly challenges intersect with obdurate and unevenly distributed forms of violence and inequality/exploitation particularly in the 'global south'?

[Visit the conference website.](#)

New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month, bringing our total membership to 938 individuals:

Elaine Vasconcelos
John Mulrow
Michael Jorgensen
Nicole Kreidler
Wouter Spekkink
Thomas Pircher

Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI), c/o Tellus Institute,
11 Arlington Street, Boston, MA 02116

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