



Or Schiro <orschiro@gmail.com>

SCORAI Newsletter (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative)

1 message

SCORAI (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative) <darcy.hauslik@wsu.edu> 18 July 2018 at 08:14
 Reply-To: darcy.hauslik@wsu.edu
 To: robert@orzanna.de



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July/August 2018

Dear Robert,

This is the summer (July/August) issue of the SCORAI newsletter. The next issue will be distributed on or around September 1.

Congratulations SCORAI community on the tremendously successful conference at Copenhagen Business School last month. We have updates from the proceedings below in addition to the usual host of updates and publications from the sustainable consumption community.

Thank you for continuing to help SCORAI thrive!

Best,

Darcy and Maurie

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**200+ Participants Attend the Third SCORAI Conference
 at Copenhagen Business School**



More than 200 scholars and policy practitioners participated in the Third International Conference of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) at the Copenhagen Business School on June 27-30, 2018. Keynote presentations for the event were delivered by celebrated Danish urban planner Jan Gehl and alternative monetary system expert Mary Mellor and also included two keynote panels featuring notable figures from Denmark's business and political communities. The conference showcased more than fifty parallel sessions on topics such as sustainable consumption and time, grassroots innovations, sustainable consumption and social difference, social psychology and consumer behavior, and the sustainability dimensions of the sharing economy. The event also served as a venue for several specially organized sessions devoted to, for example, living well in a world of limits and sustainable consumption in the digital age. A particular highlight of the conference was a sustainable business fair that provided a forum for approximately one dozen local entrepreneurial ventures ranging from a local brewery to a vendor producing insects as a source of nutritional protein.

The event was conducted under a vision implemented by Conference Coordinator Louise Thomsen that called for limiting paper use to an absolute minimum, avoiding meat at all meals, eliminating the usual knickknacks, and avoiding the generation of non-recyclable waste. A small amount of surplus food from the event was donated to a local homeless shelter.

The conference furthermore served as the occasion to present the SCORAI Outstanding Paper Award to an Early-Career Scholar. The recipient of the prize was Jack Clark (University of Iceland) for a paper entitled "Limits to sustainable consumption: quantifying greenhouse gas limits, impacts, overshoot and reconciliation at the national and individual scales." The first runner up was Gibran Vita (Norwegian University of Science and Technology) for a co-authored paper with the title "Sustainable lifestyle scenarios to curb European environmental impact: connecting local visions to global consequences." The second runner-up was Anders Rhiger Hansen (Aalborg University) for his paper entitled "Family background matters! The impact of family relations on sustainable consumption practices." Members of the selection committee were Manisha Anantharaman, Halina Brown (Chair), Cindy Isenhour, Paul Nieuwenhuis, Ulf Schrader, and Richard Wilk.

The conference organizing team was comprised of Maurie Cohen, Lucia Reisch, Wencke Gwozdz, and Emily Huddart-Kennedy. Additional administrative support was provided by Robert Orzanna, Annie Saugrup, and Esthi Zipori. A great team of CBS students helped out running the registration desk, directing participants, coordinating communications technology, and effortlessly

executing a host of other essential activities. Critical financial support for the conference was provided by Jeremy Moon, VELUX Professor of Corporate Responsibility at the Copenhagen Business School. Additional assistance came from the Carlsberg Foundation and the Danish Ministry of Higher Education & Science.

Full details on the conference are available via the SCORAI website at <http://scorai.org>.

Subscribe Now to the New SCORAI Communication System!

After ten years of extremely dedicated service, the software used to operate the SCORAI listserv has reached the end of the line. The network is in the process of shifting to a new Google-supported platform and all SCORAI-ers are encouraged to promptly subscribe themselves to the new system because it is not technically feasible to perform the transfer on an internal basis.

Please go to <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/scorai> (do it now before you forget!) and follow the straightforward instructions that will enable you to make some customized choices.

All SCORAI-ers should refrain from making postings to the old system and instead begin to use the following new address for the distribution of announcements and other communications: scorai@googlegroups.com.

In the event of any complications, please reach out to either Maurie Cohen (mcohen@njit.edu) or to SCORAI's digital coordinator, Robert Orzanna (robert@orzanna.de).

The SCORAI Executive Board looks forward to your continued participation in this important forum and hopes you will promptly follow through on these instructions.

With this announcement SCORAI China is pleased to provide the following update. To cover most of the researchers, networks, and institutes currently active in the field of sustainable consumption and production in the country, SCORAI China now has four coordinators to maintain a growing network of Chinese researchers and promote exchange and cooperation with colleagues in the international community. You are warmly invited and encouraged to contact any of us with questions, comments, or proposals on sustainable consumption issues in China!

Contact persons:

Dr. Dunfu Zhang
Professor, School of Sociology and Political Science
Shanghai University
Fields of research: Consumer culture and sociology of consumption; social changes in urban and rural areas
E-mail: dunfuzhang@hotmail.com
Website: <http://my.shu.edu.cn/>

Dr Ning Wang
Professor, Department of Sociology and Social Work, School of Sociology & Anthropology
Sun Yat-sen University (Guangzhou)
Fields of research: sociology of consumption; sociology of tourism; sociology of institutions
Email: lpwn@mail.sysu.edu.cn
Website: <http://ssa.sysu.edu.cn/>

Dr. Lei Zhang
Associate Professor, School of Environment and Natural Resources, Renmin University of China
Fields of research: environmental sociology; environmental policy and management; sustainable consumption and production; environmental governance

Email: leizhang66@ruc.edu.cn
Website: <http://envi.ruc.edu.cn/>

Dr. Wenling Liu
Associate Professor, School of Management and Economics, Beijing Institute of Technology
Fields of research: environmental sociology; energy policy; sustainable consumption and production; social practices
Email: liuwenling@bit.edu.cn
Website: <http://sme.bit.edu.cn/>

Communicating for Sustainable Consumption: From Research to Practice

On June 26, SCORAI and the Future Earth Knowledge-Action Network (KAN) on Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SSCP) co-organized a workshop on "Communicating for Sustainable Consumption: From Research to Practice" in Copenhagen. Organizers were Daniel Fischer and Philip Vergragt, the co-leaders of the WgCoCo (acronym of the KAN SSCP Working Group on Communication for Sustainable Consumption). This workshop, back to back with the SCORAI conference, attracted 18 participants from a wide range of countries and backgrounds.



The main aim of the workshop was to develop next steps after the scoping paper by the WgCoCo was finalized and submitted to the KAN SSCP. How to advance sustainable lifestyles through practical activities and through better understanding of structural and cultural barriers to change? The workshop was structured through brief spotlight talks in the morning, a case study, and a world café in the afternoon. The main outcomes can be summarized as:

- A very rich discussion with many perspectives
- Created two-way communication through co-production and higher-order learning

- How to translate--take big issues and big words and translate them to the local, relevant level. Keep the language simple and also translate across languages. Provide positive narrative frames and move away from sacrifice to focus on co-benefits
- Reveal underlying structures and power relationships (a key example is *The Story of Stuff*)
- Work with teachers; engage at the high-school level; communicate and engage in action with younger generations--get the next generation on board
- Given the urgency, how do we move from niche to mainstream? Identify obstacles and engage with our denials and our difficult emotions
- We were struggling with the urgency of deep and systemic change through behavioral change and through creating enabling conditions (infrastructures)
- Support leapfrogging by developing countries
- New was the perspective of the inner (mindful) dimension of change: help people reflect on symbolic aspects of consumption
- Focus communication on emotions and action--engage the lizard brain instead of only mindset or as a way to change mindsets
- Interesting was the perspective of consumerism as a public health issue.
- The relationship between consumerism and the economy at large; and the role of crises as opportunities for systemic change
- How to frame the issues and how to target the right audience are crucial challenges; use different tones for different audiences
- Frame around sufficiency--how do we satisfy our needs in new ways (see the work of Max-Neef)
- The case of consumption-based emission indicators (CBEI) proved to be a powerful example
- Examples and "walking the talk" are powerful. Inspire--when we are inspired we can make a lot of difference

In a follow-up meeting the next afternoon a new subgroup was formed: WgCoCo in Action that developed a new project idea building on the work by Valentina Aversano-Dearborn and Forum ViA in Vienna.

The workshop was a success in terms of: bringing together a heterogeneous group of experts; exchanging knowledge, and developing new perspectives. A workshop and a summary report are being prepared. The workshop was a valuable stepping stone for next activities of the WgCoCo, and new members are enthusiastically welcomed.

--Submitted by Philip Vergragt

SCORAI-er Wins Poster Award at European Marketing Academy Annual Conference

As SCORAI affiliate I presented my current project "Sustainable Consumption from a Gender Perspective (SusConGen)" at the 47th European Marketing Academy Annual Conference (EMAC 2018) in Glasgow, one of the biggest conferences of marketing scholars in the world and the largest one in Europe. To my great pleasure my poster "Exploring Gender Stereotypes in Clothing Consumption from a Sustainability Marketing Perspective," which explores how prevalent images of "masculinity" and "femininity" can prevent the adoption of more sustainable consumption patterns in the clothing area and how to overcome obstructive gender role models to promote sustainable clothing consumption, won the "EMAC 2018 Best Poster Award" as best of 110 posters. So even commercial marketing scholars are starting to recognize the area of sustainable consumption, which is at heart of our SCORAI community, as important field (even if they still have some tensions with my notion, namely that sustainable consumption is not just about buying some green products but more about eco-friendly, just, and sufficient lifestyles.

-- Stephan Wallaschkowski

You can find the award winning poster [here!](#)

The Great Transition Initiative

Julie Matthaei, a co-founder and board member of the US Solidarity Economy Network, penned "Feminism and Revolution: Looking Back, Looking Ahead" for the Great Transition Initiative this past month. In it, she discusses the evolution of left-wing feminism throughout the 20th and 21st century and the vital relationship between feminism and the solidarity economy. GTI also published an accompanying roundtable of different perspectives on the piece, which you can read here: <http://www.greattransition.org/publication/roundtable-feminism-revolution>.

Energize Project: Policy Integration Workshop

A workshop was held in relation to Work Package 6 (Policy Integration) of the European Commission Horizon 2020-funded ENERGISE project, which focuses on reducing energy demand and promoting practice cultures of sufficiency. The workshop took place in Copenhagen in June 2018, just prior to the SCORAI conference. The workshop was attended by both researchers and practitioner members of ENERGISE's Policy and Decision-making Forum (PDF) and facilitated by Audley Genus and Marfuga Iskandarova from WP6 lead partner Kingston University London. The workshop delegates are pictured below.



The workshop emphasized the importance of imaginaries, framings, and stories of energy demand reduction policy and local sustainable energy consumption initiatives. These are implicated with what is seen as desirable directions for society, appropriate policy foci, legitimate actors, necessary actions and required knowledge to inform policy development. Delegates underlined the need to build networks of diverse stakeholders and the need for researchers to adapt methods of engagement or translation of findings according to the type of stakeholder and the knowledge they need. These considerations should inform forthcoming work on policy integration of energy research in the social sciences.

Fellowship Opportunity: Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)

Call for Applications for 2019

The Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) conducts research with the goal of identifying, advancing, and guiding transformation processes toward sustainable societies. Its research practice is transdisciplinary, transformative, and co-creative. Every year, about 30 Fellows from around the world who are at various career stages join the institute for several months or longer. Located in Potsdam, the IASS offers Fellows the opportunity to develop their ideas within an international community of sustainability researchers at the institute as well as the wider Berlin-Brandenburg area.

The IASS seeks applications for 2019 in particular for the following two topics:

- 1) Theories and methodologies of how to link transformation and transformative research
- (2) Concepts and methodologies for collecting and measuring societal impact of transformation research

Applications have to be submitted by 19 August 2018. Applications are not restricted to academia and applications from outside the scientific community are explicitly welcome. More information on the application process and the Fellowship Programme can be found at <https://fellows.iass-potsdam.de>. For any further questions, please contact fellowship@iass-potsdam.de.



New Book on Globalisation and Consumption: Backlash: Saving Globalisation From Itself



**BACKLASH: SAVING
GLOBALISATION
FROM ITSELF**
JOE ZAMMIT-LUCIA
DAVID BOYLE

Foreword by
MIRIAM GONZÁLEZ DURÁNTEZ

International trade and globalization are the themes of the moment as President Trump takes on other countries in an attempt to reduce the US trade deficit.

SCORAI member Joe Zammit-Lucia has just published a new book entitled "Backlash: Saving Globalisation From Itself" with co-author David Boyle. The book argues that globalisation as we know it is over. It is a twentieth century construct based on nineteenth century economics and well past its sell-by date. The book also argues that the whole concept of international trade is based on defining human beings primarily as "consumers." International trade is intended to drive economic efficiency and bring down the price of goods thereby leading to ever more consumption and economic growth. "But are the days of human beings just being reduced to insatiable consumers numbered?" ask the authors. "At the macro level, we are all wondering how long, in a finite planet, we can persist with an economic model that is based on ever-increasing consumption."

The book argues that international trade as we know it is incompatible with an environmental consciousness. It foresees a world where cross-border trade will continue to decrease due to fundamental political, social, and cultural changes that are accelerating. It puts forward a template for a new form of globalisation more in tune with a twenty-first century world.

SCORAI Presence at Upcoming North-South DeGrowth Conference in Mexico City

September 3-7 the first North-South DeGrowth conference will be organized in Mexico City.
<https://degrowth.descrecimiento.org/>

SCORAI submitted a proposal for a session aimed to bridge the gap between degrowth and sustainable consumption somewhat. Here is the accepted session proposal with the speakers at this conference:

Session proposal for DeGrowth Conference Mexico-City, September 4-6, 2018

Sustainable Consumption, Equity, and DeGrowth

Sustainable Consumption is a concept first introduced in Agenda 21 in the 1990s, addressing individual consumption patterns and inequality, promoting sustainable livelihoods and a transformation towards a more sustainable economic system. Consumption is often related to end-consumers, but governments, big corporations and institutions are also large consumers. Still, final (household) consumption drives 60-70% of the economies in industrialized countries; and thus addressing overconsumption in the global North and by elites in the global South is not just about individual lifestyles. It is very much about the growth-oriented economic system: in a degrowth society consumption and lifestyles need to be radically transformed. It is not well known that consumer society is a social construct: consciously created by think tanks and large corporations (and governments) to transform the war economy into a viable peace economy. The personal footprint is strongly related with income, irrespective of the environmental awareness or intentions. There are no easy solutions: some promote sufficiency, while others focus on prosumption (localized and collective production and consumption) and on non-commercial sharing and producer-consumer cooperatives. Some focus on smaller footprints through smaller sizes of houses, or through renewable energy; others on the culture of consumerism; and on the first signs of a post-consumer society; and still others ask the question if capitalism can exist in a no-growth or degrowth society. In short, there are many overlaps between sustainable consumption and the degrowth movement, which will be further explored in this session.

Speakers:

Philip Vergragt (SCORAI, USA): Sustainable Consumption, Equity, and Degrowth.

Joachim Spangenberg (SERI, Germany): Change agents needed for reducing consumption.

Manu Mathai (Azim Premji University, India) Sustainable Structures of Living Together: Towards Degrowth in Energy Policy.

Janis Brizga (U. Latvia, Latvia) A tax on luxury goods: analyzing the distributional effects and addressing overconsumption.

Cynthia Isenhour, Brienne Berry (U. Maine, USA) Reuse and Resilience in Maine's 'Depleted' Rural Communities.

Featured Publications

Jensen, C. L. Goggins, G. Fahy, F. Grealis, E. Vadovics, E. Genus, A. and Rau, H. (2018) Towards a practice-theoretical classification of sustainable energy consumption initiatives: Insights from

social scientific energy research in 30 European countries. *Energy Research and Social Sciences* available online July 2018 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2018.06.025>



Reducing residential energy use and related CO2 emissions across society requires approaches that understand energy demand as dependent on the performance of a range of interconnected social practices, which includes aspects of timing, location and material contexts. However, current energy policy and change initiatives often rely on a somewhat narrow combination of rational consumer choice models, efficiency measures and information-based behavioral change theory, thus falling short on anticipated reductions. Insights from the ENERGISE project highlight the merits of a practice-theoretical approach to social scientific energy research that explicitly recognizes complex interactions in the social organization of everyday life. The paper demonstrates how such an approach provides knowledge on variations in

energy use across households, social groups and societies and how these are (not) acknowledged in the problem framings of dominant energy policies and change initiatives. Reflecting on experiences made during a large-scale comparative analysis of sustainable energy consumption change initiatives in 30 European countries, this paper presents a new and innovative methodology for investigating the dynamics of change initiatives that target energy use within households and communities. It concludes with some critical reflections on the methodology presented.

Rau, H., Goggins, G. & Fahy, F. (2018) From invisibility to impact: Recognising the scientific and societal relevance of interdisciplinary sustainability research. *Research Policy*, 47(1): 266-276 (Open Access) <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048733317301907>

Academics are increasingly expected to produce concrete and directly applicable solutions to hard-to-solve 'real-world problems' such as poverty, development, and environmental degradation. However, conventional assessments of the impact of science on society have not yet been adequately adapted to capture the diverse effects of this type of problem-centred research. Drawing on a case study of a large-scale project on (un)sustainable consumption, this paper demonstrates the range, complexity and potential long-term nature of impact in interdisciplinary sustainability research. It thus supports arguments for alternative approaches to impact assessment that question conventional views of translating scientific knowledge into action, value the multi-directionality of science-society relations and recognise diverse forms of engagement between scientists and non-scientific actors through non-academic channels and outputs. The paper also challenges common (mis)conceptions of work practices in a university context by demonstrating the highly innovative and inclusive nature of much sustainability research that seeks to address the needs of diverse communities of actors. It is argued that only radically different ways of conceptualising and measuring short-, medium- and long-term impacts can capture the success or otherwise of social-scientific and interdisciplinary sustainability research.



Sahakian, M. and Bertho, B. (2018) Exploring emotions and norms around Swiss household energy usage: When methods inform understandings of the social. *Energy Research and Social Sciences* available online July 2018 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2018.06.017>

Social norms have an important role to play in relation to how practices play out, involving shared understandings and expectations around what should or ought to be. Few studies consider emotions from a social practice perspective in relation to energy studies, however. From a socio-anthropological perspective, we set out to uncover how studying emotions methodologically could provide insights into opportunities for reduced or improved energy usage in the home. Based on a three-year research project focused on household energy usage in Western Switzerland (2015-2017), we demonstrate how studying emotions can help to reveal tensions in discourse and practice, which present windows of opportunities for either de-stabilising or re-enforcing existing practices.

What we found is that practices compete for people's time, but also for people's emotions: achieving a "feel good" disposition can imply engaging in strategies that involve forms of prioritization, justification or negotiation drawing from different registers, such as a quest for convenience and cleanliness, but also for personal health or safety. In the conclusion, we provide insights on how eliciting emotions through collective action and



forms of social learning could lead to opportunities for transformative, socially-embedded change - towards both reduced and improved energy usage.

Stephens, J., P. Frumhoff, and L. Yona (2018). "The Role of College and University Faculty in the Fossil Fuel Divestment Movement." *Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene* 6(1): 41.

<https://www.elementascience.org/articles/10.1525/elementa.297/>



ELEMENTA
Science of the Anthropocene

Colleges and universities have played a critical role in the growing social movement to divest institutional endowments from fossil fuels. While campus activism on fossil fuel divestment has been driven largely by students and alumni, faculty are also advocating to their administrators for institutional divestment from fossil fuels. This article characterizes the role of faculty by reviewing signatories to publicly available letters that endorse fossil fuel divestment. Analysis of 30 letters to administrators signed by faculty at campuses throughout the United States and Canada reveals support for divestment from 4550 faculty across all major fields of inquiry and scholarship, and all types of faculty positions. Of these signers, more than 225 have specific expertise in climate change or energy. An in-depth analysis of 18 of these letters shows that a significantly greater proportion of tenured faculty sign open letters of support for divestment than do not-yet-tenured tenure-track faculty (15.4% versus 10.7%), perhaps reflecting concerns among not-yet-tenured faculty that such support might jeopardize their career advancement. This analysis suggests that faculty support for the divestment movement is more widespread than commonly recognized; this movement is more mainstream, and broader-based, than is often recognized. Revealing the scope and scale of faculty support for fossil fuel divestment may encourage additional faculty to engage, support and endorse this growing social movement that highlights the social impact of investment decisions, and calls upon colleges and universities to align their investment practices with their academic missions and values.

New Publications in Sustainable Consumption Research (June 2018)

Balderjahn, I., Peyer, M., Seegebarth, B., Wiedmann, K.-P., Weber, A. 2018. The many faces of sustainability-conscious consumers: A category-independent typology, *Journal of Business Research*, 91, pp. 83-93.

Dubey, R., Gunasekaran, A., Childe, S.J., Luo, Z., Wamba, S.F., Roubaud, D., Foropon, C. 2018. Examining the role of big data and predictive analytics on collaborative performance in context to sustainable consumption and production behaviour, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 196, pp. 1508-1521.

Gassler, B., Spiller, A. 2018. Is it all in the MIX? Consumer preferences for segregated and mass balance certified sustainable palm oil, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 195, pp. 21-31.

Greene, M. 2018. Socio-technical transitions and dynamics in everyday consumption practice *Global Environmental Change*, 52, pp. 1-9.

Jackson, T., Smith, C. 2018. Towards sustainable lifestyles: Understanding the policy challenge *The Cambridge Handbook of Psychology and Economic Behaviour*, Second Edition, pp. 481-515.

Kalbar, P., Birkved, M., Hauschild, M., Kabins, S., Nygaard, S.E. 2018. Environmental impact of urban consumption patterns: Drivers and focus points, *Resources, Conservation and Recycling*, 137, pp. 260-269.

Lewandowska, A., Witczak, J., Giungato, P., Dierks, C., Kurczewski, P., Pawlak-Lemanska, K. 2018. Inclusion of life cycle thinking in a sustainability-oriented consumer's typology: A proposed methodology and an assessment tool. *Sustainability (Switzerland)*, 10 (6), art. no. 1826.

Pekkanen, T.-L., Pätäri, S., Albadera, L., Jantunen, A. 2018. Who Cares About Product Sustainability Information at the Moment of Purchase? Consumer Evidence from Three Countries, *Sustainable Development*, 26 (3), pp. 229-242.

Rohmer, S., Gerdessen, J., Claassen, G., Bloemhof, J., van 't Veer, P. 2018. A nutritional comparison and production perspective: Reducing the environmental footprint of the future, *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 196, pp. 1407-1417.

Visser, M., Schoormans, J., Vogtländer, J. 2018. Consumer buying behaviour of sustainable vacuum cleaners - Consequences for design and marketing. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 195, pp. 664-673.

Yang, S., Li, L., Zhang, J. 2018. Understanding consumers' sustainable consumption intention at China's Double-11 online shopping festival: An extended theory of planned behavior model. *Sustainability (Switzerland)*, 10 (6), art. no. 1801.

Upcoming Conferences



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.

More info [here](#).



We call on representatives of the global North and South: of first peoples/indigenous peoples, miners, peasants, workers, employees, technicians, sanitary workers, diverse artists, poets, writers, intellectuals, musicians, singers, artisans, professors, lawyers, physicians, architects,

engineers, geologists, astronomers, chemists, dentists, veterinarians, anthropologists, geographers, historians, sociologists, psychologists, economists, philologists, philosophers, communication theorists, programmers, scientists, art critics, theologians, thinkers, humanists, pacifists, indigenists, feminists, ecologists, animal liberation advocates, cooperative members, unionists, peasantist, anarchists, socialists, mutualists, communists, zapatistas, activists of diverse social causes and citizens, shamans, nuns and monks, practitioners of Zen Buddhism, Yoga, Sufism, esoterics, priests, rabbis, imams, cult ministers, secularists, pastors, bishops; social movements, networks and organizations: indigenous, ejido members, common folk, urban collectives, neighborhood, regional or state groups, representatives of civil society from: cooperatives, unions, civil associations, chambers, institutes, colleges, foundations, non-governmental organizations; to researchers and academics in general, traders/merchants, small and medium businesspeople, municipal and state authorities; legislators, judges and state magistrates; federal deputies and senators, federal officials, to participate in the 2018 North South Conference on Degrowth-Descrecimiento, Mexico City that will take place between the 4th and 6th of September, 2018 in Mexico City, location to be announced. The conference will run from 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. each day.

The conference slogan is the "decolonization of the social imaginary"; the thematic axes are: survival, culture and wealth; and the cross-cutting/transversal axes are: degrowth in the North and South, connection between local and global action, links and connections between degrowth and related movements, convivial science and technology, individuals, groups, communities and institutions that are making change and taking action globally now.

The conference will be structured with time for plenaries, parallel sessions and art, lunch, conviviality and getting around. The plenaries will open and close the day and will be dedicated to debating the thematic axis of the day, with interventions from national and international conference speakers. The parallel sessions will take place twice during the day: before and after lunch, with interventions by presenters of the special sessions and the normal sessions whose abstracts have been approved by the reviewers and the executive commission; the art will be present at the beginning of the plenaries and in the amenities at the end of the day; the lunch will be served at 1:30 p.m.; the amenities and changes of place will take place at the end of the plenaries and after the second time dedicated to parallel sessions.

On the webpage <https://degrowth.descrecimiento.org>, the following will be published: the thematic and cross-cutting/transversal axes; the sub-themes; what we understand by degrowth; why in Mexico; the call to present special sessions and/or individual presentations; the principles, objectives and purpose; the organizing committee, the scientific-cultural committee, the executive commission; the endorsements of and alliances with other conferences; the conference plenary speakers; the updated outlines of the program and, next July, the final program; news about the conference; publications related to degrowth-descrecimiento; and different quotas, assisted registration and organizers



The 6th International Degrowth Conference for ecological sustainability and social equity will take place in Malmö, Sweden 21-25 August 2018, with two twin conferences taking place the same

year - in Mexico City, Mexico (4-6 September 2018) and at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium (18-19 September 2018). Our ambition is that the inclusion of a range of social, cultural and activist events draws in members of the community and stimulates a fruitful public debate.

This conference is inspired by principles of care, mutual aid and democratic decision-making. We aim to live and share dreams and practices of different worlds both happening and possible over these few days and invite you to be part of it.

Learn more [here!](#)



Where: European Parliament, Brussels (Belgium)

When: September 18-19, 2018

A post-growth conference supported by various stakeholders (Members of the European Parliament from different political groups, academics, NGOs and unions) will take place in the premises of the European Parliament on September 18-19 2018, coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the collapse of the US Bank Lehman Brothers that sparked the economic crisis in which we are still trapped.

Given its central location close to the heart of the European Union decision-making, the conference will offer a unique opportunity for the EU civil society to confront their views with those of EU officials and staff that defines the core of the economic model and political priorities. Considering that the latter are not compatible with a fair and ecological transformation of our societies, workshops will address the theoretical design of models used to frame the European economy, the relevance and feasibility of basic income schemes, the ultimate goal of the internal market and the environmental consequences of technological progress. The aim of these days - about one year before the next European elections and the nomination of a new Commission - will be to create a cultural contagion effect by which the thinking of policy makers will tilt towards genuine sustainability.

More info [here](#).

Leverage Points 2019

International conference on sustainability research and transformation
Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany, 6-8 February

We are currently inviting applications for inspiring, provocative and exciting oral and poster presentations. Presentation/session formats are intended to be novel and flexible, but may include standard 15 minute presentations, speed talks, or panel discussions. There will be a strong focus on interaction, dialog and synthesis running throughout the conference. Session leaders will coordinate with presenters regarding the format of presentations upon acceptance of abstracts.

We welcome, theoretical, empirical, methodological and praxis contributions with a focus on transformative change and sustainability. Contributions with an explicit focus on the concept of leverage points are particularly welcome. Submissions should relate to one of the core themes of the conference, paying attention to the particular requirements of your chosen

theme. The abstracts should be a maximum of 300 words and should end in a statement: "Implications for sustainability transformations: ..."

Core themes

- Re-structuring institutions for transformative change
- Re-connecting people and nature as a deep leverage point
- Re-thinking how we know and act in relation to sustainability transformations
- Systems thinking and complexity as tools for transformation
- Transformative research practices in sustainability science
- Emerging ideas

Contributors can submit a maximum of one abstract, as a lead author, to each theme. The same abstract cannot be submitted to more than one theme.

The deadline for submissions of abstracts is 30 June 2018. Your abstract will be subject to review by theme leaders, and you will be notified of your acceptance or rejection by 30 August 2018. Presentations may be transferred to other themes if deemed appropriate by the reviewing committee. More information [here](#).

New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month, bringing our total membership to 1,000 individuals:

Erika Wolters
Aasha Sharma

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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