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February 2021 Newsletter



Greetings SCORAI community,

Once again we have a lot of sustainable consumption updates to share this month! Since the beginning of the new year, the organization's website, [SCORAI.net](https://scorai.net) has seen a record number of visitors. [Register for upcoming webinars](#) with Halina Brown speaking about "Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration Toward Climate Action" on February 22, and Duncan Crowley in March and Lucie Middlemiss in April. You can view recent webinars with Josh Alpert, Giorgos Kallis, Jennie Stephens, Ashley Colby and Gene Homicki [here](#). Georgina (Ginnie) Guillen is launching a [new blog series](#) on SCORAI.net exploring the role of gamification in motivating consumption behavior changes. Read on for news about new publications by members, opportunities to engage, and updates from partner organizations!

--Halina and Liz

SCORAI Webinar Series: Sustainable Consumption and Lifestyles

February 22, 2021, 10-11am ET

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Halina Brown: "Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration Toward Climate Action"

There is a wide agreement, and even exhortations, that civil society and municipal government need to collaborate in planning for climate action and for implementing it. In this webinar I will talk about such a collaboration, and what it takes to make it work. My story derives from my own work in Newton, Massachusetts, a well-to-do suburban city of 90,000 outside Boston.



I am a Chairperson of Newton Citizens Commission on Energy, a

myself) are also climate activists, deeply engaged with civil society organizations in our city. In 2019 we developed a climate action plan for Newton and since then have been working with the municipality and grassroots organizations on its implementation. This work includes technical analysis, research, planning, testifying, strategizing, politicking, diplomacy, and often a struggle in addressing conflicts and competing objectives. This webinar will describe the Newton experience and critically evaluate the idea of collaborative climate action.



Halina S. Brown is a Professor Emerita Clark University and serves Chairperson of Newton Citizens Commission on Energy. She is a co-founder and Executive Board Member of SCORAI.

Upcoming Webinars in the Series:

- March 22, 10-11am ET: Duncan Crowley: *Talk information coming soon*
- April 19, 10-11am ET: Lucie Middlemiss: "Energy poverty in the energy transition: understanding and addressing the under consumption of energy during a low-carbon transition in Europe"

Watch previous webinars from this series at scorai.net:

- **Gene Homicki:** "Can the radical reuse of products reduce consumption, waste, and even inequity?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDTW0av7exw>
- **Ashley Colby:** "Subsistence Agriculture in the US: Reconnecting to Work, Nature and Community" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3LZtvIPYOKY>
- **Jennie C. Stephens:** "Diversifying Power: Why We Need Antiracist, Feminist Leadership in Climate and Energy" <https://scorai.net/diversifying-power-why-we-need-antiracist-feminist-leadership-in-climate-and-energy/>
- **Giorgos Kallis:** "The Case for Degrowth" <https://scorai.net/the-case-for-degrowth/>
- **Josh Alpert:** "Sustainable Consumption and Climate Leadership for Cities" scorai.net/sustainable-consumption-and-climate-leadership-for-cities/

Sustainable Consumption in the News

[The Consumer and the "New Normal" after COVID-19](#)

Ostfalia News | by Dr. Ruth Areli Garcia-Leon | January 2021

that during this time, we as consumers could be able to see clearly how we were living and why is it important to consume in a more sustainable way?" Dr Garcia-Leon argues that although the negative effects of the massive lockdown are significant and the economic recovery will be a challenge for all countries, the coronavirus pandemic brings the possibility to see how we were living and to evaluate our consumer behavior deeply.

[‘Degrowth’ inspires business model innovation for a sustainable post-COVID economy.](#)

London School of Economics Blog | by Florian Lüdeke-Freund and Tobias Froese | January 29th, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic, during which companies around the world are being forced to rethink their ways of doing business, requires thinking about post-crisis business models for sustainability, including the concept of degrowth (taking the focus away from economic growth and into quality of life). The authors introduce business model innovation, combined with sustainability paradigms such as degrowth, as a promising contribution to an innovation and management toolbox for a post-crisis economy.

[To Reduce Climate Impacts, the Building Industry Must Change](#)

Barron's | by Laurent Bataille | January 29th, 2021

Residential and commercial buildings combined account for nearly 40% of total U.S. energy consumption, according to the Energy Information Administration. Their construction and operation uses 36% of the world's energy. The U.S. Energy Information Administration found that residential buildings are set to soon become the largest consumer of electricity globally, a trend accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The article discusses opportunities for the federal government and the private sector to work together to make a significant investment in green technology.

[Solving Shared Problems at the Food, Energy, and Water Nexus](#)

Eos Science News by AGU | by Jie Zhuang, Frank Löffler, Gary Sayler, Guirui Yu, and Guibin Jiang | January 25, 2021

IN recent years, geopolitical and ideological barriers have limited US-China research collaborations, but since 2006 a partnership among U.S. and Chinese academic institutions and researchers committed to transdisciplinary activities focused on better understanding Food-Energy-Water system interactions has advanced understanding of global rural-urban resource flows and interdependencies.

NEW BLOG SERIES ON SCORAI.NET: This Quarter in Play: How Does Gamification Relate to Sustainable Consumption?

Do you check your steps on your cellphone's in-built health app and feel great when realizing you met the daily goal? Do you smile when your energy bill comes with a colorful graph showing your consumption is lower than the year before, and you're doing better

particular airline over another because you can increase your mileage and enjoy special perks? The list of examples can go on and on... just to happily announce: congratulations, you have an official first-hand experience with gamification!

Gamification and sustainable consumption are inherently related, as the earlier addresses some of the barriers faced by traditional, 1-way communication efforts to engage and motivate citizens to shift their consumption practices.

As the research on gamified sustainable consumption is still in its infancy (Guillen et al., 2021), the purpose of this blog is to introduce a hands-on understanding of gamification and its multiple domains as an opportunity to strengthen our efforts towards making sustainable consumption possible (while being an enjoyable transition). The content showcases ongoing gamification research with examples and reflections to invite an open, constructive dialogue about the opportunities and challenges of gamifying sustainable consumption and, ultimately, how our every day is increasingly resembling game dynamics (which is one of the upcoming topics).

By Georgina Guillen

Read the full blog post here: <https://scorai.net/this-quarter-in-play-how-does-gamification-relate-to-sustainable-consumption/>

Spotlight on The Center for Biological Diversity



The [Center for Biological Diversity](#) is a 32-year-old national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1.7 million members and online activists. We work through a combination of science, the law, organizing and creative media to protect wildlife and the wild places they need to thrive.

Our current consumption-focused behavior change campaigns address holidays and life transitions and include a [Wildlife-Friendly Wedding Guide](#), the [SoKind Alternative Gift Registry](#) and [Simplify the Holidays](#). We also focus on food waste reduction and transitioning to plant-based diets through our [Beat Food Waste](#) and [Take Extinction Off Your Plate](#) campaigns.

We are also advocating for policies to make sustainable diets more accessible, working in coalition to pass the [Break Free From Plastic Pollution Act](#), providing public comments to states and communities updating their solid waste and zero waste management plans and building third-party sanitized reusable food

After concluding a large [national survey report](#) last year, our research focus this year is around waste prevention, marketing and communications in partnership with the City of Lincoln, NE. They want to be more thoughtful in their messaging and improve communications to their citizens about waste prevention and reuse versus just recycling. We're also researching the characteristics of high meat consumers to design more targeted outreach and policy strategies.

The Center welcomes opportunities to work with the SCORAI community on research, policy, and campaigns that move people and systems up the waste management hierarchy, shifting focus from recycling and composting toward waste prevention and reuse.

One of SCORAI's goals is to strengthen relationships with other networks and organizations working on the connection between sustainability and consumption. Each month we are highlighting one such organization/network in each of our monthly newsletters. If you would like to introduce your network to SCORAI members we invite suggestions for next month's "Spotlight" organization.

Call for SCORAI Conference 2022 or 2023 Organizers

The SCORAI Board calls for expressions of interest for hosting the Fifth International SCORAI conference in 2022 or 2023.

The previous SCORAI conferences were: 2013 at Clark University in Worcester, MA; 2016 at Princeton N.J.; 2018 at the University of Maine in Orono, ME; 2018 at the Copenhagen Business School in Copenhagen; 2020 at Northeastern University in Boston and at KTH in Stockholm (both moved to the on-line format). We hope that the format of the Fifth conference will be a combination of in-person and virtual, preferably in two trans-Atlantic hubs if possible.

The past SCORAI conferences have attracted approximately 120 participants each (350 at the on-line conference). They attracted leading researchers and practitioners in the areas of sustainable consumption and social justice and were small enough to facilitate intense interactions among participants at all levels of professional development, from graduate students to senior academics and between researchers and practitioners. Numerous funded research projects, books and lasting research collaborations were initiated and deepened at those conferences.

The SCORAI Board will be closely collaborating with the Conference organizers in determining the leading theme, producing a Call for Abstracts, creating the scientific committee and reviewing abstracts, building the budget, setting the fees, selecting and inviting keynote speakers, building the conference program, sharing the past experience from earlier conferences, and myriad of tasks and decisions.

- All local arrangements, including facilities for keynote and breakout sessions, accommodations, meals and refreshments, and related tasks.
- Organizing the abstract review process and selection
- Building the conference program (in coordination with the SCORAI Board)
- Conference website, outreach, and communication
- Building the conference budget
- Collecting registration fees and managing the budget
- Final report on the budget

Many of the current widely accepted understandings of consumption and production-consumption systems were in their early stages debated at the SCORAI conferences. These include: the links between economic growth and power relations and consumption, degrowth movement and consumption, the role of technology in establishing social practices related to consumption, the role of consumption in happiness and life satisfaction, and others. We seek to continue this tradition of intellectual innovation and pathbreaking development of the field.

Expressions of interest in hosting the next SCORAI conference should include:

- The name of the senior leader(s) and the institution(s)
- Description of the team members of the organizing committee, if known
- Past experience in conference organizing
- Anticipated or projected support and commitments from senior leadership of the hosting organization
- Description of the available facilities
- Institutional resources available, including in-kind resources such as rooms, audio-visual and internet services, administrative and fiscal support
- Local attractions and availability of affordable accommodations
- The name or names of potential international co-organizing partners (a joint application with a cross-Atlantic partner is encouraged)

Please submit the Expression of Interest by March 15 to Philip Vergragt at pvergragt@outlook.com

We welcome extensive communications with the members of the Board between now and the **March 15th deadline** on all matters large and small related to developing the Expression of Interest.

Fellowship Call

KLI Dissertation Writing-up Fellowship Call

“Dealing with diversity in the life and sustainability sciences”

https://www.kli.ac.at/content/en/fellowships/call_wu-fellowships2020

topics related to **“Dealing with diversity in the life and sustainability sciences”**. This call aims to support an interdisciplinary cohort of late-stage PhD students whose work deals with diversity in the life and sustainability sciences. The 5 KLI Writing-up Fellowships are not restricted to specific topics or approaches. However, as *A Home to Theory that Matters*, the KLI will support projects that engage with theoretical and conceptual work in the life and sustainability sciences as well as philosophical, historical, and sociological work related to these fields. Though not exclusively, we look forward to receiving applications especially in the following research areas: (1) Theories and concepts to explain the evolution of human diversity, (2) Theories and concepts to understand and foster diversity of life forms, (3) Theories and concepts about diversity, equity, and inclusion in the life and sustainability sciences.

Who is encouraged to apply? The fellowships aim to support doctoral students in the final stage of their PhD research. Writing-up fellowships are individual fellowships awarded to work independently on the applicant’s research project supervised by their advisor in the home university. The 5 fellowships are especially well-suited for two categories of PhD students: (1) Those who have completed empirical research and wish to use the Writing-up fellowship to elaborate on the (conceptual, epistemological, and methodological) underpinnings and implications of their work. (2) Those whose research deals with the historical, philosophical, and conceptual foundations of research in the disciplines mentioned above in relation to diversity.

To learn more about the details of the fellowship, the benefits of working at the KLI, and the application and selection process, please consult our [website](#). Deadline is Feb 15, 2021.

We invite you to [subscribe to our newsletter](#) to receive updates about our events and latest fellowships.

Calls for Contributions/ Submissions

Invitation to contribute to a new study: The Influences of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Sustainable Consumption

The European School of Sustainability Science and Research (ESSSR) <https://esssr.eu/> and the International Sustainable Development Research Programme (IUSDRP) <https://www.haw-hamburg.de/ftz-nk/programme/iusdrp.html> are undertaking the study "The Influences of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Sustainable Consumption", aimed at providing a greater understanding of the influences of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable consumption.

We would be grateful if you could answer the survey questions which can be seen at: <https://forms.gle/gZ279QVVmAMUM2FbZ>

Its completion is expected to take about 8 minutes. The details provided are all confidential, and the fact this instrument is anonymised (i.e. it contains no names or personal addresses) means that no details can be traced back to any respondents.

If you wish to receive a copy of the results, please send a message to: iusdrp@ls.haw-hamburg.de.

Call for Papers and Panels on “Political Economy of Sustainable Energy: Power, Institutions and Change” ECPR General Conference, 31 August – 3 September 2021, University of Innsbruck

Deadline for submissions: February 10th, 2020.

The Section on “Political Economy of Sustainable Energy: Power, Institutions and Change” (S46) will take stock of the evolving political economy of sustainable energy and its broader implications for the IPE of energy. In particular, the section seeks to engage with questions of power, institutions and processes of change. We seek papers and/or panels that address these themes at different levels of governance. Additional details on the themes of the section are provided below.

Please submit your paper or panel via the ECPR online system [S46: Political Economy of Sustainable Energy: Power, Institutions and Change] by the official deadline of February 10th, 2020.

Shifting Power Relations

A wide variety of conceptual approaches to power can be taken to explore how key actors are engaging in struggles to (re)shape energy landscapes at different levels of governance (Burke & Stephens 2018). A key question in this regard is how power relations in energy have started to shift as a result of the energy transition (Avelino & Wittmayer 2015; Brisbois 2020) and the implications this has for the advancement sustainable energy as well broader developments in the international political economy of energy (Quitrow & Thielges, 2020). Moreover, there is scope to explore what we can learn from over 20 years of exchange between coalitions pursuing sustainability and those seeking to oppose and/or delay change to existing energy systems.

Remaking Institutions

The panels in this thematic area explore how energy institutions are being re-made. They take an institutionalist approach - historical, discursive, ideational - to sustainable energy and seek to better understand the institutional conditions under which sustainable changes have been made (Kern 2011; Kuzemko et al 2016). The aim is to reflect on how new policies, regulations, organisational forms and social practices related to sustainable energy emerged and adapted over time. In addition, it explores how new knowledge has developed and informed the types of changes that took place and how this shaped changing political interests and their articulation (Buschmann & Oels, 2019). This could include analysis of sets of new ideas, knowledge regimes, networks, advocacy coalitions and their means - narratives, discourses, framings, resources - through which they have influenced processes of sustainable change and innovation

transitions, and/or transformations, and the processes through which they are taking shape at different geographic scales. This could include analyses of how to accelerate transitions; the mechanisms of policy change and feedback; the mobilisation and engagement of different actor groups and how this influences the political conditions under which sustainable energy policymaking takes place (Stirling 2014; Roberts et al 2018). These panels will provide a deeper understanding of how timing and sequencing, and the dynamic interplay of policy processes across different policy domains, affect the politics of sustainable energy (Meckling et al., 2017). Moreover, panels might address what different social, economic and political outcomes are emerging as a result of policies designed to enable decarbonisation.

The Conveners: Andreas Goldthau, Caroline Kuzemko (Section Co-Chair), Johan Lilliestam, Lana Ollier, Rainer Quitzow (Section Co-Chair)

Special Issue on "Behavioral Economics and Sustainable Public Policies"

Special issue in *Sustainability*

Deadline for manuscript submissions: 1 May 2021

The world is facing major issues to ensure the future of our environment, and humans are as much part of the problem as they need to be part of the solutions. Acknowledging people as part of the ecosystem, public policies need to be grounded on empirical evidence about how people actually behave in order to be able to present more sustainable solutions and interventions. Human environments are not simple predictable rational machines, but rather systems usually characterized by high levels of uncertainty and change. In fact, behavioral economics, as an area of research that tests the classic rational assumption by identifying consistent behavioral patterns, has continuously shown how humans systematically violate these classical assumptions. Understandably, research in behavioral economics and sustainable public policies has gained more and more attention over the last few years, identifying concrete implications to policy design. In this Special Issue, we encourage authors to submit reviews, meta-analyses, conceptual models, and empirical studies aiming to present recent advances in this emerging field, namely by identifying how responses and attitudes toward specific environmental policies differ from those predicted by standard theory.

Dr. Ana Rita Farias

Dr. Joana Reis

Guest Editors

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/behavioral_economics

Special issue in *Sustainability*

Deadline for manuscript submissions: 31 October 2021

An acknowledgement of the problematic human role in the contemporary anthropocene era rests on the dethroning of humanity as a species outside and beyond the biological. On a more situated level, an understanding of the bio-social anthropos is a precondition for understanding the modes of human desires, seductions and aberrations. The complexity of life and the complexity of the human condition is the starting point for a consumer research agenda and an approach to consumer culture, that can cope with the obvious global challenges to sustainability we are facing.

As noted by Descola in his book *The Ecology of Others*, foreshadowed by Guattari in *The Three Ecologies*, and explored by Harraway in *When Species Meet*, the relationship between humans and the global biome is paradigmatic of the challenges of, and the challenges imposing themselves on humanity in this century. For Descola, a non-exhaustive list of these challenges would include “climate change, the erosion of biodiversity, the multiplication of transgenic organisms, the exhaustion of fossil fuels, the pollution of fragile environments and of large urban centers, the accelerating disappearance of tropical forests and coral reefs, all have become issues of public debate at the global scale and fuel the disquiet of numerous inhabitants.” In this special issue of *Sustainability*, we invite reflections on the relationship between consumer culture and biosociality in the face of these and related challenges.

Biosociality as ontology and epistemology addresses the challenges imposed on the vision of sustainable consumption by the current tendency to reduce the cultural, psychic and biological consequences of consumer culture to predominantly if not exclusive a human affair. Furthermore, it reformulates the enduring attitude-behavior gap between consumers' oft-stated desire for more sustainable consumption and the reality of their behavior in a new way, as a problem related to the systemic misconstrual of the relationship between human economic behavior and the biome. Finally, a biosocial perspective offers an alternative that recognizes the necessity of resource circulation in any imaginable economic system.

This special issue of *Sustainability* calls for an exploration of a simultaneous acknowledgement of the sociality of the biological and the biologicality of the social without recourse to flawed, universalizing genetic reductionisms. We invite investigations and conversations addressing the possibility of a biosocial renewal of thought in consumer culture theory and ensuing reflections on a more sustainable consumption system against the ecological precarity which consumer capitalism produces. As indicated, biosocial renewal is defined by the contingent extension of the principle of sociality to other living beings, and the recognition that all living beings are in communicative relations with significant others in their environment and between whom resources circulate in value co-creation processes.

We invite submissions without prejudice with regard to paradigm or method.

Søren Askegaard

Eric Arnould

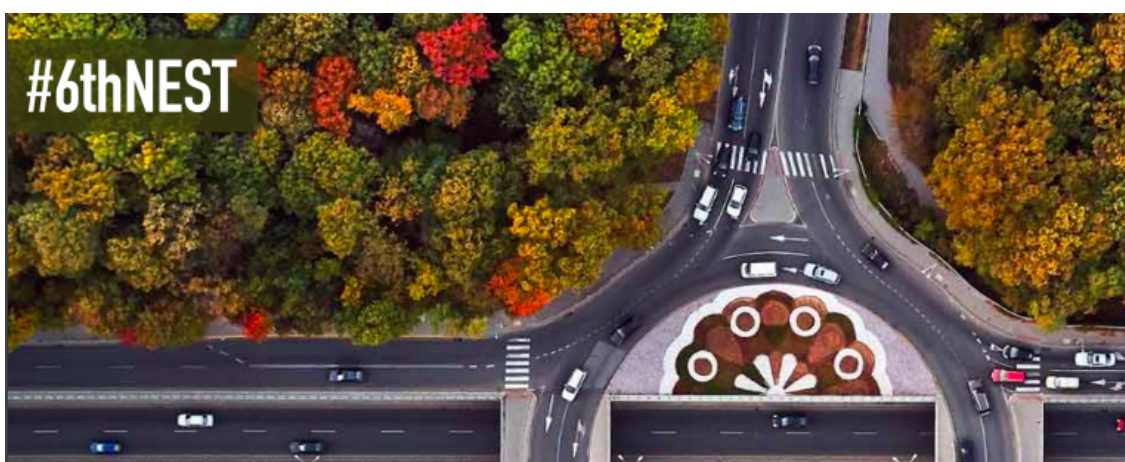
Dominique Roux

Guest Editors

<http://alcor-institute.com/sustainability-special-issue-on-biosociality-from-a-consumer-culture-perspective/>

Upcoming Events

Listed in chronological order, from coming-soon to farthest out on the horizon.



6th Network of Early Career Sustainability Transitions (NEST) Conference

8-9 April 2021 | Sofia, Bulgaria

The Network of Early Career Researchers in Sustainability Transitions (NEST) organises every year a conference to allow early career researchers in sustainability transitions to exchange, share their work and broaden their perspectives. The 6th NEST conference team is happy to share its call for abstracts which you can access here : <https://transitionsnest.files.wordpress.com/2020/10/6th-nest-call-1.pdf> . The conference will be held in Sofia on the 8th and 9th of April. This year's theme focuses on transition pathways.

Abstracts are expected by 15th of December at transitions.nest2021@gmail.com

**IFHE**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS**Sustainable Consumption and Care**

20-21 May 2021 | National University of Ireland, Galway

SCORAI Europe is convening a two-day workshop in Galway, Ireland. The workshop will begin after lunch on the 20th May 2021 and conclude with lunch on 21st May 2021. Participants are invited to submit research and strategy papers that contribute to the following theme and focus areas.

The purpose of the workshop is to delineate and differentiate the interplay between sustainable consumption and care. We are interested in care in the context of sustainable consumption as well as in sustainability in the context of care. The good life and well-being are put centre stage and we are interested in how we can maintain, continue and repair the world in order to live a good life.

Full workshop details and call for papers: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1uN6SatDDaGjmhxkd-eoPEB5yV4olxoM1d8uRfZkA3ro/edit>

**4th PLATE Conference**

26-28 May 2021 | Virtual Conference

The 4th Conference on Product Lifetimes and the Environment (PLATE) will now take place as a virtual conference from 26th to 28th May 2021. Using a dedicated digital platform, PLATE 2021 will continue in the tradition of the previous events in creating a multi-disciplinary forum for researchers, practitioners and educators who are passionate in understanding and reacting to the influence of product lifetimes on the environment.

In addition to the presentations by delegates, the virtual format will include live keynote presentations, on-line discussions, video-chats, coffee breaks and networking space and even a social programme. This is a fascinating time to be working on this topic. The European Green Deal is promising to adopt an industrial strategy that will intensify the

and carbon neutral economy. Business models based on usage rather than ownership are promised to shift consumption away from short lived products.

Full conference information here: <https://www.plateconference.org/plate-2021-conference/>



Sustainability Research & Innovation Congress 2021

12-15 June 2021 | Brisbane, Australia & virtual

The Sustainability Research & Innovation Congress 2021 (SRI2021) is the world's first transdisciplinary gathering in sustainability – it will be a space of fierce advocacy for sustainability scholarship, innovation, collaboration and action.

This annual event unites global sustainability leaders, experts, industry and innovators to inspire action and promote a sustainability transformation. For the first time, the Congress will launch as a hybrid event with a diverse and innovative online program alongside onsite participation. In addition to the 100+ sessions available throughout the day and night, thanks to the global reach of SRI and partners, the SRI2021 Online Package includes exclusive events and services, starting as soon as February 2021.

SRI is a joint initiative of Future Earth and the Belmont Forum. Australia, who hosts the Congress in 2021, has a unique role to play in the global community as a conduit between the Global North and the Global South, indigenous peoples and traditional sustainability practices. The local hosting consortium, led by Future Earth Australia and CSIRO, features academia and government partners from Brisbane and the State of Queensland to meet the breadth of the SRI2021 agenda.

Full conference information here: <https://sri2021.org/>



20th European Roundtable on Sustainable Consumption and Production

8-10 September 2021 | Graz, Austria

Roundtable was held in Graz with the support of the City of Graz and the Ministries of Innovation & Technology and Environment, and already had 300 visitors. In the meantime, numerous countries have hosted the other 18 events.

The goal of reducing global warming to +1.5°C requires us to reduce not only the greenhouse gas emissions caused by our direct activities (heating, cooling, mobility, electricity production, etc.), but also the emissions that have already been generated outside the usual limits of consideration through our consumption – as it were, stuck in the products. This “emission backpack” contained in the products is almost as large as the direct emissions.

While many countries, regions and cities have developed strategies to reduce local emissions, there is often no plan to reduce the emissions contained in the purchased products. erscp21 will consider both aspects: the possibilities to reduce the emission of climate-relevant gases during production as well as to reduce upstream emissions by changing consumer behavior. It will be essential that cities – where already more than half of the world’s population lives – and economic sectors reduce emissions, adapt to climate change, and take resilience measures. Changing consumption behavior will be an important issue in building a closed cycle economy, especially urban closed cycles including the forced utilization of local resources.

For many of us, it is difficult to imagine how cities and societies will function from an economic and social point of view once the +1.5° target is reached. What do cities look like, what is their relationship with their surroundings? What and how much will we work and how will we move? Which industries will gain in importance, which will lose? What will we eat, what will we produce? And how will this affect air, sea and land traffic.

People are also hardly aware of the many benefits that can result from a significant reduction in emissions in cities. These benefits include not only better health through cleaner air and greater safety with soft mobility but also more livable urban spaces.

erscp21 covers a number of UN Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 12 “Responsible Consumption and Production” meets the core target of the conference. But many other issues are in the focus as well, like SDG 4 “Quality of Education”, SDG 6 “Clean Water and Sanitation”, SDG 7 “Affordable and Cleaner Energy”, SDG 9 “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure”, SDG 11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities” and SDG 13 “Climate Action”.

The 2021 conference is organized by “StadtLABOR” a SME working on Innovations for Urban Quality of Life (<https://www.stadtlaborgraz.at/>), in cooperation with the ERSCP Society (<https://erscp.eu/>). ERSCP stands for the European Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production, a society that organizes and promotes activities in the field of Sustainable Consumption and Production. Part of this are a series of conferences in the field of Sustainable Consumption and Production and Cleaner Production since 1994.

Full details: <https://erscp2021.eu/>

Energy and Climate Transformations
3rd International Conference on
Energy Research & Social Science

13-16 September 2021
University of Manchester,
United Kingdom



Energy and Climate Transformations: 3rd International Conference on Energy Research & Social Science

13-16 September 2021 | University of Manchester, United Kingdom
(Renold Building)

The International Conference on Energy Research and Social Science is the premier global forum for exploring the nexus of energy and society.

The conference will highlight and explore the grand societal challenges arising at the interface of global energy transformations on the one hand, and ongoing climate mitigation and adaptation efforts on the other. It will offer a vibrant and innovative forum for presenting and discussing cutting edge research on the movement towards a low carbon future as it relates to reconfigurations in energy policies, infrastructural landscapes, socio-technical systems, and social practices.

Full conference information

here: <https://www.elsevier.com/events/conferences/international-conference-on-energy-research-and-social-science>

Books by Members



The New Systems Reader: Alternatives to a Failed Economy

Edited by James Gustave Speth and Kathleen Courrier

[Routledge Press](#)

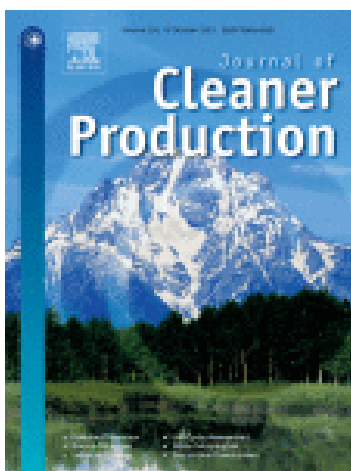
The recognition is growing: truly addressing the problems of the 21st century requires going beyond small tweaks and modest reforms to business as usual—it requires "changing the system." But what does this mean? And what would it entail?

The New Systems Reader highlights some of the most thoughtful, substantive, and promising answers to these questions as the world grapples with the effects of a global pandemic on top of the looming climate crisis, chronic structural racism, and worsening wealth inequities. The book draws on the work and ideas of some

Amid the failure of traditional politics and policies to address our fundamental challenges, an increasing number of thoughtful proposals and real-world models suggest new possibilities. This book convenes an essential conversation about the future we want.

Read more and download a study guide to accompany the text here: <https://democracycollaborative.org/newsystemsreader>

Articles by Members



Decentralization & local food: Japan's regional Ecological Footprints indicate localized sustainability strategies

Kazuaki Tsuchiya, Katsunori Iha, Adeline Murthy, David Lin, Selen Altiok, Christoph D.D. Rupprecht, Kiyono Hisako, Steven R. McGreevy

[Journal of Cleaner Production](#)

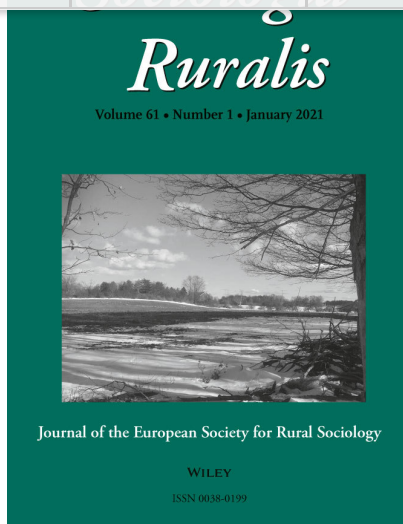
This study aimed to explore the constraining and facilitating factors impacting the emergence and consolidation of different types of alternative food networks (AFNs) in different countries. Drawing on the expertise of organizers of seventeen AFNs, we investigated the conditions and actors that hinder and promote the development of different types of AFNs in Poland, Portugal and the Netherlands. Using a multi-actor perspective framework, we categorized six types of AFNs according to their logic and characteristics: consumer-led, producer-led, third-sector led, community supported agriculture, public-led, and business platforms. Key challenges and facilitating conditions varied according to AFN type, and depended on AFN particularities. In contrast to the Netherlands, low social capital was commonly cited as a challenge in Portugal and Poland. AFN organizers appeared to exercise innovative power when creating new forms of food provision; however, a wide scope of actions by governmental and non-governmental actors are needed to support the emergence of more AFNs.

Organising Alternative Food Networks (AFNs): Challenges and Facilitating Conditions of different AFN types in three EU countries

Ana Poças Ribeiro, Robert Harmsen, Giuseppe Feola, Jesús Rosales Carréon, Ernst Worrell

[Sociologia Ruralis](#)

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exercise innovative power when creating new forms of food provision; however, a wide scope of actions by governmental and non-governmental actors are needed to support the emergence of more AFNs.

The fractal biology of plague and the future of civilization

William E Rees

[The Journal of Population and Sustainability](#)

At the time of writing, the CoViD-19 pandemic was in its second wave with infections doubling every several days to two weeks in many parts of the world. Such geometric (or exponential) expansion is the hallmark of unconstrained population growth in all species ranging from sub-microscopic viral particles through bacteria to whales and humans; this suggests a kind of 'fractal geometry' in bio-reproductive patterns. In nature, population outbreaks are invariably reversed by the onset of both endogenous and exogenous negative feedback—reduced fecundity, resource shortages, spatial competition, disease, etc., serve to restore the reference population to below carrying capacity, sometimes by dramatic collapse. *H. sapiens* is no exception — our species is nearing the peak of a fossil-fueled ~200 year plague-like population outbreak that is beginning to trigger serious manifestations of negative feedback, including climate change and CoViD-19 itself. The human population will decline dramatically; theoretically, we can choose between a chaotic collapse imposed by nature or international cooperation to plan a managed, equitable contraction of the human enterprise.



From the suites to the streets: Examining the range of behaviors and attitudes of



Jean Léon Boucher, Garfield T.Kwan, Gina R.Ottoboni, Mark S. McCaffrey

[Energy Research and Social Science](#)

Inspired by previous protest movements, climate activists began taking to the streets in the fall of 2018, revitalizing and reshaping the three-decade-old climate activist movement. This metamorphosis in climate activism, which has led millions around the world to participate in climate strikes and protests, is reflected in

the composition of the activists themselves, who the media frequently portray as primarily young and female. In order to better understand this new and evolving landscape, we surveyed self-identifying climate activists, obtaining results from 367 individuals across 66 countries. Our survey, augmented by seven individual interviews, provides an overview of current climate activists, their attitudes, priorities, and actions. Here we map our findings, delineating differences based on gender, age, and geography. Our results indicate that the media's focus on young female activists is warranted—at least in Europe and North America. We find that while activists share a commitment toward rapid and substantial reduction of greenhouse gases, their attitudes and actions taken to address climate change can significantly differ by demographic group. Despite its limitations, this study provides a glimpse into the demographics, behaviors, and attitudes of climate activists across the globe.

Establishing a Field of Collaboration for Engineers, Scientists, and Community Groups: Incentives, Barriers, and Potential

J. L. Boucher A. M. Levenda, J. Morales-Guerrero, M. M. Macias, D. M. A. Karwat

[Earth's Future](#)

With the aim of mobilizing engineers and scientists to address environmental, climate, and energy justice challenges in the United States, this study examines how engineers and scientists view their incentives, barriers, and potential for community-based collaborations. Through a purposive convenience sample (n = 281) and an online questionnaire, we investigate the attitudes and experiences of engineers and scientists regarding their community-based work. Our analyses reveal dynamics of race, class, and experience, suggesting a type of socio-demographic conditioning informing community-based collaborations. Engineers and scientists also identify four main barriers to community-based work: lack of time, lack of funding, lack of rapport, and knowledge deficits. In response, we introduce a field of collaboration with its own set of capitals—

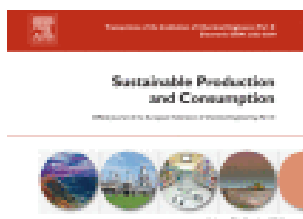
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longstanding issues of energy, climate, and environmental injustice in the United States.



What POST-COVID-19 lifestyles may look like? Identifying scenarios and their implications for sustainability

Fabián Echegaray

[Sustainable Production and Consumption](#)

The COVID-19 pandemic has deeply disrupted society's priorities and individuals' lifestyles with major implications for sustainable development. Economic shutdown and social isolation reduced society's ecological footprint by lowering transportation and industrial activity while prompting families to engage in non-commercialized modes of leisure and social relations. Yet economic recession has intensified problems of under-consumption and poverty, while social isolation has worsened physical and mental illness.

The pandemic's short-term effects are visible to everyone experiencing it, yet the global health crisis will also have long-term effects which are presently unknown but whose configurations can be spotted by identifying scenarios based upon individual relations with their material, symbolic and social environments. This perspective article reviews changes in two critical domains of practice: consumption and social relations, based on a theory of scarcity, and proposes an approach to foresee post-COVID-19 scenarios across several areas of social practice. The experience of scarcity in consumption and socializing redefines priorities and values yielding two ideal-types of responses for each domain: the assimilation of reduced levels of material wellbeing and social interactions or the drive for self-indulgence to compensate sacrifices in those areas.

Four different lifestyle scenarios are thereby generated based on that analytical framework, enabling the identification of long-term scenarios, beyond the simplistic old normal versus new normal dichotomy. Grounded in available secondary data and relying on the recent Brazilian experience, which can be generalized to other Global South contexts, this proposed framework illustrates distinctive behavioral patterns for each lifestyle across ten areas of practice.

Estimating job creation potential of compliant WEEE pre-treatment in Ireland

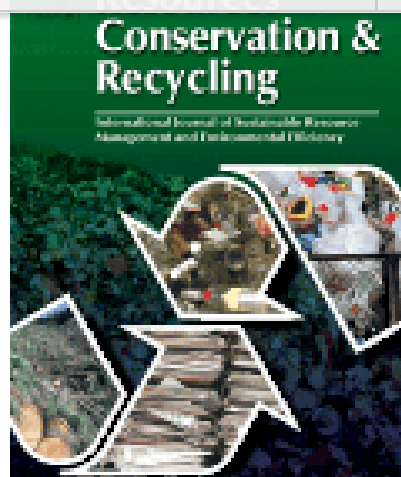
Kathleen McMahon, Yvonne Ryan-Fogarty, Colin Fitzpatrick

[Resources, Conservation and Recycling](#)

While significant focus has been placed on the environmental and health impacts of waste

treatment. The creation of employment opportunities, and especially of decent work, is an important factor in the growing green and circular economies. This research investigates potential job creation in the Irish WEEE pre-treatment sector by examining the labour requirements at a certified e-recycling facility which conducts all necessary pre-treatment processes, as detailed in the WEEE Directive, and is currently treating 75% of Ireland's WEEE. The study developed and executed a method of estimating the mass of WEEE associated with full-time job equivalencies per category treated. Through observation and measurement of the

methods and time required for each of the pre-treatment steps and using categorisations of WEEE established by United Nations University to assign weights per unit, it was determined that between 338 and 1,967 tonnes were required to equate with one full-time job for the categories large household appliances (LHA), CRT/LCD/LED screens, microwave ovens, and mixed waste. Subsequently, the results were applied in order to estimate the foregone jobs due to untreated WEEE arising in scrap metal collections. It was found that diversion of this waste to a WEEE pre-treatment facility would result in the creation of more than 12 jobs. This research opens doors to further investigate job creation across European Union (EU) member states and globally using the straightforward and consistently applicable and adaptable methods developed here.



We're very pleased to welcome 13 new SCORAI members who joined the network since our January newsletter, bringing our organization's total membership to over 1200 individuals.

- Julia Bontempo, Columbia University, US
- Marta Baltrusiewicz, University of Leeds, UK
- Karoline Poeggel, Leuphana University Lueneburg, Germany
- Jennifer Russell, Virginia Tech, US
- Ian Graham, Old 99 Farm, Canada
- Carmen Niessen-Nelson, CRANE Institute for Sustainability, Canada
- Anna Berka, Massey University, New Zealand
- Alexandra Maxim, Georgia Institute of Technology, US
- Barbara Hartl, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria
- Kira Matus, HKUST, Hong Kong
- Jaco Quist, TU Delft, Netherlands
- Carys Mainprize, Crichton Carbon Centre, UK

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SCORAI (Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative) is an international knowledge network of researchers and practitioners committed to

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building a flourishing and ecologically-sound society by changing the way we consume. We advance research, disseminate knowledge, impact policies and support campaigns. SCORAI recognizes that technological innovation alone is insufficient to address climate change and environmental threats. Therefore we support transformative changes in the economy, institutions and culture.



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