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Your campaign Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) Newsletter has been sent

1 message

Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com>
To: mcohen@adm.njit.edu

Wed, Oct 30, 2013 at 4:40 AM



Dear SCORAI Maurie Cohen,

Your campaign '**Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) Newsletter**' was sent on 10/30/2013 around 04:40 AM EDT.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports [in your account](#) to get real-time results and stats.

Subject: Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) Newsletter



November 2013

Dear SCORAI,

As you recover from an overdose of Halloween candy, the SCORAI newsletter is here to help by offering some healthy brain food. This month's news is jam-packed with many exciting events, announcements, jobs, and publications.

We hope you enjoy this issue and remember to send us your updates next month so we can inform everyone in the

Executive Board

Jeffrey Barber
Integrative Strategies Forum

Halina Brown
Clark University

Maurie Cohen

community about all the fantastic sustainable consumption happenings!

All the best,
Catie, Debbie, & Maurie

New Jersey Institute of
Technology

John Stutz
Tellus Institute

Philip Vergragt
Tellus Institute and Clark
University

Call for Papers and Participation for the Second Biennial Conference of the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF-SPaC)

Global Transitions to Sustainable Production and Consumption Systems

Fudan University, Shanghai, China
June 8-11, 2014

Environmental deterioration, climate change, biodiversity loss, resource scarcity, as well as inequality and persistent poverty, are all linked to, and driven by, globally unsustainable production and consumption patterns and systems. As the traditional rules of the economic and financial system are called increasingly into question, so do the impacts of the expanding international consumer class. Developing countries are working to overcome privation by growing their economies, while the middle classes in countries such as India and China are adopting increasingly material-intensive lifestyles.

Since the 1992 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the transition to sustainable production and consumption (SPaC) systems has been heralded as a global priority. Accordingly, the United Nations General Assembly launched in 2012 the Ten-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP). In addition, the International Human Dimensions Program (IHDP) initiated its own ten-year Future Earth research plan. The GRF-SPaC global conference will examine these and other approaches to produce the transdisciplinary knowledge and actions needed to support these activities during the coming decade.

Over the past two decades, extensive research regarding SPaC has been carried out covering issues such as the circular and green economy, the attitude-behavior gap, collaborative consumption, sustainable finance and investment, sustainable procurement, and green supply-chain management. Other work has sought to identify the underlying drivers of contemporary consumer culture and to examine the inherent problems with the prevailing economic growth paradigm. Emerging from this activity is appreciation for the complex challenges of systemic change, though actual progress is hindered by our limited comprehension of the multidimensional barriers that impede

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diffusion of more sustainable lifestyles and consumer practices. Further inquiry is necessary to understand these complexities and to more effectively guide the transition from research to policy.

This conference provides a unique opportunity for Chinese and Asian SPaC researchers and practitioners to join together with others in the global community. The Second GRF-SPaC conference will be a forum to present and discuss new research outcomes from the Asia-Pacific region, as well as from Latin America, Africa, Europe, and North America. The event will take stock of new issue framings and explore emerging research questions. The scope will cover local and global issues and interconnections across scales, linking regions and researchers. One of the aims is to strengthen the international community of SPaC researchers and practitioners and to open channels of communication with knowledge users in policy making, business, and civil society.

The conference will entail several keynote presentations by internationally renowned scholars and policy makers, academic papers and discussions, and dialogue sessions between researchers and practitioners. The format will integrate across regions and seek to forge global collaborations with other global networks.

Interested participants are invited to submit abstracts for papers and essays as well as session proposals. For further details, please visit the conference [website](#). For information about GRF-SPaC, click on the [link](#) or email to grfspac@gmail.com.

Seeking Editorial Assistant for GRF-SPaC Conference Publications

The Co-Chairs and the Organizing Committee for the Second Biennial [Conference of the Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption](#) (GRF-SPaC) are currently seeking a volunteer to help coordinate various publication projects that will emanate from this event in June 2014 at Fudan University in Shanghai. Outputs will include a proceedings compendium, several special journal issues, and (at least one) edited book. This is a great opportunity for a junior scholar or graduate student to gain experience assembling large-scale academic publications. The timeline for most of the work associated with these projects will begin in January 2014 and extend for roughly eighteen months. Excellent English language skills are required and knowledge of Chinese would be helpful but not essential. Interested candidates are encouraged to contact Maurie Cohen at mcohen@njit.edu.

Event in Berlin of Possible Interest to SCORAI-ers

Collaboration for Sustainable Lifestyles through Business and Social Innovations

Organized by the Global Network on Sustainable Lifestyles (GNSL)

November 4th - 5th, 2013

Deutsche Telekom Representative Office in Berlin

The Collaborating Center on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP) is organizing a multi-stakeholder workstudio "Collaboration for Sustainable Lifestyles through Business and Social Innovations" in Berlin on 4 and 5 November 2013. The event is hosted in partnership with the European Environment Agency (EEA) and its Topic Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (ETC/SCP), and with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The overall objective of the event is to create a multi-stakeholder dialogue on how business and social innovations can foster the uptake of sustainable lifestyles in Europe, associated success factors, and pathways in which stakeholders such as policy makers, development agencies, entrepreneurs, civil society organizations, consumer groups, businesses, financial institutions, academia and the media can assist with achieving this vision.

[See more details and RSVP on the Global Network on Sustainable Lifestyles.](#)

Center for the New American Dream Launches New Online Alternative Gift Registry Platform

American consumer culture has created an expectation that celebrations must be extravagant affairs in order to be special. Events that should be joyful and meaningful are now often occasions that generate stress, waste, and debt. But it doesn't have to be this way.

Now, there is an alternative: [SoKind](#).

It's been many months of intense planning, fundraising, and collaboration for our small team, and I am so happy to announce that years after New Dream first created the Alternative Gift Registry, SoKind has now launched as our new and improved registry platform.

Check out the new [SoKind](#)!

Joel MaKower talks with Patagonia about their

Responsible Economy Marketing Campaign

Following up on Patagonia's innovative "[Don't Buy This Jacket](#)" clothing advertisement, Joel Makower talks with the company's marketing Leader, Rick Ridgeway, on the new "[responsible economy](#)" campaign.

Read the interview and learn about Patagonia's effort "to start a conversation about what a really sustainable economy might look like" [here](#).

2014 Norwich Conference on Earth System Governance

The University of East Anglia
July 1st-3rd, 2014

This event will be the fifth in a global conference series organized by the Earth System Governance Project, a ten-year research programme under the auspices of the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP).

The 2014 Norwich Conference on Earth System Governance will be jointly hosted by the University of East Anglia and the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research on behalf of the Earth System Governance Project.

The Earth System Governance Project was launched in 2009 to address problems of environmental governance. In this project, "earth system governance" is defined as the interrelated system of formal and informal rules, rule-making mechanisms and actor-networks at all levels of human society (from local to global) that are set up to steer societies towards preventing, mitigating, and adapting to global and local environmental change and earth system transformation, within the normative context of sustainable development.

The Earth System Governance Project's Science Plan (available at www.earthsystemgovernance.org) is organized around five analytical themes. Architecture relates to the emergence, design and effectiveness of governance arrangements. Agency addresses questions of who governs the earth system and how. Adaptiveness research explores the ability of governance systems to change in the face of new knowledge and challenges as well as to enhance adaptiveness of social-ecological systems in the face of major disturbances. Accountability refers to the democratic quality of environmental governance arrangements. Finally, access and allocation deal with justice, equity, and fairness.

The 2014 Norwich Conference on Earth System Governance will

address these five analytical themes with a special focus on access and allocation of Resources (Water, Food, Energy, Health and Wellbeing, Forests and Carbon Rights), and Transformative Pathways to Sustainability

**Deadline for abstract and panel proposal submission:
November 15, 2013.**

More information [here](#).

Sustainability Science Fellowships at Harvard

Doctoral, Post-doctoral, and Mid-career Fellowships

Due date for applications: January 15, 2014

The [Sustainability Science Program](#) at Harvard University invites applications for resident fellowships in sustainability science for the academic year beginning in September 2014. The fellowship competition is open to advanced doctoral and post-doctoral students, and to mid-career professionals engaged in research or practice to facilitate the design, implementation, and evaluation of effective interventions that promote sustainable development.

Assistant Professor Position in Sustainable Economics and Community Development at Appalachian State University

The Goodnight Family Sustainable Development Department at Appalachian State University invites applications for a tenure-track, nine-month faculty position at the rank of Assistant Professor, beginning August 2014. A PhD in an area related to sustainable economics and community development is required. The field of specialization is open. Candidates must have a PhD by the beginning of the appointment.

The successful candidate will have the ability to teach courses in sustainable economics and alternative development and an active research agenda related to sustainable development.

We seek broadly trained applicants from a range of disciplines, including but not limited to anthropology, economics, cultural studies, geography, global studies, political science, and sociology. Preferred candidates will have evidence of potential for effective scholarship, teaching excellence and commitment to teaching, and the ability to develop strong research and teaching programs. Applicants should have a strong desire to contribute to a vibrant, growing department.

More information [here](#).

Two Tenure-track Positions at the University of Michigan in Public Policy, Energy, and Sustainability Behavior

The Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy of the University of Michigan invites applications from outstanding candidates to fill two tenure-track positions, one that focuses on the behaviors of individuals and institutions on issues of sustainability, and another on energy policy. Our preference is to hire at the assistant professor level, although we are open to more senior candidates with exceptional qualifications, and a postdoctoral position may be possible. Applicants should demonstrate expertise in the role of public policy in advancing the goals of sustainability. Applications are welcome from a range of policy science disciplines, including psychology, sociology, political science, economics, and history, with particular interest in candidates who transcend traditional disciplinary boundaries. We would be particularly receptive to candidates with expertise in such areas as experimental social science, risk-aversion, common-pool resource protection, temporal choice problems, or decision-making under uncertainty.

This university-year appointment will begin on September 1, 2014. Initial consideration will be given to applications received by **December 1st, 2013**, but applications will be considered until the position has been filled.

More information [here](#).

New Reading Material

Hayden, A. 2013. "Enough of That Already: Sufficiency-Based Challenges to High-Carbon Consumption in Canada." *Environmental Politics*. Available [here](#).

Abstract

While dominant responses to climate change aim to decouple economic growth and emissions, a sufficiency approach challenges infinitely growing production and consumption. Sufficiency can target different levels. At the macro level, it questions endless economic growth, but it has advanced further at the micro level, where it challenges specific commodities, practices, or sectors. Relatively easy targets for politicians and others wanting to signal ecological concern include plastic bags and bottled water. The idea of 'less' has also progressed, paradoxically, when it contributes to a broader growth agenda. Examples in Canada include efforts to reduce food miles, which can expand the local agricultural economy, and state promotion of reduced electricity consumption to ensure power-system reliability, upon which overall economic growth depends. These

cases suggest that sufficiency may, for the foreseeable future, find its best prospects in limited circumstances where it can be linked to the legitimation or, ironically, the economic imperatives of states.

Kennedy, E.H., H. Krahn, and N.T. Krogman. 2013. Are we counting what counts? A closer examination of environmental concern, pro-environmental behavior, and carbon footprint. *Local Environment*.

Available [here](#).

Abstract

Three parallel lines of inquiry regarding individuals' support for the environment have developed within the environmental social sciences. These include individuals' concern for the environment, research on private sphere pro-environmental behaviour (PEB), i.e. household actions seeking to improve the environment (e.g. buying better light bulbs), and more recently, ecological and carbon footprints. Researchers have noted that the correlates of this third form of support for the environment are not necessarily the same as the predictors of the first two forms. Using Canadian survey data, this study examines the relationships among, and predictors of, all three forms. Evidence that there is not a link between private sphere PEB and household carbon footprints, and that measures of socio-economic status (education and income) have different effects on different types of support for the environment, invites a discussion of whether environmental social scientists are really counting what counts.

Kennedy, E.H., N.T. Krogman, and H. Krahn. 2013. Sustainable consumption and the importance of neighbourhood: A suburban / central-urban comparison. *The Canadian Journal of Sociology*, 48(3): 359-384.

Available [here](#).

Summary

This paper applies urban and environmental sociological theory to survey data on self-reported sustainable consumption practices, using a matched sample of central city and suburban residents in Edmonton, Alberta. We use cluster analysis to create an ordinal typology of four types of consumers, conduct an analyses of variance to characterize the resultant clusters, and perform logistic regression to predict the net effect of urban and neighborhood context on sustainable consumption practices. We find that neighborhood and environmental attitude are the strongest predictors of sustainable consumption practices. We conclude by arguing many sustainable activities are more difficult to incorporate into daily routine when residing in the suburban neighbourhood. While suburban residents may feel strongly that they should consume less, their geographic

location appears to significantly constrain their ability to meaningfully reduce their own consumption. This urban Canadian case study has implications for middle class environmental practices in other North American urban and suburban settings.

Wilson, J., P. Tyedmers, and J. E. L. Spinney. 2013. An Exploration of the Relationship between Socioeconomic and Well-Being Variables and Household Greenhouse Gas Emissions. *Journal of Industrial Ecology* Available [here](#).

Summary

This research reports on a multivariate analysis that examined the relationship between direct greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and socioeconomic and well-being variables for 1,920 respondents living in Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia, Canada, using results from the Halifax Space-Time Activity Research Project. The unique data set allows us to estimate direct GHG emissions with an unprecedented level of specificity based on household energy use survey data and geographic positioning system-verified personal travel data. Of the variables analyzed, household size, income, community zone, age, and marital status are all statistically significant predictors of direct GHG emissions. Birthplace, ethnicity, educational attainment, perceptions of health, life satisfaction, job satisfaction, happiness, volunteering, or community belonging did not seem to matter. In addition, we examined whether those reporting energy-efficient behaviors had lower GHG emissions. No significant differences were discovered among the groups analyzed, supporting a growing body of research indicating a disconnect between environmental attitudes and behaviors and environmental impact. Among the predictor variables, those reporting to be married, young, low income, and living in households with more people have correspondingly lower direct GHG emissions than other categories in respective groupings. Our finding that respondents with lifestyles that generate higher GHG emissions did not report to be healthier, happier, or more connected to their communities suggest that individuals can experience similar degrees of well-being regardless of the amount of GHG emissions associated with his or her respective lifestyle.

Schaffartzik, A., N. Eisenmenger, F. Krausmann, and H. Weisz. 2013. Consumption-based Material Flow Accounting. *Journal of Industrial Ecology*. Available [here](#).

Summary

In 2007, imports accounted for approximately 34% of the material input (domestic extraction and imports) into the Austrian

economy and almost 60% of the GDP stemmed from exports. Upstream material inputs into the production of traded goods, however, are not yet included in the standard framework of material flow accounting (MFA). We have reviewed different approaches accounting for these upstream material inputs, or raw material equivalents (RME), positioning them in a wider debate about consumption-based perspectives in environmental accounting. For the period 1995-2007, we calculated annual RME of Austria's trade and consumption applying a hybrid approach. For exports and competitive imports, we used an environmentally extended input-output model of the Austrian economy, based on annual supply and use tables and MFA data. For noncompetitive imports, coefficients for upstream material inputs were extracted from life cycle inventories. The RME of Austria's imports and exports were approximately three times larger than the trade flows themselves. In 2007, Austria's raw material consumption was 30 million tonnes or 15% higher than its domestic material consumption. We discuss the material composition of these flows and their temporal dynamics. Our results demonstrate the need for a consumption-based perspective in MFA to provide robust indicators for dematerialization and resource efficiency analysis of open economies.

A report from the Swedish Environment Protection Agency aimed to consider links between climate impact and well being.

Available [here](#).

Summary:

A transition to a low-carbon economy requires farreaching reductions in emissions, which in addition will have to take place at the same time as the global population is growing. A growing population also makes ever greater demands on welfare, while the ecological, social and economic systems that have to sustain this development are already under severe strain. It is commonly argued that emission reductions in a growing world economy can and should be achieved by technical innovations so that the transition to a low-carbon economy does not imply a negative impact on human well-being.

This report discusses whether there might perhaps be another way of understanding the situation. Is the presumed linkage between well-being and climate impact always negative? Could a greater focus on human well-being be a driver of, rather than an obstacle to, sustainable development? This report attempts to identify possible strategies to support both [the good life] and decreased emissions. By adopting this research approach, the authors aim to make a contribution to the discussion of low-carbon transitions in society.

Mistra Urban Futures report on technology and lifestyle

in Gothenburg. **Available [here](#).**

Summary

Together with the rest of the world, we in the Gothenburg Region are facing one of the greatest challenges of our time - to mitigate climate change. The EU, Sweden and Gothenburg have adopted the so called 2°C target, which says that the global average surface temperature must not increase more than 2°C above the pre-industrial level. The purpose of this report is to increase the knowledge about possible measures for reducing emissions from Gothenburg's residents to a sustainable level. In the report we take a consumption perspective, meaning that the climate impact is based on the inhabitants of Gothenburg consumption patterns, regardless of where the emissions actually take place. This means that the climate impact includes the manufacturing of imported goods and all air travel abroad. This is not the case in the official climate statistics which are based solely on emissions within Sweden. In Gothenburg, as in the rest of the Western world, greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced to the equivalent of less than two tonnes of CO₂ per person per year in order to reach a level that is sustainable in the long run. Currently the emissions are several times greater. In order to achieve substantial reductions in emissions the national, regional and local strategies and objectives must be followed up by sufficient measures. For both organisations and individuals the journey must start with an insight into what needs to be done.

Upcoming Conferences & Workshops

[Radical Emissions Reduction Conference](#) will be held at the Royal Society, London on **December 10th-11th 2013**. This conference will bring together academics and practitioners, engineers and economists, policy-makers and civil society to detail evidenced-based opportunities for delivering urgent and deep reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases.

[The 2nd International Conference on ICT for Sustainability](#) (ICT4S) conference hosted by the Centre for Sustainable Communications and VU University Amsterdam will be held in Stockholm, Sweden, **August 24th-26th, 2014**. The theme of the 2014 conference is ICT and transformational change. ICT for sustainability is about utilizing the transformational power of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for making our world more sustainable: saving energy and material resources by creating more value from less physical input, increasing quality of life for ever more people without compromising future generations' ability to meet their needs.

New SCORAI Affiliates

A warm welcome to the following new SCORAI affiliates joining us during the past month which brings our total number to 588.

Óscar Carpintero
Robert Kates
Marleen Lodder
Robin Smale
Asami Taga
Charlotte Watts
Julia Wittmayer

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