



SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSUMPTION

Virtual Community

NEWSLETTER

June 2012

Dear Reader,

In a few weeks, 20 - 22 June 2012, the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will take place in Rio. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General on objective and themes of the conference, what countries are currently doing, including "low-carbon green growth" strategies, does not yet add up to changes in production and consumption patterns on a scale equal to the challenges. One can only hope that the many activities in connection with Rio+20 will contribute to much needed clarification and realism regarding the scale of changes needed to face the challenges.

In this June newsletter from the Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption, Rio+20 and a couple of relevant academic side events are listed (should anyone have missed them), together with a selection of news, upcoming events, latest publications and call for papers on sustainability and consumption. With regard to the upcoming events, we especially look forward to the STEEP Summer School (read more) where more than 50 PhD students and 10 senior researchers will gather in Aarhus the first week of July. Also, we are happy to welcome the recently published Environmental Psychology book, edited by Steg, van den Berg and de Groot and with contributions by many members of the VC (read more below).

Please send any feedback and news that you want to share with the VC to vc@asb.dk.

Kind regards,
John Thøgersen

NEWS

Report from Climate Workshop Released: Increasing Public Understanding of Climate Risks and Choices

Last January, the Erb Institute and the Union of Concerned Scientists gathered 90 leading scholars, business leaders, policy makers, advocates, religious leaders and journalists at U of M to explore how better to communicate climate science to a skeptical public and mobilize progress. This summary report distills the collective wisdom of that landmark two-day event. Find the report by clicking [here](#).

New Report: Global Outlook on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Policies

The new report, the Global Outlook on Sustainable Consumption and Production Policies, is a collection of case studies and best practices ranging from global multilateral agreements and regional strategies to specific policies and initiatives being implemented by governments, businesses and civil society organizations. It also identifies examples of effective policies and initiatives being implemented worldwide. It throws the spotlight on 56 examples countries could emulate to switch to more sustainable consumption and production (SCP). Read more about it and download the full report [here](#).

Sustainable production and consumption – new economic model sought

Voluntary measures should be supplemented by more binding regulatory measures if Europe is to shift to a green economy based on sustainable production and consumption. Greener fiscal policies and market-based incentives need to be in place to support this transition. These are the key messages of the opinion requested by the Danish presidency, which was adopted by the European Economic and Social Committee at its plenary session on 27th April. Find the press release and read more about it [here](#).

International symposium on sustainable fashion

2 May Copenhagen Business School (CBS) hosted an international symposium on sustainable fashion, as part of the MISTRA Future Fashion Programme ([read more](#)). Among others, Jessica Aschemann-Witzel gave a presentation on *Promoting sustainable consumption: Lessons from health promotion in the food sector*. "Researchers working on influencing consumption in a favourable way might learn from experiences in other sectors. I presented work on healthy eating promotion from two projects (social marketing – EATWELL, and nutrition labels – FLABEL) and pointed out similarities and differences to the work planned in the Mistra Future Fashion project". [Click here](#) to read more about the symposium.

The new edited book on environmental psychology

The new edited book by Steg, van den Berg and de Groot: *Environmental Psychology: An Introduction* (see New Publications) will be useful to everyone interested in sustainability and consumption, especially for younger scholars. The book offers a research-based introduction to the psychological relationship between humans and their built and natural environments and discusses how sustainable environments can be created to the benefit of both people and nature. It explores the environment's effects on human wellbeing and behaviour, factors influencing environmental behaviour and ways of encouraging pro-environmental action. It provides a state-of-the-art overview of recent developments in environmental psychology, with an emphasis on sustainability as a unifying principle for theory, research and interventions. While focusing primarily on Europe and North America, it also discusses environmental psychology in non-Western and developing countries. This book responds to a growing interest in the contribution of environmental psychologists to understanding and solving environmental problems and promoting the effects of environmental conditions on health and wellbeing.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue on Sustainability as Megatrend: Journal of Macromarketing, 2014

Find more information about the relevant topics of the issue [on the website](#) of the journal. Manuscripts must be received no later than February 28, 2013, and the special issue will be published in September, 2014.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

> Costanza, R. et al. (2012). Building a Sustainable and Desirable Economy-in-Society-in-Nature: Draft report to the United Nations for the 2012 Rio+20 Conference as part of the Sustainable Development in the 21st Century (SD21) project implemented by the Division for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. [\[http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_sd21st/21_pdf/A_Sustainable_and_Desirable_Economy_DRAFT.pdf\]](http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/dsd_sd21st/21_pdf/A_Sustainable_and_Desirable_Economy_DRAFT.pdf)

> Cooper, G., Green, N., Burningham, K., Evans, D., & Jackson, T. (2012). Unravelling the Threads: Discourses of Sustainability and Consumption in an Online Forum. *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture*, 6(1), 101-118.

> Ettema, D., Friman, M., Gärling, T., Olsson, L. E., & Fujii, S. (In press [available online]). How in-vehicle activities affect work commuters' satisfaction with public transport. *Journal of Transport Geography*. doi: 10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2012.02.007

> Oehler, A., & Reisch, L. (2012). Sie lebt! Zur Verbraucherforschung im deutschsprachigen Raum: Eine empirische Analyse. *Journal für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit*, 7(2), 105-115.

> Schmöcker, J.-D., Petterson, P., & Fujii, S. (2011). Comparative Analysis of Proximal and Distal Determinants for the Acceptance of Coercive Charging Policies in the UK and Japan. *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation*, 6(3), 156-173.

> Schrader, U., Fricke, V., Thoresen, V., & Doyle, D. (Eds.). (2012). *Enabling Responsible Living*. Berlin: Springer. [Based on contributions to the PERL Conference, 2011, Istanbul.]

> Steg, L., van den Berg, A. E., & de Groot, J. I. M. (Eds.). (2012). *Environmental Psychology: An Introduction*. BPS Blackwell.

EVENTS

6 June	CTR Seminar: "The Role of Sustainable Consumption in Climate Policy" (University of Aberdeen, Old Aberdeen, UK)
7 June	International seminar on household energy consumption, technology and efficiency (University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK)
7-8 June	CORPUS Housing Workshop III (Helsinki, Finland)
13-15 June	Global and Regional Research on Sustainable Consumption & Production: Achievements, Challenges, and Dialogues (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
16-19 June	12th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Ecological Economics (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
20-22 June	Rio+20 - United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
21-24 June	SPSSI's 2012 Biennial Conference (Charlotte, North Carolina, USA)
23-27 June	The Conservation Psychology Institute (Keene, New Hampshire, USA)
29-31 August	Sustainable Transitions: Navigating Theories and Challenging Realities (Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark)

In this issue:

- > News
 - > Report from Climate Workshop Released: Increasing Public Understanding of Climate Risks and Choices
 - > New Report: Global Outlook on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Policies
 - > Sustainable production and consumption – new economic model sought
 - > International symposium on sustainable fashion
 - > The new edited book on environmental psychology
- > Call for Papers
- > New Publications
- > Events

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