

SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSUMPTION

Virtual Community

Dear reader,

The VC will celebrate its fifth anniversary in August and I feel it is time to change its management. Therefore I've decided to step down as chair of the board and manager of the running business of the VC at this year's annual event. I've enjoyed immensely working with the VC, but I must admit that I've run out of ideas for its further development and, as a consequence, I feel that the community is not currently realizing all of its potentials. Hence, this newsletter contains a call for nominations for a new chair and manager of the VC. I encourage everyone in the community to consider this opportunity, and to contribute to the discussion up to and at the annual event in Groningen about how the VC could and should evolve in the future. In August, we will initiate a discussion about the future management and role of the VC, culminating at the annual event, where we will elect a new chair and manager and discuss other strategic issues about the future of the VC.

Besides the call for nominations, this June edition of the VC newsletter as usual brings you a bouquet of job openings, calls and info about events and new publications in the field of Sustainability and Consumption.

I wish those of you at the northern hemisphere a fine summer, and those at the southern hemisphere a pleasant cool season.

Kind regards,
John

NEWS

Nominations for Chair of the Board and Manager of the Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption

After five years as chair of the board and manager of the Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption, John Thøgersen feels that the VC needs new ideas and new energy at the management level. He has therefore decided to step down and make space for a new chair and manager, to be appointed at the annual meeting in August in Groningen. Expressions of interest and/or nominations for chair and manager of the VC should be emailed to the Board of the Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption, as quickly as possible and preferably before 3 August, 2015. Such emails should be directed to John Thøgersen's assistant, Jacqueline Le Mi Nguyen (jlmn@badm.uu.dk). In case of doubts or uncertainties, inquiries can be directed to Jacqueline or John (jbt@badm.uu.dk).

As previously announced, the 2015 annual meeting of the Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption will take place in connection with the 11th Biennial Conference on Environmental Psychology (www.bcep2015.nl), the 24th to the 26th of August in Groningen, The Netherlands. Details about the agenda and the specific time slot and place will be circulated later at the VC listserver.

CALLS

Special Issue of Management Revue on Perspectives on Sustainable Consumption

Addressing ecological, economic and social issues, it is still a major – perhaps the biggest – challenge humanity faces. The problem demands attention by actors from all social levels. On the micro-level, sustainable consumption is often regarded as the major way how individual consumers can contribute to sustainable development. By now a growing number of people are aware that many consumption habits have to be changed because they are in conflict with the goal of sustainable development. Yet, there is a gap between knowledge and action.

In particular, the link between political participation and sustainable consumption as a political statement as well as the link between various forms and objectives of political consumption deserves more attention. Further, the impact of societal inequality on sustainable consumption has not gained much attention. Especially research on the interaction between inequality, issues of security and precariousness, political participation and consumption behaviour is lacking.

Deadline: 31 July 2015

[Read more](#)

Special Issue of Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics on Social Economy and Sustainability Transition

The transition towards sustainability seeks to bring the economic system and the society as a whole towards a new equilibrium that is environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. An increasing amount of research has documented the connections between the social economy (or related notions such as social entrepreneurship and social innovation) and the transition towards sustainable development, both conceptually and empirically. Despite the proliferation of this research, several questions remain unanswered. This special issue aims to gather contributions that question and feed in a new way the convergence between the social economy and the transition towards sustainable development, through a number of issues including (but not restricted to):

- Contribution of the social economy to environmental and social sustainability transitions in given fields of activity or territories, in collaboration with public authorities and/or businesses
- Design, experimentation and diffusion of innovative practices by social enterprises to deal with societal challenges in a sustainable way
- Sustainable management practices in social enterprises
- Opportunities of sustainable transition projects for the creation of new social enterprises or the transformation and networking of established ones

Deadline: 31 August 2015

[Read more](#)

Special Issue of Global Health on Health and Sustainable Development

In September, the UN General Secretary will have a UN General Assembly in NY, USA. Here will the aspiration for the next 15 years of development efforts be signed off. So far, there have 17 goals in the advanced stage of drafting. As the SDGs, in whatever final form they take, are unveiled in September, 2015, The Lancet and The Lancet Global Health will begin to curate a special issue on sustainable development, to be published in April, 2016. As part of this special issue, original research articles that cross two or more of the key disciplines of the SDGs: poverty, nutrition, health, education, economics, gender equality, water and sanitation, energy, urban planning, conservation, and climate change are encouraged. Multidisciplinary authorship is a must.

Deadline: 15 September 2015

[Read more](#)

Special Issue of Economic and Political Studies on Environmental Economics and Related Issues in China

China is facing an enormous challenge in environment destruction, which has severely affected its biophysical environment and economic suitability as well as human health. China's environmental crisis links to rapid economic growth, export-led industrial strategy, energy production and consumption, legislative building and remedial policies, and ineffectiveness of environmental governance. The discourse and scholarly debates on issues of environment and sustainability are of significant impact on China's achievement in both socio-economic and environmental sustainability. Analyses undertaken from economics, political-economic perspective and/or comparative views are most welcome. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Environmental economics in Chinese contexts
- Sustainable economics
- Political economic analysis of environment issues
- Debates on energy production

Deadline: 15 December 2015

[Read more](#)

Call for Papers: Conference on Dynamic Ecolibrium (2015)
9.-10. September 2015, North Terrace, Adelaide, Australia

The theme of 'Dynamic Ecolibrium' highlights the importance of maintaining healthy, balanced dynamic activity in both the economy and ecosystem. Themes for the conference include:

- Energy** - clean energy, renewables, efficiency, effectiveness
- Resources** - water, land, food, biosphere, minerals/metals
- Waste and Consumption** - whole of life, avoiding, reducing, reusing, recycling
- Infrastructure** - planning, design, construction, operations, transport, manufacturing
- Society** - holistic sustainability, equality, externalities, economics, psychology, education

Deadline: 21 June 2015

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Call for Proposals: 10YFP Trust Fund - Consumer Information for Sustainable Consumption

The 10YFP Consumer Information Programme (10YFP CIP) was launched in July 2014. It serves as a global platform to support the provision of quality sustainability information on goods and services, and the identification and implementation of the most effective strategies to engage consumers in sustainable consumption. It empowers and raises the profile of relevant policies, strategies, projects, initiatives and partnerships, building synergies and cooperation between different stakeholders to leverage resources towards achieving mutual goals.

The programme follows three main work areas:

- 1) Improve availability, accessibility and quality of sustainability information to create a basis for the provision of credible information.
- 2) Drive change in government and business to ensure that the framework conditions are provided to support best practices in relation to sustainability information.
- 3) Enhance communication to drive behavioural change and ensure the transition from being informed to taking action.

Deadline: 19 June 2015

[Read more](#)

Call for Proposals: SCORAI Conference on Transitions beyond a Consumer Society
15.-17. June 2016, Orono, Maine, USA

The conference theme is 'Transitions Beyond the Consumer Society' and is intended to provide a space for:

- The continued development of a network for the interdisciplinary and international exchange of ideas, research, and best practices related to sustainable consumption practice and policy.
- The presentation of innovative research and applied projects which improve our understanding of consumerist lifestyles and/or provide original insights into processes of societal transitions in the context of ecological limits, unequal distribution, and economic globalization.
- The generation of collective insights into key strategies, policies, and institutions designed to foster alternative means to pursue individual and societal well-being.

Diverse participation is invited -including theoretical and applied contributions from representatives in academia, industry, government, and civil society organizations.

Work to be considered might address, but is not limited to, the following topics:

- Visions of societies where the economy and culture are not principally built on mass consumption
- Insights into the obstacles to a transition beyond consumerist societies
- Strategies for successful transitions
- Theories of social change
- Thematic domains of consumption

Deadline: 15 August 2015

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VACANCIES

Conservation for Communities Social Marketing Officer (Full-Time/2 year Fixed Term Contract)

ZSL and the Department of Environment, Energy and Heritage are seeking a Conservation for Communities Social Marketing Officer to develop and oversee the implementation of social marketing tools and approaches that in-country teams and partner communities can use to increase community-level adoption of three core behaviours in support of our marine conservation activities: (a) increasing net recycling in the Net-Works project; (b) increasing the size and effectiveness of no-take zones (marine protected areas); (c) increasing the size and effectiveness of mangrove protection and restoration.

The main responsibilities of the position will be to work closely with relevant in-country teams and project managers in Philippines, Cameroon and Mozambique (amongst others) to design, implement and evaluate an effective and scalable social marketing campaign tailored towards target communities that reinforces our existing conservation activities. The successful applicant will develop the strategic approach; develop and produce relevant materials to be used by our field staff and community-level groups; undertake capacity development of relevant teams; and report on the activities and their impact to relevant donors.

Deadline: 30 June 2015

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Senior Research Associate

Household energy is rising rapidly in the Global South, yet most research on energy demand energy practices focuses on Europe and the US. The purpose of this 12 month research project (part-time applications welcome) is to account for differences and similarities in the circulation of elements and practices relating to comfort, lighting and refrigeration in Southeast Asia. We are looking for an independent post-doctoral social scientist (familiar with the literature on social practices) to carry out conceptual and empirical research, including fieldwork in Thailand and Vietnam. The post-doc will be based at the DEMAND Centre in Lancaster and will work closely with the Environmental Policy group at Wageningen University.

Deadline: 2 July 2015

[Read more](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Anderson, M., Teisl, M., Noblet, C., & Klein, S. (2015). The incompatibility of benefit-cost analysis with sustainability science. *Sustainability Science*, 10(1), 33-41.

Jackson, T., & Victor, P. A. (2015). Does slow growth lead to rising inequality? Some theoretical reflections and numerical simulations. *Ecological Economics*.

Nuttavuthisit, K., & Thøgersen, J. (2015). The importance of consumer trust for the emergence of a market for green products: The case of organic food. *Journal of Business Ethics*.

Reisch, L. A. (2015). *Time Policies for a Sustainable Society*. Cham: Springer.

Reisch, L. A. & Sunstein, C. R. (2015). Behavioral Economics and Consumption. *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Consumption and Consumer Studies*. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Steg, L., Perlaviciute, G., & van der Werff, E. (2015). Understanding the human dimensions of a sustainable energy transition. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 6.

Steinhorst, J., Klöckner, C. A., & Matthies, E. Saving electricity – For the money or the environment? Risks of limiting pro-environmental spillover when using monetary framing. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*.

Stern, P. C., & Dietz, T. (2015). IPCC: social scientists are ready. [Correspondence]. *Nature*, 521(7551), 161-161.

Toft, M. B., & Thøgersen, J. (2015). Exploring private consumer's willingness to take on an active role in the Smart Grid. *International Journal of Consumer Studies*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2015		
15 - 19 June	Sustainable Energy Week - The Human Dimension of Energy Transition	Brussels, Belgium
17 - 19 June	Product Lifetime and the Environment (PLATE)	Nottingham, U.K.
23 - 26 June	XIII Environmental Psychology Conference - PSICAMB	Granada, Spain
7 - 8 July	CAPS2015: Networked Social Responsibility Conference	Brussels, Belgium
9 - 12 July	The European Conference on Sustainability, Energy & the Environment 2015	Brighton, U.K.
29 - 30 July	ICSS 2015 : XIII International Conference on Sustainable Society	Zurich, Switzerland
24 - 26 August	BCEP 2015 : 11th Biennial Conference on Environmental Psychology	Groningen, The Netherlands
1 - 4 September	CFP RGS-IBG Annual Conference 2015	Exeter, U.K.
2 - 3 September	BX2015: International Behavioural Insights Conference	London, U.K.
7 - 9 September	The 5th World Sustainability Forum	Basel, Switzerland
9 - 10 September	Dynamic Ecolibrium 2015	Adelaide, Australia
16 - 18 September	Corporate Responsibility Research Conference CRRC 2015	Marseille, France
17 - 19 September	3rd International CSR Communication Conference	Ljubljana, Slovenia
2 October	Conference on global sustainability and local food	Rome, Italy
11 - 14 October	2nd International Conference on Global Food Security	Ithaca, NY, US
18 - 21 October	BECC15: Behavior, Energy and Climate Change	Sacramento, CA, U.S.
20 - 21 October	ABIS Annual Colloquium 2015	Milan, Italy
1 - 4 November	Global Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption Conference	Sitges, Spain
9 - 10 November	Sustainable innovation 2015: 'State of the Art' Sustainable Innovation & Design	Surrey, U.K.
17 November	SCORAI Europe Transit workshop	Vienna, Austria

2016
8 - 11 March SBE 16 - International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment Hamburg, Germany

27 - 29 April Child and Teen Consumption Conference Aalborg, Denmark

15 - 17 June Transition beyond a Consumer Society (SCORAI) Orono, Maine, U.S.

[Read more about the events here](#)

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Board of the Virtual Community

- John Thøgersen Aarhus University
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- Mario Teisl University of Maine
- Linda Steg University of Groningen
- Lucia Reisch Copenhagen Business School
- Ulf Schrader Technical University of Berlin
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