

First Trans-Atlantic SCORAI Workshop, Tuesday May 1, 2012, Bregenz, Austria

« Sustainable Consumption During Times of Crisis »

Program

- 8:00-9:00 Registration (*please bring exact change for the 25 euro fee*)
- 9:00-9:30 **Opening and Welcome**
Willi Sieber, The Austrian Institute of Ecology
Philip Vergragt, Tellus Institute and Clark University
Sylvia Lorek, Sustainable Europe Research Institute
- 9:30-10:45 **SESSION 1: Growth vs. Degrowth**
Chair: Philip Vergragt, Tellus Institute and Clark University
Discussant: Felix Rauschmayer, Helmholtz Centre for Env't Research, UFZ
Note taker: Tullia Jack, University of Melbourne
- Christoph Gran, Necessary condition for a post-growth turn: diversity in economics
 - Michal Sedlacko *et al.*, Towards a systemic understanding of sustainable consumption and economic growth: lessons from different consumption areas
 - Agnes Zsoka and Gyula Zilahy, Sustainable consumption in central and eastern Europe: a survey
- 10:45-11:15 Coffee and tea break
- 11:15-12:30 **SESSION 2: Beyond growth: exploring the alternatives**
Chair: Maurie J. Cohen, New Jersey Institute of Technology
Discussant: Tom Bauler, University of Brussels
Note taker: Christoph Gran, University of Oldenburg
- Christine Ax and Friedrich Hinterberger: Healthy, wealthy and wise? The future of health and social politics after economic growth
 - Steve McCauley: Craft economies in Japan: The re-emergence of alternate economies in a no-growth context
 - Harald Rohrer and Michael Ornetzeder: Socio-technical configurations for green growth
- 12:30-13:30 Lunch break
- 13:30-14:45 **SESSION 3: From austerity to transformation: macro policies/ strategies**
Chair: Sylvia Lorek, Sustainable Europe Research Institute
Discussant: Antonietta Di Giulio, IKAÖ, University of Bern
Note taker: Marlyne Sahakian, University of Lausanne
- Maurie J. Cohen: Austerity, Sustainable Consumption, and Post-Consumerism
 - Michael Redclift: Austerity and economic crisis
 - Joachim Spangenberg: Institutional Change for Strong Sustainable Consumption

14:45-15:15 Coffee and tea break

15:15-17:00 **SESSION 4: Pathways for change**

Chair: Gerd Scholl, Institute for Ecological Economy Research

Discussant: Ruth Kaufmann-Hayoz, IKAÖ, University of Bern

Note taker: Julia Backhaus, Maastricht University

- Maria Csutora, Happy sustainability as a lifestyle-Beyond the Easterlin paradox
- Anneke von Raggamby *et al.*, Pathways to sustainable in times of crisis; contributions from the EU action research project 'InContext'
- Marlyne Sahakian, Social and solidarity-based economy, what opportunities for sustainable consumption in times of crisis and beyond?

17:00-17:30 **Closing Session:**

- Summary and discussion
- SCORAI Europe next steps

18:00 **ERSCP reception (for registered participants)**

Workshop contact

Please contact **Willi Sieber** at for any questions you might have once in Bregenz: **mobile: +43 (0)650 5208500**, sieber@ecology.at. For general information prior to the meeting, please contact scoraieurope@gmail.com.

Workshop venue

The workshop venue is the Festspielhaus Bregenz www.festspielhausbregenz.at, a three-minute walk from the train station, and in the Seegalerie room. For those of you arriving the day before the workshop, a reservation has been made at 7:00pm for a Monday evening dinner April 30, Maurachbund www.maurachbund.at, Maurachgasse 11, in the city center. The dinner is at your own expense.

Workshop format

SCORAI workshops are designed to maximize discussions and debates. Space is limited to 40 participants, including authors, and will be filled by invitation only, on a first-come-first-serve basis. All participants are encouraged to read the papers in advance, which will be distributed two weeks prior to the event. In each panel, authors will be asked to briefly introduce their key points; discussants assigned to each panel will lead the debate, with participants also engaging in the discussions and capturing summaries, which will be presented in a special session within the ERSCP.

SCORAI within the ERSCP

SCORAI will also be hosting a panel session within ERSCP under the working title "Sustainable consumption during times of crisis", organized by Philip Vergragt, Tellus-Institute, SCORAI USA Executive Committee. A summary of workshop findings will be shared in this session, with time allocated to discussing future SCORAI activities in Europe. Select workshop participants will also act as presenters for this session.

Workshop fee

The SCORAI workshop is being hosted by the ERSCP and organized by SCORAI supporting members, at no cost to participants. We do ask for a small fee of **25 euros**, to be paid in advance of the workshop and at registration by all participants (including authors), in order to cover the cost of coffee breaks and lunch. Kindly prepare exact change. ERSCP registration is *not* a requirement for this workshop. For additional information on the workshop location and getting to Bregenz, please visit : <http://www.erscp2012.eu/location.htm>.

Workshop theme

« Sustainable Consumption During Times of Crisis »

(The problem) Research over the past four decades has demonstrated the limits of economic growth and the social and environmental problems associated with contemporary consumption-oriented lifestyles. Efforts to reform unsustainable patterns through development of cleaner production technologies and facilitation of different household decision-making processes have not lead to significant reductions in aggregate material and energy throughputs. At the same time, public policies, commercial inducements, and global media images continue to vigorously promote resource-intensive consumption practices. Meaningful transitions toward sustainable consumption require confronting existing consumerist culture and consumer models and formulating long-term visions based on systemic transformation.

(The challenges and opportunities presented by crisis) Recurrent financial and ecological crises have triggered extraordinary responses from national and transnational governments, multilateral organizations, and central banks. However, it is questionable if and how much these events have instigated new public awareness about the systemic interconnections among growing resource scarcities, widening income disparities, increasing unemployment, pervasive institutional failure, and others. The current wave of instability prompts numerous questions about prevalent consumption patterns in affluent countries and holds challenges and opportunities for scholars and practitioners seeking to envisage more sustainable pathways.

Across much of Europe, austerity policies are prompting reductions in household consumption by, for example, cutting social welfare payments and increasing taxes. While this material downsizing has potential to lower certain sources of ecological stress, it is also emblematic of widening inequality, declining governmental capacity, and increasing political instability. In some especially hard-pressed countries we are already seeing adaptive responses such as the rediscovery of bartering and localized trading as ways to meet daily needs. Though public discontent is spreading, uncertainty remains about whether current forms of political expression will be sufficient to achieve systemic changes consistent with more sustainable consumption, and whether links will be made between activist movements and sustainable development communities. A striking prototype could be Japan, where economic growth has stagnated for more than twenty years and the recent tsunami-induced disasters have compounded the country's despondent economic mood. Indeed, one result may very well be a repackaging and relaunching of the growth paradigm.

(The goal and main theme of the workshop) The ongoing financial crisis—and the flaws that it exposes in the current system of economic organization—signals a need to go beyond customary approaches for conceptualizing sustainable consumption and to envision how we might configure entirely new systems of consumption. This workshop will bring together an international group of researchers and practitioners for focused consideration of these challenges and opportunities.

We look forward to your participation in this timely and important event.

On behalf of the organizing team,

Sylvia Lorek, Sustainable Europe Research Institute
Maurie Cohen, New Jersey Institute of Technology
Gerd Scholl, Institute for Ecological Economy Research
Willi Sieber, The Austrian Institute of Ecology
Marlyne Sahakian, IPTEH, The University of Lausanne

Abstract review committee

Doris Fuchs, University of Münster
Sylvia Lorek, Sustainable Europe Research Institute
Gerd Scholl, Institute for Ecological Economy Research
Arnold Tukker, TNO
Philip Vergragt, Tellus Institute & Clark University

Supporting SCORAI members

SCORAI Europe

Doris Fuchs, University of Münster
Sylvia Lorek, Sustainable Europe Research Institute
André Martinuzzi, WU Vienna
Jaco N. Quist, TU Delft
Lucia A. Reisch, Copenhagen Business School
Marlyne Sahakian, IPTEH, The University of Lausanne
Willi Sieber, The Austrian Institute of Ecology
Gerd Scholl, Institute for Ecological Economy Research
Ulf Schrader, TU Berlin
Martin Schweighofer, The Austrian Institute of Ecology
John Thøgersen, Aarhus University
Arnold Tukker, TNO

SCORAI USA Executive Committee

Jeffrey Barber, Integrative Strategies Forum
Halina Brown, Clark University
Maurie Cohen, New Jersey Institute of Technology
John Stutz, Tellus Institute
Philip Vergragt, Tellus Institute & Clark University

About The Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative

The Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI) is a network of academics and practitioners working to address challenges at the interface of material consumption, human fulfilment, lifestyle satisfaction, and macroeconomic and technological change. Network members are seeking to facilitate the design of a coherent research program that forges connections between scholars and communities of practice and contributes to an ongoing policy dialogue on these interrelated issues. This workshop is the first SCORAI workshop taking place in Europe. To learn more about SCORAI, please visit: <http://www.scorai.org>.

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Workshop Participants

(By first name; contact details will be provided at the workshop)

1. Adina Dumitru, LOCAW Project, University of Corunna
2. Ágnes Zsóka, Corvinus University of Budapest
3. Aija Freimane, Latvijas Mākslas akadēmijas
4. Andre Martinuzzi, Vienna University of Economics and Business, WU Vienna
5. Anneke von Raggamby, In Context project, Ecologic Institute EU
6. Antonietta di Giulio, Universität Bern, IKAO
7. Arnold Tukker, TNO Delft
8. Christine Ax, AHA Berlin
9. Christoph Gran, University of Oldenburg
10. Edina Vadovics, GreenDependent Institute
11. Felix Rauschmayer, Helmholtz Centre for Env't Research, UFZ
12. Frans Verspeek, SWITCH Asia
13. Friedrich Hinterberger, SERI
14. Gerd Scholl, IOEW
15. Gyula Zilahy, Corvinus University of Budapest
16. Halina Brown, Clark University
17. Harald Rohrer, Univ. of Graz
18. Jaco Quist, TU Delft
19. Joachim Spangenberg, SERI
20. Julia Backhaus, Maastricht University
21. Kim Christiansen, Danish Standards
22. Kristóf Vadovics, GreenDependent Institute
23. Mads Bo Andersen, Danish Standards
24. Maria Csutora, Corvinus University of Budapest
25. Marlyne Sahakian, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
26. Martin Schweighofer, The Austrian Institute of Ecology
27. Maurie J. Cohen, New Jersey Institute of Technology, NJIT
28. Michael Ornetzeder, Austrian Institute of TA
29. Michal Sedlacko, WU Vienna
30. Philip Vergragt, Tellus Institute, Boston and Clark University
31. Ricardo Garcia Mira, LOCAW Project, University of Corunna
32. Roland Alton, Univ. of Applied Sciences, Vorarlberg
33. Ruth Kaufmann-Hayoz, Universität Bern, IKAO
34. Simon Milton, GreenDependent Institute and Corvinus University of Budapest
35. Steven McCauley, George P. Marsh Institute, Clark University
36. Sylvia Lorek, Sustainable Europe Research Institute
37. Tom Bauler, Université Libre de Bruxelles
38. Tullia Jack, University of Melbourne
39. Willi Sieber, The Austrian Institute of Ecology

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Workshop Feedback Form

Please submit your feedback and ideas to scoraieurope@gmail.com.

Name:

Contact details: (updates / changes to the participant list that will be distributed at the event)

What aspects of the workshop did you find most useful (format, location, content, etc)?

What aspects would you change in the future (format, location, content, etc)?

Do you have suggestions for future SCORAI workshops in Europe and how they might be organized?

Do you have any suggestions for other future SCORAI activities in Europe?

Thank you for your feedback and for participating in this event.