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Dear reader,

In this, the last Newsletter from the Virtual Community in 2014, we bring you news about next year's annual VC event, in August in Groningen, together with a bouquet of news, calls and information about new publications in the field of sustainability and consumption. On behalf of the board and local members here in Aarhus, I want to thank all of you for your collaboration and efforts for the community and for increasing society's understanding of sustainability and consumption in the past year. I look forward to meet you at the annual event in Groningen or at one of the other scientific meetings during the year where sustainability and consumption issues are discussed. Happy holidays and my best wishes for the new year!

Kind regards,

John

**NEWS**

**The Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption 2015 at the 11th Biennial Conference on Environmental Psychology in Groningen, the Netherlands**

The Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption will organize its 2015 annual event and general assembly in connection with the 11th Biennial Conference on Environmental Psychology, 24 to 26 August in Groningen, the Netherlands. The main theme for the conference is "Bridging theory and practice", which makes it particularly apt for anyone interested in the interface between sustainability and consumption. We expect several symposia on sustainability and consumption at the conference and you are all invited to submit your papers. Please feel free to forward this invitation to colleagues who may be interested in participating.

If you are interested in submitting a paper, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can use your information as input to organizing themed symposia at the conference.

Abstracts should be submitted using the conferences management system at <http://bcecp2015.nl>, where more information about the conference is also available.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 1st February, 2015. Please indicate in your submission that you are member of the Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption.

Kind regards,

Alice Grønhoj ([alg@badm.au.dk](mailto:alg@badm.au.dk)) and John Thøgersen ([jbt@badm.au.dk](mailto:jbt@badm.au.dk))

**CALLS**

**Special issue of Energy Research & Social Science on energy transitions in Europe: Emerging challenges, innovative approaches, and possible solutions to energy issues**

This special issue aims to provide an up-to-date framework of the complexity that currently characterizes Europe in relation to energy issues. The special issue will include national and local examples that, taken together, will provide cross-national comparisons as well as a framework of the European challenges, approaches, best practices, and innovative solutions.

Deadline: 1 January 2015

[Read more](#)

**Special issue of Journal of Industrial Ecology on Linking Local Consumption to Global Impacts**

The goal of this special issue is to bring together different approaches including global supply and value chain analysis, material flow analysis, life-cycle assessment, integrated impact assessment, and social network analysis to account for and analyse drivers of globalization and their global environmental impacts and global inequalities in wealth by explicitly linking the local to the global.

Deadline: 15 January 2015

[Read more](#)

**Call for Paper: Special Topic Forum on Theory Building on Sustainable Supply Chain Management**

The area of social and environmental sustainability attracts scholars from diverse disciplines. Such cross-disciplinary effort is needed because although many scholars link sustainability to discrete business activities—inbound and outbound logistics, processes and operations, finished products and customer interface, distribution channels, and services—we do not have an overarching, integrative theory of sustainability. We are particularly interested in "edgy" manuscripts that would yield conceptual platforms, open up new research frontiers, or offer new insights that significantly enrich discussion and discourse as well as those that unpack important, timeless, yet revelatory topics.

Deadline: 15 January 2015

[Read more](#)

**Call for Paper: Conference on Behavioural Science & Policy**

21-23 April 2015, Nottingham, U.K

The Network for Integrated Behavioural Science (NIBS) is hosting an international and interdisciplinary conference on behavioural science and policy. This conference is aimed at bringing together scholars from different fields interested in presenting their latest research on topics at the intersection between the behavioural sciences and policy making.

Deadline: 16 January 2015

[Read more](#)

**Call for Paper: Conference on future studies, education and action**

11-12 June 2015, Turku, Finland

"Futures Studies Tackling Wicked Problems" is an international forum for the philosophies, methods, ideas and concrete examples to find out what is going on in the field of futures research, education and action. The aim is to harness the views of preferable futures and methods for reaching them. The conference will work collaboratively discussing research, initiatives and projects to gather various views and compose ideas to face future challenges.

Deadline: 30 January 2015

[Read more](#)

**Abstract submission: Special Topic Forum on CSR**

17-19 September 2015, Ljubljana, Slovenia

In connection with the 3rd International CSR Communication Conference, we are inviting scholars to submit their empirical and conceptual work on the broad theme of ethical positioning of the organization, and the use of communication in its broader essence to participate in this event in the city of Ljubljana.

Deadline: 15 February 2015

[Read more](#)

**JOB OPENINGS - SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSUMPTION**

**Assistant professor position**

The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources and the Environmental Program of the University of Vermont invite applications to fill three tenure-track positions within a broad theme of sustainability studies and global environmental equity. The positions are expected to complement existing faculty strengths in three areas of expertise:

- 1) sustainability policy and/or behavior with a focus on energy, climate, transportation, food or interrelated arenas
- 2) sustainability values, community/social aspects of resilience, health, and well-being
- 3) sustainability education and communication

Especially candidates who think across disciplinary boundaries, using theoretical, applied, and/or community-based approaches to address environmental challenges where sustainability is the goal.

Deadline: 15 January 2015

[Read more](#)

**Fully funded PhD studentship**

The Sustainable Consumption Institute, University of Manchester, will be offering up to 5 fully funded PhD studentships to outstanding candidates wishing to commence their doctoral studies in September 2015.

Deadline: 26 January 2015

[Read more](#)

**Fellowships in sustainability science**

The Sustainability Science Program at Harvard University invites applications for resident fellowships in sustainability science for the academic year beginning in September 2015. 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.

Deadline: 2 February 2015

[Read more](#)

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Publication of the Month**

De Young, R. (2014). Some behavioral aspects of energy descent: how a biophysical psychology might help people transition through the lean times ahead. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 5(1255). doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2014.01255

We may soon face biophysical limits to perpetual growth. Energy supplies may tighten and then begin a long slow descent while defensive expenditures rise to address problems caused by past resource consumption. The outcome may be significant changes in daily routines at the individual and community level. It is difficult to know when this scenario might begin to unfold but it clearly would constitute a new behavioral context, one that the behavioral sciences least attends to. Even if one posits a less dramatic scenario, people may still need to make many urgent and perhaps unsettling transitions. And while a robust response would be needed, it is not at all clear what the details of that response. Since it is likely that no single approach will fix things everywhere, for all people or for all time, it would be useful to conduct many social experiments. Indeed, a culture of small experiments should be fostered which, at the individual and small group level, can be described as behavioral entrepreneurship. This may have begun, hidden in plain sight, but more social experiments are needed. To be of help, it may be useful to both package behavioral insights in a way that is practitioner-oriented and grounded in biophysical trends and to propose a few key questions that need attention. This paper begins the process of developing a biophysical psychology, incomplete as it is at this early stage.

[Available online here](#)

Jansson, M., Sandberg, J., Biel, A., & Gärling, T. (2014). Should pension funds' fiduciary duty be extended to include social, ethical and environmental concerns? A study of beneficiaries' preferences. *Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investment*, 4(3), 213-229.

Kurz, T., Gardner, B., Verplanken, B., & Abraham, C. (2015). Habitual behaviors or patterns of practice? Explaining and changing repetitive climate-relevant actions. *Wiley Interdisciplinary Reviews: Climate Change*, 6(1), 113-128. doi: 10.1002/wcc.327

Nilsson, A., Hansla, A., & Biel, A. (2014). Feeling the green? Value orientation as a moderator of emotional response to green electricity. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 44, 672-680. doi: 10.1111/jasp.12258

Taufik, D., Bolderdijk, J. W., & Steg, L. (2014). Acting green elicits a literal warm glow. *Nature Climate Change*. doi: 10.1038/nclimate2449

van der Werff, E., & Steg, L. (2015). One model to predict them all: Predicting energy behaviours with the norm activation model. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 6(0), 8-14. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2014.11.002>

Van der Werff, E., Steg, L., & Keizer, K. (2014). I am what I am, by looking past the present: The influence of biospheric values and past behavior on environmental self-identity. *Environment and Behavior*, 46, 626-657. doi: 10.1177/0013916512475209

Waring, T., Teisl, M., Manandhar, E., & Anderson, M. (2014). On the Travel Emissions of Sustainability Science Research. *Sustainability*, 6(5), 2718-2735.

Weaver, C. P., Mooney, S., Allen, D., Beller-Simms, N., Fish, T., Grambsch, A. E., . . . Winthrop, R. (2014). From global change science to action with social sciences. [Commentary]. *Nature Clim. Change*, 4(8), 656-659. doi: 10.1038/nclimate2319

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

2015		
26 - 27 January	The interface between sustainability research and policy	
5 March	The 2015 European Circular Economy Conference	Brussels, Belgium
10-11 March	PERL International Conference: A Decade of Responsible Living	Paris, France
21 - 23 April	NIBS Behavioural Science & Policy workshop	Nottingham, U.K
21 - 25 April	Consuming the Anthropocene (AAG 2015)	Chicago, U.S
27 - 29 May	Food in the Bio-based Economy: Sustainable Precision and Access	Wageningen, The Netherlands
11-12 June	World Conference of Futures Research 2015	Turku, Finland
13 - 16 June	ACSEE 2015	Osaka, Japan
17 - 19 June	Product Lifetime and the Environment (PLATE)	Nottingham, U.K.
23 - 26 June	XIII Environmental Psychology Conference - PSICAMB	Granada, Spain
24 - 26 August	BCEP 2015: 11th Biennial Conference on Environmental Psychology	Groningen, The Netherlands
17 - 19 September	3rd International CSR Communication Conference	Ljubljana, Slovenia

Read more about the events [here](#)

**Board of the Virtual Community**

- John Thøgersen** Aarhus University  
- Chairman of the board
- Anders Biel** University of Gothenburg
- Mario Teisl** University of Maine
- Linda Steg** University of Groningen
- Lucia Reisch** Copenhagen Business School
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