



Dear reader,

In about a week, the Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption will have its fifth physical annual meeting in Groningen. Our mission, as agreed at the inaugural meeting in Exeter in 2011, is to initiate, develop and organise research that will help to reduce the tension between sustainability and consumption in both the near and the long term. The primary means is strengthening existing and developing new relationships between researchers in this field and between researchers and users of the research in industry and politics.

Looking back at its first five years of existence, the VC has facilitated collaboration about the development of research projects, a doctoral course and publications, it has organized both virtual and physical seminars and other events, and it has facilitated the flow of information about sustainable consumption research and research opportunities via a range of different platforms. The VC's most popular communication platforms have been this newsletter and the community's website. Other platforms that were created have been less popular, especially the Forum, but also the LinkedIn group and the listserver have been used less by members than anticipated. Hence, it's a perennial and challenging task for the community to develop platforms for communication and networking that are useful for members and instrumental at reaching the community's goals and mission.

An exiting task at this year's annual event is the election of a new chair of the board and manager of the running business of the VC. New management will bring the new energy and ideas that we need to facilitate the VC's further development and realize its potentials. Therefore, I'm very happy to announce in this newsletter the first nomination for chair and manager of the VC. Below you will find a short presentation of Ellen van der Werff and her thoughts about the future of the VC. It is still possible to nominate more candidates up until the event where the election will be made. I encourage everyone to contribute to the discussion before (at the VC's listserver, vc.list@mailist.ou.dk) and at the annual event in Groningen about how the VC could and should evolve in the future.

Besides these organization matters, this August edition of the VC newsletter as usual brings you a bouquet of calls and info about events and new publications in the field of Sustainability and Consumption.

Kind regards,

John

NEWS

The Virtual Community's Annual Event 2015

As previously announced, the annual meeting of the Virtual Community on 'Sustainability and Consumption – Near-Term and Long-Term Strategies and Interventions' will be in connection with the 11th Biennial Conference on Environmental Psychology, 24th to the 26th of August 2015 in Groningen, The Netherlands

Time: Tuesday August 25, 17:15 – 18:45

Room: Room A7 in the Academy Building of the University of Groningen, Broerstraat 5, Groningen.

(Prel.) Agenda

1. Status re Virtual Community activities during the last year, including:
 - a. Website
 - b. Newsletter
 - c. List server/discussion board
 - d. Virtual/hybrid seminar(s)
 - e. Research collaboration/Joint project applications
 - f. Misc.

2. Election of a new Chair of the Board and Manager of the Virtual Community

John Thøgersen steps down after five years as chair of the board and manager of the Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption, and a new chair and manager will be appointed at the annual meeting.

3. Visions for the future of the Virtual Community and plans for the next year

4. Misc.

Nomination for the Virtual Community chair position

It is time for a new leadership of the Virtual Community and calls for nominations have been circulated with the plan to make the transition at the VC's 2015 annual meeting in Groningen. I am happy to announce the first nomination: Ellen van der Werff, assistant professor at Groningen University. Below is short bio and a short piece by Ellen on her goals for the VC

Ellen van der Werff, University of Groningen, Department of Psychology

Dr. Ellen van der Werff is an assistant professor in Environmental Psychology at the University of Groningen, where she also received her PhD in 2013 in Social Psychology. Her main research interests are factors influencing sustainable and environmental behaviour and strategies to promote this behaviour. She is particularly interested in general factors explaining environmental behaviour, such as environmental self-identity and values, and in the effects and acceptability of incentives to promote behavioural change. Ellen was the newsletter editor for the IAAP (International Association of Applied Psychology) division 4 (Environmental Psychology) between 2010 and 2014, and the chair of the IAAP best student paper award from 2012 until 2014.

Short note on Ellen's goals for the VC

I would be honored to serve as the chair of the Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption. The former chair has done a great job in building this global community over the past five years. The Virtual Community brings together scientists from many disciplines all focusing on sustainability, and aims to increase collaboration among these scientists. My goal as chair of the VC would be to facilitate these collaborations, not only among scientists, but also with policy makers and practitioners. My main goal would be to help scientists and practitioners find each other to help solve sustainability problems. I will aim to increase the sharing of knowledge among social scientists in the field, but also with other disciplines and practitioners. To achieve this goal I would:

1. Facilitate communication among virtual community members, potential new members and practitioners. Specific activities would be to keep updating the website of the VC and inform members on recent publications, calls and meetings via the newsletter.
2. To stimulate knowledge exchange. I will encourage members to participate in conferences relevant to the field and organize conference sessions on behalf of the VC.
3. Next to updates on published research I would also like to inform members on topics that VC members are currently working and seek possible collaborations.
4. Increase the visibility of the VC for other disciplines, policy makers and practitioners by setting up collaborations with other networks, for example on a European level. Furthermore, I will encourage practitioners to participate in meetings, symposia and conferences attended by VC members.
5. Attract new members for the virtual community and retain current members.

CALLS

Special issue of Journal of Marketing Management on Design, Consumption and Marketing

In this special issue, papers are welcome from different perspectives on the interrelationship between design, marketing and consumption including design philosophies, methods and outcomes, interactions with marketing, the influence on consumption and consumers, the role of consumers in design, material culture, macromarketing and transformative consumption issues, conceptions of value, design practices and tools, historical perspectives and more. Papers are welcomed which approach the understanding of design from different theoretical perspectives, including actor network theory, consumer culture theory, critical approaches, practice theory, marketing strategy, new product development, branding, psychology, and service dominant logic among others. Consistent with the journal's position all methodologies are welcome. However, papers must focus on the interaction between design and marketing, design and consumption, and/or all three areas as opposed to just focusing on design per se.

Deadline: 1st December 2015

[Read more](#)

Special issue of Corporate Governance on Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Innovation

Sustainable Development is defined as 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' and has been discussing as one of main topics in business and society over the last two decades. Social entrepreneurship is expected to tackle challenges for suitable development and take the sustainability initiatives in local or global community. Sustainable/social innovation creates new social values through businesses tackling social and environmental issues. To create a new innovation, we need to build and promote collaboration among social business, big business, NGOs, local people, government, and academia, and to make an institutional environment to enhance new businesses.

The special issues of Corporate Governance will focus on various issues and challenges on the theme of 'Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Innovation,' especially, how entrepreneurs create sustainable innovation in organization or in community.

Deadline: 31st March 2016

[Read more](#)

Call for Papers: 2nd international workshop on the sharing economy

Airbnb, Kickstarter, Uber, Fab Labs, The Food Assembly, etc.: the rise of these collaborative initiatives no doubt constitutes one of the most striking revolutions of the present day. However, despite the rise of the 'sharing economy', no consensus about its definition yet exists. Botsman (2013) defines this sector as 'an economic model based on sharing, swapping, trading, or renting products and services, enabling access over ownership.' It thus pertains to a broad set of industries, including collaborative finance (crowdfunding), collaborative production (3D printing, FabLabs, DIY, etc.) collaborative education (e.g. open education and open knowledge) and finally collaborative consumption.

Throughout this workshop, the aim is to explore the impact of the sharing economy on various dimensions: Individual behaviours, industry and competition and public regulations. Other dimensions are also invited.

Deadline: 30th October 2015

[Read more](#)

Call for papers: 2nd Annual Conference on Environmental Politics & Governance

The 2016 conference builds on the success of the 2015 conference in Seattle. These annual conferences aim to showcase outstanding scholarship on Environmental Politics & Governance, provide a venue for scholars to present their research, strengthen their network, and shape future Environmental Politics & Governance research across the social sciences via theoretically informed, methodologically rigorous empirical work. The hosts hope that this and subsequent conferences will motivate Environmental Politics & Governance scholars to advance theoretical insights, work with generalizable theories, and use appropriate empirical methods and data. Paper proposals for the conference are invited.

Deadline: 3rd November 2015

[Read more](#)

Call for Hosting the Fifth International Conference on Degrowth for Ecological Sustainability and Social Equity

This is an open call for expressions of interest from parties who wish to organize the next conference.

The international conferences on degrowth are central landmarks and moments of convergence of the international degrowth intellectual and social movement. They offer a unique opportunity for bringing together scholars with other members of civil society and demonstrating a different way of organizing conferences. A central feature of the conferences has been direct participation and collaboration among participants. The past international degrowth conferences have been strongly influential in defining and opening new research and political fields. They have been inspiring and learning from social movements and experiments, and developed policy proposals as well as initiatives for social experiments in a wide range of areas. And besides all this they managed to attract significant attention from the general public and the media.

Deadline: 1st February 2016

[Read more](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Achtziger, A., Hubert, M., Kenning, P., Raab, G., & Reisch, L. (2015). Debt out of control: The links between self-control, compulsive buying, and real debts. *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 49, 141-149.

Clayton, S., Devine-Wright, P., Stern, P. C., Whitmarsh, L., Carrico, A., Steg, L., ... Bonnes, M. (2015). Psychological research and global climate change. [Review]. *Nature Clim. Change*, 5(7), 640-646.

Dreyer, S. J., Teisl, M. F., & McCoy, S. K. (2015). Are acceptance, support, and the factors that affect them, different? Examining perceptions of U.S. fuel economy standards. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 39, 65-75.

Dreyer, S. J., Walker, I., McCoy, S. K., & Teisl, M. F. (2015). Australians' views on carbon pricing before and after the 2013 federal election. [Letter]. *Nature Climate Change*. *advance online publication*.

Friedrichsmeier, T., & Matthies, E. (2015). Rebound Effects in Energy Efficiency—An Inefficient Debate? *GAIA-Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society*, 24(2), 80-84.

Israël, A. L., Wong-Parodi, G., Webler, T., & Stern, P. C. (2015). Eliciting public concerns about an emerging energy technology: The case of unconventional shale gas development in the United States. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 8, 139-150.

Kastner, I., & Stern, P. C. (2015). Examining the decision-making processes behind household energy investments: A review. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 10, 72-89.

Lauper, E., Moser, S., Fischer, M., Matthies, E., & Kaufmann-Hayoz, R. (2015). Psychological predictors of eco-driving: A longitudinal study. *Transportation Research Part F: Traffic Psychology and Behaviour*, 33, 27-37.

Orbell, S., & Verplanken, B. (2015). The strength of habit. *Health Psychology Review*, 1-13.

Steinhorst, J., Klöckner, C. A., & Matthies, E. (2015). Saving electricity – For the money or the environment? Risks of limiting pro-environmental spillover when using monetary framing. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 43, 125-135.

Thøgersen, J., Zhou, Y., & Huang, G. (2015). How stable is the value basis for organic food consumption in China? *Journal of Cleaner Production*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2015

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, U.S
18 - 21 October	BECC15: Behavior, Energy and Climate Change	Sacramento, CA, U.S
20 - 21 October	ABIS Annual Colloquium 2015	Milan, Italy
28 - 31 October	Re-Do	Aarhus, Denmark
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

28 - 29 January	2nd International Workshop on Sharing Economy	Paris, France
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
16 - 19 June	2nd Annual Conference on Environmental Politics & Governance	Gerzensee, Switzerland
30 August - 3 September	Fifth International Degrowth Conference	Budapest, Hungary

Read more about the events [here](#)

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