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- Mario Teisl** University of Maine
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- Satoshi Fujii** Kyoto University

Dear reader,

In northern Europe, where I am writing this, days are already considerably longer and early signs indicate that spring is approaching. Wherever you are, we hope you have made plans to attend the Virtual Community's annual event in Groningen in August and, if you are a PhD student, the [Third Summer School](#) for Theories in Environmental Psychology in Italy late June – early July (see more in the January issue). As usual, this issue of the Newsletter brings you a small bouquet of important news from and for our community. Enjoy!

Kind regards,
John

NEWS

New project at University of Groningen: "Developing socially responsible innovations: The role of values and moral emotions". Financed by a grant from NWO to Goda Perlaviciute and Linda Steg

This project aims to develop an innovative emotion-based design perspective for socially responsible innovations that are acceptable and justifiable on ethical grounds. This is important considering the emotional controversies with regard to many societal challenges related to climate change, energy and resource use, and water and food security. Emotions are commonly seen as "irrational" in decision-making. Traditional approaches aim at inducing positive responses to innovations, but they typically neglect values and moral considerations underlying emotional responses, making these approaches less effective and even ethically dubious. We propose that people's important values predict their emotional responses to innovations, which in turn drive public acceptability. Values and emotions can therefore play a constructive role in developing socially responsible innovations. Our perspective is relevant for many sectors and different (cultural) contexts, since we examine general ethical principles and emotional processes. Therefore, we collaborate with private partners that are active in different sectors where controversial innovations are being developed. We will develop guidelines on how to incorporate values and emotions in developing socially responsible innovations, and we will deliver these guidelines to (potential) users in a user-friendly format. This is pivotal for developing new governance models targeting socially responsible innovations.

CALLS

Conference on global sustainability and local foods: Call for contributions

The complexity of industrial food production, processing and distribution and the growing distance between producers and consumers are at the center of heightened attention in academia and in social movements across the globe, with the latter in particular reclaiming democratic space on how food is grown, processed and commercialized. This food relocalization is usually associated with the contested notions of quality and sustainability; growing and consuming food locally is considered by some scholars and depicted in the media as beneficial for the health, the environment and the local economy. The dramatic loss of biodiversity, the threats posed by climate changes and the expected increase of the world population to 9.1 billion by 2050 invite new reflections on the sustainability of the Earth's resources and on the local-global linkages to steer collectively towards equitable and sustainable food production systems as well as sustainable diets. Contributions in form of abstracts, videos and posters are encouraged for the conference in Rome, Italy, 2 October 2015.

Deadline: 28 February 2015

[Read more](#)

Transformations to Sustainability Programme: Call for proposals

The International Social Science Council and its partners are inviting applications for proposals for Transformative Knowledge Networks for the recently launched Transformations to Sustainability Programme. Three Transformative Knowledge Networks will each be supported with up to €900,000 over three years. The objective is to address global sustainability challenges by supporting research on the complex processes of social transformation needed to secure effective, equitable and durable solutions. It will enable social scientists to develop knowledge networks that will both strengthen social science leadership in global change and sustainability research and to foster on-the-ground progress towards greater sustainability.

Deadline: 31 March 2015

[Read more](#)

Special issue of Elsevier on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Emerging Markets: Call for papers

Achieving sustainable consumption and production has been one of the most pressing challenges in emerging markets. The purpose of this special issue is to build on the existing research and latest debates on different approaches for managing sustainable consumption and production. Submissions from scholars who draw on different theoretical streams, and apply diverse empirical approaches are invited. Conceptual and empirical papers aimed at providing feasible solutions to previously raised issues are also welcome. The Special Issue Editors have intentionally kept the above list of suggested topics short so as to stimulate effective method and thereby encourage prospective authors to adopt a variety of sustainable consumption and production perspectives in approaching this subject. All submissions must fit within the domain statement of the journal.

Deadline: 31 July 2015

[Read more](#)

Conference on "Sustainable Consumption Transformations: Implementation and impacts": Call for papers

CONSENSUS#2 is hosting its second international sustainable consumption conference entitled 'Sustainable Consumption Transformations: Implementation and Impacts' from May 21-22 2015 at the National University of Ireland, Galway. CONSENSUS, funded by the Environmental Protection Agency is Ireland's largest research project on sustainable consumption and behaviour change. Their research has fed into national policy action and academic literature on behaviour change for sustainable consumption (focusing on energy, water, food and transport). The 2015 agenda will focus on implementation and impact of research on policy and action. The conference will comprise of a mix of presentations, panel discussions and lightning talks from policymakers, researchers and practitioners. Paper contributions are invited.

Extended deadline: 28 February 2015

[Read more](#)

The European Conference on Sustainability, Energy & the Environment 2015: Call for papers

Sustainability remains as a powerful ideal that acts as a driving force in relation to the pressing concerns of energy and the environment. Its proponents often protest their lack of power to effect change because of the control systems already in place in the form of tax-evading multinational corporations, banks that support them, and governments that turning a blind eye to malpractice. Is the claim to lack of power as serious as is alleged, or are there other approaches that have not been tried? Advocates of sustainable growth surely have the responsibility to search for alternative avenues and corridors of power? This conference will take the concepts and lenses of power and sustainability as we seek multidisciplinary solutions and work together towards the creation of a sustainable world. The theme of the conference (Brighton, U.K. 9-12. July 2015) is "Power & Sustainability", and abstracts in this field are encouraged.

Deadline: 30 March 2015

[Read more](#)

The Sustainable Built Environment Conference 2016: Call for papers

The organizers of the Sustainable Built Environment Conference 2016 in Hamburg are pleased to announce the call for papers for the SBE16 Hamburg: Strategies – Stakeholders – Success factors. The objective is creating new and innovative concepts of sustainability in the building sector and the sustainable development of (new as well as existing) neighbourhoods.

Please submit abstracts in the following subjects:

- Strategies and frameworks for sustainable urban development and construction
- Sustainable neighbourhood and urban development – concepts and cases
- Project development
- Methods and tools for sustainability in the building sector
- Research on material and product innovation
- Professional education: Design for sustainability

Both research and practice abstracts are invited.

Deadline: 30 May 2015

[Read more](#)

Post-doc position (PD1: Restructure) on institutional dynamics in sustainability transitions at Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany

Leuphana University Lüneburg is Germany a job opening, and is offering a 3.5 year post-doc research associate position. The position is a part of a new, transdisciplinary project about policy analysis and institutional dynamics in sustainability transitions in "Leverage Points for Sustainability Transformation: Institutional, People, Knowledge". This position focuses on processes of institutional change for restructuring food and energy systems in Lower Saxony (DE) and Transylvania (RO). RESTRUCTURE will address dynamics (transformations) in institutional arrangements. Social structures embodied in institutions (rules, regulations and policies) enable, constrain and guide human action and thus are of central concern to sustainability transformations. Different from most existing research, Leverage Points will not only consider institutional innovation and 'successful' institutional arrangements, but will purposely investigate what can be learnt from institutional failure, and assess how purposeful institutional decline could foster sustainability. This position is one of four postdoctoral associate positions within the Leverage Points project.

Deadline: 10 March 2015

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Lecturer/Researcher position in Environmental Psychology at University of Groningen, The Netherlands

The University of Groningen invites applications for a temporary (3 year) lecturer/researcher position in Environmental Psychology. You will work in a dynamic and enthusiastic research group with a key interest in the human dimension of sustainable development. Environmental Psychology at the University of Groningen has a national and international reputation for excellence. Research within the Environmental Psychology group focuses on a wide range of topics, including individual and situational factors influencing environmental and prosocial behaviour (such as household energy use, waste handling, car use), effective ways to promote sustainable behaviour, the acceptability of energy sources and energy systems, and the effects of sustainable behaviour on wellbeing. The research has the explicit aim of both contributing to theory development and practice.

The successful candidate is a starting scholar with a PhD in Psychology who has experience in environmental psychological research and teaching, and has a key interest in studying the psychological dimensions of smart grids in an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural setting.

Deadline: 18 March 2015

[Read more](#)

PUBLICATIONS

Bly, S., Gwozdz, W., & Reisch, L. A. (2015). Exit from the high street: an exploratory study of sustainable fashion consumption pioneers. *International Journal of Consumer Studies*, 39(2), 125-135.

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.

Lauper, E., Moser, S., Fischer, M., & Matthies, E. (2015). Explaining Car Drivers' Intention to Prevent Road-Traffic Noise: An Application of the Normal Activation Model. *Environment and Behavior*. doi:10.1177/0013916515570476.

Perlaviciute, G., & Steg, L. (2015). The influence of values on evaluations of energy alternatives. *Renewable Energy*, 77, 259-267.

EVENTS

2015

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 work-shop	Nottingham, U.K
21 - 25 April	Consuming the Anthropocene (AAG 2015)	Chicago, U.S
21 - 22 May	CONSENSUS#2 International Conference on 'Sustainable Consumption Transformations: Implementation and impacts'	Galway, Ireland
27 - 29 May	Food in the Bio-based Economy: Sustainable Precision and Access	Wageningen, The Netherlands
28 May - 5 June	ESAC Conference 2015	Ottawa, Canada
9 - 11 June	Nordic Environmental Social Science Conference 2015	Trondheim, Norway
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
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	Zürich, 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.
7 - 9 September	The 5th World Sustainability Forum	Basel, Switzerland
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
1 - 4 November	Global Cleaner Production and Sustainable Consumption Conference	Sitges, Spain

2016

8 - 11 March

SBE 16 - International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment

Hamburg, Germany

[Read more about the events here](#)

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