



# SUSTAINABILITY AND CONSUMPTION

Virtual Community

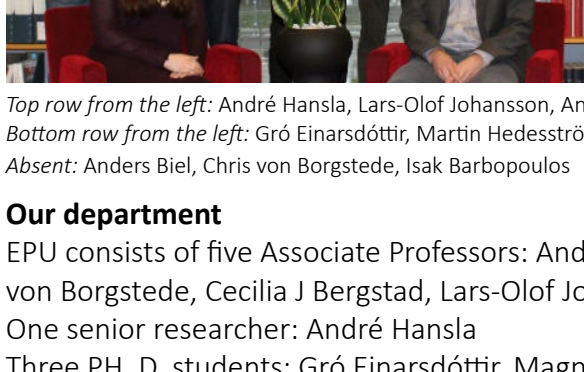
Dear reader,

A new year has started with many new calls, publications and positions which you will find in this newsletter. We would like to ask your special attention for the IAREP (International Association for Research in Economic Psychology) [conference](#) organized by the Wageningen University in the Netherlands this summer. The theme of the conference is 'Behavioural insights in research and policy making' and includes topics such as 'environment' and 'social norms, social preferences', thus addressing key topics of many members of the Virtual Community. Furthermore, the program includes great keynote speakers, such as Cass Sunstein, co-author of the famous book on nudging. At this conference we will organize an event especially for members of the Virtual Community to meet each other. Therefore, we would like to encourage all VC members to attend this conference. You can submit an individual abstract or join a VC symposium. If you want to join a VC symposium please let me know ([ellen.van.der.werff@rug.nl](mailto:ellen.van.der.werff@rug.nl)) before February 1st.

All the best,  
Ellen

## NEWS

### Meet the Environmental Psychology Unit, University of Gothenburg



Top row from the left: André Hansla, Lars-Olof Johansson, Andreas Nilsson, Magnus Bergquist, Cecilia J. Bergstad  
Bottom row from the left: Gró Einarsdóttir, Martin Hedesström  
Absent: Anders Biel, Chris von Borgstede, Isak Barbopoulos

#### Our department

EPU consists of five Associate Professors: Andreas Nilsson (founder of the group), Chris von Borgstede, Cecilia J Bergstad, Lars-Olof Johansson and Martin Hedesström  
One senior researcher: André Hansla  
Three PH. D. students: Gró Einarsdóttir, Magnus Bergquist and Isak Barbopoulos  
One Professor emeritus: Anders Biel

The group started around 2007. Before this the original members had been participating in another research group which was thematically broader (including economic psychology and decision making) led by Professor emeritus Tommy Gärling and Professor emeritus Anders Biel. Worth noting is that some of the members in EPU have research in areas overlapping with other research groups (and are also members of these groups). EPU has organised the National annual meeting in environmental psychology in 2009 and 2013, and plan to organise it again in 2017. Cecilia J Bergstad is currently the chair in the Swedish area group of environmental psychology ([www.sagep.lth.se](http://www.sagep.lth.se)).

The group has a number of international collaborations and Andreas Nilsson and Cecilia J Bergstad are both engaged in the Platform for Energy Research in the Socio-economic Nexus (PERSON, [www.person.eu](http://www.person.eu)). Gró Einarsdóttir and her supervisor Lars-Olof Johansson are involved in a global research project that studied how co-benefits of climate change can motivate action around the world, even for those who were sceptical or uninterested in climate change. The results have recently been published in Nature Climate Change.

#### Our projects

##### "The psychology of scarcity"

The project is about what people's subjective perception of their resources look like and how they function. The aim is to see how resource perception relates to attitudes and behaviors. Scarcity and abundance of different types of resources are assumed to have an influence on emotions, cognition and behavior. In extension to this resource perception are assumed to be important for how effective economic and environmental policy should be formed.  
Led by Lars-Olof Johansson in collaboration with Gró Einarsdóttir and André Hansla as well as Mathias Zannakis, PhD, Department of Political Science and Sverker Molander, Professor, Chalmers University of Technology.

##### "Development, application and evaluation of energy conservation behaviors in students' households"

Project financed by the Swedish Energy Agency. The project seeks to examine the usage of normative influence to promote energy conservation. In three phases, we will examine norms in (1) laboratory- (2) field-settings, and (3) applied in computerized feedback tools.  
Led by Andreas Nilsson, in collaboration with Magnus Bergquist.

##### "Promoting integration of environmental concerns in pension savings and stock market investment decisions"

How may pension savers' investments in socially responsible ("ethical") stock funds be increased by means of choice architecture, that is, through the way choice settings are designed and options presented?  
Led by Martin Hedesström in collaboration with Lars Olof Johansson.

##### "Downstream behavioural effects of choice architecture interventions"

Under what circumstances is a virtuous (pro-environmental/healthy/financially sound) "nudged" choice likely to generate positive vs. negative behavioural spillover?  
Led by Martin Hedesström in collaboration with Lars Olof Johansson.

##### "Attitudes on energy policy and climate change/global warming"

A follow up to a survey conducted in 2005 and 2010 assessing attitudes, behaviour intentions and preferences for different policies and strategies for sustainability within the energy area. In the 2015 survey half of the sample responded to questions containing the expression global warming and the other half the expression climate change. We want to test if the different expressions yield different responses  
Led by Chris von Borgstede and Cecilia J Bergstad, led by Professor Filip Johnsson Chalmers University of Technology.

##### "Peak car: Analysing trends in car travel"

Motivation and well-being in connection to private car use. Work, home and family conditions as well as psychological motives for car use will be assessed in a survey. A comparison of data from 2007 and 2016.  
Led by Cecilia J Bergstad, led by Jonas Nässén, Chalmers University of Technology.

## UPCOMING

### Calls

#### Registration: Symposium on pro-environmental behaviour

Please note the upcoming symposium on pro-environmental behaviour next year in Alnarp, Sweden, the 15th of April.

For ensuring a seat and registration click [here](#)

#### Call for Papers: Special issue in Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions

The call for papers is now open for a special issue in Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions: "Perspectives on the Sharing Economy". Guest editor: KOEN Frenken (Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University & CIRCLE, Lund University). To see the call about the special issue: [here](#)  
Deadline: March 1, 2016

#### Call for Papers: Special issue in Journal of Public Policy & Marketing

The call for papers is now open for a special issue in Journal of Public Policy & Marketing: "The Growing Role of Environmentalism and Sustainability in Marketing and Public Policy". Special Issue editors: Easwar S. Iyer ([iyer@isenberg.umass.edu](mailto:iyer@isenberg.umass.edu)) and Rebecca Walker Reczek ([reczek.3@osu.edu](mailto:reczek.3@osu.edu))  
Deadline: July 31, 2016

#### Call for Abstracts: Energy Systems Conference

Abstract submission and registration are open for the Energy Systems Conference: 21st Century Challenges. The conference is co-hosted by the Energy Institute and Elsevier at QEII Centre, Westminster, London, UK on 14-15 June 2016.  
To submit or for more information visit: [www.energysystemsconference.com](http://www.energysystemsconference.com)  
Deadline: January 29, 2016

#### Call for Abstracts: 50. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Psychologie

Abstract submission is open for the 50. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Psychologie  
To submit or for more information visit: [www.dgpskongress.de](http://www.dgpskongress.de)  
Deadline: January 29, 2016

#### Call for Abstracts: SABE / IAREP Conference

Abstract submission is open for the SABE / IAREP Conference "Behavioural Insights in Research and Policy making" to be held on 8-10 July 2016 in Wageningen, the Netherlands. To submit or for more information visit: [www.wageningenur.nl/behaviouralinsightsconference](http://www.wageningenur.nl/behaviouralinsightsconference)  
Deadline: February 15, 2016

If you would like to submit your abstract as part of a Virtual Community on Sustainability and Consumption symposium, please send an email to [ellen.van.der.werff@rug.nl](mailto:ellen.van.der.werff@rug.nl) before February 1st.

#### Call for Abstract: 4th European Conference on Behaviour and Energy Efficiency

Abstract submission is open for the 4th European Conference on Behaviour and Energy Efficiency- BEHAVE 2016 to be held on the 8-9 September 2016 at the University of Coimbra, Portugal. BEHAVE 2016 is organized by the Energy for Sustainability Initiative of the University of Coimbra and ADENE- Portuguese Agency for Energy.  
To submit or for more information visit: [www.inescc.pt/behave2016](http://www.inescc.pt/behave2016)  
Deadline: March 31, 2016

#### PhD research fellow on sustainable transitions

A PhD research fellow at the Technische Universität Braunschweig within a new research program on sustainable transitions in Lower Saxony, Germany. Start in April 2016  
If you are interested in the position, please review the complete job posting [link](#).  
Closing date: 24 January 2016

#### Post-doctoral researcher in Environmental Psychology

The Environmental Psychology group at the University of Groningen invites applications for a temporal post-doctoral researcher position (33 months). This position is part of the project Developing socially responsible innovations: The role of values and moral emotions  
which aims to study how values and emotions affect people's evaluations of and responses to innovations, particularly in the environmental and energy domains. Intended starting date is as soon as possible.  
Further information and application details can be found [here](#)  
Closing date: until 7 February / before 8 February 2016 Dutch local time

#### Assistant Professor in Smart and Sustainable Urbanism

Trinity College Dublin invites applicants for an Ussher Assistant Professor position in Smart and Sustainable Urbanism. In this position you will progress understanding, explanation and enactment of broad societal transformation for smart and sustainable urban development, providing essential socio-spatial expertise in the analysis of innovations around the globe. The successful applicant will complement Trinity's research clusters in sustainability, international development, smart sensors and distributive systems, environmental governance and natural capital.  
Further information and application details can be found [here](#).  
Closing date: 26 February, 2016 (12 Noon GMT)

## Events

Date	Event	Location
28- 29 January	2 <sup>nd</sup> International Workshop on Sharing Economy	Paris, France
8- 11 March	SBE 16- International Conference on Sustainable Built Environment	Hamburg, Germany
15 April	Symposium on pro-environmental behaviour	Alnarp, Sweden
27- 29 April	7 <sup>th</sup> International Child and Teen Consumption (CTC) Conference	Aalborg, Denmark
14-15 June	Energy systems Conference	London, UK
15- 17 June	Second International Conference of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI)	Orono, Maine, U.S
16- 19 June	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on Environmental Politics & Governance	Gerzensee, Switzerland
26 June- 1 July	24 <sup>th</sup> International Association People-environment Studies (IAPS) Conference	Lund/Alnarp, Sweden
8 - 10 July	SABE / IAREP Conference 2016	Wageningen, the Netherlands
30 August- 3 September	5 <sup>th</sup> International Conference Degrowth	Budapest, Hungary
8- 9 September	4th European Conference on Behaviour and Energy Efficiency- BEHAVE 2016	Coimbra, Portugal
18-22 September	50. Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Psychologie	Leipzig, Germany

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Publications

Anderson, M. W., Teisl, M. F., & Noblet, C. L. (2015). Whose values count: is a theory of social choice for sustainability science possible? *Sustainable Science*, 1-11. DOI: 10.1007/s11625-015-0345-1

Ando, K., Yorifuji, K., Ohnuma, S., Matthies, E., Kanbara, A. (2015). Transmitting pro-environmental behaviours to the next generation: A comparison between Germany and Japan. *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, 18, 134-144. [Magdeburg]

Barrios-O'Neill, D., & Schuitema, G. (2016). Online engagement for sustainable energy projects: A systematic review and framework for integration. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 54, 1611-1621. DOI: 10.1016/j.rser.2015.10.084

Edbring, E. G., Lehner, M., & Mont, O. (in press). Exploring consumer attitudes to alternative models of consumption: motivations and barriers. *Journal of Cleaner Production*. DOI: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2015.10.107

Lehner, M., Mont, O., & Heiskanen, E. (in press). Nudging – a promising tool for sustainable consumption behaviour? *Journal of Cleaner Production*. DOI: 10.1016/j.jclepro.2015.11.086

Nachreiner, M., Mack, B., Matthies, E. & Tampe-Mai, K. (2015). An analysis of smart metering information systems: A psychological model of self-regulated behavioural change. *Energy Research & Social Science*. 9, 85-97. DOI: 10.1016/j.erss.2015.08.016

Olsen, S. O., Tudoran, A. A., Honkanen, P., & Verplanken, B. (2016). Differences and similarities between impulse buying and variety seeking: A personality-based perspective. *Psychology & Marketing*, 33(1), 36-47. DOI: 10.1002/mar.20853

Teisl, M. F., Lando, A. M., Levy, A. S., & Noblet, C. L. (2016). Importance of cohorts in analyzing trends in safe at home food handling practices. *Food Control*, 62, 381-389. DOI: 10.1016/j.foodcont.2015.10.040

Upham, P., Klapper, r., & Carney, S. (2016). Participatory energy scenario development as dramatic scripting: A structural narrative analysis. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, 103, 47-56. DOI: 10.1016/j.techfore.2015.10.003

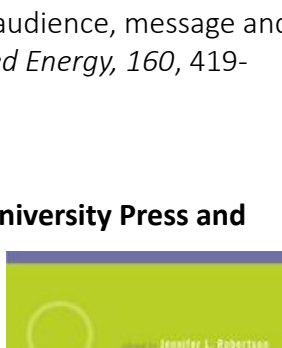
Verplanken, B., & Roy, D. (2016). Empowering interventions to promote sustainable lifestyles: Testing the habit discontinuity hypothesis in a field experiment. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 45, 127-134. DOI: 10.1016/j.jenvp.2015.11.008

Whitmarsh, L., Nash, N., Upham, P., Lloyd, A., Verdon, J. P., & Kendall, J. M. (2015). UK public perceptions of shale gas hydraulic fracturing: The role of audience, message and contextual factors on risk perceptions and policy support. *Applied Energy*, 160, 419-430. DOI: 10.1016/j.apenergy.2015.09.004

#### The psychology of green organizations, published by Oxford University Press and edited by Jennifer Robertson and Julian Barling

This book reviews leading research in different areas of organizational environmental sustainability. It aims to shed light on how both organizational and individual-level factors can affect change in employees' environmental activities by consolidating available knowledge on employees' contributions to corporate environmental initiatives. Furthermore, this book provides a foundation for research on workplace pro-environmental behaviors, stimulates research in this area, and illustrates how "green" employees can positively contribute to organizations' environmental performance.

For more information on this book click [here](#)



#### Research methods for environmental psychology, published by Wiley and edited by Robert Gifford

Covering the full spectrum of methodology, the timely and indispensable Research Methods for Environmental Psychology surveys the research and application methods for studying, changing, and improving human attitudes, behaviour and well-being in relation to the physical environment.

For more information on this book click [here](#)



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