

Pre-Conference

“Research on Sustainable Consumption – Present and Future Perspectives for Young Academics”

November 6th 2011

Hamburg – European Green Capital 2011, Germany

Young researchers in the inter- and transdisciplinary field of research on sustainable consumption as well as in the field of sustainability sciences in general are warmly invited to attend the pre-conference *“Research on Sustainable Consumption – Present and Future Perspectives for Young Academics”* on Sunday, 6th November 2011, from 9am to 5pm. The pre-conference is the run-up to the international scientific conference *“Sustainable Consumption – Towards Action and Impact”* (November 6th - 8th 2011, Hamburg, www.sustainableconsumption2011.org/preconference).

The pre-conference will provide a forum to discuss the present and future conditions and aims of research on sustainable consumption as well as sustainability research in general. In particular, we intend to reflect upon the role young researchers currently play and could play in this inter- and transdisciplinary field of research, and we will aim to comprehend the necessary qualifications and occupational chances and challenges. Furthermore, a setting will be provided to discuss and develop concepts and approaches to research on sustainability and exchange experiences, as well as network with both young and more experienced researchers from different countries.

The program will start with a moderated session that seeks to facilitate an exchange and networking among the participants. After that, an introductory session entitled *“The Sustainability of Sustainability Sciences - Future Challenges for Young Academics”* will bring together both experienced and young academics concerned with sustainability research and practice. First, the session will focus on the special field of research on sustainable consumption and then it will extend to sustainability research in general. Renowned researchers concerned with inter- and transdisciplinary sustainability research will open the session with short introductory notes tackling one of the following questions:

- What are the present and possible future frameworks and theoretical paradigms for inter- and transdisciplinary research on sustainable consumption that cross different disciplines and feed into sustainable development?
- What kind of change is the current research on sustainable consumption aiming at: an ‘aesthetic surgery’ of established consumption production systems or a more profound ‘social-ecological’ transformation? What kind of trends (e.g. efficiency or sufficiency) are supported?
- What is expected of the ‘next generation’ of researchers? How can young academics prepare for the future challenges of inter- and transdisciplinary research on sustainability and how can they receive support from senior researchers, institutional frameworks and learning opportunities?

The introductory notes will be followed by a moderated discussion between the speakers and the audience. One aim of the discussion is to gather input and potentially find further topics for the open space session in the afternoon.

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Sustainable Consumption – Towards Action and Impact

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The rest of the day will be characterized by ‘open spaces’ starting with a lunch break where participants have the chance to chat with the speakers of the morning session in an informal setting.

During the open space in the afternoon, different topics concerning the present and future situation of sustainability research will be discussed at parallel roundtables. Participants are encouraged to announce and moderate roundtables with topics of their own interest. Participants are invited to propose roundtable topics during the pre-conference, e.g. by picking up or continuing discussions from the morning or announcing their interest beforehand.

During the open space session, everyone is free to join and take part in different discussions. The results of the roundtable discussions will be presented on posters in a poster session.

Registration

Young researchers attending the main conference can register for the pre-conference at no additional charge. The registration is carried out along with registering for the main conference at sustainableconsumption2011.org.

After registration, participants will be invited by the organizing committee of the pre-conference to provide a short overview of their research interest and future intentions on a website set up for this purpose. Also, ideas for roundtable topics in the open space session in the afternoon can be submitted. There are no limitations regarding topics and questions. If participants propose similar or closely related topics, we will offer to establish contact with each other in the run-up to the pre-conference.

Preliminary Agenda

Sunday, 6th November 2011 (Curio-Haus, Hamburg)

8:30 Arrival / registration of the pre-conference participants

9:00 Get-together, network, exchange

Moderated session to facilitate networking and exchange

10:00 **Introductory session: “The Sustainability of Sustainability Sciences - Future Challenges for Young Academics”**
Introductory notes and discussion with

- Simonetta Carbonaro, The Swedish School of Textiles, University of Borås, SE
- Kate Soper, London Metropolitan University, UK
- N.N.

12:00 Lunch

Lunch with speakers from the introductory session

13:30 OPEN Sustainability Research SPACE – Approaches, Challenges and Possibilities

Roundtables concerning different topics regarding inter- and transdisciplinary research in the sustainability sciences

16.00 Poster Session on the Results of the Open Space Discussions

17:00 Opening of the Main Conference “Sustainable Consumption – Towards Action and Impact”

Organizing Committee of the Pre-Conference and Contact

Melanie Jaeger-Erben (Chair), Dirk Dalichau (Delegate to the Scientific Committee of the main conference), Christian Dehmel, Benjamin Diehl, Daniel Fischer, Pia Laborgne, Johanna Matzat, Malte Nachreiner, Ursula Offenberger, Markus Winkelmann

Contact: preconference-suco11@ikaoe.unibe.ch / www.sustainableconsumption2011.org/preconference