



4th International SCORAI Conference: June 2020
JUNE 10-12 | NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
Sustainable Consumption & Social Justice in an Urbanizing World

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: SESSIONS & ABSTRACTS
Sustainable Consumption & Social Justice in an Urbanizing World

4th International SCORAI Conference
June 10-12, 2020, Boston, USA
cssh.northeastern.edu/scorai2020/

The 4th International SCORAI conference is hosted by the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University in Boston from June 10th to 12th 2020. This conference provides an opportunity to highlight cutting-edge research and innovative initiatives from different parts of the world, to expand linkages between knowledge and action, and to broaden connections among a diversity of researchers and practitioners. Conference organizers are collaborating on an innovative pilot initiative with the Department of Sustainable Development at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden which will host a Nordic Hub of the SCORAI 2020 Conference, with opportunities for remote participation for a limited number of participants. SCORAI is also organizing a two-day summer school for Early Career researchers and practitioners immediately prior to the 2020 conference at Northeastern University (June 8-9, 2020). The summer school will bring together established scholars and emerging voices to convene spaces for co-learning, dialogue and mentorship. Application and agenda details forthcoming.

Conference Theme: Sustainable Consumption & Social Justice in an Urbanizing World

Despite the climate crisis and other growing risks of environmental degradation, efforts to shift toward more sustainable systems of consumption and production and more sustainable ways of living continue to be woefully inadequate. As unsustainable trends and practices perpetuate, many are recognizing that the sustainability transformation is being hampered in part because of limited attention to social justice, growing socio-economic and racial inequities, and widening disparities among and within communities around the world. Other root causes are the dominant focus on economic growth, the prevalent culture of consumerism, and the lack of responsiveness by political systems that are heavily influenced by corporate interests. Recognizing these gaps, the SCORAI 2020 conference provides a creative venue for connecting sustainable consumption and social justice in an urbanizing world, and for reflecting on the challenges of deep systemic change necessary to accelerate transformation toward a more just and sustainable world.

The conference organizers invite researchers and practitioners from around the world who are engaged in work on social justice, sustainable consumption, and the integration of these issues, to participate, attend, and submit proposals for sessions and individual presentations. The conference's foci on urban issues and social justice

provide an opportunity to integrate into sustainable consumption conversations such issues as: over- and under-consumption taking place side by side; the unequal impacts of transitioning toward more sustainable consumption on different socio-economic groups; barriers to more sustainable ways of living and livelihoods grounded in race, gender, power and privilege; the social justice impacts of urban gentrification and consumption patterns.

Session proposals reflective of the overarching theme of the conference are invited, with a goal of attracting a diversity of scholars and practitioners. Themed sessions and contributions in the following areas are particularly welcome but not limited to those:

- Planning and governance for sustainable consumption in cities
- Business models for lower footprint consumption
- Current understandings of social and cultural change: theory and practice
- Grassroots organizing and social movements
- Degrowth
- Steady state economy
- Guaranteed minimum income and its impacts on equity, sustainability and consumption
- Green gentrification
- Critical reflections on the sharing economy and the circular economy
- Individual and social learning about consumption
- Energy consumption and energy justice
- Urban agriculture, mobility and housing that foster sustainable lifestyles and social justice
- Education for sustainable consumption
- Sustainable consumption and health
- Embodied energy in material goods and services
- Cooperative ownership as the means for reducing consumption and inequality
- Local economies and consumption
- Technological innovations and their impacts on consumption and lifestyles
- Social innovations in work-life balance
- Worktime reduction and impacts on equity, sustainability, and consumption patterns
- Framing of and communication about sustainable consumption and sustainable ways of living
- Sustainable livelihoods
- Barriers to and incentives for social, political, economic, and systemic change
- Links between sustainable consumption, wellbeing and the good life

Call for Sessions and Abstracts

Researchers and practitioners from around the world are invited to submit session proposals and/or individual abstracts for presentation or posters. The submission process involves two phases: the submission portal will first be accepting session proposals from **September 3** until **October 18, 2019**. Researchers and practitioners are welcome to propose to the organizing committee specific important themes for sessions. Session proposals will then be reviewed by the conference organizing committee and specific themed sessions will be posted on the conference website in late October. Individual abstracts will then be accepted through the submission portal from **November 1st** until **December 13, 2019**. During abstract submission, individuals will have an opportunity to request to be included for consideration in any of the themed sessions. Abstracts that are not aligned with any of the themed sessions are also welcome. All abstracts will be reviewed by members of an International Review Committee listed on the conference website.

Session Proposals (open September 3 – October 18, 2019)

Two kinds of session proposals are invited: full paper sessions and dialogue/roundtable sessions.

- **Full paper sessions:** Presentation and discussion of original research papers
- **Dialogue/Roundtable sessions:** Discussion and debate around a particular thematic focus integrating research and practice. These sessions will take a variety of innovative formats as determined by the session conveners. This includes creative innovative interactive sessions, world café style dialogues, a series of short lightning / pecha kucha talks, role-playing activities, work studios etc.

Session proposals should articulate a vision for a coherent themed session lasting either 60 minutes or 90 minutes. A full line-up of individual speakers is not required for session proposals. Session proposals will be reviewed and specific themed sessions will be identified before the portal opens for individual abstracts submissions.

Abstract Submission and Review (open November 1, 2019 - December 13, 2019)

Researchers and practitioners are invited to submit individual abstracts that will be reviewed by the SCORAI international review committee. Abstracts will be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria: novelty, quality, and engagement with the conference theme. Accepted individual abstracts will be assigned to either a full paper session, a dialogue roundtable session, a flash-talk session, or a poster session. Individual abstracts should be 300-500 words long, indicating which of the conference themes it best fits (up three themes can be selected) provide a title and list the names, institutional affiliations, city and country addresses and emails of co-authors of abstract.

Submission of both session proposals and abstracts is through the conference website:

<https://cssh.northeastern.edu/scorai2020/>

Key Dates

September 3, 2019:	Call for session proposals opens
October 18, 2019:	Call for session proposals closes. Registration for the conference opens.
October 31, 2019:	Publication of proposed and selected themes for sessions
November 1, 2019:	Call for individual abstracts opens
December 13, 2019:	Call for individual abstracts closes
January 31, 2020:	Communication of decisions
February 14, 2020:	Preliminary programme published
March 13, 2020:	Early bird registration closes
March 20, 2020:	Full program released
June 1, 2020:	Final deadline for late registration
June 10-12, 2020:	SCORAI 2020 conference

Organizing Committee

Jennie Stephens, Northeastern University, **Co-Chair** & local organizer
Frances Fahy, National University of Ireland, Galway **Co-Chair**
Halina Brown, SCORAI Board
Philip Vergragt, SCORAI Board
Vesela Veleva, UMass Boston
Liz Allen, Northeastern University

Please direct inquiries to the following

SCORAI 2020 conference organizers: scorai2020@northeastern.edu

SCORAI 2020 Summer School: Manisha Anantharaman ma20@stmarys-ca.edu & Daniel Fischer dfischer@leuphana.de

SCORAI 2020 Nordic Hub: Karin Bradley karin.bradley@abe.kth.se & Asa Svenfledt asa.svenfelt@abe.kth.se