



Fudan Tyndall[°]Centre[®]

Call for Papers and Participation for the
Second GRF-SPaC Conference

*Global Transitions to Sustainable Production and
Consumption Systems*

Fudan University, Shanghai, China
June 8–11, 2014

Lead Organizers

The Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF-SPaC), in collaboration with the Fudan Tyndall Centre and the Exploring the Role of High-Emitting Groups in Accelerating the Transition to a Low-Carbon Society (HEGiATLCS) Research Program (Fudan University), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), the Integrated Strategies Forum (ISF), One Earth Initiative, and others.

Conference Co-Chairs

Dr. Maurie COHEN, Associate Professor and Director, Program in Science, Technology, and Society, New Jersey Institute of Technology (USA)

Professor Trevor DAVIES, Director and Chair, Fudan Tyndall Centre, Fudan University (China) and Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of East Anglia (UK)

Professor REN Yuan, School of Social Development and Public Policy and Deputy Director, Institute of Population Research, Fudan University (China)

Prof. dr. Philip VERGRAGT, Professor Emeritus, TU Delft (Netherlands), Research Professor, Clark University (USA), and Fellow, Tellus Institute (USA)

Aims of the Conference

- To improve understanding of the complex driving forces underlying prevalent and emerging consumerist lifestyles around the world.
- To generate insights about fostering a necessary transition toward alternative ways of pursuing individual and societal well-being in a technological society cognizant of ecological limits.
- To contribute to establishment of a vibrant global research community focused on sustainable production and consumption, which is able to advise policy makers, business, and civil society.

Keynote Speakers (as of October 20, 2013)

Professor Emeritus William REES, *University of British Columbia*

Professor ZHU Dajian, *Tongji University*

Honorable PAN Yue, *Vice Minister, Chinese Ministry of Environmental Protection*

Professor Mark SWILLING, *Stellenbosch University* (tbc)

Call for Abstracts, Essays, and Session Proposals

Environmental deterioration, climate change, biodiversity loss, resource scarcity, as well as inequality and persistent poverty, are all linked to, and driven by, globally unsustainable production and consumption patterns and systems. As the traditional rules of the economic and financial system are called increasingly into question, so do the impacts of the expanding international consumer class. Developing countries are working to overcome privation by growing their economies, while the middle classes in countries such as India and China are adopting increasingly material-intensive lifestyles.

Since the 1992 World Summit on Sustainable Development, the transition to sustainable production and consumption (SPaC) systems has been heralded as a global priority. Accordingly, the United Nations General Assembly launched in 2012 the *Ten-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production* (10YFP). In addition, the International Human Dimensions Program (IHDP) initiated its own ten-year *Future Earth* research plan. The GRF–SPaC global conference will examine these and other approaches to produce the transdisciplinary knowledge and actions needed to support these activities during the coming decade.

Over the past two decades, extensive research regarding SPaC has been carried out covering issues such as the circular and green economy, the attitude-behavior gap, collaborative consumption, sustainable finance and investment, sustainable procurement, and green supply-chain management. Other work has sought to identify the underlying drivers of contemporary consumer culture and to examine the inherent problems with the prevailing economic growth

paradigm. Emerging from this activity is appreciation for the complex challenges of systemic change, though actual progress is hindered by our limited comprehension of the multidimensional barriers that impede diffusion of more sustainable lifestyles and consumer practices. Further inquiry is necessary to understand these complexities and to more effectively guide the transition from research to policy.

This conference provides a unique opportunity for Chinese and Asian SPaC researchers and practitioners to join together with others in the global community. The Second GRF–SPaC conference will be a forum to present and discuss new research outcomes from the Asia-Pacific region, as well as from Latin America, Africa, Europe, and North America. The event will take stock of new issue framings and explore emerging research questions. The scope will cover local and global issues and interconnections across scales, linking regions and researchers. One of the aims is to strengthen the international community of SPaC researchers and practitioners and to open channels of communication with knowledge users in policy making, business, and civil society.

The conference will entail several keynote presentations by internationally renowned scholars and policy makers, academic papers and discussions, and dialogue sessions between researchers and practitioners. The format will integrate across regions and seek to forge global collaborations with other global networks.

We invite interested participants to submit abstracts for papers and essays as well as session proposals. Key issues are expected to include:

1. *Systemic Issues and Pathways to System Change*

- Sustainability challenges and barriers to change, especially with respect to consumption and production, but also pertaining to finance and investment, business and supply-chain management, lifestyles and culture, public policies, and procurement.
- Analysis of the conditions for and barriers to change such as elimination of perverse subsidies on fossil fuels, agriculture, advertising, and financial transactions.
- Absolute reductions in material throughput and energy use (with a focus on industrialized countries and the emergent global middle class).
- System modeling and modeling of sociotechnical transitions.
- Ecological ethics and values relevant to a low-carbon society.

2. *Chinese, Asian, and Other Developing Regions: Priorities in SPaC*

- Priorities for SPaC in China.
- Potential of a Chinese circular economy
- Challenges of poverty and inequality and creating opportunities for sustainable livelihoods that reinforce local and regional economies and contribute to living wages and employment creation.
- Role of traditional practices and knowledge and their potential to contribute to innovative solutions for sustainable lifestyles.
- Measurement of the social and environmental impacts of consumption in China and Asia.
- Enhancing sustainability of middle-class consumer practices.

3. *Actors and Strategies in Transitions to SPaC:*

- Relevance of sustainable cities, urban resilience, eco-villages, and alternative communities, infrastructures, and lifestyles.
- Development and diffusion of social innovations such as transition towns, slow food, and local living economies, and peer-to-peer provisioning.
- Technological change, sociotechnical transitions, institutions, and market-based instruments for low-carbon transitions.
- Marketing and social media in sustainability transitions.
- Management and policy making to encourage system change.
- SPaC in education and curricular development.

4. *Alternatives and Experiments: Metrics, Lifestyles, Business Practices, and Governance*

- Experiments in collaborative consumption, new forms of business ownership and practice, novel modes of stakeholder collaboration.
- Governance of urban sustainable development.
- Indicators and metrics to support transitions to sustainable lifestyles.

Time Line

Abstracts for papers, essays, and session proposals should be submitted via the conference website by December 15, 2013. Abstracts should not exceed 500 words and will be reviewed by an international scientific committee. For further information on submission instructions see <https://www.confmanager.com/main.cfm?cid=2724>.

End of September 2013	<i>Distribution of Call for Papers/Participation</i>
December 15, 2013	<i>Deadline for abstract submission</i>
January 15, 2014	<i>Abstract notification</i>
January 15, 2014	<i>Registration opens</i>
April 1, 2014	<i>Deadline for early-bird registration</i>
May 15, 2014	<i>Submission of completed papers/essays</i>
June 8–11, 2014	<i>Second GRF-SPaC Conference</i>

<i>Conference Registration (Including meals but not accommodation):*</i>	
US\$350/RMB 2100	Full registration
US\$200/RMB 1200	Full Registration for students
US\$300/RMB 1800	Early-bird registration (before April 1, 2014)
US\$150/RMB 900	Early-bird registration for students
US\$200/RMB 1200	Single-day registration

*Discounts are available for participants from developing countries and retirees. Please contact the conference secretariat.

Lead Sponsoring Organizations

The **Global Research Forum on Sustainable Production and Consumption (GRF-SPaC)** held its first workshop in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro (see <http://grf-spc.weebly.com>). The mission GRF-SPaC is to strengthen the community of researchers and practitioners engaged in research on the worldwide transition to sustainable production and consumption systems. The Forum's flagship project is the "Absolute Reductions" project funded by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies.

The **Fudan Tyndall Centre** research program on "**Exploring the Role of High-Emitting Groups in Accelerating the Transition to a Low-Carbon Society**" (HEGiATLCS) started in 2012. The initiative is focusing on the increasing generation of carbon emissions during urbanization and social transitions by analyzing the carbon behaviors—as well as the inequality—of carbon emissions among different population groups. The research will make suggestions on behavioral changes toward a low-carbon society.

Contact Information

Conference Website <https://www.confmanager.com/main.cfm?cid=2724>

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