



Call for Papers and Participation  
SCORAI Europe Workshop, May 13-14, 2020, Galway Ireland

## **Sustainable Consumption and Care**

The European chapter of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI Europe) is convening a two-day workshop in Galway, Ireland. The workshop will begin after lunch on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 and conclude with lunch on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Participants are invited to submit research and strategy papers that contribute to the following theme and focus areas.

### ***Workshop Theme***

The purpose of the workshop is to delineate and differentiate the interplay between sustainable consumption and care. We are interested in care in the context of sustainable consumption as well as in sustainability in the context of care. The good life and well-being are put centre stage and we are interested in how we can maintain, continue and repair the world in order to live a good life.

Through previous exercises on linking care and sustainable consumption (ERSCP Conference Barcelona 2019) we distilled three important thematic strands which we would like to carry forward in this workshop:

#### *Consumption as embedded in care practices*

Households are the locus where caring for people translates into interactions with the material world. Consumption involves resources such as energy, food and water, along with other materials. Moving towards more sustainable forms of consumption means transforming care work, for example through a different reallocation of chores, changing standards or technical / scientific innovation. In relation to non-conspicuous consumption, this stream of research is an occasion to explore gender and intergenerational dynamics, relationships of power within and beyond households, and the role of different cultural norms for care work as it relates to (un-) sustainable consumption.

#### *An ethos of care as a pathway towards more sustainable forms of consumption*

An ethos of care can be a pre-condition for achieving sustainable consumption, while sustainable consumption can be an act of care in and of itself. Personal and environmental care practices can support each other but may also compete, through rebound effects or by creating inequalities. Related to both the domestic and the public spheres, discussing an ethos of care necessitates exploration of issues such as how values of care are passed through households / families and the surrounding culture, emotional engagement with care and the development of empathy, and spillover effects from intimate care work to ethical consumption.

#### *The commercialisation and outsourcing of care in the global economy*

Generally, care falls outside market activities. However, the commercialisation and outsourcing of care is growing. Care may involve migrant work, foster global inequalities, lead to transformations in the social fabric, and be a condition for economic growth. Disjoining care work from an ethos of care is an obstacle to more sustainable forms of consumption. This trend raises questions linked to consumption and transnational social inequalities in a globalised market, or North/South and East/West differences in support cultures and systems, among others.

These different strands reveal quite different understandings of the term care. We invite contributions to distinguish between elements of

- self-care
- care in the 'home' context (friends and family, household resources, materials and garden, etc)
- care for community and the public good (voluntary and unpaid social and environmental engagement)
- care as professional activity (paid)

The workshop welcomes submissions of conceptual and empirical papers.

### **Workshop goal and focus areas**

Please send abstract contributions of 500 words maximum or declare your interest to contribute to the workshop as a discussant to [scoraieurope@gmail.com](mailto:scoraieurope@gmail.com) before 25.01.2020.

### **Workshop format**

SCORAI workshops are designed to maximise discussion and interaction. Space is limited to 20-25 participants, including authors, and will be filled by invitation only. All participants are asked to read the papers in advance, which will be distributed three weeks prior to the event. In each panel, authors will be asked to briefly introduce their key points. Discussants assigned to each panel will lead the debate, with participants also engaging in the exchanges and capturing summaries. Discussants also have the additional role of providing conclusions for their panel, in terms of strategy recommendations for bridging scientific knowledge with practice. If invited to participate in the workshop, you have a choice of submitting an abstract or acting as a discussant, session chair or note taker.

### **Outcome of the workshop**

Planned outcome of this workshop are proceedings based on the papers that will be discussed at the workshop including the main streams of the discussion. Therefore, these papers need to be submitted at least four weeks prior to the workshop. After the workshop, we could plan and seek agreement for a special Issue e.g. in the "Journal of Consumer Ethics" (open source, published by Ethical Consumer Research Association', Manchester UK) or Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy.

### **Workshop fee**

The workshop is free of charge

### **Timeline**

25.01.2020	Deadline: Submission of Abstracts Can include expressions of interest in attending the workshop, without paper presentations and instead serving as discussant (Please send abstracts and participation forms to <a href="mailto:scoraieurope@gmail.com">scoraieurope@gmail.com</a> )
08.02.2020	Notification of accepted abstracts
15.04.2020	Submission of final papers by all authors
22.04.2020	Distribution of papers and final program to all participants
13-14.05 2020	SCORAI Europe workshop in Galway

### **On behalf of the organising team**

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**Local Organiser:** National University of Ireland, Galway