



Research Institute for  
**Humanity and Nature**  
大学共同利用機関法人 総合地球環境学研究所  
人間文化研究機構

futureearth  
Global Research  
Network

# Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production

## SCP – a prerequisite for shared prosperity on a crowded planet

With global population projected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050, and in view of finite resource availability and the threatened resilience of the Earth system as well as large differences in inequality of opportunity and material standards of living, current patterns of global development are not sustainable. A fundamental restructuring of current systems of production, distribution and consumption is required to accommodate a growing human population while providing for enhanced wellbeing for people worldwide.

Agenda 21 (Rio 1992): First international agreement highlighting sustainable consumption and production (SCP).

SDGs: SDG 12 for responsible consumption & production; cross-cutting relevance to numerous other goals (health and well-being, clean energy, decent work and economic prosperity, and sustainable cities and communities)

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

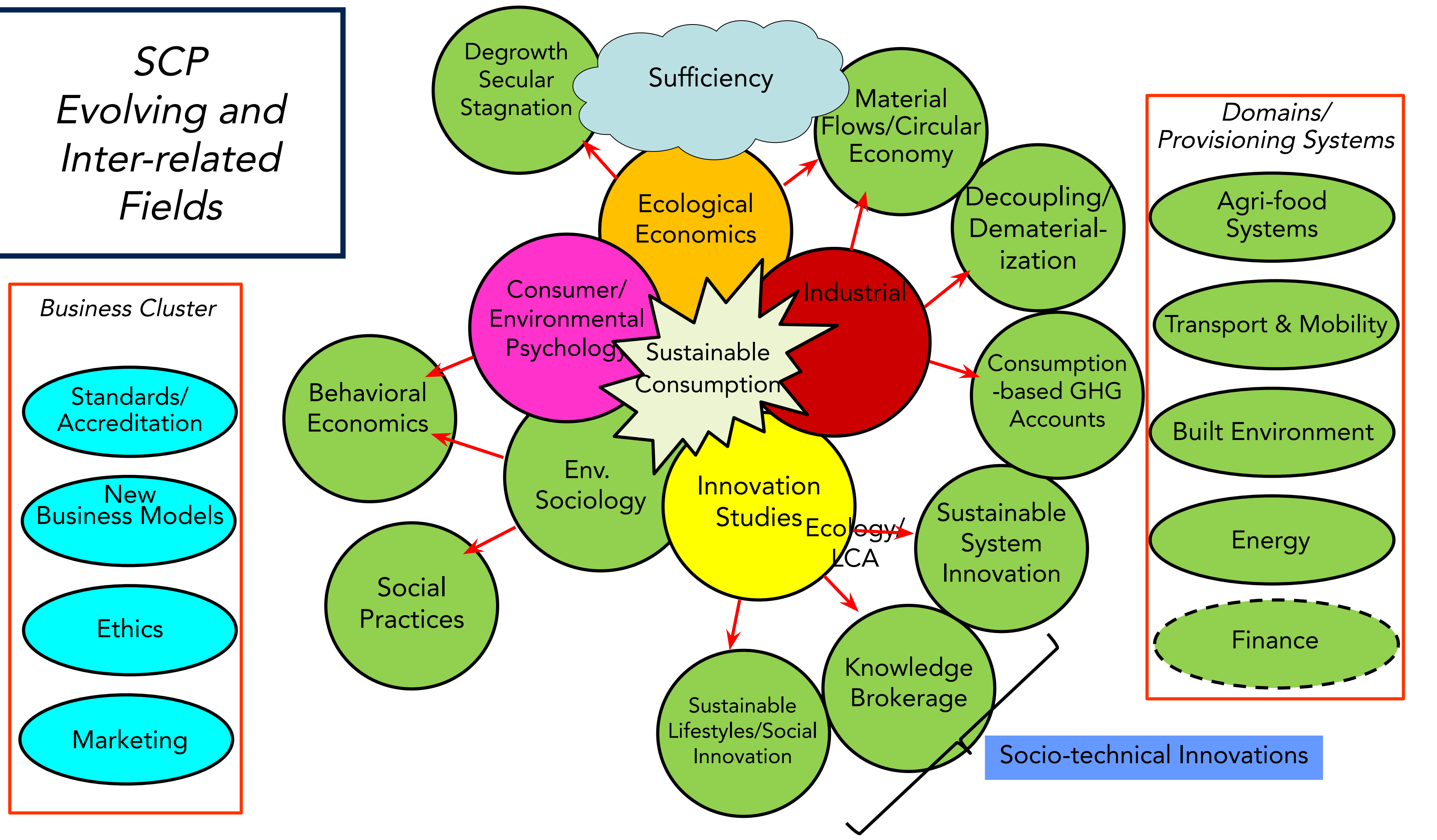


## The need for a systems approach to provisioning

FE SSCP GRN emphasises the need to address whole provisioning systems (consumption practices and production conditions) life-cycle impacts economic, political, social and cultural factors that impel consumerist lifestyles

## The SSCP GRN seeks to:

- Develop and promote more systemic ways of understanding consumption and production from the viewpoint of sustainability
- Strengthen collaboration between communities of researchers and practitioners working in disparate fields of SCP



## Weak vs. Strong SCP

### Weak SCP or "green" consumerism

individual behaviour-change premised largely on consumer education and eco-labelling  
more efficient and less polluting technologies  
most policy initiatives geared towards SCP  
has largely failed to rein in aggregate resource use and pollution

### Strong SCP (wider systems perspective)

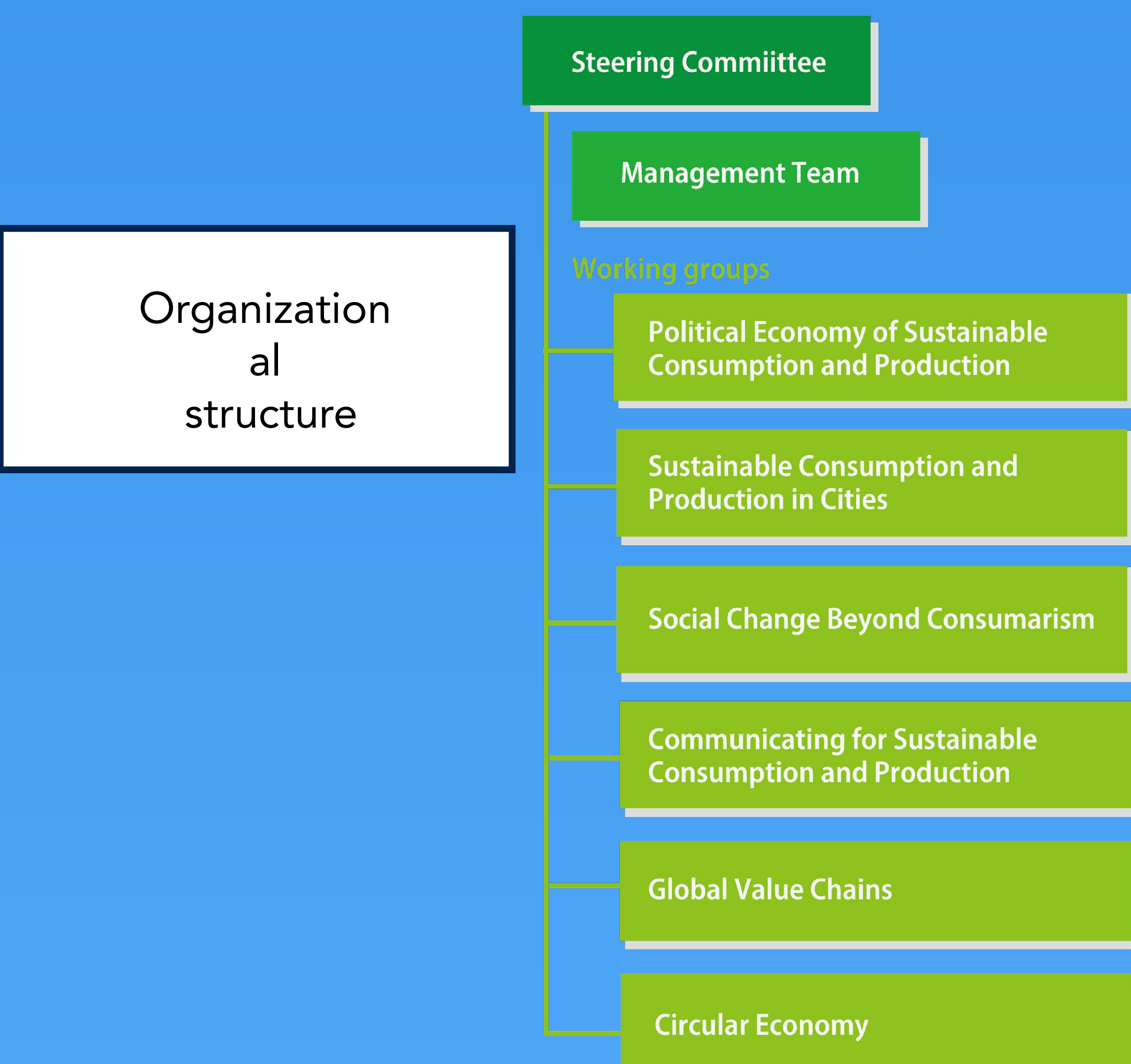
structural understanding of macro-level factors  
limit volumes of production and consumption  
raise critical questions about social and economic equity, continued economic growth and individual and societal well-being.

## Linking knowledge and action for transformative change

The GRN emphasises in its research and public engagement the need...  
...to catalyse more resolute collective action based on strong SCP perspectives and to build and disseminate knowledge on how this can be done in practice.  
...to improve understanding of opportunities for overcoming obstacles to the uptake of strong SCP approaches and to take advantage of fortuitous circumstances when they arise.

## Six Working Groups

- Political Economy of Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Sustainable Consumption and Production in Cities
- Social Change Beyond Consumerism
- Circular Economy
- Communicating for Sustainable Consumption and Production
- Global Value Chains



## Examples of recent activities:

**FORUM** JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL ECOLOGY WILEY

**Circular economy finance**  
Clear winner or risky proposition?  
Paul Dewick<sup>1,2</sup> | Magnus Bengtsson<sup>3</sup> | Maurie J. Cohen<sup>4</sup> | Joseph Sarkis<sup>5,6</sup> | Patrick Schröder<sup>7</sup>

**Abstract**  
A major shift in private and public investment is needed to forge a transition to a circular economy. A recent surge of activity from policy makers, the financial industry, and other stakeholders suggests commitment and progress toward providing resources to facilitate this process. In this forum article, we provide a measured, and in some respects critical and corrective, assessment of these developments. We highlight the risk that progress toward a circular economy will be curtailed by strategic decisions based on contestable understanding, fuzzy indicators, and inadequate information. Before major industry actors implement international investment standards, launch innovative financing vehicles, and ramp up investment, we call for more effective oversight to prevent the circular economy from becoming yet another compromised and ultimately ineffective sustainability concept.

**Resources, Conservation and Recycling** ELSEVIER  
Review  
The Political Economy of (Un)Sustainable Production and Consumption: A Multidisciplinary Synthesis for Research and Action  
Manu V. Mulder<sup>a,\*,1</sup>, Cindy Jansen<sup>a,1</sup>, Dennis Steen<sup>a,1</sup>, Philip Vergragt<sup>a,1</sup>, Magnus Bengtsson<sup>b,1</sup>, Sjoerd Link<sup>b,1</sup>, Leo Frijl<sup>c,1</sup>, Morten P. Luca Cossette<sup>d,1</sup>, David Scott<sup>e,1</sup>, Anthony Walcott<sup>f,1</sup>, Eva Almlund<sup>g,1</sup>

**Journal of Cleaner Production** ELSEVIER  
Review  
Sustainable consumption communication: A review of an emerging field of research  
Daniel Fischer<sup>a,\*,1</sup>, Julia Lena Reiermann<sup>a,2</sup>, Georgina Guillen Mandujano<sup>a,3</sup>, C. Tyler DesRoches<sup>b,4</sup>, Sonali Diddi<sup>b,5</sup>, Philip J. Vergragt<sup>b,6</sup>

Poster by: SSCP GRN Management Team, FE Assembly reps Prof Maurie Cohen and Dr. Charlotte Jensen

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