

# Contributors

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**Julia Backhaus** is a doctoral candidate at the International Centre for Integrated Assessment and Sustainable Development at Maastricht University. Drawing on transition research, practice theories and organizational studies, her doctoral research analyses (often unacknowledged) assumptions underlying sustainability transition efforts. Further, she studies transformative social innovation and constraints for resource-efficient behaviors. Her main interests are theories of change. During previous employment at the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands, Julia worked on energy demand-side management, behavior change, sustainable lifestyles and user involvement in the development and implementation of new energy technologies. Julia has published on the role of intermediaries in behavioral change programs and is involved in the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative. She holds an interdisciplinary BSc and an MSc in Science and Technology Studies.

**Stewart Barr** is a Human Geographer with interests in the policy and politics of behavioral change. Since undertaking his PhD at the University of Exeter, he has specialized in developing a range of theoretical and applied approaches for understanding behavior change and its relationship to national and local policy frameworks for promoting sustainable development. In so doing, his research explores both the ways that individuals and communities respond to environmental change and the policy instruments that drive contemporary policies for citizen engagement in issues like anthropogenic climate change. His recent research projects have focused on analyses of UK Government behavioral policies and the ways in which policy relates to social practices through the formation of specific and often narrow ‘choice architectures’. Alongside this research, Stewart is exploring the role that knowledge co-production processes can play in widening choice architectures and tackling some of the knowledge controversies that surround issues like climate change. This is being undertaken at a local level, working with a range of non-academic stakeholders and focusing on issues like river and surface water flooding.

**Tyler Bateman** is a graduate student at the University of Toronto. Over the course of his undergraduate studies, he has been involved in a wide

range of scholarship at the human–environment nexus, including research on citizen engagement in Canada, civic practices of food sustainability advocates, grizzly bear nutritional ecology, plant ecology, public attitudes toward grizzly bears in Alberta, Canada, and the social drivers of worldwide species extinction. His interests lie in using social practice theories to better understand and explicate human–environmental relations, particularly the perspectives of Pierre Bourdieu and Anthony Giddens.

**Maurie J. Cohen** is Professor and Director of the Program in Science, Technology, and Society at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and Associate Fellow at the Tellus Institute. He is Editor of *Sustainability: Science, Practice, and Policy*, an academic journal founded in 2004, and co-founder and Executive Board Member of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative. His books include *Innovations in Sustainable Consumption: New Economics, Socio-technical Transitions and Social Practices* (with Halina Brown and Philip Vergragt, Edward Elgar, 2013) and *Exploring Sustainable Consumption: Environmental Policy and the Social Sciences* (with Joseph Murphy, Emerald Group Publishing, 2001). Cohen is currently a member of the Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Green Development created under the auspices of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development.

**Francesca Forno** is a tenured Researcher and Assistant Professor at Bergamo University, where she teaches Sociology and the Sociology of Consumption. Two of her ongoing research interests are political consumerism and sustainable community movements. A special focus in these areas is on the consequences of the spread of market-based forms of action for citizens' participation and mobilization. She recently co-edited a special issue of the *Journal of Consumer Culture* on 'Consumerist Culture and Social Movements'.

**Mike Gismondi** is a Professor of Sociology and Global Studies at Athabasca University in Alberta and a co-lead of the British Columbia–Alberta Social Economy Research Alliance. He has studied the framing of political justifications and arguments for the forest products industry and oil sands development, the place of the local in a globalizing world, and the role of the social economy at a municipal level to contribute to a sustainable future. His earlier work was on Nicaraguan social history and social justice.

**Cristina Grasseni** is Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Utrecht University. She was also a Visiting Scholar and Department Affiliate of the Anthropology Department of Harvard University (2012–14), and the David & Roberta Logie Fellow and Harvard Film Study

Center Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (2011/12). Her most recent monograph is *Beyond Alternative Food Networks: Italy's Solidarity Purchase Groups* (Bloomsbury, 2013).

**Melanie Jaeger-Erben** studied Psychology and Sociology in Germany and Sweden. In her postgraduate studies at the University of Magdeburg she intensified her knowledge in qualitative methodology. Since 2004 she has worked as a Researcher in Environmental Psychology and Sociology on topics such as the introduction of renewable energies and energy efficiency measures, sustainable consumption, social practices and social innovation. In her dissertation she adopted a practice theory approach to the study of life-event-induced changes of everyday consumption. She teaches courses in qualitative research methods and applied social-scientific sustainability research. Melanie is currently working at the Environmental Psychology Section of the University of Magdeburg and is affiliated with ISInova – the Institute for Social Innovation, Berlin.

**Debbie Kasper** is a Sociologist and Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Studies at Hiram College, in northeast Ohio. Her teaching and research generally aim to contribute to a better understanding of human social processes, especially the development and socio-environmental impacts of everyday life. In particular, she teaches classes related to these themes and to aspects of societal transition, including: Environmental Activism and Policy, Human Settlements, Building Community Resilience, Sociology of Food, Permaculture, and more. Her current research focuses on the development of an integrated theoretical framework for socio-environmental studies.

**René Kemp** is Professor of Innovation and Sustainable Development at Maastricht University. He is one of the pioneers of sustainability transition research and has a long-term interest in issues of change and stability. He has more than 100 publications in the area of eco-innovation and sustainable development, several of which are viewed as seminal. He is Advisory Editor of *Research Policy* (the world-leading innovation journal), Editor of *Sustainability Science* and Editor of the journal *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*. Together with Jan Rotmans he developed the model of transition management for sustainability transition, which, following many discussions with policy makers, was used by the Dutch national government as a basis for its innovation policy for sustainable energy. He is currently working on social innovation, urban labs, resource efficiency and the political economy of eco-innovation policy.

**Emily Huddart Kennedy** is Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Washington State University. An Environmental Sociologist,

her work focuses on individual engagement with sustainability challenges and the capacity of civic action to contribute to pro-environmental social change. Emily has published in the areas of environmental citizenship, sustainable consumption, gender, local food movements and social practice theories. Her most recent research uses local food movements as a case study to explore the motivations, contextual correlates and transformative potential of civic engagement.

**Naomi T. Krogman** is the Academic Director of the Office of Sustainability (2012–2015) and Professor in the Department of Resource Economics and Environmental Sociology at the University of Alberta. Naomi has conducted research on sustainable consumption; environmental policy implementation; integrated and collaborative resource management; gender, environmental change and development; and social impacts of resource development. She teaches courses on social theory about environmental change and sociology of environment and development. Her research currently addresses the future of sustainability sciences and studies in higher education, and the ways in which higher education can better prepare students to address the most pressing problems of the world today.

**Juanita Marois** is the Unleashing Local Capital (ULC) project coordinator at Athabasca University (AU). She has worked with the ULC project since 2011, and has played an active role in project implementation and the parallel action research. While at AU, Juanita has also participated in research projects on the social economy with the British Columbia–Alberta Research Alliance, and assisted with the development of a Traditional Ecological Knowledge database. She attained her MA degree from the University of Alberta, where she studied ethnic tourism in northern Thailand. Upon completion Juanita was fortunate to participate in a number of research and community development projects. Prior to joining AU, Juanita was Executive Director with Métis Crossing, and played a leading role in launching this Aboriginal tourism and cultural destination.

**Jana Rückert-John** studied social sciences in Oldenburg and Berlin. Her PhD in Social Sciences, titled ‘Natural Eating: Canteens and Restaurants on the Way to Sustainable Nutrition’, examined food consumption from a social practices standpoint. Her main research topics include the sociology of consumption, social innovation, environmental sociology and gender. Jana led various projects concerning the role of governance and governments in fostering sustainable consumption and social innovation. In 2000 she co-founded the Institute for Social Innovation in Berlin. She is currently working as project leader at the Center for Technology and Society in Berlin.

**Marlyne Sahakian** is a Research Associate in the Industrial Ecology Group at the University of Lausanne. She is currently coordinating a three-year research project on household energy consumption practices in Western Switzerland, after completing a two-year interdisciplinary project on food consumption dynamics among the middle classes in Bangalore and Metro Manila. Her research interests lie in understanding natural resource consumption patterns and practices, in relation to environmental promotion and social equity, and in identifying opportunities for transitions toward more 'sustainable' societies. She has published on issues related to energy and food consumption, housing and efficiency, the solidarity economy, social practice theories and participative methods, among other topics. Following a fellowship at Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines, she published a book on air-conditioning consumption in Southeast Asia (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), with a focus on urban energy consumption and changing social practices related to keeping cool. Marlyne completed a PhD in Development Studies at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva (2011). She is a founding member of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative Europe, and also works with Sustainable Project Management, a nongovernmental organization based in Metro Manila that aims to support the development of livelihood programs in a former squatter community.

**Chelsea Schelly** received her PhD from the Department of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is an Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Department of Social Sciences and the Environmental and Energy Policy graduate program at Michigan Technological University. Her work is inspired by the belief that the technological systems used to sustain residential life structure how humans conceive of their relationship to the natural world and to one another. Her research examines the historical normalization of residential technological systems in America, how technological systems interact with social structures to shape human-nature relationships and human action, and how alternative technological systems challenge the political, economic and environmental consequences of currently dominant technological systems. She researches and writes about a diverse mix of alternative technological arrangements, including Renewable Portfolio Standards, living off-grid, intentional communities and Rainbow Gatherings.

**Silvana Signori** is Associate Professor at the University of Bergamo – Department of Management, Economics and Quantitative Methods. She holds a PhD in Business Administration and Strategies with a dissertation on 'Ethical Investors'. Her main areas of research are ethical investments, business ethics and corporate social responsibility, nonprofit organization

accounting and accountability, ethical consumers and new forms of activism (shareholder and consumer activism). She is one of the founder members of the Italian chapter of the European Business Ethics Network, Co-director of CORES Lab (Research Group on Networks and Practices of Sustainable Economy) and member of the Board of Directors of the Centre for Young and Family Enterprise at the University of Bergamo.

**Danica Straith's** research and expertise are focused on change management and the role of the social economy in enabling sustainability transitions. Her graduate studies in Integrated Water Resources Management from McGill University examined the attributes, strategies and contextual knowledge of champions driving change in the Canadian water sector. She spent time working with the Institute of Ecological Economy Research in Berlin, to study the role and potential of social entrepreneurs in the water sector. Danica was particularly interested in the ways in which social entrepreneurs could scale the impact of their social missions in a sustainable manner. This involved field research in Nairobi to investigate the innovative management approaches of eco-sanitation businesses in urban informal settlements. Danica was also a part of the BALTA Scaling Innovation for Sustainability project in Western Canada – an alliance of academics, social enterprises and cooperatives driving innovation in the finance, housing, energy and food sector. Her work was dedicated to the identification of scaling strategies for niche innovations rooted in the social economy and built on social practice theories and the multilevel perspective. She is currently working with emerging citizen science initiatives involved in water stewardship across Canada.

**Harald Wieser** holds an interdisciplinary MSc in Socio-ecological Economics and Policy from Vienna University of Economics and Business, from which he also obtained a BSc in Economics. His current research for the Austrian Chamber of Labour is focused on the service life of durable goods and related issues of product obsolescence and slow consumption. The aim of this research is to reduce environmental pressures through the optimization of replacement cycles. Previously, Harald studied the socio-cultural values associated with ecosystem services at the European Academy of Bolzano and sustainable food consumption practices in Europe at the International Centre for Integrated Assessment and Sustainable Development, Maastricht University. His fields of interest include institutional and ecological economics, the sociology of consumption and the temporalities of consumption and divestment.