



Biennial Report: ESA Research Network 05: Sociology of Consumption

1. Name and Number of RN

Sociology of Consumption, RN05

2. Names and email addresses of:

Outgoing Coordinators and board members (past term)

Margit Keller, University of Tartu, Estonia, e-mail: margit.keller@ut.ee (past Coordinator 2012-2017)

Monica Truninger, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Irmak Karademir Hazir, Oxford Brookes University, UK

Michael Egerer, University of Helsinki, Finland

Old members continuing 2017-2019 are:

Terhi-Anna Wilska, University of Jyväskylä, terhi-anna.wilska@ju.fi (new Coordinator)

Stefan Wahlen, Wageningen University, the Netherlands (new Co-Coordinator)

stefan.wahlen@wur.nl

Arne Dulsrud, SIFO, Norway, Akershus University College of Applied Sciences (new Co-Coordinator)

Arne.Dulsrud@sifo.hioa.no

Luke Yates, University of Manchester, UK luke.s.yates@manchester.ac.uk

Marie Plessz, INRA; ALISS, France Marie.Plessz@inra.fr

Incoming board members 2017:

Marlyne Sahakian, University of Geneva, Switzerland Marlyne.Sahakian@unige.ch

Emma Casey, Northumbria University, United Kingdom emma.h.casey@northumbria.ac.uk

Adrian Leguina Ruzzi, Loughborough University, United Kingdom, A.Leguina@lboro.ac.uk

Piergiorgio Degli Esposti, University of Bologna, Italy, pg.degliesposti@unibo.it

3. Activities:

a. Mid-term conference

The mid-term conference took place on Sept 7-10, 2016 at the University of Bologna, Italy. The title of the conference was „*Consumption, inequalities, futures: Conceptual and practical sociological challenges*”. It was organised by the University of Bologna team led by Piergiorgio Degli Esposti and the RN05 board.

We received 134 abstracts and 111 were accepted. All in all there were 120 registered participants and 29 sessions organised (which was only slightly less than the 30 sessions in the previous year ESA biennial conference in Prague). Overall we consider the conference a success in terms of content, participant numbers and organisational quality.

b. ESA Conference 2017, Athens

We received 161 abstracts of which 110 were accepted and presented in 31 sessions. We did not use the format of distributed papers as this has not seemed to work sufficiently well in previous years.

c. Newsletter

In 2017, the first newsletter was sent. We plan to send a newsletter both via ESA website and our own mailing list four times a year.

d. Website and Facebook

We have a closed Facebook group, but in the end of 2017, we established an open Facebook site and a Twitter account. We have our own mailing list, but we also started to use ESA website mailing list in 2017

Facebook page: @esaRN5_soccons

Twitter account: https://twitter.com/esaRN5_soccons

e. Publications related to RN sessions and/or midterm meetings

- i. Special issue : Environmental Policy and Governance Meet Everyday Life: The (im)possibilities of sustainable consumption in Europe in *Environmental Policy and Governance*, Volume 26, Issue 2, March/April 2016
- ii. *Sociologia* (a journal of the University of Porto) published a special issue on consumption in late 2014, several RN members submitted work to that

f. Actions to be taken to improve participation of PhD students and early career researchers

We had a reduced fee in Midterm Conference 2016 for PhD students. In 2018 we'll have reduced fees also for those participants who are not employed. For 2018, we plan a workshop for PhD candidates and early career researchers prior to the actual midterm conference.

g. Actions to be taken to expand membership, especially from countries with overall weaker ESA membership

Our number has grown steadily, and we also have members outside Europe. We have 114 official members at the moment (cf 99 in 2016). In practice, many more participate in our conferences. We have distributed our calls for papers widely and we have been open to accept papers from different disciplines and new countries.

h. Collaboration within ESA with other RNs

In the Athens 2017 conference we had 9 joint sessions together with the RN09 of Economic Sociology. Also, a semi-plenary (SP03) was organised together with the RN12 Environment and Society titled *The Sociology of Sustainable Food Consumption* with Julie Guthman and Lotte Holm and chaired by Stefan Wahlen and Peter Oosterveer.

In June 2017 a special issue of International Journal of Consumer Studies was published titled Crises and Consumption. The guest editors of the issue were Sebastian Koos (RN09 coordinator), Triin Vihalemm and Margit Keller (RN05 coordinator).

i. Any other important activities undertaken by your RN?

- a. Special issue: Crises and Consumption of the International Journal of Consumer Studies Volume 41, Issue 4, July 2017
- b. Especially noteworthy is a representative edited volume: **Routledge Handbook on Consumption 2017** (eds Margit Keller, Bente Halkier, Terhi-Anna Wilska, Monica Truninger), which is a collection of the state-of-the art in consumption studies. Many members of the RN05 contributed to that.
- c. Earlier: Special issue: Applying Practice Theory to the Study of Consumption in *Journal of Consumer Culture* Volume 11, Issue 1, March 2011

j. Any plans for further activities of your RN?

Our further activities include planning more publications. We are also improving our ways of communication in digital platforms. One major task in the future is to re-think the current theoretical and empirical approaches of the sociology of consumption and build foundations to a new research agenda. This will be discussed in the Midterm Conference in Copenhagen 2018.