

Sustainable Behaviour Newsletter

Volume 5 June 2026

The next SIG seminar is coming up on the 23rd of June!

In this seminar, **Anna Castiglione**, PhD student climate psychology at the University of Trento in Italy, will speak on the psychological underpinnings of collective climate action. This is the abstract:

While many people recognize the risks posed by anthropogenic climate collapse, only few engage in collective actions such as advocacy, activism, civic participation, or climate education. This talk examines the psychological drivers of collective climate action among young adults in the context of the escalating climate crisis. Drawing on a systematic review of 305 studies and multiple registered longitudinal studies conducted with university students in Italy and the Netherlands, my PhD research investigated how a dozen psychological factors (including but not limited to climate risk perception) shape collective climate engagement. Results show that awareness and concern about the climate crisis are important but insufficient on their own to promote action. Instead, collective engagement is more strongly associated with factors such as collective efficacy and the belief that societal transformation can emerge from grassroots mobilization (a bottom-up theory of change). The findings contribute to understanding how to bridge the gap between climate risk perception and collective climate action.

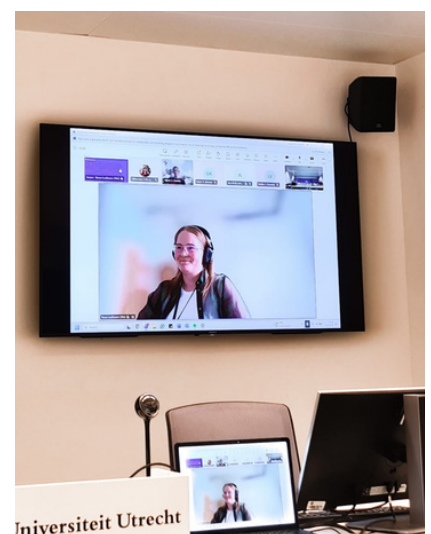


You can join the seminar in person in VMA 1.15 or join [online](#)!

Want to write or promote something in our next newsletter?
Contact us!

Our most recent seminar by Roosa Ripatti

In this month's seminar, Roosa Ripatti (née Luukkonen) examined how circular consumption practices are learned through social media using a Communities of Practice (CoP) perspective, which views learning as a social and participatory process. Drawing on a netnographic study of a Finnish Instagram community, expert interviews, a survey (n=158), and observations, she explored how online discussions support the learning of offline circular practices. Learning occurred through engagement (developing circular consumption skills and unlearning linear habits), imagination (building a circular practitioner identity), and alignment (connecting practices to shared societal goals in a supportive online environment). The seminar highlighted social media's potential to make circular consumption both accessible and engaging, and concluded with a discussion on defining online communities and the next steps in Roosa's PhD research.



Thank you, Roosa, for your interesting presentation!

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June 25th: APA Division 34 – 5th Webinar of Spring 2026

This is an invitation to join for the 5th webinar of the Spring 2026 semester series on "Seeing Climate Clearly: Misperceptions, Social Norms, and Collective Action." The speaker will be Dr. Kim Wolske, Research Associate Professor in the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. Her talk is titled: "Accelerating the Energy Transition: The Role and Opportunity for Psychological Science" (see the abstract below).



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Abstract: Transitioning from fossil fuels to clean energy will require shifts in everyday behavior, from the technologies people use for heating and transportation to how and when they consume energy in their daily routines. Psychology has important contributions to make in addressing these challenges, yet much of our research has focused on factors that are often far removed from how energy-related behaviors unfold in practice. Drawing on the forthcoming De Gruyter Handbook on the Psychology of Energy Transitions (edited by Wolske), this talk makes the case for a more grounded psychology of energy transitions, one that takes seriously how people encounter technologies and programs in daily life, under real constraints and uncertainty, and in contexts strongly shaped by social relations, intermediaries, and program design. The talk highlights gaps in current research and identifies areas where psychological science may have the most to offer.

This webinar will be of interest to researchers, practitioners, students, and anyone interested in sustainability, climate action, environmental psychology, and behavior change.

[Register here!](#)

June 17th: Behaviour and Institutions Symposium in Central Museum Utrecht

Community participation is vital for well-functioning societies. Both in academic circles and in societal institutions, there is lively debate and experimentation with various forms of community participation. These can range from community initiatives to citizen councils and other cooperative arrangements where people get together. Community engagement is crucial for creating support for societal transitions and for building trust between citizens and institutions. Importantly, it gives people the opportunity to take part in dialogue with politicians and policymakers and get involved in creating solutions for wicked problems. However, there is still much uncertainty about how communities become empowered to contribute in a way that allows for genuine involvement.

In this symposium, we will explore emerging ways for community voices to be heard. We will examine how communities can foster a lively democracy and build societies where everyone can flourish, while also investigating how (local) governments can effectively enable and engage their citizens. What are the most promising models for collective action? And do these citizen initiatives even need government support to succeed?

More info about the program and registration available [here!](#)



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The date for our interactive seed funding workshop changed to the 22nd September

As you may have heard, the Special Interest Group is planning an interactive sandpit workshop to kick off the next academic year. However, the date of this workshop has changed from the 15th of September to the 22nd of September from 14.00 to 17.00. We will send out a placeholder for your agendas separately. The event will consist of two parts: first we want to invite our core group to give 10-minute pitches about methodologies or theoretical frameworks that they use which can inspire attendees for their research. These pitches are, besides educational for colleagues who are interested in incorporating sustainable behaviour in their research, a nice opportunity to showcase your research. Besides, they provide a stepping stone for the second part of the workshop, in which attendees can develop a short proposal for seed funding for a project with other SIG members. More information will follow soon.

Survey request from the SIG network!

A member of the sustainable interest group on sustainable behaviour, Javanshir Fouladvand, is conducting a survey which he would like to distribute in the network.

Energy shapes all of our lives, from how we heat our homes to how societies respond to climate change. But who should make decisions about energy systems? And should energy be treated mainly as a market product, or more as an essential service? At Utrecht University Javanshir and his colleagues are studying public perceptions of energy governance and decommodification. Decommodification means rethinking energy not simply as something to be bought and sold, but as an essential service that could be organised more fairly, collectively, and democratically. Your insight is requested in this short survey. It will help researchers and policymakers better understand which pathways and governance structures people see as most promising for a fairer energy future. The survey is in English, open to everyone, and takes around 15–20 minutes. Please feel free to share it with your network as well!

Take the survey here: https://survey.uu.nl/jfe/form/SV_6QHf7uYLCzIofVI

Agenda

17/06/2026 - 09.00-17.00

Behaviour and Institutions Symposium

23/06/2026 15.00-16.00

SIG Seminar by Anna Castiglione

25/06/2026 - 19.00

June 25th: APA Division 34 - 5th Webinar of Spring 2026

14/07/2026 15.00-16.00

SIG Seminar by Ellie Gordon

22/09/2026 14.00-17.00

SIG Interactive workshop and seed funding opportunity



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