



# SCORAI-ERSCP-WUR Conference

July 5-8, 2023 | Wageningen | The Netherlands

Transforming Consumption-Production  
Systems Toward Just and Sustainable Futures



# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

SCP23 is organized jointly by  
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# About this document

Welcome to the abstract book for the SCP23 conference! This document serves as a comprehensive documentation of the intellectual contributions shared by our esteemed authors. It aims to provide guidance to conference delegates, allowing them to plan their own program and connect with relevant colleagues. We also want to encourage conference participants to explore the SCP23 OSF repository where full conference papers are published ([osf.io/meetings/SCP23](https://osf.io/meetings/SCP23)). We would like to emphasize that all rights regarding the intellectual contributions remain with the authors.

Please note that while we have endeavored to present an accurate schedule, changes may still occur. These changes could be due to unforeseen circumstances such as late cancellations or adjustments in chairs or rooms. We strongly encourage you to stay updated by following the conference communication on our website ([www.scp-conference-2023.com](http://www.scp-conference-2023.com)), on-site notices, email updates, and our social media channels. For any inquiries or assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to the conference organizers at [contact@scp-conference-2023.com](mailto:contact@scp-conference-2023.com).

Wishing you a wonderful conference filled with insightful discussions and fruitful connections!

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## Circular Plastic Consumption in Everyday Life – Exploring socio-material constraints and imaginaries through a practice-oriented approach

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The technocentric approach advanced by most circular economy (CE) policy and research frameworks has perpetuated an absent or largely passive role for the consumer in CE transitions. The implication is a transitions agenda which prioritises closing material loops through technical and economic means while overlooking questions of reducing material consumption through lifestyle changes. This is a grave limitation given the mounting scientific evidence which indicates that without addressing overall resource demands, CE will be unable to deliver the scale of transformative change required to tackle our environmental crisis.

Focusing on dynamics of plastic consumption in households in the Netherlands, this paper seeks to offer an innovative approach toward researching and understanding the potential for circular transitions grounded in the daily life of the everyday consumer. To this end, a social practice theory approach is combined with a multi-modal, imaginary futures methodology is employed with a diversity of household types, varied across life stages and composition, to uncover the socio-material conditions which drive plastic consumption at the household scale and constrain or enable possibilities for future circular consumption processes.

The findings reveal how plastic consumption is rooted in intersecting arrangements of daily life practices and their embeddedness in systems of practice. After first unpacking how plastics are embedded in daily practice arrangements, the paper presents and discusses insights into key socio-temporal and socio-temporal material constraints that present opportunities and barriers to circular plastic consumption. These include social variation in the spatiotemporal and domestic organisation of daily life; socially varied norms and standards surrounding everyday conduct, convenience and disposability and differential engagement with the socio-technical systems and structures in which everyday life and plastic consumption are embedded. The paper concludes with reflections on the potential for everyday life practices as a site where circular systems change plays out and outlines directions for future inquiry and investigation.