Michelle Baddeley: Behavioural economics and finance. London, New York: Routledge, 2013. ISBN 978-0-415-61477-1. 320 pp., USD 190.00.

This book introduces the reader to some of the key concepts and insights from the rich, interdisciplinary approach to real-world decision-making of behavioural economics in general and behavioural finance in specific. It covers a broad range of themes, including learning, social influence and identity, inequity aversion, bounded rationality, heuristics and biases, prospect theory, regret theory, moods and emotions, happiness, time inconsistency and plans, present bias and bad habits. One part of the book is devoted to macroeconomics and financial markets, covering financial instability, happiness and well-being. Each theme is explored theoretically and illustrated with recent findings from experimental and neuroeconomics research.

Christian Bala and Klaus Müller (Eds.): Der gläserne Verbraucher: Wird Datenschutz zum Verbraucherschutz? (The glass consumer: Is data protection becoming consumer protection?) Vol. 1. Beiträge zur Verbraucherforschung. Dusseldorf: Verbraucherzentrale NRW, 2014. ISBN 978-3-86336-901-9. 128 pp., EUR 24.90.

How can privacy be protected in social networks? How can we avoid tracking by online marketers? These are common questions of consumer privacy. The first volume of the new series “Beiträge zur Verbraucherforschung” (Contributions to consumer research), edited by the Competence Center of Consumer Research North Rhine-Westphalia, takes a look forward to the computerization of everyday life. The authors raise the question on how consumer privacy can be restored or strengthened in a connected world. Six researchers from North Rhine-Westphalian universities analyse the value of privacy, legal problems of cloud computing, the behaviour tracking of smart electricity meters, the sensitive area of telemedicine, and the virtual currency Bitcoin. The editors reflect on the surveillance of consumers and the recent NSA spying scandal.

Christian Bala and Klaus Müller (Eds.): Der verletzliche Verbraucher: Die sozialpolitische Dimension von Verbraucherpolitik. (The vulnerable consumer: The sociopolitical dimension of consumer policy). Vol. 2. Beiträge zur Verbraucherforschung. Dusseldorf: Verbraucherzentrale NRW, 2014. ISBN 978-3-86336-902-6. 160 pp., EUR 19.90.

Vulnerable consumers are a heterogeneous group that is often marginalized in different ways: welfare recipients do not have enough money to collect relevant information, elderly or poor people are often affected by the digital divide, and immigrants are confronted with language barriers or discrimination. The authors of the second volume of the series “Beiträge zur Verbraucherforschung” (Contributions to consumer research), edited by the Competence Center of Consumer Research North Rhine-Westphalia, analyse the
problems and needs of vulnerable consumers. Besides basic considerations for consumer research and poverty research, the authors take a close look at pressing issues such as energy poverty, patient participation, retirement provision, sustainable consumption and media literacy.

John E. Blundell and France Bellisle (Eds.): Satiation, satiety and the control of food intake: Theory and practice. Oxford. Cambridge: Woodhead Publishing, 2013. ISBN 978-0-85709-543-5. 407 pp., USD 255.00.

Today, many people on the planet can be described as possessing large quantities of body fat, much of it incompatible with good health. Others are dealing with inadequate food and hunger. Can human appetite be managed to produce more healthy lives, and what do we need to know to bring this about? This reader addresses some key features of appetite science and covers recent research on satiation, satiety and the control of food intake. Its 20 chapters are grouped into five parts that cover the following: introduction to satiation and satiety; biological factors of satiety (e.g., genetics and metabolic factors); food composition factors (e.g., energy density, portion sizes, protein, fats and carbohydrates); and hedonic, cultural and environmental factors (including sensory-specific satiation and habituation); as well as public health implications (covering obesity, food technology, health claims).

Archie B. Carroll, Kenneth J. Lipartito, James E. Post, and Patricia H. Werhane: Corporate responsibility. The American experience. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012. ISBN 978-1-10760-525-1. 568 pp., GBP 30.99.

This history of corporate responsibility in the USA documents the story of corporate power and business behaviour from the mid-eighteenth century (1776) to the modern day when corporate responsibility has institutionalized and globalized. It shows in 11 chapters how the idea of corporate responsibility has evolved over the past 250 years, with the roles, responsibilities and performance of corporations coming increasingly under the spotlight as new norms of transparency and accountability emerge. Today, it is expected that a corporation will be transparent in its operations, that it will reflect ethical values that are broadly shared by others in society, and that companies will enable society to achieve environmental sustainability as well as a high standard of living.

Marius Christen: Die Idee der Nachhaltigkeit. Eine werttheoretische Fundierung. (The idea of sustainability. A value theoretical foundation). Series “Beiträge zur Theorie und Praxis starker Nachhaltigkeit”, Vol. 5. Marburg: Metropolis, 2013. ISBN 978-3-7316-1034-2. 295 pp., EUR 34.80.

The idea of sustainability is a normative guiding principle for social development. Its implementation requires determining which goods must be ensured for current and future generations. Any theory of sustainability provides an answer to this central question. This volume develops no such theory itself but makes a proposition of how to rationalize which goods count as sustainability goods. To avoid the problem of arbitrariness, the definition of sustainability goals must be legitimized. As a first step, the author presents an analysis of the idea of sustainability. Referring to the international debate, he works out the basic elements of its prevailing understanding. On this basis, he identifies the conditions a theory of value must meet in order to be adequate to justify statements about sustainability goods. After discussing various philosophical theories of value that are not able to satisfy these requirements, the author develops a sustainability fitting theory of value. This theory is based on the currently dominating value theory: the fitting attitudes analysis of value. To avoid formalism, the author
suggests complementing this theory with substantive aspects of the Capabilities Approach. The presented theory offers a substantial normative basis for the idea of sustainability—an essential brick to fight the widely lamented arbitrariness of the concept of sustainability and to strengthen its practical power.

Anna Coote and Jane Franklin (Eds.): Time on our side: Why we all need a shorter working week. London: New Economics Foundation, 2013. ISBN 978-1-90850-639-9. GBP 14.99.

Authored by leading experts in social, economic and environmental sciences, this book explains how moving towards shorter, more flexible hours of work could help tackle urgent problems that beset our daily lives—from overwork, unemployment and low well-being, to entrenched inequalities, needless high-carbon consumption and the lack of time to live sustainably. The empirical-minded and change-oriented academics and campaigners who have contributed to this volume—including Barbara Adam, Tim Jackson, and Juliet Schor—weave issues of time allocation and time use to those of employment and labour, growth and productivity, gender and care work, life style and consumption, money and time, sustainability and climate change. Thinking the unthinkable—a standard working week of 30 h or less—this diverse collection of 12 essays explores a subject frequently ignored by mainstream economists: the importance of discretionary time as a major determinant of perceived well-being. Discussing the significance of the politics of time for how we fashion a good life and a good society, successes and pitfalls of examples from other countries (the Netherlands and France) are reported.

Dr. Rainer Wild-Stiftung (Ed.): Tempodiät. Essen in der Nonstop-Gesellschaft. (Speed diet: Eating in the non-stop society). Heidelberg: Dr. Rainer Wild Stiftung, 2014. ISBN 978-3-94259-469-1. 125 pp., EUR 14.90.

Time pressure has become an essential part of our everyday life and has an increasing impact on our eating patterns. New methods of food production have to be as fast as possible, efforts for daily shopping should be minimized, and snacks and convenience food are replacing traditional meal structures. But, what does this development mean for our food culture? How can we combine saving time and a healthy nutrition? The book deals with the challenges of our high-speed society, discussing topics such as meal timing, chronobiology and current trends in the nutritional sector. It reveals how altering time structures influence biological signals like hunger and satiety, as well as emotional well-being and our eating habits. By bringing together physiological, psychological and socio-cultural views, it becomes clear that a reasonable food culture needs a balanced time culture.

Shane Fudge, Michael Peters, Steven M. Hoffman, and Walter Wehrmeyer (Eds.): The global challenge of encouraging sustainable living. Opportunities, barriers, policy and practice. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2014. ISBN 978-1-78100-374-9. 288 pp., GBP 80.00.

This reader illustrates that in order to address the growing urgency of issues around environmental and resource limits, effective policies are needed to promote durable changes in behaviour and to transform how we view and consume goods and services. It suggests that in order to develop effective policies in this area, it is necessary to move beyond a narrow understanding of “how individuals behave,” and to incorporate a more nuanced approach that encompasses behavioural influences in different societies, contexts and settings. The editors draw together analyses and case studies from across the globe and from multi-disciplinary perspectives in order to offer a broad-based psychological, sociological and economic understanding of consumer behaviour. The 12 expert contributors (from both academic and
practitioner backgrounds) discuss the barriers, challenges and opportunities that face governments in relation to policy and actions at local, national and supranational levels. The book is organized on three parts: (1) theoretical and methodological understandings of behaviour change; (2) agency, behaviour and the European policy landscape; and (3) different policy approaches from an international perspective.

Chris Gibson, Carol Farbotko, Nicholas Gill, Lesley Head, and Gordon Waitt: Household sustainability. Challenges and dilemmas in everyday life. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2013. ISBN 978-1-78100-620-7. 256 pp., GBP 75.00.

Households attempting to respond to the challenge to become more sustainable in everyday life face dilemmas on a daily basis when trying to make sustainable decisions. Various aspects of life such as cars, computers, food, phones, and even birth and death may all provoke uncertainty regarding the most sustainable course of action. Drawing on international scientific and cultural research, this book probes these wide-ranging “flashpoint” sustainability dilemmas, assessing the avenues open to households trying to improve their sustainability. The author team engages critically, and constructively, with the proposition that households are a key scale of action on climate change. They confront dilemmas of practice and circumstance, and cultural norms of lifestyle and consumerism that are linked to troublesome environmental problems—and question whether they can be easily unsettled. Each chapter is framed around an essential task (e.g., driving a car), everyday item (e.g., clothes) or practice (e.g., laundry) of household life. In many cases, there are no easy answers as to which course of action is most appropriate. The work also illuminates the informal and often unheralded work by households—frequently the poorest—in reducing their environmental burden.

Asanga Gunawansa and Lovleen Bhullar (Eds.): Water governance. An evaluation of alternative architectures. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2013. ISBN 978-1-78100-641-2. 448 pp., GBP 99.00.

Access to water supply and sanitation services are vital to human health and well-being of consumers. Freshwater has become one of the most sought-after resources worldwide, and its governance is increasingly challenged. This reader explores in 15 chapters urban water governance challenges in different parts of the world and highlights the advantages and disadvantages of publicly run, privatized, and public–private partnership managed water facilities. The contributors expertly discuss various types of public and private water governance architectures as well as identifying the trends, challenges, opportunities and the shifts in perceptions with regard to the provision of water supply services. The study reveals that while private sector participation has been largely promoted by multilateral institutions as part of institutional and financial reforms, ultimately governments bear the major responsibility for provision of water supply services either as “service provider” or as “regulator and policy maker.”

Dietrich Henckel, Susanne Thomaier, Benjamin Könecke, Roberto Zedda, and Stefano Stabilini (Eds.): Space-time design of the public city. Heidelberg: Springer, 2013. ISBN 978-94-007-6424-8. 324 pp., EUR 138.40.

Two new phenomena drive the transformation of the contemporary city: the emergence of globalization and the technological revolution. With that, time has become an increasingly important topic in urban studies and urban planning. The spatial-temporal interplay is of relevance not only for the theory of urban development and urban politics but also for urban planning and governance. The space-time approach used in this reader focusses on the human being with its various habits and routines in the city. Understanding and taking those habits
into account in urban planning and public policies offers a new way to improve the quality of life in our cities. Adapting the supply and accessibility of public spaces and services to the inhabitants’ space-time needs calls for an integrated approach to the physical design of urban space. In the last two decades, the body of practical and theoretical work on urban space-time topics has grown substantially. This collection of essays offers a state-of-the-art overview of the theoretical reasoning, the development of new analytical tools, and practical experience of the space-time design of public cities in major European countries, in particular Italy and Germany. The contributions were written by academics and practitioners associated with the European Network City Time. This network of pioneers aims to construct a common toolkit of theoretical and instrumental references that could animate city administrations to employ action research in their own territories.

Rob Hopkins: Einfach. Jetzt. Machen! Wie wir unsere Zukunft selbst in die Hand nehmen. (The power of just doing stuff). Munich: oekom, 2014. ISBN 978-3-86581-458-6. 184 pp., EUR 12.95.

The movement of “transition towns” has today expanded from the UK all over the world (www.transitionnetwork.org). Its founder, promoter and author of this book, Rob Hopkins, has been an influential thinker and activist in transforming societies into more sustainable future. This book is the German version of his classic The Power of Just Doing Stuff and offers an own chapter featuring many new examples of transition activities and initiatives from Germany, Austria and Switzerland. It comes with a lot practical information, material, and sources that will be of use both for intellectually interested observers of the transition town movement and for activists.

Julie Hudson and Paul Donovan: Food policy and the environmental credit crunch. From soup to nuts. London: Routledge, 2014. ISBN 978-0-415-64401-3. 240 pp., GBP 24.99.

The changing economic environment for the consumer that is emerging from the wreckage of the financial credit crunch plays directly into the importance of food spending. This is certainly true from the perspective of food prices in the short run, and also from the perspective of sustainability and reducing the impact of the environmental credit crunch. The authors, both managing directors at an investment bank, elaborate on these issues and conclude that a significant and positive difference could be made by changing some of the ways in which we procure, prepare and consume our food. Based on this claim, the book examines each aspect of the food chain, from agriculture, to production and processing, retail, preparation, consumption, and waste (therefore the subtitle “from soup to nuts,” an Anglo-American phrase that means “from start to finish”). The book closes with clear policy suggestions for each step of the food chain, ranging from “tax sugar and fat” to “reduce meat consumption by encouraging cultural change” to “change urban planning to allow more local food growing.”

Rhys Jones, Jessica Pykett, and Mark Whitehead: Changing behaviours. On the rise of the psychological state. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2013. ISBN 978-0-85793-687-5. 232 pp., GBP 75.00.

Changing Behaviours charts the emergence of the behaviour change agenda in UK-based public policy making since the late 1990s. By tracing the influence of the behavioural sciences, in particular behavioural economics on Whitehall policy makers, the authors explore a new psychological orthodoxy in the practices of governing. Drawing on original empirical material, chapters examine the impact of behaviour change policies in the fields of health (food and alcohol), personal finance (gambling and saving), spatial design (traffic and safety) and the
environment. The authors analyse how the nature of the human subject itself is re-imagined through behaviour change, and develop an analytical framework for evaluating the ethics, efficacy, and potential empowerment of behaviour change. The book focuses on the practical use of psychological and behavioural insights by politicians and policy makers, carves out the options and compares the instruments at hand. In the conclusion titled “Nudge, Think, Steer, Punch!” the authors evaluate the different governing approaches labelled in the title and make suggestions for “the real Third Way.”

Peter Kenning: Consumer Neuroscience. Ein transdisziplinäres Lehrbuch. (Consumer neuroscience: a transdisciplinary textbook). Stuttgart: Kohlhammer, 2014. ISBN 978-3-17-020727-1. 246 pp., EUR 39.99.

Recent years have seen enormous progress in academic research at the intersection of neuroscience, psychology and economics. The outcome of this progress is summarized by the introduction of new and transdisciplinary fields such as neuroeconomics or decision neuroscience. Their joint aim is to integrate and apply neuroscientific theories, concepts, findings, and methods to develop a sound theory of human behaviour. Consumer neuroscience can be viewed as a sub-discipline of neuroeconomics in which consumer psychologists and business economists investigate consumer research and marketing questions with new methodological and conceptual approaches. Traditional research in consumer behaviour and marketing necessarily looked at the human organism as being a “black box” and consequently used mainly theoretical constructs to interpret bodily processes and resulting behaviour. Today, modern techniques and methods from neuroscience enable researchers to get a more direct look into the “black box.” The direct observation of brain processes through methods such as functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) provides a new and different perspective. The book is organized as follows: After the introduction, Chapter 2 elucidates major academic cornerstones that led to the emergence of the transdisciplinary field of consumer neuroscience and provides a clear-cut definition of the discipline. Chapter 3 briefly presents basic knowledge about brain physiology and relevant anatomical terms and areas for consumer neuroscience. Chapter 4 provides an overview of recent methods in neuroscience used by consumer researchers. After a brief insight into selected theories and concepts from neuroscience that consumer researchers can benefit from (Chapter 5), a variety of preliminary findings is detailed in Chapter 6 and structured alongside the traditional marketing mix elements and brand research.

Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie e.V. (Eds.): Zeitwohlstand. Wie wir anders arbeiten, nachhaltig wirtschaften und besser leben. (Wealth in time: How we can work and produce differently and more sustainably and have better lives). Munich: oekom, 2013. ISBN 978-3-86581-476-0. 112 pp., EUR 16.95.

This reader is a collection of essays on “wealth in time”—a concept that was developed in the 1980s and 1990s in the academic debate of well-being, economic growth and sustainable development. Recently, the concept has regained attention in policy circles that are challenged with citizens who ask for more than just economic growth and material well-being. The short essays in this book touch on such different issues such as time and waste, temporal well-being, time and autonomy, commons-based peer production and the sharing economy, happiness and time, work-life balance and sustainable lifestyles, access to time and democracy, sufficiency and subsistence, self-efficacy and time, burnout and time poverty, and transition to a sustainable economy.
Laboratory and field experiments have grown significantly in prominence over the past decade. The experimental method provides randomization in key variables therefore permitting a deeper understanding of important economic phenomena. This comprehensive handbook provides a collection of experimental work within the area of environmental and resource economics and showcases how laboratory and field experiments can be used for both positive and normative purposes. The 16 highly technical chapters are organized in five parts: (1) econometric approaches for experimental data, (2) non-market valuation including behavioural foundations, (3) emissions trading and ambient taxes, (4) common pool resource games, and (5) voting and public goods.

Pete Lunn: Regulatory policy and behavioural economics. Paris: OECD, 2014. ISBN 978-9-26420-784-4. 74 pp., EUR 24.00.

Over the past 10 years, behavioural economics has been rapidly propelled from the margins of economic analysis towards the policy mainstream. In this context, this OECD study offers an international review of the initial applications of behavioural economics to policy, with a particular focus on regulatory policy. It describes the extent to which behavioural findings have begun to influence public policy in a number of OECD countries, referring to a total of more than 60 instances. The majority of these cases concern regulatory policy or, frequently, an attempt to pursue regulatory goals without resorting to additional rules or sanctions. An example is tax compliance, where experimental trials show that non-compliance can be reduced by changing the nature or wording of communications with those who fail to file tax returns on time. Behavioural economics has also made inroads in consumer policy, especially in markets with relatively complex products, such as financial services, health insurance, and other markets involving service contracts. Three principles of behavioural economics feature strongly in the early applications to regulatory design: First, choices are influenced by the simplicity of information and of the range of available options. Second, people are drawn towards more convenient options, especially default options. Third, the salience of options or attributes can affect how they are weighted in decisions.

Ulrich Mückenberger: Lebensqualität durch Zeitpolitik. Wie Zeitkonflikte gelöst werden können. (Quality of life through time policy: How conflicts of time can be solved). Berlin: Edition Sigma, 2012. ISBN 978-3-83608-742-1. 299 pp., EUR 19.90.

The author, a pioneer in the field of time policy research and practice, argues that conflicts between different time regimes and time needs on both micro and macro levels of society can be solved through deliberative processes with participation of citizens, consumers and workers as “co-producers” of the service. This in turn would promote the overall quality of life of many citizens and workers by decreasing the “time crunch” for everyone. Mückenberger uses empirical case study analysis to explore and explain how time conflicts can be detected and solved productively by involving all actors in participatory decision processes. In particular, he scrutinizes cases from public childcare and opening hours of citizen service bureaus; in these cases, compromises regarding working times and opening hours were found that increase well-being of all. Depending on the setting and needs, schemes of tailored flexible childcare, trust-based working time, and self-organized citizen service seem to be promising and need fulfilling for all sides.
Adam Oliver (Ed.): Behavioural public policy. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2013. ISBN 978-1-10761-737-7. 252 pp., GBP 22.99.

Across the world, governments (including Sweden, the Netherlands, France, Denmark, and USA—all following the UK approach) are showing a growing interest in using behavioural economic research to inform the design of nudges which might encourage citizens to adopt beneficial patterns of behaviour. Indeed, behavioural economics has travelled a long way, particularly in the last 30 years, and is now being considered seriously in policy dialogues. In this collection of nine essays on behavioural public policy, economists, psychologists, and philosophers reflect on how behavioural economic findings can be used to help inform the design of policy initiatives in the areas of health, education, the environment, personal finances, and worker remuneration. To reflect and enrich the arguments brought forth, each essay is accompanied by a shorter “response” from a peer that provides critical commentary and an alternative perspective.

Chinmoy Sarkar, Chris Webster, and John Gallacher: Healthy cities: Public health through urban planning. Cheltenham, Edward Elgar, 2014. ISBN 978-1-78195-571-0. 424 pp., GBP 160.00.

The link between built environment and health in developing countries and the rediscovery of the same in developed countries—spurred by the obesity pandemic—are a challenge for urban planners. To date, most urban planning scholarship in academia does not empirically test the relationship between built form parameters and urban performance parameters such as health outcomes. Yet, mounting scientific evidence generated over the past decade highlights the significant role of our cities’ built environments in shaping our health and well-being. In this book, the authors conceptualize the “urban health niche” as a novel approach to public health and healthy city planning that integrates the diverse and multi-level health determinants present in a city system. The authors trace the origins of public health and city planning, drawing upon the shifting paradigms of epidemiology. Advanced network analysis techniques are employed to examine multi-scale associations between individual-level health outcomes and built environment features such as density, land use mix and road network configuration.

Ulf Schrader and Viola Muster (Eds.): Gesellschaftliche Verantwortung von Unternehmen. Wege zu mehr Glaubwürdigkeit und Sichtbarkeit. (Corporate Social Responsibility: Pathways towards more credibility and visibility). Marburg: Metropolis, 2014. ISBN 978-3-89518-947-0. 354 pp., EUR 36.80.

The business case of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is dependent on its visibility and credibility. Yet, stakeholders are often not aware of company’s CSR engagement or do not find it credible. There are many reasons for this mismatching. Often, comparable and understandable information is rare. Sometimes, stakeholders are particularly sceptical about CSR because they know about “green washing” activities of companies. In this volume, German researchers from several fields of sustainability management and business ethics show different ways of how to strengthen the visibility and credibility of CSR. The first section is dedicated to conceptual considerations of CSR. In the second section, the authors look into different branches and show specific challenges for company’s CSR engagement dependent on their core business. The third section covers the special relationship between CSR and consumers as external and (as employees) internal stakeholders of companies. The final section focusses on the importance of communication about CSR. Altogether, the book shows a wide range of possible ways on how to make CSR more visible and credible and hence a more successful tool.
This book is a compilation of papers presented at the 1st International Conference of The Partnership for Education and Research about Responsible Living (PERL). It is hence programmatic for the PERL network that brings together educators, researchers, and practitioners from government, NGOs, and business who are all interested in innovative ways to foster responsible and sustainable living. The reader is structured in five parts: The introduction is followed by four parts that reflect the content and the relevance of topics which are important for PERL. Part II “Understanding Responsible Living” consists of articles which help to understand responsible (consumer) behaviour. Part III “Policies for Responsible Living” applies a macro perspective and asks for the effect of different policies on responsible living. Part IV “Education for Responsible Living” addresses a core topic for PERL and its predecessor, the Consumer Citizenship Network (CCN), namely the question how schools and universities can foster responsible living. Part V “Corporate Responsibility for Responsible Living” deals with corporations as an important factor for responsible living especially as providers of—more or less sustainable—consumer goods and jobs.

The author of this book claims that the emotional and intellectual distancing of city dwellers from their city and its administrators is one of the reasons for the decay of many urban spaces, of de-politicization and citizen protest beyond the normal. To date, more than half of humanity lives in cities. In order to stay an attractive place to live and enjoy for many, the author calls for rethinking organizing and of reorganizing cities on the level of neighbourhoods or urban districts. On this meso level, creativity, emotional attachment, and political participation seem to be more likely, and the handling of and common responsibility for own district budgets and politics more realistic. The author argues that it is these features that help making neighbourhoods more sustainable places.

This is a basic introductory textbook of consumer psychology. Besides the foundations of consumer psychology, the author also covers basic knowledge of the contexts in which consumer behaviour takes place, such as cultural and subcultural influences, the increasingly complex world of consumption of goods and services, the consumer in the internet, the vulnerable consumer and consumer policy. Moreover, specific forms of consumption are presented, namely, pathological consumption (addictive buying), sustainable consumption, consumption of young consumers, and the role of brands for consumer behaviour.

Since the speculative excess of the 2008 financial crisis, investments have lost much of their innocence. Many people now wonder how they can invest their savings responsibly so that they generate positive environmental and social effects, not return at all costs but rather the support of sustainable social effects. Not return at all costs but rather the support of a sustainable economy provides the motivational background of their investment decisions. In response to this heightened sense of financial responsibility, innovative products have been...
created in the border zones of the financial markets. This book presents a wide range of such projects in which everyone can invest responsibly: banks that operate according to high standards of ethical principles; regional currencies that support the local economy; and financial products such as social impact bonds, micro-loans, endowment funds and cooperatives. The book offers a tour into the landscape of impact investing and outlines a path into the new field of responsible finance.

Klaus Töpfer, Dolores Volkert, and Ulrich Mans (Eds.): Verändern durch Wissen. Chancen und Herausforderungen demokratischer Beteiligung: Von Stuttgart 21 bis zur Energiewende. (Creating change through knowledge). Munich: oekom, 2013. ISBN 978-3-86581-442-5. 192 pp., EUR 17.95.

In the context of various experiences with “Stuttgart 21,” the expansion plans for the Frankfurt Airport, and from the ethics commission “Safer Energy Supply,” the book “Change Through Knowledge” edited by the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies contains contributions from German authors such as Heiner Geißler, Gesine Schwan, Claus Leggewie, Reinhard Loske and Matthias Kleiner. These authors provide answers to the question on how successful participation models must be shaped and legitimated in order to revive our democratic culture. These issues are also considered in relation to the German energy transition. In terms of its acceptance, the energy transition has so far fared well: The majority of Germans support the phasing out of nuclear energy. However, when it comes to how the energy transition should be accomplished, there is still no generally discussed and accepted way. Public debate and participation are necessary if Germany’s largest ever infrastructure project is to succeed.

Peter A. Victor (Ed.): The costs of economic growth. The International Library of Critical Writings in Economics Series, Vol. 275. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2013. 1024 pp., GBP 340.00.

This comprehensive volume is a convenient collection of seminal papers on the costs of economic growth. The papers are grouped into six sections covering the following: the origins of the debate (including John Stuart Mill’s “Of the Stationary State”), the limits to growth (covering the debate on “The limits to growth”), measurement (including seminal papers by Leipert, Max-Neef, Wackernagel and Rockström), international and global dimensions, developing countries, and looking ahead (featuring Herman Daly’s “Beyond growth” as well as papers by Juliet Schor, Tim Jackson and Robert Ayres on sustainable growth). The original introduction, written by the editor, draws out the main themes that run through this extensive and thought provoking literature.

Isidor Wallimann (Ed.): Environmental policy is social policy—social policy is environmental policy. Toward sustainability policy. Heidelberg: Springer, 2013. ISBN 978-1-4614-6722-9. 221 pp., EUR 106.99.

This book argues that social and environmental policy should be treated as one and the same field and that both are but two aspects of the same coin—if sustainability is the goal. This paradigm shift towards a unity between environmental and social policy is significant and timely. Any separation, the editor argues, comes at the cost of policy efficiency and perverse effects. If sustainability is our goal, social and environmental policy must be treated as one and the same field. Examples from agriculture, nutrition, forestry, urban planning and urban food production, care work, tourism and university management show that such a paradigm shift is indicated. They also show that Environmental or Social Impact Assessments are no longer adequate; rather, they should be combined since one policy domain may counteract or outright
“sabotage” the other. This line of argument is well illustrated by the contributors in this book who represent numerous academic disciplines.

Julia Walter-Herrmann and Corinne Büching (Eds.): FabLab. Of machines, makers and inventors. Bielefeld: transcript, 2013. ISBN 978-3-8376-2382-6. 262 pp., EUR 29.80.

Ten years after the first FabLab (a so-called fabrication laboratory) was opened at MIT, more than 120 FabLabs exist all over the world. This book looks back at a decade of FabLab activities in many countries. It shows—also with many illustrative pictures—how small production devices, such as laser cutters and 3D printers, and dedicated educationists, researchers, and FabLab practitioners, transform the fields of learning, work, production, design, maker culture, law, and science on a global scale. In this reader, experts from various countries, such as Germany, India, or the USA, and distinguished academic institutions, such as MIT or Stanford University, discuss theoretical questions and introduce practical approaches concerning FabLab activities. The book is organized into six parts on the movement, materiality and virtuality, the maker culture, technology, and infrastructure, as well as community and environment.

Zhang-Yue Zhou, Hongbo Liu, and Lijuan Cao (with Wei-Ming Tian and Ji-Min Wang): Food consumption in China. The revolution continues. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2014. ISBN 978-1-78254-919-2. 200 pp., GBP 70.00.

China has experienced remarkable economic growth in the past three decades. This has resulted in a sustained increase in consumer income, which in turn has led to important changes in food consumption. Notable changes include not only quantitatively higher demand for food, but also a demand for greater diversity and higher quality, and growing consumption of food away from home. Further developments impacting China’s food system are as follows: increasing attention to safety of food, integration and advancement of food supply chains, rural migration and urbanization, the ageing population, the tastes of younger consumers (i.e., foreign foods and consumption styles), and an increasing demand for food of premium quality. This in turn has led to a steep increase in food imports which, in 2004, for the first time, exceeded food exports. This book assesses China’s past and current food consumption trends and the outlook for its future needs. It provides information and insights into the changing food consumption in China, predicts future consumption patterns and illuminates the dynamic difference between rural and urban Chinese and between different socio-economic groups. Books in English specifically addressing China’s food consumption are still scarce.