

Collaboration Consortium

Interdisciplinary Research Dinner

Inaugural Event: March 14, 2017 @ 6-8pm

Proposed Topic

“Consumer behavior and decision-making in resource use”

Event Format

The World Café, with assigned seating for two rounds, and facilitators at each table.

Evening Conclusion Report Back

Table	Key Points
#1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is it ethical to use the way people think to influence socially beneficial behavior? → If so, how can I/we use that to our advantage? → If not, how do I change the way they think?• How do we integrate ‘static’ facts/data with dynamic understanding of social processes to affect behavioral change?
#2	Unintended consequences: → If consumers don’t know what is good for them, should we let them choose? → How do you get people to be open to ideas that undermine their own identities? → How do we systematically anticipate unintended consequences? (Hypocrisy?)
#3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What does it mean to be an ethical consumer?• What are the facts and values that influence decision-making in society? Who is making decisions?• How does scarcity play a role?• What is a resource? What can be considered commoditized?• What is “ours” to claim, if anything?
#4	Politics of knowledge/expertise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What counts as knowledge/expertise/trusted information?• What is the interplay of facts and values in decision-making?• What is the role of information in ethical consumption?• How do we de-center expert knowledge with community engagement?
#5	What is “better”? → For when? → For whom? → For what? → For why? → For where? We spend most of our time creating the “how”.

