

Call for Applications



Global Challenges and Rural Responses

The Eighth Quadrennial Conference of British,
Canadian, and American Rural Geographers
2015 Swansea – Aberystwyth
July 6-12, 2015

Conference Description: Rural areas across the world are increasingly facing challenges that are global in scope and nature: climate change, resource depletion, food and water security, trade liberalization and global economic restructuring, migration, the roll out of neoliberal policies and austerity economics, and various social, cultural and consumer trends. These challenges impact on all aspects of rural societies, economies and environments. Yet, rural communities are not the passive recipients or victims of global processes; they are actively involved in negotiating global challenges with bottom-up responses ranging from protests to local food schemes to community regeneration projects.

Call for Applications: In the tradition of international collaborative rural geographical endeavor, the RGSG is looking for fourteen strong representatives for the U.S. delegation to the 8th Quadrennial Rural Geography Conference in July 2015, to be held in Swansea and Aberystwyth, Wales. Student presenters are welcome and encouraged. One funded student delegate position (not part of the 14 slots open in this call) has gone to the winner of the 2015 research award: <http://rgsg.wordpress.com/awards/>

The conference is intensive and allows for high-quality interaction between participants. Attendees will experience sessions in multiple sites in Wales. Relevant rural excursions and free time are part of the conference experience. One of the outputs of Quad meetings is an edited book (*Geographical Perspectives on Sustainable Rural Change* is from the 6th Quad meeting), or, as in the case of the 7th Quad meeting, a special edition the *Journal of Rural and Community Development* (volume 8, issue 3).

The conference will be held in Wales from Monday 6th to Sunday 12th July, 2015, starting in Swansea for 2 nights and continuing in Aberystwyth (2 nights) and at the Gregynog conference center in mid Wales (2 nights). In addition to the paper presentations, the conference will also involve field visits related to the theme of global challenges and rural responses, including to the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth.

The conference fee of £450 per person includes 6 nights bed and breakfast accommodation, lunches and evening meals on 4 days, tea and coffee breaks, coach transfers between Swansea, Aberystwyth and Gregynog, and field visits.

In order to apply to be part of the US delegation, limited to 14 individuals, send your application (details below) via email as a Word document to Jill Clark (clark.1099@osu.edu) by January 23rd, 2014. The RSGS board chair, Ryan Bergstrom, board member, Colleen Hiner, and the 2013 RSGS John Fraser Hart Award for Research Excellence recipient, Lisa Harrington, will select the delegation with the following considerations:

1. Papers are well-conceived and relevant to rural geography.
2. Our delegation should include scholars whose work is well positioned in the rural geography specialty area.
3. Following the tradition of the Quadrennial meetings, our delegation should represent rural researchers from across the career spectrum (students to senior academics).
4. Additional considerations include:
 - a. fit of proposed paper to meeting theme, and
 - b. contributions of the applicant to the Rural Geography Specialty Group and its predecessors.

Please include the following in your application:

1. Name
2. Title of paper
3. Authors
4. Paper summary (including at least 5 key references) (approximately 250 words + list of references)
5. Institution, if applicable
6. Department/Division
7. Country
8. List degrees, specifying the discipline, starting with the most recent
9. List recent positions and those *relevant to the event*. Start with the most recent
10. List recent publications and those *relevant to the event*. Start with the most recent

Applicants selected for the US delegation will be notified via email by February 6th, 2015. Papers must be completed by the time of the meeting.