Introductory Letter

Greetings Rural Geographers,

As this is the last newsletter that I will be putting together for the RGSG – getting ready to pass on the torch after three years as the RGSG Communications Chair – I have been invited to write the introductory letter by RGSG Chair, Ryan Bergstrom. It has been a privilege to serve the RGSG and to have a pulse on the activities of the group - learning what some of you are doing, and to highlight your work on the RGSG website, and in the newsletter.

I hope that more people will become involved in RGSG communications to convey the diversity of scholarship contributing to rural geography. The existence of different types of communication platforms, including the official AAG Knowledge Communities, FB group page, and listserv, are meant to make rural geography communication accessible. A lot has been done, and there is more to do to facilitate inclusive and meaningful communication and a sense of intellectual community.

When we communicate, how can we best create an inclusive space for diverse scholarship in rural geography? How can the use of certain words to describe the group serve to shape inclusive or exclusive spaces? For example, as a geographer steeped in issues of development, I have become averse to the simplistic dichotomy of ‘developed and developing world’. So I am aware that a description of the RGSG, although the intention may be to welcome fieldwork from outside the United States, may actually function as signal to those with a more critical approach to seek collaboration elsewhere. Communication is key to representation of the group and so there is a need also...
for processes in which such issues can be discussed with a need for consensus which is best for the group as it moves forward. The opportunity of a new communications chair is a fresh start for group discussions on such issues. Thank you to Dawn Drake for organizing upcoming elections (more info in the next section). To contribute to group decision-making, RGSG members are encouraged to come to the business meeting on April 23rd from 11:50 – 1:10pm.

The upcoming Annual Meeting in Chicago is a great opportunity to learn about and to engage in dialogue about issues important to rural geographers. The range of sessions sponsored by the RGSG reflect the broad interests of the group, including, to name a few: Political Ecology and Social-Ecological Interactions of Food Production and Systems; Food Politics and The Agrarian Question; Agrarian Development in Africa; Contemporary Farming in the United States; Rural Gentrification and its Conceptual Others; A Tribute to Harley Johansen; and, Exploring Cultural and Historic Narratives in the Shaping of Rural Resource Landscapes. The highlighted New Voices session will be featuring new scholars and their contributions to rural geography. It will start at 10am just preceding the business meeting also on April 23rd.

Please use the quickguide of RGSG sponsored sessions included on pages 16-17 in this newsletter to help you navigate the many choices available. Thank you Ryan Bergstrom!

Although I will not be able to see you in Chicago, I am looking forward to participating in the upcoming Quad and engaging with fellow rural geographers there. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the RGSG, in the past, during this time that I have been on the board, and those who will continue.

Best wishes,

Greta

Margareta Amy Lelea, Post-Doctoral Researcher,

German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture (DITSL), at the Faculty of Organic Agricultural Sciences, University of Kassel in Witzenhausen, Germany
Upcoming 2015 Election

Submitted by Dawn Drake

The Rural Geography Specialty Group (RGSG) has several offices that are up for re-election this year and we are seeking motivated individuals that are interested in serving their discipline through the work of the group. Terms are three years in length, with the exception of student representative, which is a two-year position. You can run for multiple terms as a RGSG officer.

For more information or to be added to the 2015 ballot, please email: Secretary/Treasurer, Dawn M. Drake at ddrake4@missouriwestern.edu

You may self-nominate or nominate someone else for the positions below.

Nominations will close at the RGSG Business Meeting at the AAG Annual Meeting in Chicago on Thursday April 23, 2015 (11:50am-1:10pm in Zermatt/Gstaad room on the Lucerne Level of the Swissôtel)

Open Positions:

Secretary/Treasurer

Director at Large

Director – West Lakes Region

Director – Pacific Coast Region

Student Representative

We will also be seeking a Communications Chair from among the directors this year.

For descriptions of the responsibilities entailed in each of these positions, please refer to the group bylaws:

https://rgsg.wordpress.com/about/bylaws/
Awards

Student Research Award for the Quadrennial

Submitted by Chris Laingen

The 2014-15 academic year awards began with the solicitation of proposals for a student to represent the RGSG at the 2015 Quadrennial British-Canadian-American Conference on Rural Geography that is being held this upcoming July in Wales, UK. Solicitation began with proposals due to the award’s chairperson, Chris Laingen, on November 21, 2014. RGSG members Chris Laingen, Ryan Bergstrom, Colleen Hiner, Dawn Drake, and Julia Haggerty judged proposals and selected Levi Van Sant, PhD student from the University of Georgia, as the inaugural winner of this grant competition. Levi was notified in December of his achievement and was put in touch with Jill Clark (the RGSG’s liaison to the conference) to make further travel/conference arrangements. Levi’s proposal was entitled, “When Local Comes to Town: From Truck Farming to Local Food Systems in the South Carolina Lowcountry.” Congratulations, Levi!

The next competition will take place prior to and during the 2015 AAG meeting in Chicago, IL. Solicitation for participants in the student paper competition began last fall via the specialty group’s Knowledge Community, with several messages advertising the competition sent out by the award’s chair, Chris Laingen. Prior to the meeting (and no later than April 1, 2015) students submitted a ~2,000 word (double-spaced), fully referenced summary of their research. Participants will be judged on the quality of both their written summary as well as on their oral presentation. A winner will be chosen following the tallying of scores after the last student has presented their paper at the AAG Meeting. The winner will be notified the week of April 27, 2015.

For a list of all upcoming awards, please see the accompanying list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awards Given in Spring (at AAG)</th>
<th>Awards Given in Fall (after AAG)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014 Redd Center</td>
<td>Quad Research Award for 2015 Meeting</td>
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<td>2015 Student Paper</td>
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<td>2016 Student Paper</td>
<td>Research Award</td>
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<td>2017 Student Paper; Redd Center; Faculty Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018 Student Paper</td>
<td>Quad Research Award for 2019 Meeting</td>
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<td>2019 Student Paper; Redd Center</td>
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<td>2020 Student Paper</td>
<td>Research Award</td>
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<td>2021 Student Paper; Redd Center; Faculty Awards</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022 Student Paper</td>
<td>Quad Research Award for 2023 Meeting</td>
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<td>2023 Student Paper; Redd Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>2024 Student Paper</td>
<td>Research Award</td>
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<td>2025 Student Paper; Redd Center; Faculty Awards</td>
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U.S. Delegation for the 8th Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian, and American Rural Geographers
to be held in Swansea-Aberystwyth, July 2015the theme:

**Global Challenges and Rural Responses**

Submitted by Jill Clark

Name, position, affiliation, paper title

1. Jesse Abrams, research associate, University of Oregon, “Network Realignment for Endogenous Rural Development: The Potentials and Limitations of Community-Based Organizations in the Rural American West”

2. Holly Barcus, associate professor, Macalester College, “Facilitating Native Land Reacquisition in the Rural United States through Collaborative Research and Geographic Information Systems”

3. Ryan Bergstrom, assistant professor, University of Minnesota Duluth, “A Transition Toward Sustainability: Challenges in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, USA”

4. Renata Blumberg, assistant professor, Montclair State University, “Place, Scale and Space: Bringing a Spatialized Livelihoods Perspective to the Study of Alternative Food Networks”

5. Kirstin Valentine Cadieux, research associate, University of Minnesota, “Urban is the new rural: Bringing geographical insights on rurality to the negotiation of foodland”

6. Jill Clark, assistant professor, Ohio State University, “Do ‘local’ food producers produce better places?: Examining the relationship between producer’s marketing channels and civic and political engagement”

7. Lisa MB Harrington, professor, Kansas State University, “Alternative and virtual rurality: Agriculture and the countryside in American social imagination”

8. Colleen Hiner, assistant professor, Texas State University, “Making (a) place: Wine and the production and consumption of landscape in the Sierra Nevada Foothills”

9. Margareta Lelea, post-doctoral fellow, German Institute for Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture, “Transdisciplinarity: integrating diverse knowledges for rural food security”
10. Cheryl Morse, assistant professor, University of Vermont, “Challenging ‘Working Landscapes’: A case study from rural America”


12. William Wetherholt, PhD student, Kansas State University, “A humanistic investigation of place in the very rural central Great Plains of Kansas and Nebraska”

13. Randall Wilson, professor, Gettysburg College, “Collaboration as a Rural Response to Global Change: Narratives from the Rocky Mountain West”


15. Levi Van Sant, PhD student, University of Georgia, “When Local Comes to Town: From Truck Farming to Local Food Systems in the South Carolina Lowcountry”

AAG Division Updates
New England/St. Lawrence Valley Division (NESTVAL)

Submitted by Cheryl Morse

University of Vermont Graduate Students Work on Food Waste Diversion Law

Vermont is the first state to pass regulations that will ban all food waste from entering landfills. Act 148—Universal Recycling—will go into full effect at the household level in 2020. Vermonters will be mandated to divert their food waste to a collection system or compost their food scraps at home. In anticipation of this, Food Systems graduate students at the University of Vermont are working with the Agency of Natural Resources and solid waste management districts to develop a public messaging campaign that will raise awareness of the new law amongst Vermont residents. This project serves as the basis for the service-learning capstone course taught by Cheryl Morse.

As part of the process of developing a communication strategy, the students have conducted an analysis of how the diversion law may be variously perceived and implemented by urban, rural, and suburban residents. The majority of Vermont residents live in rural areas, and early results of an on-line survey of solid waste managers shows a sharp contrast in the preparedness of the urban and rural districts for the waste diversion program; small rural districts have neither the resources to educate residents nor the infrastructure in place to implement the new rules. With few systems in place to handle large-scale composting or energy production from food scraps, rural residents will likely be expected to maintain household composting systems, but there are
no dedicated funds to educate residents on composting or provide the composting equipment necessary. Among the recommendations the UVM students will make to the state of Vermont is that they consider different strategies to communicate their public awareness campaign to rural residents, and that they may need to develop an alternative implementation plan that will better meet the needs of rural residents. You read it first in the RGSG Newsletter...the student’s ad campaign is titled “Give a Scrap!”

**Vermont Roots Migration Project**

In 2014 a group of Vermont researchers (including RGSG member Cheryl Morse) distributed an on-line survey on outmigration through social media networks. We expected 75 completed surveys but received 3,692 fully completed responses. This response, we believe, shows the personal interest people have in telling their stories of staying, leaving and returning to the state. Landscape, the small size of rural communities, and family are the dominant factors that keep Vermonters in the state, and also pull them back to the state after leaving. Yet, a mix of factors including work, desire for cultural diversity, and attraction to urban environments leads Vermonters to leave the state. No single factor for leaving was named by a majority of leavers, showing that the choice to leave a rural area is highly personal and complex. Analysis of the data is on-going, but the first technical report is now available on line at: [http://www.uvm.edu/~crvt/reports/vrt_report_Dec2014.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/~crvt/reports/vrt_report_Dec2014.pdf).

**Southwest (SWAAG) and Great Plains-Rocky Mountain (GPRM) Divisions**

*Submitted by Colleen Hiner*

The joint meeting of the Southwest (SWAAG) and Great Plains-Rocky Mountain (GPRM) Divisions of the Association of American Geographers was held October 23-25, 2014 at the beautiful and historic Hotel Andaluz in Albuquerque, NM. The schedule included a variety of talks on an array of topics, many of which were related to rural geography. The full schedule, including speakers and abstracts, is available here:

[http://www.k-state.edu/swgprm2014/program.html](http://www.k-state.edu/swgprm2014/program.html).
The 2015 SWAAG meeting will be held in conjunction with the Applied Geography conference and will be held in November 4-7, 2015 in San Antonio, TX. More info is available here: http://applied.geog.kent.edu/AGC2015/AGC2015Flyer.pdf.

West Lakes Division

Submitted by Chris Laingen

The next meetings will be held in the following locations:

- 2015 - University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
- 2016 - Northern Michigan University (joint with East Lakes)
- 2017 - Eastern Illinois University (tentative)

Research Highlight

Navigating the Changing Immigrant Health Care Landscape in Immokalee, Florida

Submitted by Michele Bolduc

I am a PhD candidate at the University of Kentucky interested in the changing geographies of health and health care in rural places. My dissertation looks at four interrelated aspects of women’s health care delivery (availability, provision, accessibility, and utilization) in Immokalee—a migrant farmworker town in southwest Florida. Many of you are probably familiar with Immokalee, which became the site of a successful farmworker campaign in the late 1990s to reverse declining wages for laborers by working to get better prices on tomatoes from fast food corporations. Despite these successes and ongoing efforts to increase the standard of living in Immokalee, however, severe socio-economic disparities continue to plague farmworkers and their families.

My research looks specifically at the persistence of health disparities amongst Haitian women in Immokalee. Using semi-structured interviews, I explore women’s experiences of care, their barriers to accessing the care they need, and their spatial patterns of service utilization. In addition, I am interviewing local health care providers on their experiences providing care to Haitian women within the context of the issues associated with rural health care (such as a lack
of specialists) and the changes ushered in by the Affordable Care Act. With the help of my wonderful research assistant, China Pierrelus—a Haitian-American community health student who has been helping with translation and outreach as she prepares to attend medical school—I have been able to complete about half of the interviews I plan to do with Haitian immigrant women and their health care providers. However, I was recently awarded a (much-needed) NSF DDRI grant, which has allowed me to do additional interviews on the topic of prenatal care through the summer.

Though I am only half way through the interviews, a few patterns in the data have already emerged. For example, most Haitian women have expressed that they face a number of financial barriers to obtaining quality care. Even the $20 required to be seen at the local community health center is often more than the women have to pay, considering the average family income of the women I have been interviewing is under $10,000 a year. Though most of these women would have benefited from an expansion of Medicaid under the ACA, Florida is one of the many states that refused to participate in the expansion. This means that many of the women I interviewed fall into the “donut hole” where they make too much money to qualify for the very limited Medicaid programs available in the state, but they also make too little money to qualify for a health insurance subsidy. In addition, many women have noted the lack of easy access to emergency/urgent care (an ongoing issue in many rural places). For the many women I have interviewed without access to a car, this means that they have to take two buses (a 2.5 - 3 hour process) to get to the nearest ER room in Naples.

These initial findings (and more!) will be shared at the upcoming AAG meeting in Chicago, and at the American Public Health Association meeting in the fall. For additional information about the study, please feel free to contact me at Michele.Bolduc@uky.edu.
Exploring Place Attachment in Kansas’ Central Great Plains

Submitted by Bill Wetherholt

I have been selected as 1 of 15 members of the U.S. delegation participating in the 8th Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian, and American Rural Geographers this July in Wales. My paper presentation "Exploring Place Attachment in Kansas’ Central Great Plains: A Jewell County Pilot Study" at the 2014 Association of American Geographers Breaking Boundaries SWAAG-GPRM Joint Regional Meeting in Albuquerque won best paper. I am the 2014 GTU Buzzard Graduate Scholarship recipient and as the acting GTU Beta Psi chapter president at Kansas State we were awarded the National Honors Chapter award for 2014. Recently, I was chosen as the Junior Student Executive for Gamma Theta Upsilon and will serve while finishing up research and defending in Spring 2016. I am also a nominee for the 2015 Presidential Undergraduate Teaching Award at Kansas State University, but it’s been so long that I am pretty sure a nominee I will remain.

I am currently using a sequential mixed method strategy of a mailed questionnaire followed up by 3-4 focus groups to explore rootedness in the emptying rural Great Plains counties of Kansas and Nebraska.

The main drive of my Ph.D. research is to identify the elements of place that encourage people to stay in very small towns and rural areas characterized by outmigration and economic disadvantage; in other words, the aspects of place that discourage a move despite an apparent surplus of local push factors. Additionally, I am trying to determine if individuals in Kansas and Nebraska’s depopulating Central Great Plains counties are attached to place, stuck in it, or a combination therein.

Research in the Great Plains is critical to regional well-being; some counties have lost more than half of their overall population in the past 50 years. My work adds to existing foundations of knowledge in population geography, rural geography, and the geography of the Great Plains. The project components currently under way and planned for the summer represent an important contribution to our current understanding of how individuals in very rural space perceive and evaluate their surroundings, adding to current understanding of the complexities of human-environmental interactions through 1) evaluating the perceptions and evaluations of physical,
social, personal, temporal, and economic aspects of very rural space, 2) exploring the relationship between mobility decisions of the very rural and their proximity to areas of growth, and 3) identifying threads of insider knowledge that contribute to local to regional rural sustainability initiatives.

Outside the scope of my dissertation research, I am interested in using repeat photography to visualize the decay of the built cultural landscape, I enjoy teaching and discussing critical cartography, previously I investigated (for my M.A.) the inclusion of ethics in RS/GIS pedagogy and would very much like to get back into those related GI privacy/ethics discussions, and I would like to become more involved in geographic education and outreach as a faculty member.

Ethnographic fieldwork with the Peasants' Movement of Papaye (MPP) in central Haiti

*Submitted by Sophie Moore*

![Crossing a river to visit maize fields in Maisad, Haiti](image1)

![Observing Moringa drying racks](image2)

![Learning about Moringa tree cultivation in Papay, Haiti](image3)
Networking Chair Update

Relational Landscape Studies

“Relational landscape studies of urbanization” conference in Alnarp, Sweden (June 2014)

Submitted by Colleen C. Hiner

In June 2014, I, along with several other Rural Geography Specialty Group affiliates, attended the “Relational landscape studies of urbanization” conference in Alnarp, Sweden. The conference including presenters from several continents and many countries and sought to “explore the potential of relational landscape studies as a means to gain more nuanced understanding of the messy processes of urbanisation and peri-urbanisation” (per the conference website: http://www.landscapestudies.se).

Paper topics all related to the “landscape” theme and included presenters from fields like geography, environmental studies, planning, agriculture, history, and political ecology. The conference was hosted by Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management and took place at the Swedish University of Agriculture Sciences. Below are some photos of the campus as well as from Malmo, Sweden, the most proximate metropolitan area.

Photos by Colleen Hiner Malmö, Sweden waterfront, June 12, 2014
Recent Publications

This is a partial list, submitted by RGSG members.


Bock, B. Gender mainstreaming and rural development policy, the trivialization of rural gender issues. Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography. Special Issue Rural, Gender, and Policy. 22(5): 731-745.


http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415829083/


Rural Geography in the News

Submitted by Amy Rock

The following map was created by Brianna Boyd and Sunflower Wittenberg, students at Humboldt State, as part of a Cartography Practicum project for Food for People. They went out with GPS units to locate food pantries, as many were previously unidentified, and then provided a report on food security in the county which included this map. The map was part of coverage by the Humboldt Edge on Homelessness and the Food for People Emergency Food Pantry Network.

# QuickGuide to RGSG Sponsored Sessions

Submitted by Ryan Bergstrom

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1169</td>
<td>21. Apr</td>
<td>8:00-9:40</td>
<td>Political Ecology and Social-Ecological Interactions of Food Production and Systems I: Social and Ecological Sustainability</td>
<td>Randolph, Hyatt, East Tower, Ped Path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1193</td>
<td>21. Apr</td>
<td>8:00-9:40</td>
<td>Agrobiodiversity and Food Security/Sovereignty: Unpacking the paradox</td>
<td>600b Classroom, University of Chicago Gleacher Center, 6th Floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>1195</td>
<td>21. Apr</td>
<td>8:00-9:40</td>
<td>Critical Geographies of the US Farm Bill Policy &amp; Politics</td>
<td>604 Classroom, University of Chicago Gleacher Center, 6th Floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>1269</td>
<td>21. Apr</td>
<td>10:00-11:40</td>
<td>Political Ecology and Social-Ecological Interactions of Food Production and Systems II: Urban Food Systems and Activism</td>
<td>Randolph, Hyatt, East Tower, Ped Path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1293</td>
<td>21. Apr</td>
<td>10:00-11:40</td>
<td>Agrobiodiversity and Food Security/Sovereignty: Roundtable on concepts, methods, and measurement</td>
<td>600b Classroom, University of Chicago Gleacher Center, 6th Floor</td>
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<tr>
<td>1506</td>
<td>21. Apr</td>
<td>2:40-4:20</td>
<td>Food Utopias: Responding to the Challenges Facing Agriculture and Food Systems I</td>
<td>Skyway 273, Hyatt, East Tower, Blue Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>1606</td>
<td>21. Apr</td>
<td>4:40-6:20</td>
<td>Food Utopias: Responding to the Challenges Facing Agriculture and Food Systems II</td>
<td>Skyway 273, Hyatt, East Tower, Blue Level</td>
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<td>2152</td>
<td>22. Apr</td>
<td>8:00-9:40</td>
<td>Rural gentrification and its conceptual others</td>
<td>Stetson BC, Hyatt, West Tower, Purple Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>2162</td>
<td>22. Apr</td>
<td>8:00-9:40</td>
<td>Political Ecology and Social-Ecological Interactions of Food Production and Systems IV: Resilience</td>
<td>Stetson G, Hyatt, West Tower, Purple Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>2252</td>
<td>22. Apr</td>
<td>10:00-11:40</td>
<td>Rural gentrification: a globalising phenomenon?</td>
<td>Stetson BC, Hyatt, West Tower, Purple Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>2256</td>
<td>22. Apr</td>
<td>10:00-11:40</td>
<td>Political Ecology and Social-Ecological Interactions of Food Production and Systems V: Commodities and Global Integration</td>
<td>Stetson G, Hyatt, West Tower, Purple Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>2461</td>
<td>22. Apr</td>
<td>12:00-3:00</td>
<td>Agrarian Development in Africa I: Capital Flows, Peasant Struggles, and Environmental Change</td>
<td>Horner, Hyatt, West Tower, Silver Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>2502</td>
<td>22. Apr</td>
<td>3:20-5:00</td>
<td>Agrarian Change in the Coffee Lands: Methods for Livelihoods, Gender, Agroecology, and Food Security</td>
<td>Skyway 261, Hyatt, East Tower, Blue Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>2561</td>
<td>22. Apr</td>
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<td>Agrarian Development in Africa II: Capital Flows, Peasant Struggles, and Environmental Change</td>
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<td>22. Apr</td>
<td>3:20-5:00</td>
<td>Rural Geography Research in Africa</td>
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<td>2652</td>
<td>22. Apr</td>
<td>5:20-7:00</td>
<td>Rural gentrification: a transatlantic concept?</td>
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<td>3179</td>
<td>23. Apr</td>
<td>8:00-9:40</td>
<td>Evaluating environmental impacts of agri-environmental programmes - methodological issues and future roles</td>
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<td>New Voices in Rural Geography</td>
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<td>3279</td>
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<td>Moving towards payments for multiple ecosystem services - review of key issues and future research needs</td>
<td>St. Morits, Swissôtel, Lucerne Level</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>11:50</td>
<td>23 Apr</td>
<td>Business Meeting</td>
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<td>23 Apr</td>
<td>Food Politics and The Agrarian Question I</td>
<td>Michigan A, Hyatt, East Tower, Ped Path</td>
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<td>3:20</td>
<td>23 Apr</td>
<td>Challenges and Solutions in International Geography Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:20</td>
<td>23 Apr</td>
<td>Food Politics and The Agrarian Question II</td>
<td>Michigan A, Hyatt, East Tower, Ped Path</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>24 Apr</td>
<td>Local Food &amp; Agriculture</td>
<td>Skyway 273, Hyatt, East Tower, Blue Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>24 Apr</td>
<td>Perceptions and sociopolitical narratives in environmental planning I: Case studies of (energy) decision-making</td>
<td>Skyway 282, Hyatt, East Tower, Blue Level</td>
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<td>24 Apr</td>
<td>A Tribute to Harley Johansen</td>
<td>Grand Suite 2 AB, Hyatt, East Tower, Gold Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:20</td>
<td>24 Apr</td>
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<td>Grand Suite 2 AB, Hyatt, East Tower, Gold Level</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:20</td>
<td>24 Apr</td>
<td>Harder, Faster, Deeper, Stronger: Ecological Restructuring and the Primary Sector</td>
<td>Horner, Hyatt, West Tower, Silver Level</td>
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<td>5:20</td>
<td>24 Apr</td>
<td>Exploring Cultural and Historic Narratives in the Shaping of Rural Resource Landscapes</td>
<td>Water Tower, Hyatt, West Tower, Bronze Level</td>
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<td>Labor/workers across the food chain: Building collaborations between activists and academics</td>
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<td>5:20</td>
<td>24 Apr</td>
<td>Harder, Faster, Deeper, Stronger: Ecological Restructuring and the Primary Sector 2</td>
<td>Horner, Hyatt, West Tower, Silver Level</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>25 Apr</td>
<td>Contemporary Farming in the United States</td>
<td>Columbus AB, Hyatt, East Tower, Gold Level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>25 Apr</td>
<td>Changing geographies of rural health and health services</td>
<td>Acapulco, Hyatt, West Tower, Gold Level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>25 Apr</td>
<td>Boom and bust methodology: Opportunities and challenges with conducting fieldwork at sites of resource extraction</td>
<td>Skyway 282, Hyatt, East Tower, Blue Level</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>25 Apr</td>
<td>Oil and Gas Extraction: Industry, Impacts, Conflicts, Class, and Response</td>
<td>Grindelwald, Swissôtel, Lucerne Level</td>
<td></td>
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RGSG Highlighted Session: New Voices

The upcoming New Voices session, has a range of topics, including: corporate-community relations in the Alberta oil sands, rootedness in the depopulating Central Great Plains, a case study focused on female farmer experience in a Montana growers coop, the geographies of water waste in southern Idaho, and how some women construct their attachment to place in areas of rural Spain. For more information, contact, Bill Wetherholt and Jessica Breen.

Author Meets Critics: America’s Public Lands

Randall K. Wilson, Professor of Environmental Studies at Gettysburg College will discuss his book, America’s Public Lands: From Yellowstone to Smokey Bear and Beyond. The book will receive the 2015 J.B. Jackson Prize given by the AAG.

Session 5248 - Saturday, 4/25/2015, from 10:00 AM - 11:40 AM in Crystal A, Hyatt, West Tower, Green Level

Field Trip: Agriculture of Illinois

The Geographies of Food and Agriculture Specialty Group is sponsoring a field trip on the agriculture of Illinois on Saturday April 25th from 8-6pm. This field trip will explore a range of agricultural production operations in the northern part of the state to learn about the diversity and complexity of Illinois' agricultural landscapes. The tour will include a visit to a state of the art robotic dairy operation, a large-scale commercial cattle operation, a tour of Angelic Organics, one of the largest organic community supported agriculture (CSA) operations in the country, and a lunch stop at a farm to table restaurant in Rockford.

There are still spaces available on this field trip! This should be a great day showcasing the huge variety of agricultural operations that Illinois is home to. Sign up soon so you can be part of the fun.

Registration: http://www.aag.org/cs/annualmeeting/fieldtrips

For more information, contact: Courtney Gallaher (cgallaher@niu.edu)

Relational Poverty Research at this year’s Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting.

The RPN consolidates a community of researchers across disciplinary and geographical boundaries who expand thinking about the causes of poverty and difference. A sub-conference at the AAG will feature network members’ work.

Upcoming Conferences and Call for Papers

Interdisciplinary Approaches to ‘Setting the Scene’: Representations of Rurality in Crime Fiction and Media Culture

will be held June 15th and 16th, 2015 at Queen’s University, Belfast. This conference will be an opportunity to come together to discuss rurality and the crime fiction genre in interdisciplinary and international contexts. Prof. Paul Cloke, University of Exeter, is confirmed as one of the Keynote speakers. Rural Geographers are invited to participate and propose thematic sessions.

Registration is free. For more details go to: [http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/InstituteforCollaborativeResearchintheHumanities/Filestore/Fileupload,472746,en.pdf](http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/InstituteforCollaborativeResearchintheHumanities/Filestore/Fileupload,472746,en.pdf)

Contact: Dr Linda Price, Institute for Collaborative Research in the Humanities, Queen’s University, Belfast – L.Price@qub.ac.uk

Critical Geography Conference

“There is nothing that is major or revolutionary except the minor.”


What political and theoretical possibilities inhere in the practices of critical geography today? What can critical geography do to appropriate languages, connect to politics, and form collective assemblages? These are the acts of what Deleuze and Guattari call “a minor literature,” one that is charged with political immediacy and possibility. Almost 20 years ago, Cindi Katz urged geographers towards the minor key of oppositional theory. The work of minor geography -- in Katz’s words, “to mark and produce alternative subjectivities, spatialities, and temporalities” ([1996: 490](http://geography.as.uky.edu/critmini-call-for-proposals)) -- continues today. We invite you to join us for the 22nd Critical Geography Conference at the University of Kentucky, Oct. 23rd and 24th, 2015. Cindi Katz, Professor of Geography in Environmental Psychology and Women’s Studies of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, will be the keynote speaker.

Instead of a formal abstract, we invite submissions of a short description (<150 words) of your potential contributions towards any of the following topics or themes (via our conference website at: [http://geography.as.uky.edu/critmini-call-for-proposals](http://geography.as.uky.edu/critmini-call-for-proposals)):

- Displacement and mobilities
- (Re)producing environments
- Difference
- Materialisms
In the spirit of creating a minor space for the pursuit of critical social theory and progressive political praxis, we will review these expressions of potential contributions and organize participants into a range of different formats, to include conventional paper sessions, panel discussions, and performance. With an eye toward diversity of participants at different stages of career, we will work with participants to organize these sessions.

The deadline for submission of your proposed contribution is May 15th. The conference committee will then contact you regarding this contribution and its incorporation into our conference sessions by July 15th, so that you may plan accordingly. If you have questions, please contact us at ukgeog@gmail.com.

For more information, contact: Patricia Ehrkamp, p.ehrkamp@uky.edu

Call for Papers: Edited Collection: Rethinking Globalization and Spatial Scale

We are seeking essays for an edited collection, *Rethinking Globalization and Spatial Scale*. The goal of the volume is to bring together interdisciplinary research on globalization spanning the humanities and social sciences that foregrounds theoretical and methodological conceptualizations of scale—how people, capital, goods, material infrastructure, ideas, and power aggregate along or slide among different degrees or levels of attachment, from personal to local to national to transnational.

We are assembling essays that reconnect the seemingly different registers of scale to reconsider how scholars use scale to understand the operations of power and to retheorize the primary conceptual categories of historical and modern life (such as those central binaries of local and global, center and periphery, west and non-west). We expect the edited collection to extend beyond the recent spatial and transnational turn in the academy by focusing on scale as a material indicator of, and active agent in, the constitution of the world.

The interdisciplinary range of the collection will be broad; we currently have commitments from prominent scholars in literary studies, history, communications, and geography.
We ask that you send a brief CV and a 500-word abstract by May 29, 2015 to globalspatialscale.collection@gmail.com outlining your proposed essay submission.

We will be evaluating essay proposals and making decisions about the shape of the project in the early summer 2015. We estimate we would need completed essays by early fall. Several university and trade publishers have expressed early and very strong interest in the project.

James Mulholland, Department of English, North Carolina State University

Rebecca Walsh, Department of English, North Carolina State University

Steve Wiley, Department of Communication, North Carolina State University