



International Comparative Rural Policy Studies (ICRPS)

Twitter Conference 2021

#ICRPS2021

Program

June 15 - 18



CDT/CEST*	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18
8:00 AM/ 3:00 PM	Beyond City Limit(at)ions): Place-Based Innovation in Rural Canada and Northern Scotland	Building Back Better: creating a better Canada through an Indigenous Circular Economy recovery.	Virtual Insanity: Fixing broken policy loops in order to bridge Canada's digital divides	Food policies and food regimes
8:20 AM/ 3:20 PM	Place-based regional development as theoretical approach	Trends affecting rural areas and innovative practices for rural regeneration and generational renewal	Using Design Thinking Tools to address the Digital Divide	Side effects of organic agriculture policies
8:40 AM/ 3:40 PM	Advancing Rural Policy through Horizontal Relationships: Key Insights from a Pan-Canadian Initiative	Embedding rural capital: Community Investment Funds in Canada and their implications for rural communities	Location, location, location: How a rural school can influence migration decisions	Detection and characterization of clusters in the organic agrofood industry in Catalonia
9:00 AM/ 4:00 PM	Municipal collaborations in rural Ontario infrastructure Management	Covid-19 and the differential impacts on the rural and urban economies	Understanding barriers of Nepali Immigrants living in Guelph to access recreational activities in City of Guelph	Agritourism as a Solution to Rural Revitalization?: A Case Study of North Durham Region
9:20 AM/ 4:20 PM	Cannabis in rural southern Ontario: Qualms of a jurisdictional nature	The impact of COVID-19: A Rural Lens	Social Networking: Strategy for strengthening future settlement and integration for immigrants in secondary tiers in Canada	Overcoming Barriers to Agriculture in Northern Ontario: Separating Myth from Reality
12:20 PM/ 7:20 PM	Coffee In. Poverty Out. Can a "Sustainable Shift" in Specialty Coffee Fuel Rural Development in Coffee Producing Countries?"	Counting Covid 19: How a pandemic shaped Housing and Homelessness in Western Newfoundland and Labrador	Trial by Concrecence: Lefebvre, Whitehead, and Rural Geography	
12:40 PM/ 7:40 PM	Impoverishment Risks of Climate-induced Planned Relocation in Coastal Communities	Diversity, Inclusion and Attainable housing in Rural Small-Town Areas: The Case of Center Wellington	Becoming an Informed Rural Community Development Leader	

*CDT – Central Daylight Time (North America)

*CEST – Central European Summer Time

June 15

Time: 8:00 AM (CDT)/3:00 PM (CSET)
Beyond City Limit (ations): Place-Based Innovation in Rural Canada and Northern Scotland
Presenter: Ashleigh Weeden (@ashleighweeden) – University of Guelph
Key Words: innovation, place-based policy, rural policy
<p>We live in an era obsessed with innovation, as evidenced by the proliferation of 'innovation agendas' across all jurisdictions across the globe. However, contemporary innovation policy struggles to bridge the rural-urban divide and often attempts to superimpose urban notions of innovation in rural contexts. The result are policies and development approaches that treat rural communities as failures, cities in waiting, or backwards rather than critical sites that represent the nexus of significant local and global transformations that will impact society through food, energy, climate change, migration, governance, and economic development – a total failure to imagine and value uniquely rural innovation systems. It's time to dig into the radical potential of the rural by leaving behind the outdated assumption that both rural decline and unchallenged urbanization are the twin-edges of some inevitable compromise. This Twitter presentation will highlight critical gaps in current approaches to innovation policy in rural Canada and northern Scotland based on a comparative case-study of place-based innovation in Huron Bruce (Ontario, Canada) and Caithness and Sutherland (Scotland) with particular emphasis on the policy implications of treating place as both a foundational element and key influencing factor in supporting rurally-defined innovation priorities.</p>

Time: 8:20 AM (CDT)/3:20 PM (CSET)
Place-based regional development as theoretical approach
Presenter: Paula Tulppo (@PaulaTulppo) - University of Lapland
Key Words: place-based regional development, theoretical approach, local perspective
<p>The presentation examines the concept of place-based regional development policy. Regional development aims at developing regions with support by several development activities but certain public interest is not always good for everyone. In order to make regional development more effective from the local point of view than it has often been several scholars have</p>

Time: 8:20 AM (CDT)/3:20 PM (CSET)

Place-based regional development as theoretical approach

addressed a need for better consideration of local context when creating paths and activities to increase development in the regions. According to this place-based regional development each city, region, and rural district offers opportunities for enhancing well-being, and development should be tailored to the needs of each. What kind of approach place-based regional development policy is in theoretical sense and how it aims at developing regions? This will be analysed in the presentation. The analysis will be based on literature review.

Time: 8:40 AM (CDT)/3:40 PM (CSET)

Advancing Rural Policy through Horizontal Relationships: Key Insights from a Pan-Canadian Initiative

Presenters:

Lissel Hernandez-Gongora (@LisselHG) – University of Guelph
Ryan Gibson (@ryanfgibson) – University of Guelph

Key Words: Horizontal Relationships, Rural Policy, Canada

Rural development policies are the purview of multiple levels of government. Horizontal relationships between governments, both formal and informal, are often required to design and implement rural policies. Horizontal relationships occur between units that do not have hierarchical control over each other. To advance the understanding of how horizontal relationships can be utilized to support rural development, this research analyzes a multi-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative focused on rural development policy. The research examines the motivations, the benefits, and the challenges of horizontal relationships. The research findings emerge from key informant interviews conducted with provincial, territorial, and federal government representatives in late 2020. Knowledge exchange, including sharing of good practices and lessons learned, were identified as the main benefits of horizontal relationships among the participating governments. Learning from the experiences of other governments has the potential to save human and financial resources when implementing rural policies and programing. This research is supported through research funding from the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance.

Time: 9:00 AM (CDT)/4:00 PM (CSET)

Municipal collaborations in rural Ontario infrastructure Management

Presenter:

Melissa Visser (@MelissaVisser17) – University of Guelph

Key Words: Infrastructure, Rural, Development, Ontario

Canada's infrastructure deficit is a well-documented issue facing all government orders across all jurisdictions (Fenn, 2016). Rural communities are unique in that they must provide and maintain a full range of infrastructure for a small population size spread across large areas. Yet, rural communities face challenges of varying technical, financial, political or civic capacity to address infrastructure needs (Porter, 2004), directly influencing the effectiveness of its management (Robinson et al. 2008). For rural municipalities to be successful, they must develop strategies to address gaps in capacity to manage infrastructure. Collaborative approaches among municipalities, and involving the academic community and private partners, have been utilized by a number of municipalities to increase capacity and successfully manage infrastructure.

Reflecting on the rural Ontario case study site of Loyalist Township and their use of green infrastructure, this research provides insights into collaboration and partnership strategies utilized in rural infrastructure management. Additionally, the research provides an evidence-based reflection on the implications of rural infrastructure management on economic development. Uncovering collaboration and partnership strategies has the implication of increasing rural capacity and informing future rural provincial policy and mechanisms to support rural communities.

Time: 9:20 AM (CDT)/4:20 PM (CSET)

Cannabis in rural southern Ontario: Qualms of a jurisdictional nature

Presenter: Alessia Pugliese (@AlessiaPuglies7) – University of Guelph

Key Words: Cannabis, land use planning, agriculture, Ontario, cannabis production facility

Cannabis production in Ontario is gaining a noxious reputation with local governments due to odour, lighting, and nuisance enforcement issues. The escaped odour emanating from cannabis production facilities are severely impacting rural wellbeing, to the extent that the County of Simcoe has implored Parliament to re-consider the policies set forth by the Cannabis Act (2018). Although preliminary research has explored the rules and regulations of cannabis production, there is still a vast amount of concern surrounding the establishment of cannabis production facilities on agriculturally zoned lands. As the industry holds substantial economic promise, it is integral to understand the impact cannabis holds for rural planning in an attempt to avoid further land-use conflict. This study analyzes the proceedings of the Local Planning and

Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) for The Township of Oro-Medonte Zoning By-law No. 2020-046, which outlaws cannabis production within Agricultural and Specialized Agricultural zones. Appellants argue that the bylaw is in violation of the Provincial Planning Statement (2020) as well as the Farming and Food Production Protection Act (1998). Analysis of the LPAT hearings provides a deeper understanding surrounding cannabis production within agricultural zones and the impacts that it holds for rural life.

Time: 12:20 AM (CDT)/7:20 PM (CSET)

Coffee In. Poverty Out. Can a “Sustainable Shift” in Specialty Coffee Fuel Rural Development in Coffee Producing Countries?

Presenter:

Andrea Woolverton (@twinenginecoffee) – Twin Engine Coffee

Key Words: Rural migration, Specialty coffee, Nicaragua, coffee model, international trade, economic development

Between the U.S. and Canada, we drink 415 million cups of coffee DAILY. Statistically speaking, zero of these coffees are produced ‘locally’. The ‘colonial coffee model’ prevails: raw coffee leaves the production country with value-added occurring in the consuming country. In the case of coffee [& crops such as cacao], the producing countries are among the lowest Per Capita GDP in the world; the consuming countries among the highest. In the consuming countries, retail shelves are stocked with logo-stamped, multi-certified roasted coffees. Coffee consumers are paying more than ever for their cup of specialty coffee. Yet, less than 10% of the retail coffee value goes to the producing country and consumers are drinking a mixed quality cup. Technological and cultural shifts over the last 20 years have made a new coffee model attainable: “Roasting at the Source”. Twin Engine Coffee has tested this ‘case study’ over the last eight years. By shifting roasting to the source, roasting, the principal value-added step in coffee production, allows coffee producing countries to retain up to 50% of the final retail value. In Nicaragua alone, this ‘sustainable shift’ could move the annual GDP Per Capita from USD \$1,890 to USD \$22,000. These [potential] resources proxy the significant power that a new coffee model can have on rural development and sustainable production in tropical food-producing countries. Value-added is the classic development strategy, yet coffee consumer awareness & acceptance lags. With a shift in consumer awareness, the potential can be realized.

Time: 12:40 AM (CDT)/7:40 PM (CSET)

Impoverishment Risks of Climate-induced Planned Relocation in Coastal Communities

Presenter:

Yanjun Liang (@Yanjun Liang) – University of Guelph

Key Words: coastal community; planned relocation; risk perception; climate change

Under the increasing climate threats, mass population migrations are gradually occurring in coastal communities along South Pacific Ocean to Arctic Circle. Such migration can be legitimately planned by institutions as an adaptation policy response to climate change. Yet to date, little attention has been paid by policymakers or researchers to the development of a comprehensive framework for the climate-induced planned relocation (CIPR) in coastal communities. The Impoverishment Risks and Reconstruction Model, being the most widely used planning tool for resettlement, can therefore be applied in such context to fill the policy gap. My research aims to identify overemphasized and overlooked risks in the Model and to adapt the Model to CIPR in coastal communities. To achieve that, a literature review of the past resettlement practice was conducted to identify the common risks coastal resettlers had experienced in the past resettlement projects. Subsequently, field research was conducted in Placencia, Belize to learn the risk perceptions of the current coastal community residents. My research also provides a methodological model for future research that aims to adapt the Model to other contexts.

June 16

Time: 8:00 AM (CDT)/3:00 PM (CSET)

Building Back Better: creating a better Canada through an Indigenous Circular Economy recovery.

Presenters:

Wayne Kelly (@wkruraldev) – University of Winnipeg

Bruce Hardy – Myera Group

Ryan Bullock - University of Winnipeg

Key Words: Circular Economy, Indigenous economic development, Indigenous inclusion, COVID19 recovery

The past 16 months of COVID-19 has drastically affected all aspects of Canadian society, including rural Canada. With vaccinations providing some reprieve on the horizon, there is a growing focus on how Canada will recover. Globally and within Canada there is increasing discussion about the opportunity of turning to a green circular economy to help drive the recovery. The transition to a circular economy will have substantial impact, challenges, and

opportunities for rural Canada. Indigenous communities in Canada have traditionally embraced a holistic, circular approach to development and Canada would be best served by ensuring that Indigenous people, businesses, and communities are at the forefront of the green economic recovery. This presentation will discuss how Indigenous economic development and the Circular Economy are synonymous in many ways. National and international directives for Indigenous economic and social inclusion will also be examined as focusing on an Indigenous led Circular Economy addresses societal injustices as well. A case example showcasing what Indigenous Circular Economy projects can look like will be used to help articulate the opportunity and potential. Supporting an Indigenous Circular Economy will help build a better Canada, contributing to a green economic recovery as well as reconciliation.

Time: 8:20 AM (CDT)/3:20 PM (CSET)

Trends affecting rural areas and innovative practices for rural regeneration and generational renewal

Presenters:

Consulta Europa (@Ruralization_EU)

Key Words: Rural; development; future; trends; analysis

RURALIZATION develops a novel perspective for rural areas, offering new generations stimulating opportunities for economic and social sustainability within rural contexts. These opportunities will serve existing inhabitants of rural areas and rural newcomers to develop novel and innovative perspectives as well as relational networks in rural areas. RURALIZATION develops innovative practices, which are transferable to different contexts. Innovations will be on facilitating rural newcomers, new entrants into farming and access to land for new generations. The outcomes of the project will result in novel options for policy makers and practical tools for rural actors. One of RURALIZATION's main research topics focuses on foresight analysis and trends affecting rural areas and innovative practices for rural regeneration and generational renewal. Foresight analysis investigates rural dreams of new generations and designs alternative rural futures. It provides ideas of the possible futures of rural areas by analysing context specific trends of developments or signals of change. The innovative practices analysis provides inspiration for rural regeneration and generation renewal policies across Europe. In the course of the project's extensive research, we were able to identify 1,560 trends, which were analysed and synthesised in 60 trends cards, which we would like to present at this Conference.

Time: 8:40 AM (CDT)/3:40 PM (CSET)

Embedding rural capital: Community Investment Funds in Canada and their implications for rural communities

Presenters:

Alex Petric (@alectric91) – University of Guelph
Ryan Gibson (@ryanfgibson) – University of Guelph

Key Words: Community Economic Development, Provincial Policy, Program Evaluation, Financial Capital

Wealth is less “embedded” in place now due to economic changes that make people and employment more mobile. To respond to the mobility of wealth, some provinces have created Community Investment Fund programs to reduce the loss of capital in rural areas to cities. These programs allow citizens to earn tax credits while investing in local organizations and businesses focused on community economic development.

Our presentation will summarize results from a paper assessing these funds (which is currently submitted for publication) and what they mean for rural development in Canada. Our research finds these programs spur local economic and community development in their target areas by providing capital for businesses and organizations. However, they require government support to truly flourish and they could be used more broadly among Canada’s provinces.

Time: 9:00 AM (CDT)/4:00 PM (CSET)

Covid-19 and the differential impacts on the rural and urban economies

Presenters:

Ray Bollman

Key Words: COVID-19 Impact Rural Canada

The COVID-19 “disaster” has had differential impacts across sectors and, in most sectors, differential impacts for the urban versus the rural economy. A baseline understanding of these differential impacts signals the size and location of needed post-disaster adjustments to the new economy.

Daily news agencies document the sector-by-sector stocktaking of the impact of COVID-19. However, the rural<>urban differential economic impacts are not well known.

The objective of this paper is to dissect the economic impacts of COVID-19 into their rural and urban components in Canada. Our focus will be an assessment based on Statistics Canada’s Labour Force Survey but additional information will be added from the monthly data on business openings and closures, monthly data on recipients of Employment Insurance Benefits and quarterly data the Canadian Survey of Business Conditions.

Time: 9:20 AM (CDT)/9:20 PM (CSET)

The impact of COVID-19: A Rural Lens

Presenter:

Leith Deacon (@scd_planning)– University of Guelph

Key Words: COVID-19, mental health, economic development, quantitative survey

COVID-19 has impacted all segments of society. However, how the pandemic has been experienced by residents in small and rural communities has received far less attention from academia, and all levels of government. This presentation will draw on results from a quantitative survey (N = 3,600) conducted across two rural counties to highlight how COVID-19 has impacted rural residents (e.g., decreased mental health, economic development implications) and why it is critical that response plans reflect the realities of these communities.

Time: 12:20 AM (CDT)/7:20 PM (CSET)

Counting Covid 19: How a pandemic shaped Housing and Homelessness in Western Newfoundland and Labrador

Presenter:

Dr. Michelle Porter (@MEPIndependent) - Memorial University

Key Words: rural housing; homelessness; pandemic research

There are large gaps in academic knowledge about housing and homelessness related to rural areas as compared to urban centres. Affordable, safe housing is a key component to rural development that is inclusive. However, most housing and homelessness related policies are determined by urban contexts even though rural housing and homelessness require place-based supports that acknowledge rural contexts. This presentation contextualizes findings following a community-based collaborative research project designed to quantify housing and homelessness in Western Newfoundland and Labrador. The findings presented will focus on two areas: 1. The impact of a Covid-related provincial shutdown during our first homeless count and how this shifted the landscape of homelessness; 3. The long-term impact of boom-bust economic cycles on affordable housing in rural communities.

Time: 12:40 AM (CDT)/7:40 PM (CSET)

Diversity, Inclusion and Attainable housing in Rural Small-Town Areas: The Case of Center Wellington

Presenter:

Victoria Agyepong (@VicInnovates) – University of Guelph

Key Words: attainable, housing, inclusion

Most rural small-town areas near larger urban centers in Southern Ontario are anticipated to increase to almost double their current population size in the next 20-30 years. This rising population has raised concerns for the attainability and affordability of quality rented and ownership housing for the working populace who are made vulnerable due to mismatched rent and work terms, low income, “too small or too large” household sizes and unattractive community development processes. Using Center Wellington as a case study, this presentation outlines how an attainable housing assessment model which factors local income trends, demographic trends, economic trends, land use limitations and opportunities as well as the operational capacity of local government can help develop an attainable housing program (with targets) to make rental and ownership housing more inclusive for a diverse working population in rural and small town areas.

June 17

Time: 8:00 AM (CDT)/3:00 PM (CSET)

Virtual Insanity: Fixing broken policy loops in order to bridge Canada’s digital divides

Presenter:

Ashleigh Weeden (@ashleighweeden) – University of Guelph

Wayne Kelly (@wkruraldev) – RDI/Brandon University

Key Words: coastal community; planned relocation; risk perception; climate change

More than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, the digital divide between rural and urban communities has grown into a chasm. Indeed, there is no singular divide, but rather multiple digital divides across capacity, investment, and opportunities for communities that have been pushed to the periphery of policy making. Despite decades of warnings by communities and researchers alike, Canada has been woefully unprepared for this moment where digital infrastructure and the capacity to use it are more critical than ever before. When it comes to digital infrastructure and policy, most orders of government in Canada continue to do the same thing over and over again, hoping for different results – recalling Einstein’s definition of insanity.

Addressing digital divides requires a radically different approach than those currently dominating most policy interventions and includes action on more than just connectivity. This Twitter presentation will outline a three-pronged approach to addressing rural Canada's digital divide and realize the full potential of a digital rural: (1) putting equity at the heart of digital policy; (2) employing place-based approaches to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable high-speed broadband Internet; (3) and committing to a long-term digital capacity development agenda. It's time to get to work.

Time: 8:20 AM (CDT)/3:20 PM (CSET)

Using Design Thinking Tools to address the Digital Divide

Presenters:

Karen Mc Grath (@kazmcg94) - University College Dublin
Áine Regan (@aineregan) - University College Dublin
Tomás Russell (@tomas_russell) - University College Dublin

Key Words: Adoption. Design Thinking Tools. Digitalisation. Digital Divide. Rural.

Digitalisation is important for rural development; however, disparities exist within rural communities in terms of technology use and adoption. This unevenness is contributing to what is known as the digital divide. To alleviate this problem, a greater understanding of the factors affecting adoption and the manner in which technologies are designed and developed for use in rural contexts is required. One way of achieving this is through the use of Design Thinking Tools. Utilising this approach, this research intends to take a technology at an early technology readiness level and apply user centred design. Working in an Irish context, this participatory approach will employ social science methodologies such as workshops, interviews, and focus groups to facilitate understanding and exploration of context-specific issues and users' needs, identifying key barriers and facilitators to end user adoption of technology. Main issues, challenges, and needs will be defined, which will inform the design, prototyping, and testing of co-designed solutions. The expected impacts of this approach will be the creation of successful technologies tailor made to address context specific issues and user needs, ensuring a product is made directly with and for the end user. This approach would ensure more even adoption of technologies within rural areas, curtailing the digital divide, and ultimately promoting rural development and sustainability.

Time: 8:40 AM (CDT)/3:40 PM (CSET)
Location, location, location: How a rural school can influence migration decisions
Presenter: Hannah Main (@ hannahmain) - Dalhousie University
Key Words: school, migration, mobility, families
<p>In Nova Scotia, Canada, the closure and consolidation of rural schools has been ongoing for over 50 years amid tightening education budgets and demographic changes in rural communities. In many rural communities facing school closures, people argue that closing the school will discourage young families from moving there in the future. On the other side of that argument are rural communities with thriving local schools. I aim to explore one such community: Petite Rivière Bridge, Nova Scotia, where community members successfully challenged the school board's closure decision. Petite Rivière Elementary School has not only avoided closure, but it has also received formal recognition for its teaching and community spirit. Drawing on scholarly literature on the roles of schools in mobility decisions, as well as primary data from interviews with community members and qualitative analysis of real estate listings in the area, I argue that in the Petite Rivière area, the presence of a good local school is an important factor drawing families to the community. I discuss the implications of this for policy: Strengthening rural schools can strengthen rural communities.</p>

Time: 9:00 AM (CDT)/4:00 PM (CSET)
Understanding barriers of Nepali Immigrants living in Guelph to access recreational activities in City of Guelph
Presenter: Niva Shrestha (@NivaShresthaz) – University of Guelph
Key Words: Sports, Immigrants, Inclusion, Integration
<p>Sports is universal language that has been practiced in every culture and tradition since ancient times. Immigrant children face psychological issues due to language, unfamiliar environment, new culture, and new people. In settlement process of immigrants in a host country, immigrant children and their transition are overlooked. This research investigates role of recreational activities in Nepali immigrant children living in Guelph towards their inclusion and socialization in the community. In- depth interviews were used to understand their perception on recreational activities, explore available subsidy and financial programs to access recreational activities and understand immigrants' knowledge on available subsidy and financial programs to access recreational activities. This study concluded there needs to be more work done to publicize available subsidy and financial programs to access recreational activities.</p>

Time: 9:20 AM (CDT)/4:20 PM (CSET)

Social Networking: Strategy for strengthening future settlement and integration for immigrants in secondary tiers in Canada

Presenter:

Fobete Dingha (@Fobete)

Key Words: Settlement and integration

Despite societal benefits expected from immigration, scholars have argued that successful settlement and integration of migrants is typically measured largely within the framework of ideas surrounding social networking. The concept of social network can serve as a framework for supporting the settlement and integration of immigrants within rural communities. Research confirms that social network can be an important asset for settlement and integration of migrants through the assistance they provide in facilitating settlement at destination points and thereby reducing associated costs.

This paper highlights the use of social networking as a strategic framework for facilitating the settlement of migrants in small rural communities in Canada. The rationale for the paper lies in the recognized importance of networking in building social relationships that facilitate jobs identification and placement of migrants in rural communities. The appropriateness of social networking analysis in the methodological approach to the discussion presented, relates to its robustness in identifying and explaining social interaction pathways and outcomes. In that regard, social network analysis not only allows the design and determination of pathways towards desirable outcomes such as migrant settlement and job placements, but in addition, it can be an important predictor of migrant intervention outcomes.

Time: 12:20 AM (CDT)/7:20 PM (CSET)

Trial by Concrecence: Lefebvre, Whitehead, and Rural Geography

Presenter:

Scott Brown (@GeoNovelty) – University of Guelph

Key Words: rural geography, process philosophy, Halfacree, Lefebvre, Whitehead

This presentation is a summary of a conceptual piece I am writing that aims to integrate the process philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead with Lefebvrian geography as it has been imported into rural studies by Halfacree (2006). Lefebvre, who drew primarily from Marx and from Hegel, developed his "Production of Space" thesis, which has been imported into rural studies and with great utility. Alfred North Whitehead offers a version of the dialectic that differs from the versions offered by Hegel, Marx, and Lefebvre; in this presentation, I want to show how Whitehead's process philosophy can shed new light on the Lefebvrian categories. One of Lefebvre's categories is "Representations of Space" which can be said to include rural policy; for this presentation, I will emphasize this policy element, and will show how Whitehead's thinking might contribute to how we think about the role of enabling policy in the context of rural.

Time: 12:40 AM (CDT)/7:40 PM (CSET)

Becoming an Informed Rural Community Development Leader

Presenter:

Norman Ragetlie - (@ROIInstitute) – Rural Ontario Institute
Lissel Hernandez-Gongora (@LisselHG) – Rural Ontario Institute

Key Words: rural leaders, information, community development

Many rural challenges are long-term and they are complex, wicked- type problems. Addressing complex problems demands collaboration, experimentation and innovation. The role of rural community leaders is not to solve problems working alone but find new ways to engage stakeholders, collaborate and learn from each other.

The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) is a not-for-profit organization that believes in the vitality of rural communities and the potential of leaders to make a difference. ROI's mission is "Developing leaders and facilitating collaboration on issues facing rural and northern Ontario." ROI does this by providing leaders with resources to make informed decisions such as credible data, foresight to engage diverse players and practical examples highlighting solutions that can be adapted to specific contexts.

Access to rural socio-economic data provides insight for rural leaders to understand trends and how their community is doing relative to others so they can build on strengths or address issues affecting them. Bringing together stakeholders to share best practice solutions concerning critical long-term challenges facing rural communities facilitates peer-to-peer learning to adapt successful approaches for their own communities.

June 18

Time: 8:00 AM (CDT)/3:00 PM (CSET)

Food policies and food regimes

Presenter:

Victoria Soldevila (@Victoria)- Universitat Rovira i Virgili

Key Words: food policies, food regimes, Green Deal

This presentation discusses the crucial policies in each food regime. Food regimes approach establishes the existence of three food regimes: First one from the late 19th century to the WWII, the Second one from the WWII to the end of the twentieth century and the current food regime (the Third one). The policies that marked the beginning of the First Food Regime are linked to the abolition of Corn Laws in the United Kingdom, which allowed imports of meat and cereals from North America and Australia colonies. The Second Food Regime was marked by

agricultural policies after World War II, based on support to farmers to ensure national food security in the Global North. However, these policies altered the patterns of global agri-food trade and ended up aggravating food insecurity problems on Global South. Finally, the WTO Agreement on Agriculture marks the beginning of the Third Food Regime and entails the consolidation of the global agri-food market. However, the Third Food Regime faces serious legitimacy problems and new agricultural policies (as the ones included in the EU Green Deal) could host a fledgling paradigm shift.

Time: 8:20 AM (CDT)/3:20 PM (CSET)

Side effects of organic agriculture policies

Presenter:

Xavier Raso Domínguez (@xrasodo) - Universitat Jaume I de Castelló

Key Words: Food Systems, Food policies, Rural development, Local development, Value network

Our research focuses on understanding the relationships between the sustainable food system stakeholders. To do so we depart from a descriptive analysis of the organic sector in the region of Comunitat Valenciana (Spain) using the authorised regional certifier, Comité d'Agricultura Ecològica de la Comunitat València (CAECV). The main aim is trying to detect possible clusters or Localized Agrifood Systems (LAS) together with analysing the policies applied to organic agriculture in order to find their causes and consequences. Ultimately, we also intend to enrich the research with a comparative analysis with another region/s with similar characteristics.

Time: 8:40 AM (CDT)/3:40 PM (CSET)

Detection and characterization of clusters in the organic agrofood industry in Catalonia

Presenter:

Karen Hoberg (@KarenHoberg) - Universitat de Vic

Key Words: Agglomeration economies, Organic farming, Competitiveness, Spatial statistics, Catalonia

Agglomeration economies can constitute an important factor of companies' competitiveness and/or a whole sectors and regions. The study analyses the localization of certified organic businesses (farms, industry and traders) identifying spatial clusters and describing their characteristics compared to the non-cluster areas, based on spatial statistics supported by geographic information systems.

The main results are three: organic operators are not distributed in a random way in the territory; six clusters have been detected out of the total of 2.850 businesses; there are valid explanatory elements for the environment (rural development indicators) of full set of cluster areas. Nevertheless, comparing them, important differences in terms of competitiveness can be

Time: 8:40 AM (CDT)/3:40 PM (CSET)

Detection and characterization of clusters in the organic agrofood industry in Catalonia

observed. There is no evidence found for a situation of a cluster as an “organic district”. The findings can lead to different industrial policies like a differentiation between giving support to less favoured areas, to areas already competitive on their own and to others that still haven’t detected the economic potential of organic farming and productions but that are ready to start with it. The design of actions using or strengthening the own dynamics of agglomeration economies is proposed, as well as specific support to reconversion to organic production within the existing conventional cluster in the territory.

Time: 9:00 AM (CDT)/4:00 PM (CSET)

Agritourism as a Solution to Rural Revitalization?: A Case Study of North Durham Region

Presenter:

Sarah Parish (@ Parish14Sarah) – University of Guelph

Key Words: Agritourism, Rural, Revitalization, Agriculture, Economic Development

The agricultural industry has a long-standing history as a successful cornerstone in Ontario. This historical prevalence stands true for the Regional Municipality of Durham’s three northern townships: Brock, Scugog, and Uxbridge. Agriculture is a driving force within the three township’s economies. Over the last three decades, agricultural production in Ontario’s rural townships have been negatively impacted by vertical integration, globalization, and the intensification of land-based activities. This research examines the role of agritourism as a solution to revitalizing the agricultural sector in north Durham region. This study utilized in-depth interviews with farm operators who have diversified their farming practices to understand these questions; the motivations to diversify farms through agritourism, how agritourism assists farming businesses, and strategies to implement agritourism into their current practices. This research is imperative to ensure farms are able to remain economically competitive against the pressures of urbanization and changing global markets.

Time: 9:20 AM (CDT)/4:20 PM (CSET)

Overcoming Barriers to Agriculture in Northern Ontario: Separating Myth from Reality

Presenter:

Sara Epp (@SaraK_Epp) – University of Guelph

Key Words: Agriculture; Northern Ontario; Rural Development; Local Food; Migration

Northern Ontario has a strong history of agriculture; however, perceptions of the north often include an arctic climate, rocky terrain and remote communities with low populations. These

Time: 9:20 AM (CDT)/4:20 PM (CSET)

Overcoming Barriers to Agriculture in Northern Ontario: Separating Myth from Reality

images are a perpetuation of many myths, which ignore the diversity of landscapes, communities and people. While opportunities within the agricultural sector are abundant, attracting new farmers is complicated by a variety of economic, social and environmental barriers, many of which are based on false assumptions. This presentation seeks to demystify northern agriculture and will explore the validity of these perceptions and opportunities to expand the agricultural sector, attract new farmers and enhance the resilience of northern communities.