



# **82st Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society**

Awards Ceremony & Luncheon

Richmond Marriott

Grand Ballroom

Friday, August 9, 2019

12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m





# **2019 Rural Sociological Society Awards Ceremony**

**Friday, August 9, 2019  
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

## **Agenda**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Luncheon**

**Presentation of the 2019 Awards**

*Recognition of Endowment Award Recipients*

*Olaf Larson Graduate Student Papers*

*Excellence in Research*

*Excellence in Extension and Public Outreach*

*Excellence in Instruction*

*Certificate of Appreciation*

*Distinguished Rural Sociologist*

*Fred Buttel Outstanding Scholarly Achievement*

*Distinguished Service to Rural Life*

**Remarks by recipient of the Distinguished Service to Rural Life Award**

**Adjournment**

## 2019 RSS Endowment Award Recipients

### Doctoral Dissertation Awards

**Maria Vivanco Salazar**, The Pennsylvania State University  
*Neglected and Underutilized by Whom? Neo-colonialism in the  
Definition of Crops from the Andean Region*

**Angela Serrano Zapatas**, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
*Prospects of Oil Palm: Smallerholders' Livelihoods in  
Global Value Chains*

**Adriana Szabo**, North Carolina State University  
*Contested Rural Development: The Case of  
Rosia Montana, Romania*

**Julia M. Miller**, University of Kentucky  
*Let's Not Do Anything Drastic!: Processes of Reproducing  
Rural Marginalization in Education Policy Decision-making*

**Stephen A. Lauer**, Kansas State University  
*Sustaining Civic Engagement: The Case of  
Groundwater Management on the High Plains*

## 2019 RSS Endowment Award Recipients

### Early Career Awards

**Analena Bruce**, Indiana University  
*Farm Entry and Persistences*

### Master's Thesis Award

**Effie E. Smith**, The Pennsylvania State University  
*Livelihoods in the Balance: Haitians and Haitian-Dominicans and  
Precarious Work in Rural Dominican Republic*



## **2019 RSS Award Recipients**

### **Olaf Larson Graduate Student Paper**

**Paige Kelly**

The Ohio State University

*Whose Need Matters? The Social Bases for County Governments' Social Welfare Service Provisioning*

### **J. Thomas Mueller and Matthew Brooks**

The Pennsylvania State University

*Who Bears the Burden of Renewable Energy?  
A Multi-scalar Analysis of Distributional  
Injustice and Wind Energy*

### **Excellence in Research**

**Richard C. Stedman**

Cornell University

**Mildred E. Warner**

Cornell University

### **Excellence in Extension and Outreach**

**Johanna Reed Adams**

University of Missouri

### **Excellence in Instruction**

**Mary Hendrickson**

University of Missouri

### **Certificate of Appreciation**

**Julie Zimmerman**

University of Kentucky

## **2019 RSS Award Recipients**

### **Distinguished Rural Sociologist**

**Gene L. Theodori**

Sam Houston State University

### **Fred Buttel Outstanding Scholarly**

#### **Achievement Award**

**Joseph Jakubek**

Appalachian State University

### **Spencer D. Wood**

Kansas State University

*Emancipatory Empiricism: The Rural Sociology of  
WEB Du Bois. Sociology of Race and Ethnicity 4:1.*

### **Distinguished Service to Rural Life**

**Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews**

*BAMA Kids, Inc*

## **2019 RIG Awards**

### **Natural Resources RIG**

#### **2019 Student Paper Awards**

**J. Thomas Mueller and Matthew Brooks,**

The Pennsylvania State University

*Who Bears the Burden of Renewable Energy? A Multi-scalar  
Analysis of Distributional Injustice and Wind Energy*

#### **2019 Student Travel Awards**

**Shannon Westlake,** Mississippi State University

#### **2019 William R. Freudenburg Award of Merit**

**J. Gordon Arbuckle,** Iowa State University

### **Population RIG**

#### **2019 Population Paper Award**

**Katrina D. Alford,** The Pennsylvania State University

**Rachel Haggard,** University of Mississippi

*The Digital Divide Across the Rural-Urban Continuum:  
Spatial Analysis of Broadband Internet Access and  
Poverty in the United States.*

### **SAFRIG**

#### **2019 SAFRIG Paper Award**

No Award



**Olaf Larson Graduate Student  
Paper**

**Paige Kelly**

The Ohio State University

*Whose Need Matters? The Social  
Bases for County Governments'  
Social Welfare Service Provisioning*

Paige Kelly completed her dual bachelors of science in Community & Environmental Sociology and Agronomy at UW-Madison in 2014 and masters of science in Rural Sociology at The Ohio State University in 2017. Her thesis research is forthcoming in Rural Sociology, co-authored with her advisor Linda Lobao, "The Social Bases of Rural-Urban Political Divides: Social Status, Work, and Sociocultural Beliefs." Currently, Paige is a Ph.D. Candidate in Rural Sociology within the School of Environment and Natural Resources at The Ohio State University. Her research interests include rural sociology, spatial inequality and stratification, subnational development, and social welfare.

Kelly's paper places the spatial inequality literature in dialogue with political sociology's welfare state literature. The goal of the paper is to address two research questions: (1) How county governments' provisioning of social services is related to local factors of social groups, economic conditions, and institutional arrangements? (2) How county governments' social service provisioning varies according to which social group within a community is in need? Kelly utilizes nationally representative primary data on county governments, that documents the variety of welfare service programs employed by these governments to address communities' need. The data allows for greater generalizability about the range of local welfare services than most past studies. Kelly shows that county governments' welfare services are related to aggregate need, measured as poverty rate, yet governments' provisioning varies when need is disaggregated among social groups, race/ethnic and gender. This study showcases possible means by which unequal patterns of welfare support emerge, as well as reveal the role of subnational states in perpetuating inequalities among social groups.

## Olaf Larson Graduate Student Paper

J. Thomas Mueller and Matthew Brooks

The Pennsylvania State University

*Who Bears the Burden of  
Renewable Energy?  
A Multi-scalar Analysis  
of Distributional  
Injustice and  
Wind Energy*



J. Thomas Mueller obtained his bachelors degree from the University of Montana in resource conservation in 2014 and his masters degree from Penn State in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management in 2016. He is currently a doctoral candidate in Rural Sociology and Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment at Penn State and plans to graduate in May of 2020. His research focuses on the relationship between natural resource development and well-being, broadly construed. For his dissertation he is theorizing and testing the effect of extractive and non-extractive natural resource dependence on rural economic prosperity in the United States.

Matthew M. Brooks obtained his bachelors degree from the Iowa State University in Community and Regional Planning in 2015 and his masters degree from Kansas State University in Geography in 2017. He is currently a doctoral student in Rural Sociology and Demography at Penn State and plans to graduate in May of 2021. His research interests include migration, poverty, spatial analysis, and a variety of rural economic disadvantages —chiefly work and cost of living. For his dissertation, he is assessing the changing landscape of housing in rural America and how household and community characteristics affect access to affordable housing.

Their paper examines the distribution of the burdens of development, relative to the benefits. They argue that although the negative impacts of wind energy infrastructure are less extreme than those posed by other, more toxic, land uses, their status as a locally unwanted land use will produce similar distributional injustices as have been found throughout the environmental justice literature. Using data from both the American Community Survey and the U.S. Wind Turbine Database, Mueller and Brooks use logistic regression and fixed effects models to evaluate the current landscape of wind energy injustice along the social dimensions of income, race and ethnicity, age, education, labor force participation, and rurality at three spatial scales: between all counties within the contiguous United States, between counties within states with wind energy, and between census tracts within counties with wind energy. They find that results vary by scale, finding evidence of distributional injustice along each social dimension considered in at least one model. Mueller and Brooks also find the most evidence at the local level, where wind energy is most likely in census tracts that are more rural, less educated, and less active in the labor force.



RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY



## **Excellence in Research**

**Richard C. Stedman**  
Cornell University

Rich Stedman is a Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University, where he also co-directs the Center for Conservation Social Sciences. His primary research and teaching interests include sense of place, social-ecological systems, and the sustainability/resilience of communities in transition. Much of this latter work has engaged issues around energy development, beginning with analyses of the hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale region, but more recently pivoting to social issues surrounding energy transitions (e.g., renewables and smart grid). He has served the Rural Sociological Society as Associate Editor Rural Sociology, Chair of the Membership Committee, and most recently, as Vice-President. He is far prouder of the accomplishments of his graduate students--past, present, and future--than he is of his own research productivity and impact.

This award recognizes Dr. Stedman's outstanding contributions to our understanding of place attachment, resilience, and the social construction of nature. The nomination letters detailed how Dr. Stedman's work exemplifies the tradition of interdisciplinary research within the field of natural resource sociology. They described clearly how his work, spanning rural areas of the northern United States, Canada, Scandinavia, and beyond, has extended the work of rural sociologists into new, interdisciplinary realms, while bringing the sociological imagination and method to bear on issues of decision-making, governance, and community.



## **Excellence in Research**

**Mildred E. Warner**  
Cornell University

Mildred Warner is a Professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University. Dr. Warner takes a broad perspective on local government and rural communities - encompassing planning, economic development and environmental policy, as well as government finance and service delivery. She has spearheaded attention to the needs of children and older adults with her work on child and age friendly communities. Her work on devolution has shown growing spatial inequality as rural communities, faced with less resources, struggle to provide for the basic needs of their residents. She also looks at the differential impacts of privatization – where markets find rural communities less attractive places for service provision. She has brought rural differences to the attention of public administration and urban journals that tend to dominate the academic dialogue on these issues. Her work is grounded in the US with international comparative work in Latin America, Europe and China.

This award recognizes the contributions of Dr. Warner's outstanding contributions to rural sociology and to research on rural community development for over 30 years. The multiple letters submitted in support of her nomination noted how her work highlighted her focus on community capacity, especially the capacity of local governments and how their policies, services, and actions affect the well-being of rural places and people. They described how her work extends rural sociology's influence on public policy, critically informs her outreach, engagement, and extension, and is theoretically-innovative in integrating bodies of work that rarely connect with each other. Dr. Warner's nominations also commended her work as a mentor for the next generation of rural scholars, and the ways her work goes beyond rural sociology to influence the broader social sciences.



## **Excellence in Extension and Public Outreach**

**Johanna Reed Adams**  
University of Missouri

Johanna Reed Adams, Ph.D. is a State Community Leadership Development Extension Specialist and Extension Associate Professor in the Division of Applied Social Sciences in the School of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources at the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is responsible for the development and implementation of programming designed to respond to the growing need for community-based leadership. She works with the University of Missouri Extension Community Development program, and Department of Rural Sociology. Her main focus is the EXCEL (EXperience in Community Enterprise and Leadership Development), the Step Up to Leadership programs and the newly developed Leadership Online For Today. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Masters in Public Administration and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her extensive research is in the field of leadership development. She is a graduate of the National Extension Leadership Development (NELD) 2018 program and LEAD 21.

Dr. Reed Adams' nomination highlighted her work on many projects that have had significant impacts in communities spanning the state of Missouri and far beyond as well as on generations of students, and her contributions to research through publications and presentations. Her letters emphasized that she is a sought-after team member, teacher, facilitator, program designer and evaluator. As one nominator wrote, Dr. Reed Adams is "a joyful and positive force for community empowerment through leadership development. And she has a quiet but forceful commitment to using her capacities to their fullest for the benefit of the collective."



## **Excellence in Instruction**

Mary Hendrickson  
University of Missouri

Mary Hendrickson is Associate Professor of Rural Sociology at the University of Missouri. Her primary areas of expertise include food systems, extension sociology, and political economy of food and agricultural markets. Her scholarship focuses on the social and economic organization of different types of food systems, the social, ecological and economic impacts of that organization, and options for changing how we organize the food system. She teaches sustainable food and farming courses at MU, where she was recently recognized as the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Outstanding Senior Teacher. Her commitment to extension sociology was previously recognized with the Excellence in Extension and Outreach award.

This award recognized Dr. Hendrickson for her excellent work with education and instruction in, and outside of, the classroom. The supporting materials for her nomination highlighted her efforts to go above and beyond to develop a problem-focused curriculum, her teaching and mentoring with graduate students, and her ability to engage students in difficult conversations, especially because many of her classes contain traditional agricultural students and people more critical of conventional agriculture. Dr. Hendrickson makes great efforts to create venues for all of her graduate students to interact with each other and with other faculty. In the words of one nominator, “Mary Hendrickson is an exemplary teacher and mentor. She is the ideal recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award.”



## **Certificate of Appreciation**

**Julie Zimmerman**

University of Missouri

Julie N. Zimmerman is the Dr. and Mrs. Milton Coughenour Rural Sociology Professor in the Department of Community and Leadership Development at the University of Kentucky where she also holds a joint appointment in the Department of Sociology. Her recent work includes historical research on rural sociology and the RSS, an examination of rural data inequality and the American Community Survey, and the Rural Price Project which examines differences in rural and urban living. Her work with Kentucky Cooperative Extension focuses on accessing and using publicly available secondary data for local decision-making through data literacy, data access, and custom analyses.

Dr. Zimmerman's nomination materials recognized her work on special sessions at the RSS meetings, her efforts to help individual scholars seeking historical information on the Society, her scholarly work on the history of rural sociology appearing in books with Olaf Larson and Edward Moe and her Historian's posters as a suite of contributions deemed highly worthy of this award. As one letter-writer said "We owe her a big vote of thanks for all of her efforts on behalf of RSS. This certificate would be a way to express our gratitude for her efforts!"



## **Distinguished Rural Sociologist**

**Gene L. Theodori**

Sam Houston State University

Gene L. Theodori is Professor of Sociology at Sam Houston State University. He teaches, conducts basic and applied research, and writes scientific and popular articles on rural and community development issues, energy and natural resource concerns, and related topics. A central feature of his work involves the design, implementation, and analysis of survey research. The findings from his survey research have been published in numerous journal articles, book chapters, research bulletins, and other professional reports. He received the award for Excellence in Extension and Public Outreach from the Rural Sociological Society in 2010 and the awards for Excellence in Extension and Public Service, Excellence in Research, and Excellence in Teaching from the Southern Rural Sociological Association in 2007, 2011, and 2013, respectively. He has served as President of the Southern Rural Sociological Association (2008-2009), co-editor of the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences* (2010-2012), and Treasurer of the International Association for Society and Natural Resources (2013-2017).

Nominators expressed admiration for the quantity of his publications, his grantsmanship, awards, and the quality of his scholarship. They describe his work as extending and amplifying the application of community theory, community development, sociology of natural resources, and energy development. They also cited his collaborations with others from disciplines outside sociology as extending sociology into new realms. Together, Dr. Theodori's letters attest to the depth and breadth of his contributions to the field of rural sociology, the extensive amount of attention his work has garnered, and the degree to which he has raised the visibility of the discipline in both academic and policy arenas.

## Fred Buttel Outstanding Scholarly Achievement

Joseph Jakubek  
Spencer D. Wood

*Emancipatory Empiricism: The Rural Sociology of  
WEB Du Bois. Sociology of Race and Ethnicity 4:1*



Joseph Jakubek  
Appalachian State  
University



Spencer D. Wood  
Kansas State University

Joseph Jakubek is a Lecturer at Appalachian State University, in Boone, NC. His research interests sit at the intersection of public policy formation and public health outcomes. He has conducted research on community development strategies focused on topics such as alternative energy production in rural spaces, local programs to mitigate rural out-migration, and the provision of public social services by private religious organizations.

Spencer Wood is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Kansas State University. His research and teaching are centered in the sociology of inequality where he primarily writes about rural people. In particular, he has focused a good bit of his research on thinking about rural communities of color and the particular challenges faced in their community economic development and land tenure arrangements. Central within this work is

a concern for food access and the economic vitality of rural producers. More recently he has written about rural culture, Black agrarianism, and the rural sociology of W.E.B. DuBois.

“Emancipatory Empiricism: The Rural Sociology of W.E.B. DuBois.” In this article, Jakubek and Wood discuss W.E.B. DuBois’ contributions to rural sociology, focusing specifically on his discussions of rural communities and the structure of agriculture. The article frames DuBois’ research agenda as an emancipatory empiricism and discuss the ways his rural research is primarily focused on social justice and the social progress of Black communities in rural spaces. Jakubek and Wood argue that DuBois’ empirical research, funded by the Department of Labor from 1898 to 1905, provides evidence that he was among the first American sociologists to conduct empirical agrarian analyses and case studies of rural communities. The letters submitted in support of this article’s nomination noted that the article is clearly in the spirit exemplified by the late Fred Buttel, as it extends one of Buttel’s most important and influential works [with Olaf Larson and Gil Gillespie, 1990, *Sociology of Ag*], which argues that DuBois was the first empirical student of rural US society. In this sense, the article serves as a corrective to the conventional wisdom of early rural sociology, which argues Galpin and other white men founded the field. This article was described as “excellent scholarship,” containing a “careful analysis,” and the article was commended for how it supports the ongoing relevance of DuBois in rural sociology.





## **Distinguished Service to Rural Life**

**Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews**  
BAMA Kids, Inc.

Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews is a native of Camden in Wilcox County, Alabama. She grew up with her three brothers, Larry, Harold and Anthony. Her mother, Mildred-Locke Threadgill, was an educator and her father, Rev. Thomas Threadgill, was a Presbyterian minister; who lived, preached and worked for social justice. Her family has always advocated for educational, human and civil rights. They were involved in both the voter and desegregation movements in Wilcox County. Sheryl was one of eight students who integrated the all-white school system in Wilcox County in 1967. She participated, as a teenager in marches and demonstrations to fight for the right for African Americans to get the right to vote. Sheryl would often hear her father say that it was his dream to become a Social Worker; however his life took a vocational turn when he received a call into the ministry. It was then that Sheryl decided that she would become a social worker. After high school, she went on to Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee, and received a BA degree in Sociology, with a concentration in Social Work. Sheryl was employed by The Wilcox County Department of Human Resources for 29 years as a Social Worker, Quality Assurance Coordinator and Resource Developer. She retired to devote additional time to work in the community; especially in the area of youth development. She also served as the Director of the Wilcox Area Chamber of Commerce following her retirement. Her life's work has been spent in her rural home of Camden in Wilcox County, which is located in the isolated area of Alabama's Black belt. Sheryl feels that her greatest accomplishment was the co-founding of BAMA Kids, Inc. (Better Activities Make All-around) Kids, Inc., a community-based non-profit youth development organization. It was founded in 1993 in response to the killing of a nineteen-year-old African American male. The beginning of BAMA Kids, Inc. was an organized effort by the community to provide structured, positive activities for their youth. Sheryl has served as its Executive Director since its inception. She has secured millions of

dollars in funding to support this effort; choosing not to accept a salary; rather ensuring that funds go directly to programming for youth. BAMA Kids, Inc. provides academic enhancement, life skills, mentoring, leadership and cultural arts. She spends her days serving as a tutor and mentor at a crudely restored warehouse, which houses the BAMA Kids after school and summer learning program. She believes that every child deserves the same opportunities to grow and develop. She is creative in providing unheard of opportunities and exposure for the youth in the program. Realizing that many children in Wilcox County are deprived of such, simply due to the poverty and isolation that surrounds them; Sheryl has dedicated her life to advocating for youth and families. BAMA Kids, Inc. has impacted the lives of thousands of youth who have become productive adult-citizens. Sheryl is a member of The New Hope # 2 Missionary Baptist Church. She co-chairs the Wilcox Children's Policy Council. She is a charter member of Psi Omicron Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., a member of the Wilcox County Section of National Council of Negro Women; and Alabama's Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative. She serves as a mentor for numerous Wilcox County youth and continues to advocate for human and voters rights; as well as justice for Wilcox County children and families. Sheryl's nominators expressed admiration for her long-term and steadfast efforts, service, and imagination to build rural opportunity at a grass-roots level through BAMA Kids, Inc. They describe her tireless efforts to obtain funding and resources to create a safe, supportive, and enriching environment for countless numbers of students. They note that her work bridges racial divides, and that she sees education as a foundation for ensuring civil rights and equalizing opportunities. Sheryl's work attends to the whole child and realizes that this includes supporting the family, the community, and other broad linkages that important in a child's development and lifecourse pathways and trajectories. Her career, as they describe it, has long focused on building collegiality and understanding across lines of difference, and fostering cooperation for the greater good. Sheryl exemplifies some of the most distinctive values of the Rural Sociology Society, working to give voice to and empower rural people, which she has done through advocacy, collaboration, and dialog. Her lifetime work is consistent with the values and missions of RSS. We are honored to recognize her with this award.

## **RSS Awards and Endowment Committee, 2018-2019**

Matthew Sanderson, Chair, Kansas State University  
(2017-2019)

Gretchen Thompson, Chair-elect, Family Health International 360  
(2018-2020)

Daisy Rooks, University of Montana  
(2018-2021)

Phil Howard, Michigan State University  
(2018-2021)

Hannah Holleman, Amherst College  
(2016-2019)

Rachel Terman, Ohio University  
(2016-2019)

Shaun Golding, Kenyon College  
(2017-2020)

Ethan Schoolman, Rutgers University  
(2017-2020)

Sarah Walton, The Ohio State University  
(2018-2019)

Jasmine Whiteside, The Ohio State University  
(2018-2019)

Jennifer Sherman, Past Chair, Washington State University  
(2016-2018)

Cynthia Struthers, ex officio, Western Illinois University



**Join Us Next Year**

**83rd Annual Meeting  
of the  
Rural Sociological Society  
Rurality and the Crises of Democracy**

After the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election, rural voters assumed a new importance in national debates, one that underscored both their historic importance, and the extent to which they had been misunderstood and overlooked by urban America. As the 2020 US Presidential Election approaches, and especially in the wake of populist movements elsewhere across the globe, questions of spatial inequalities and ideological differences demand not punditry, but scholarship. This meeting's theme brings our scholarly practice to questions of rural agency, the social, political and economic roles of rural communities, and how crises of late-stage capitalism play out unevenly across the rural/urban divide in ways that both highlight and distort the challenges rural people and places face.

**Westminster, CO  
The Westin Westminster  
August 6 - 9, 2020**