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**Research Fellowship to Study Social Dimensions of Microbiome Research**

**Rural Sociology Graduate Program at Penn State University**

**Announcing the availability of a PhD research fellowship in Rural Sociology at Penn State University.** The successful student will be funded as part of a The Pennsylvania State University Microbiome Center initiative to start Fall 2018. Five Ph.D. fellows will be funded, one of which will focus on social dimensions of microbiome research and applications of that research. Fellows will engage in an interdisciplinary effort to understand how microbiomes interact directly, as a result of microbial flow from food cultivation through human digestion, and indirectly, through their chemical and physical influences on products at each stage. In addition to being part of the cohort, the student will be required to develop his/her own related but independent research project to fulfill the requirements of the PhD in Rural Sociology.

The student would begin in fall semester 2018 and would be eligible for up to three years of funding, a full waiver of tuition expenses, and a package of benefits (including health insurance). Opportunities for professional development are also encouraged, including contributions to peer-reviewed publications and presentations at professional meetings.

Interested applicants should apply for admission to the graduate program in Rural Sociology at Penn State University by January 5, 2018. In addition, applicants should send a cover letter describing interests and qualifications and a CV to Dr. Leland Glenna ([llg13@psu.edu](mailto:llg13@psu.edu)) by the same deadline (January 5, 2018). For more information about the graduate program, contact Dr. Kathryn Brasier, Director of Graduate Studies in Rural Sociology (kbrasier@psu.edu). Additional information about the Rural Sociology Graduate Program can be found below and at the program’s website: <http://aese.psu.edu/graduateprograms/rural-sociology>

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| Graduate Program in rural Sociology |
| M.S. and Ph.D. Degree Programs |

**Why Join Penn State’s Rural Sociology Program?**

We are a vibrant, dynamic program that develops and disseminates research on rural people and places both domestically and internationally. Our program faculty have core strength in the discipline of sociology and a commitment to conducting applied and interdisciplinary research with colleagues in the social, natural, and biophysical sciences.

**Our Signature Themes**

* Agriculture and food systems
* Community and international development
* Natural resources and environment
* Rural social demography

**Our Curriculum & Support for Students**

* We provide rigorous training in both quantitative and qualitative research methods.
* We support students as active professionals, providing professional development throughout graduate school.
* Students co-author peer-reviewed journal articles with faculty, present their research at local, regional, national, and international conferences, develop grant-writing skills, and become leaders in professional associations.

**Interdisciplinary Training**

In addition to interdisciplinary research projects, graduate students may receive additional training through enrolling in one of four Penn State dual-degree programs. Students may receive M.S. and/or Ph.D. degrees in Rural Sociology and any one of the following:

* Demography (ranked in the top five nationally)
* Human Dimensions of Natural Resources and the Environment
* International Agriculture and Development
* Women’s Studies

**Active and Supportive Student Culture**

The Rural Sociology Graduate Student Association is highly active and conducts an annual Rural Studies Conference that attracts undergraduate and graduate students from multiple disciplines and universities (<https://sites.psu.edu/rsga/rural-studies-conference/>).

**Our Successful Alumni**

Our M.S. and Ph.D. graduates move on to success in both academic and applied research positions.

* Academic Positions: Tenure-track, research, and teaching faculty at a range of educational institutions, including large research universities (e.g., Cornell, LSU, NC State), mid-sized and regional universities (SUNY-Albany, Ball State, Ohio Univ.), and liberal arts colleges (Ursinus).
* Research positions: Alumni now work in federal and state government (e.g., Census Bureau, USDA, state agencies) and international organizations (e.g., The World Bank, AfricaRice).

**Innovative and Relevant Research**

We have success acquiring research support from public and private sources (e.g., NSF, NIH, USDA, NASA, DOT, Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Center for Rural Pennsylvania, McKnight, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation). **Recent research topics** include: Energy development; gender and agriculture; climate change and land use; food systems, ethics, and sustainable agriculture; science and technology in policy making; employment, poverty, and social stratification; international development; health and health disparities; population and environment; natural disasters; and much more.

**Our Dynamic Faculty**

Kathryn Brasier (PhD, Wisconsin); Guangqing Chi (PhD, Wisconsin); Rob Chiles (PhD, Wisconsin); Leland Glenna (PhD, Missouri); Clare Hinrichs (PhD, Cornell); Leif Jensen (PhD, Wisconsin); Laszlo Kulcsar (PhD, Cornell); Kathy Sexsmith (PhD, Cornell); Brian Thiede (PhD, Cornell); Ann Tickamyer (PhD, North Carolina)

## For more information

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| Dr. Kathryn Brasier Director of Graduate Studies Phone: (814) 865-7321 Email: [kbrasier@psu.edu](mailto:kbrasier@psu.edu)  Please visit our webpage at: <http://aese.psu.edu/graduateprograms/rural-sociology>  Recent Master’s Thesis and Dissertation Titles:<http://aese.psu.edu/graduateprograms/rural-sociology/thesis-titles> | How to Apply<http://aese.psu.edu/graduateprograms/rural-sociology/apply>   *Penn State’s Graduate School has a rolling deadline and prospective students can apply at any time. Applicants should apply by January 5th to be considered for admission and funding for the following fall semester.* |