

RSS eBulletin Issue 101, August 2018

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Do you have news (a new book, published manuscript, national or local interview, or conference presentation) to share with members and friends of RSS? Send it to the Business Office [rssiira@wiu.edu](mailto:rssiira@wiu.edu).

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- Announcements
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**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING:  
HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OLAF F. LARSON**



The members in the picture are (from left to right): Glen Fugitt, JoAnn Jaffe, Tom Rudel, David Brown, Neal Flora, Doug Jackson-Smith, Lou Swanson, and Julie Zimmerman.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Rural Families and Communities - Penn State's 26th Annual Symposium on Family Issues

October 22-23, 2018. The landscape of family life is ever changing. The strategies needed to maintain family economic stability, health and general well-being vary across space and place. Although the rural-urban divide is often portrayed as the most important geographic distinction, there is tremendous diversity across rural communities. Contrary to some depictions, families in rural areas come from diverse backgrounds. Further, some rural areas are resource constrained while others host opportunities that can support healthy families and child well-being. The 2018 National Symposium on Family Issues will focus on the challenges facing families in rural areas and the unique strategies invoked by families in rural areas today. For more information and to register visit [2018 Family Symposium](#).

### Census Bureau Soliciting Feedback

On July 19, 2018 the Census Bureau released a Federal Register notice [Soliciting Feedback from Users on 2020 Census Data Products](#) (Document Number 2018-15458). This notice, published with a 60-day comment period, requests feedback from users on specific decennial census products such as Summary File 1, Summary File 2, and the Demographic Profile. The last day to provide comment on the notice is **September 17, 2018**.

The Federal Register notice includes a [link](#) to an optional spreadsheet that will help users provide detailed feedback.

To assist users with how to use this spreadsheet and how to respond to the notice, a [live informational webinar](#) will be held on Tuesday July 31, 2018 at 2pm EST. The webinar will also be recorded and made available several days later on the Census Bureau website. Please note that the webinar is intended only to answer questions about the feedback process; all comments must be submitted through either electronic mail, postal mail, or the Federal e-Rulemaking portal as outlined in the notice itself.

## MEETINGS OF INTEREST

## Invitation to Missouri Sociological Association Conference October 2018

We have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in the 2018 Missouri Sociological Association Conference, October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. MSA is an organization that strives to highlight the professional and scholarly work of Sociologists in Missouri. My name is Sharon Squires and in October 2017 I became the president-elect for the organization. I am a University of Missouri Columbia alumna and I spent many an hour in the basement of the sociology building discussing Foucault. I left the state for several years and recently returned to teach Sociology at Lincoln University in Jefferson City. I was surprised to see that sociology seems to be in a state of decline in Missouri. Many universities have closed programs and others have kept sociology classes just to fill general education requirements.

This current state of affairs is the impetus behind the 2018 MSA conference theme "[Sociology to the Future: Where do we go from here?](#)" This conference explores where sociology is going as a discipline and how we can revitalize our neglected content area. At the 2018 conference I invite you to join us in discussing the future of Sociology and how we can make ourselves relevant in the social discussion again. The conference will explore some of the facts and fictions of the discipline as well as the current state of the discipline as a whole. We will also explore dynamic and innovative teaching strategies. This year other presenters and I will be leading a workshop on teaching sociology. We will examine using humor, social media, green screen technology and online resources to energize contemporary classrooms.

We welcome and invite paper submissions from related social science fields doing research on Missouri as well. Part of planning for our future is rebuilding social science relationships. Specifically, anthropologist, social workers, political scientist and historians doing work on Missouri are also encouraged to submit proposals to the conference. If you are doing interesting sociological projects come out and share your information with your colleagues.

For more information follow this link: <https://www.ruralsociology.org/Invitation-to-Missouri-Sociological-Association-Conference-October-2018>

## RSS MEMBER PUBLICATIONS

**RSS Member Gerardo Otero is publishing a new book that will be available soon.**

**Book description:**

Why are people getting fatter in the United States and beyond? Mainstream explanations argue that people simply eat too much “energy-dense” food while exercising too little. By swapping the chips and sodas for fruits and vegetables and exercising more, the problem would be solved. By contrast, The Neoliberal Diet argues that increased obesity does not result merely from individual food and lifestyle choices. Since the 1980s, the neoliberal turn in policy and practice has promoted trade liberalization and retrenchment of the welfare regime, along with continued agricultural subsidies in rich countries. Neoliberal regulation has enabled agribusiness multinationals to thrive by selling highly processed foods loaded with refined flour and sugars—a diet that originated in the United States—as well as meat. Drawing on extensive empirical data, Gerardo Otero identifies the socioeconomic and political forces that created this diet, which has been exported around the globe, often at the expense of people’s health.

Otero shows how state-level actions, particularly subsidies for big farms and agribusiness, have ensured the dominance of processed foods and made healthful fresh foods inaccessible to many. Comparing agrifood performance across several nations, including the NAFTA region, and correlating food access to class inequality, he convincingly demonstrates the structural character of food production and the effect of inequality on individual food choices. Resolving the global obesity crisis, Otero concludes, lies not in blaming individuals but in creating state-level programs to reduce inequality and make healthier food accessible to all.

Online: <https://utpress.utexas.edu/books/otero-the-neoliberal-diet>

**RSS Member Jan Vavra has recently published a manuscript on food self-provisioning.**

The paper, based on the international research of food self-provisioning in 5 European regions, has just been published in June issue of *Rural Sociology*. According to my best knowledge, it is one of relatively few international comparisons of socio-demographic

Online: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ruso.12180/abstract>

**RSS Member Loka Ashwood has recently published a new book.**

A fascinating sociological assessment of the damaging effects of the for-profit partnership between government and corporation on rural Americans

Why is government distrust rampant, especially in the rural United States? This book offers a simple explanation: corporations and the government together dispossess rural people of their prosperity, and even their property. Based on four years of fieldwork, this eye-opening assessment by sociologist Loka Ashwood plays out in a mixed-race Georgia community that hosted the first nuclear power reactors sanctioned by the government in three decades. This work serves as an explanatory mirror of prominent trends in current American politics. Churches become havens for redemption, poaching a means of retribution, guns a tool of self-defense, and nuclear power a faltering solution to global warming as governance strays from democratic principles. In the absence of hope or trust in rulers, rural racial tensions fester and divide. The book tells of the rebellion that unfolds as the rights of corporations supersede the rights of humans.

Learn more here: <https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300215359/profit-democracy>

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### **University of Kentucky - Assistant/Associate Extension Professor position**

The Department of Community and Leadership Development in the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment at the University of Kentucky seeks applicants for a 12-month, tenure track Extension Title Series, Assistant/Associate Extension Professor position. The anticipated start date is January 2019.

The successful candidate will be expected to establish high impact, research-based Extension programs that respond to issues facing communities and groups across Kentucky, and contribute to the Department's instructional programs.

**Qualifications:** An earned doctorate in community development, rural sociology, sociology, anthropology, education, community psychology, political science or other related social science disciplines.

**The deadline for application is August 20, 2018** or until a suitable candidate is found. Interested candidates should submit an application, letter of interest, curriculum vita, a writing sample, and contact information for at least three letters of reference to UK's Integrated Employment System: <http://www.uky.edu/hr/employment/working-uk/ies-resources-for-applicants>.

(Direct link: <https://ukjobs.uky.edu/postings/190700>).

Questions may be addressed to Dr. Ronald Hustedde, Search Committee Chair, Dept. of Community and Leadership Development. 500 Garrigus Bldg. University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215; phone: 859-257 - 3186; e-mail: rhusted@uky.edu.

For more information, [see the full position announcement](#).

### **Assistant Professor or Associate Professor of Sociology of the Environment and Natural Resources at Utah State University**

#### **Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology**

The Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology at Utah State University (USU) invites applications for a nine-month tenure-track position in Sociology at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor. The appointment is expected to begin in August 2019.

**Position:** We seek a candidate with strong theoretical and empirical skills whose research and teaching interests and expertise focus on the sociology of the environment and natural resources. The incumbent candidate will address environment and natural resource

expected to teach either undergraduate social theory and/or social statistics as well as undergraduate and graduate courses linked to their areas of expertise and to departmental needs.

For more information, [see the full position announcement](#).

## **Assistant Professor, Community and Economic Development, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University**

### **About Western Illinois University:**

Western Illinois University, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, serves nearly 10,000 students at its traditional, residential four-year campus in Macomb, IL and its metropolitan, non-residential campus in Moline, IL. Compliance to state and federal hiring standards is coordinated through WIU's Office of Equal Opportunity & Access.

Western Illinois University is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity employer with a strong commitment to diversity. In that spirit, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from a broad spectrum of people, including, but not limited to, minorities, veterans, women and individuals with disabilities. WIU has a non-discrimination policy that includes discrimination based on an individual's membership in the following classes: sex, race, color, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, age, marital status, national origin, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and any other classes protected by state or federal law.

**APPOINTMENT:** August 16, 2018, or as soon as possible after that date. This is a tenure-track, nine-month position.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** As a tenure-track faculty member in the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA), the selected candidate will be expected to: 1) establish a substantive research program in applied community and economic development with applications to rural areas of Illinois, the Midwest, and North America. The research program is expected to inform the Institute's outreach activities with an emphasis on sustainable local economies, rural development policy, community quality of life, community planning and design, and rural environmental sustainability, among other issues. The selected candidate is expected to secure extramural funding to support a robust research program; 2) teach two courses per semester and advise graduate students in a growing M.A. degree in community and economic development; 3) engage in community outreach activities aligned with the faculty member's research and teaching expertise, and; (4) participate in broad-based university and departmental committee work and professional service.

For more information, [see the full position announcement](#).

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**The 50th Annual Meeting of the Southern Rural Sociological Association (SRSA, February 3-4, 2019) will be held concurrently with the Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS, January 31-February 6, 2019) in Birmingham, Alabama**

The theme of the SRSA meeting is

**“Pathways for Equity in Development: Exploring the Past and Informing the Future through the Rural Social Sciences”**

Rural social scientists have long been engaged in applied development research, evaluation, and policy, focusing attention on a wide range of issues. These include but are not limited to education, workforce development, health, food, agricultural, forestry, aquaculture, and natural resources, among many others. Addressing these diverse areas, repeated themes of concern entail human rights, justice, and equity across racial, ethnic, nationality, age, sex and gender, and spatial boundaries. The Southern Rural Sociological Association will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary Meeting in Birmingham, AL in 2019, an appropriate place for this historic meeting given the city's role in the Civil Rights Movement. In addition to open general submissions, interested rural social scientists are invited to submit abstracts for posters, paper presentations, and panel sessions to explore the various equity-related challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned from historic and contemporary development efforts in the southern United States and beyond. Scholars working on projects concerning other regions and countries are welcome, especially those that concern the Global South or that are comparative in nature.

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words by October 10, 2018. Paper, poster, and panel submissions are welcome. Submissions can be made online by following this link to a Qualtrics form ([http://uofmississippi.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_5nE2zr5mY06HRwp](http://uofmississippi.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5nE2zr5mY06HRwp)).

For more information follow this link (<https://rss.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/CallforPapers/SRSA%20Call%20for%20Abstracts%20-%202019.pdf>)

### **Humboldt Journal of Social Relations special issue: Geospatial Technologies in Social Science**

Academics, students, and practitioners are encouraged to submit papers for a special issue of the Humboldt Journal of Social Relations focused on geospatial technologies and social science. We welcome original research papers as well as commentaries, creative writing, and photo essays.

#### **TOPIC of the SPECIAL ISSUE:**

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) engages with a variety of important policy issues through linking social science data with spatial analysis and by demonstrating the importance of applied GIS in both the public and private sector. GIS, though commonly used in the realms of city planning and natural resource analysis, have a far broader range of applications ranging from analysis of ancient community interactions to modern social media data.

For this issue of HJSR, we are interested in exploring the spectrum of geospatial technologies in social science, particularly the ways in which our understanding of ancient community interactions, contemporary human rights, or notions of citizenship are challenged by data flows. We seek work exploring how geospatial technologies shape the way we interpret and understand concepts of social organization, identity, and privacy across various geographic and temporal scales and how these renegotiations take specific cultural, aesthetic, material, or digital forms.

#### **Key themes include, but are not limited to:**

- Authority, democracy and data
- Geospatial technology and everyday life
- Prehistoric/Historic spatial settlement data
- LiDAR and looting of sites
- Spatial representations and mapping
- Geocoded subjectivities and hybrid materialities
- Geospatial infrastructures and architectures
- Ethics, philosophy, and theories of surveillance or privacy
- Regulation, politics and governance of geospatial technologies
- Algorithmic analysis and big data

#### **SUBMISSIONS: Deadline Oct. 30, 2017**

Manuscripts should be in 12-point font, double-spaced and generally not exceed 8500 words.

Commentaries and creative writing should not exceed 3000 words.

See [digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/hjsr/](http://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/hjsr/) for other manuscript submission details.

### **Special Issue in Engaged Scholarship for Resilient Communities**

The journal Social Sciences (ISSN 2076-0760; index by \*Scopus\*) is currently running a Special Issue entitled "Engaged Scholarship for Resilient Communities".

Local and community-scale practices show potential for addressing critical social and environmental problems, particularly in the absence of effective state or federal policy and programs. Partnerships between community organizations, policy-makers, and academic groups can both inform community-level solutions and create opportunities for learning and empowerment. For this Special Issue, we seek submissions on the analysis or application of community-engaged research promoting community sustainability...

The submission deadline is **November 1, 2018**. You may send your manuscript now or up until the deadline. Submitted papers should not be under consideration for publication elsewhere. We also encourage authors to send a short abstract or tentative title to the Guest Editors, Prof. Richelle Winkler ([rwinkler@mtu.edu](mailto:rwinkler@mtu.edu)) and Prof. Angie Carter ([ancarter@mtu.edu](mailto:ancarter@mtu.edu)) or the Editorial Office in the email ([socsci@mdpi.com](mailto:socsci@mdpi.com)) in advance. For more information, see [http://www.ruralsociology.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=343:special-issue-in-engaged-scholarship-for-resilient-communities--call-for-papers&catid=23:call-for-papers&Itemid=134](http://www.ruralsociology.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=343:special-issue-in-engaged-scholarship-for-resilient-communities--call-for-papers&catid=23:call-for-papers&Itemid=134)

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