

Demystifying Rural

5th Annual
Rural Studies Graduate Conference

October, 27-28 2017,
The Pennsylvania State University,
State College, PA

Abstracts due September 15

#ruralstudies17

photo: Cindy Engle

5th Annual Rural Studies Student Conference: Demystifying Rural

Penn State Rural Sociology Graduate Association

Friday, October 27, 2017 at 8:00 AM - Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 4:00 PM (EDT)

HUB-Robeson-Center, The Pennsylvania State University
State College, PA

The Rural Sociology Graduate Association (RSGA) at The Pennsylvania State University would like to announce a request for proposals for the fifth annual Rural Studies Conference “**Demystifying rural**”.

This conference **welcomes undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines and all institutions** who study rural areas and topics, both domestically and internationally. Its purpose is to provide undergraduate and graduate students at all points of study an opportunity to share their work and receive feedback in a supportive environment, as well as to learn and build relationships with students from a range of disciplinary fields (sociology, economics, agricultural extension, geography, natural resources, psychology, etc.) connected by a common interest in rural issues.

From hillbilly elegies to the rural opioid epidemic and rural voters, rural communities have emerged in the center of a new, public attention. Yet, popular representations of rural spaces rarely help to understand them. Let’s share our research, from theory to fieldwork experiences, in order to demystify the rural. We encourage attendees to consider new routes of research and scientific involvement. And while we at it, let’s also demystify our own academic institutions and research approaches.

Students interested in presenting are asked to submit a 250-300 word abstract of their work until September 15th. Abstracts may reflect thesis and dissertation work, as well as term papers or other research projects. Works from all stages of the research process are welcomed and encouraged for submission. You do not have to present research in order to attend this event.

We are excited to announce this year's keynote speakers:

Dr. Shannon Bell (Associate Professor of Sociology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)

Dr. Suresh Babu (International Food Policy Research Institute)

Registration is free for all attendees! However, attendees must still **register before October 4th** to participate.

If you have any questions or are interested in sponsoring this event please email our co-chairs, Christian Scott and Maria Vivanco, at psururalstudiesconference@gmail.com. Thank you!

Information on Lodging and Transportation: <https://goo.gl/trZkTt>. Limited places to stay with Penn State grad students available.