



RPLC
RURAL POLICY LEARNING COMMONS

CAPR
COMMUNAUTÉ D'APPRENTISSAGE
DES POLITIQUES RURALES

*building rural policy through international
comparative analysis*

*construire des politiques rurales fondées
sur l'analyse comparative internationale*

Volume 1: Issue 3 | December 2015

Welcome to the RPLC Newsletter

For our new and longstanding members—thank you for being part of the Rural Policy Learning Commons network. This quarterly newsletter will highlight some of the developments and future plans of the RPLC in the coming months. Our next issue will be sent in March 2016.

- For story submissions please contact BlatherwickM@BrandonU.ca
- For more information on the RPLC, please visit the last page of this document or visit the RPLC website: www.rplc-capr.ca

WEBINARS

January 27, 2016

[Human Capital and Migration - Motivations of Mexican workers to participate in Canada's Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program: an empirical analysis](#)

- Judith Stallmann, University of Columbia Missouri, USA
- Lidia Carvajal, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, Mexico

March 2, 2016

[Irish Farm Succession and Transfer](#)

- Tomas Russel, University College Dublin

March 23, 2016

[Human Capital and Migration - Reconciling Labour Mobility, Cohesion Policies and Social Inclusion in rural areas of the European Union](#)

- Philomena de Lima, University of the Highlands and Islands- IC, Centre for remote and Rural Studies, Scotland

Webinar Registration:

BlatherwickM@BrandonU.ca

New RPLC Research Team - Transformation in Indigenous Communities

The RPLC is proud to announce the addition of a new research team - *Transformations in Indigenous Communities*. The team is led by Mark Watson with Monica Mulrennan as Backup and Sara Breitreutz, as Team Support—all from Concordia University. A cohort of about a dozen researchers at Concordia are directly involved in work with Indigenous communities both in Canada and internationally (Latin America, Asia, Australia) along with a secondary group of about twenty researchers.

The new research team will focus on a variety of rural and northern issues affecting Indigenous communities. Some of these include; the extraction of natural resources and environmental impacts of large-scale development, local governance and effects of imposed governmental policies, and exploring changes on social, cultural and economic structure of Indigenous communities including effects on traditional livelihoods. The team's interests span several disciplines and include research partnerships with numerous Indigenous communities.

For more information on the new team please contact Mark Watson, mark.watson@concordia.ca or visit the RPLC website: rplc-capr.ca

Save the Date: 2016 RPLC Conference

The 2016 RPLC Conference in conjunction with the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (CRRF) will be held on October 12 - 15, 2016 in Guelph, Ontario. A conference planning committee involving RPLC, CRRF, the Rural Ontario Institute and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is working to organize the upcoming event.

For more details please visit: guelph2016.crrf.ca.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[International Conference - Old and New Worlds: the Global Challenges of Rural History](#)

January 27 - 30, Lisbon, Portugal

[Rural Health Leadership Conference](#)

February 7 - 10, Phoenix, USA

[Challenges of Natural Resource Economics and Policy 5th National Forum on Socioeconomic Research in Coastal Systems](#)

March 20- 22, New Orleans, USA

[Regional Studies Association Annual Conference 2016](#)

April 3 - 6, Graz, Austria

[Planning Institute of British Columbia 2016 Annual Conference](#)

May 10 - 13, Kelowna, Canada

[IEEE Rural Electric Power Conference](#)

May 15 - 18, Westminster, CO, USA

[4th Nordic Conference for Rural Research](#)

May 22 - 24,
University of Akureyri, Iceland

[Centre for Research on Families and Relationships International Conference](#)

June 13 - 15, Edinburgh, Scotland

[Regional Studies Association - Global Forum for City and Regional Research, Development and Policy](#)

June 15 - 17, Atlanta, USA

[13th International Comparative Rural Policy Studies Summer Institute](#)

July 14-26, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA

[2016 RPLC-CRRF Conference](#)

October 12 - 15, Guelph, Canada

[New Online Journal - Rural Policy Master's Series](#)

With the New Year, January 2016 will mark the launch of a new online journal—*Rural Policy Master's Series*. The journal is the result of a collaboration between two RPLC partners—the Università Di Bologna, Italy, and the Rural Development Institute, Brandon University, Canada.

The Master's Series presents readers a range of short and concise academic papers and policy briefs authored by graduate students while drawing upon their recent research dealing with comparative rural development and policy topics. Comparatives, especially international comparatives, are invited regarding national, sub-national and rural geographic areas and related issues and opportunities and promising practices. This series invites papers from a broad view of rural and comparatives, across all disciplines with interest in rural and regional economic development and capacity building.

The website (currently under construction) will be located at: <http://journals.brandonu.ca/rpms>

For more information or to submit papers and policy briefs please contact: Michael Blatherwick, BlatherwickM@BrandonU.ca

[Event Summary: RPLC panel hosts session at 2015 ACUNS Student Conference](#)

A panel of RPLC team members hosted a pre-conference session at the 2015 Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies Student Conference, held in Calgary, Alberta on November 5, 2015.

The session outlined goals of the RPLC network to generate new policy insights and strengthen comparative research collaboration among faculty, students, practitioners and policy makers. Panelists also described some of the benefits to being part of a research team.

Panelists included:

- Linamar Campos-Flores, University of Montreal, RPLC Human Capital & Migration Team
- Meggie MacMichael, Dalhousie University, RPLC Governance Team
- Laura Ryser, University of Northern BC, RPLC Infrastructure Team
- Henry Penn, University of Alaska Fairbanks
- Michael Blatherwick, Brandon University, RPLC Outreach Coordinator

The session was broadcast via Periscope and Zoom.us. To view the video please visit the RPLC YouTube site or click [here](#) to view.

Event Summary - 2015 RAIL Conference

RPLC members attended the Rural Alberta Innovation & Learning (RAIL) Conference held in Camrose, Alberta from October 2–4, 2015. Several of the presenters are RPLC members, including; Lars Hallstrom, Bill Ashton, and Rob Greenwood. This three-day event focused on rural economic and community development and was hosted as a joint initiative by the Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities (ACSRC) and Battle River Alliance for Economic Development (BRAED).

Lars Hallstrom, Director, Alberta Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, spoke to the benefit of internships. Brandon University Rural Development Institutes' own Naomi Finseth describes her own Internship experience as being a positive one.



"In the summer of 2012 I had the opportunity to be a Rural Capacity Intern for the village of Edgerton. This program was created by the University of Alberta, Augustana Campus as a way to help build capacity in rural communities as well as to provide students with meaningful rural-based experiences. While I was in Edgerton I had the opportunity to participate in all areas of municipal life. I attended council meeting, mapped unmarked graves in the cemetery, ran the campground, inventoried the fire hall, created a village map, helped organize the First Responders Conference, and also helped with the day to day tasks in the village office. I will always appreciate the experiences I had in Edgerton. This small community truly changed by life. I went from a political studies student focused on federal politics to a political studies student passionate about rural and municipal politics."

Noteable keynote speakers included:

- Jason Dewling, VP Academics and Research, Old College, Alberta, made a presentation on the *Pillars of Innovation* - how key attributes of the Olds story can be applied to rural based communities.
- Rob Greenwood, Memorial University, Newfoundland, presented on *The Changing Face of Rural and Regional Development in Canada: New Opportunities, New Approaches*. This presentation outlines how rural communities in rural Canada need to consider new approaches to development if they are to maximize their development opportunities including topics of regionalization, governance structures, development strategies, planning and implementation.

Pre-Conference workshop included a session on grant writing. Those who attended gained skills from this workshop that focused on the strategies, and structures that help create a successful grant application.

For more information on the annual event including future updates on the 2016 conference, please visit www.rail-commons.ca



The State of Rural Canada 2015—Key Findings

The State of Rural Canada 2015 Report tells us that rural places have much to teach us about building strong communities and resilient economies in the 21st Century.

Demographically, we see that population aging and the recruitment of the “next generation” workforce together require investments that build robust new development opportunities. **Economically**, rural and small town places are proving themselves to be highly innovative in terms of responding to the pressures of low-cost global competitors. **Socially**, the rural stereotype of having a strong sense of community where everyone knows everyone is supporting new pathways for social organization, economic development, and local capacity building. With limited resources rural communities and local organizations are models of innovation, doing more with less and achieving net positive impacts.

Environmentally, rural places are not artificially separated from, but they are intimately set within, the natural environment. Issues of sustainability, environmental impact, conservation, and engagement with nature are not abstract; they are part of daily life. Rural residents embrace a resource economy, but not where the environmental impacts threaten a way of life, opportunities for economic diversification, or functioning ecosystems over the long-term. Finally, the chapters make clear that rural regions are on the front lines of negotiating the new realities of reconciliation and wealth sharing with First Nations and Aboriginal communities.

Recommendations

1) **Provincial, Territorial, and Federal governments must develop a new and robust vision and policy frameworks for rural Canada.** In the absence of such visions inappropriate, short-term, and narrowly perceived policies and investment decisions will continue to waste taxpayer dollars and further burden rural places with failed development decisions.

2) **Rural communities must be active participants in understanding, planning and investing in their own futures.** The chapters in this report make it clear that local action matters. There are wonderful, inspiring stories of community and regional development from coast to coast to coast. We need to get better at telling these stories, sharing (learning from and celebrating) our failures, and working to adapt and scale-up successful models to other areas.

3) **All Canadians must participate in the window of opportunity that follows the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to acknowledge and seek serious corrective steps to heal the “historical trauma” suffered by Aboriginal peoples in this country.** Every author in this report has acknowledged the challenges that face Aboriginal peoples in all regions, but also the historic opportunities, opportunities that are being realized because of the efforts and changes going on within Aboriginal communities themselves, the promise held within their young and growing populations, and emerging patterns of self-governance.

For the full report, visit: sorc.crrf.ca





Save the Date

ICRPS Fairbanks 2016

13th International Comparative
Rural Policy Studies Summer Institute

July 14-26



“Northern Perspectives on Global Challenges”

Located in the heart of Alaska and only 200 miles from the Arctic Circle, the University and the city of Fairbanks offers modern amenities and wilderness access minutes out side of town. Excursions will expose participants to the amazing environment of Alaska’s Interior, and also to the challenges of the rural North that result from issues like climate change and energy development.

Topics explored will include:

- The Food, Water, Energy Nexus
- Health
- Environmental Justice
- Renewable Energy
- Climate change
- Multiple ways of knowing



For more information & registration—visit: www.sustainablefuturesnorth.org/icrps-2016

About the RPLC

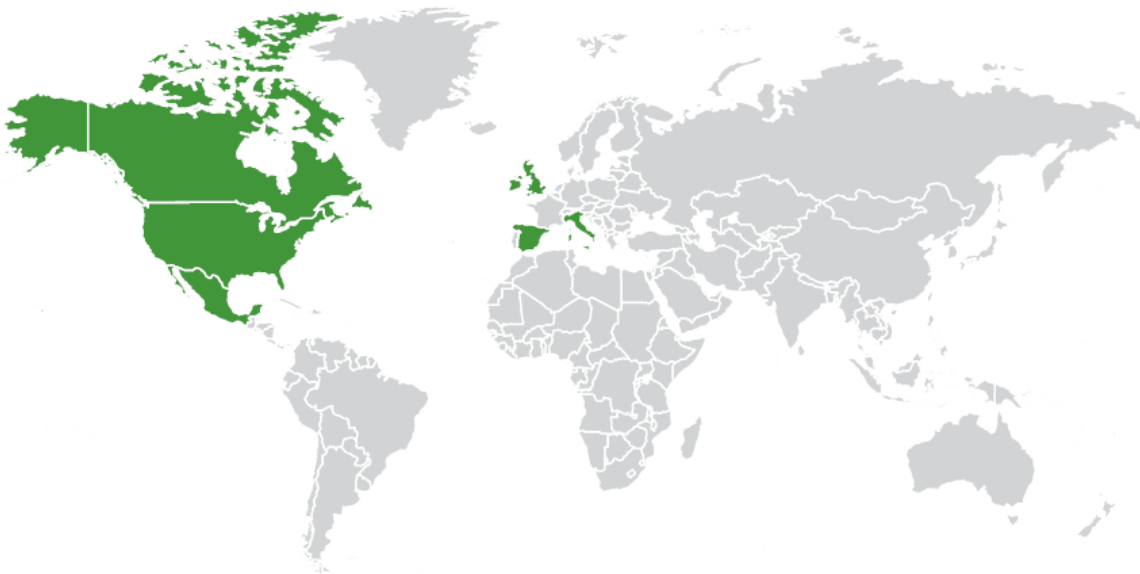
The RPLC is...

- A Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Partnership Grant
- Focused on developing and strengthening partnerships amongst researchers, research institutions and rural stakeholders
- An ongoing project that is inclusive of all countries: east and west, north and south
- A project that will build the capacity of rural policy researchers, policy analysts and community stake-holders

The RPLC is NOT...

- A SSHRC Research Grant
- A research project
- A project focused on developing countries - although it does not necessarily exclude them
- An academic project alone

PARTICIPANTS AND PARTNERS FROM 9 COUNTRIES



OVER 30 PARTNERS

Universities, Governments, Organizations interested in rural policy



OVER 60 INDIVIDUALS

Faculty, Government Representatives, Policy Organizations, International Organizations



Will host conferences and webinars reaching over

1,000 PEOPLE



12 TEAMS

7 Knowledge Mobilization Teams

5 Research Theme Teams

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