

Rural Poverty: Fifty Years After *The People Left Behind*

March 21-22, 2018

National Association of Counties
660 North Capitol Street NW
Washington DC

Goal: To stimulate rigorous applied research that generates new knowledge, designed to improve economic opportunities and enhance the wellbeing of low-income citizens living in rural communities.

Objectives: To review lessons learned about the causes and consequences of rural poverty, and to provide the baseline for both established and emerging scholars developing a research agenda for the next 20 years, at subsequent workshops.



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

- 8:00-8:30** **Registration and Coffee**
- 8:30** **Welcome**
RUPRI President Chuck Fluharty
- 8:40** **NACo Welcome/Opening Comments**
NACo President Roy Charles Brooks
- 9:15** ***The People Left Behind: An Unfinished Legacy***
- An introductory presentation framing the conference
- Bruce Weber (RUPRI and Oregon State University)
Tracey Farrigan (USDA Economic Research Service)
Amy Glasmeier (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- I. Changing Demography and Geography of Poverty since
*The People Left Behind***
- Moderator
David Grusky (Stanford University)
- 9:45-10:30** **Invited Paper 1: Changing Demography and Geography of
Poverty since *The People Left Behind***
- Reviews the geography of U.S. poverty and the social and demographic changes over the past half century that have affected the nation's progress in reducing rural poverty.
- Daniel Lichter (Cornell University)
- 10:30- 10:45** **Break**
- 10:45-12:15** **Paper session 1: Changing Demography and Poverty: Race,
Place and Poverty**
- Moderator
Lawrence Berger (University of Wisconsin)
- Population Change and the Persistence of the Legacy of
Slavery***
- Heather O'Connell (Louisiana State University)

Katherine J. Curtis (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
Jack DeWaard (University of Minnesota)

Race, Residence, and Underemployment: A 21st Century Update

Tim Slack (Louisiana State University)
Brian C. Thiede (Pennsylvania State University)
Leif Jensen (Pennsylvania State University)

Socioeconomic Heterogeneity of Racial Income and Mobility Gaps in the United States

Huan Li (Purdue University)
Michael S. Delgado (Purdue University)
Raymond J.G.M. Florax (Purdue University)
Tom Hertz (USDA Economic Research Service)
Indraneel Kumar (Purdue University)
Tim Smith (Purdue University)
Brigitte S. Waldorf (Purdue University)

12:15 - 1:15

Lunch and Introductions

By presenters in this afternoon's Poster Session

II. The Changing Economy, Poverty and the Social Safety Net

Moderator
Lawrence Berger (University of Wisconsin)

1:15 - 2:00

Invited Paper 2: Economic Changes and the Social Safety Net

Reviews the economic changes that have affected poverty in the rural U.S. and changes in the nation's policies and programs to reduce rural poverty.

James Ziliak (University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research)

2:00- 3:30

Paper Session 2: Economic Changes and Poverty

Moderator
Emily Wornell (Ball State University)

Entrepreneurship, Poverty, and Income Distribution in Rural America

Stephan Weiler (Colorado State University)
Nicholas Kacher (Colorado State University)

Rural Financial Sector Restructuring and Persistent Poverty: Looking Backward and Forward at Community Banks

Charles M. Tolbert (Baylor University)
F. Carson Mencken (Baylor University)
Craig W. Carpenter (Texas A&M University)
Michael Lotspeich (Baylor University)

Economic Dislocation and Landscapes of Despair: Rural-Urban and Within-Rural Differences in Premature Mortality in the US

Shannon Monnat (Syracuse University)

3:30-3:45

Break

3:45- 5:15

Paper Session 3: The Social Safety Net and Poverty Dynamics

Moderator
Lisa Pruitt (University of California-Davis)

Earnings, the Social Safety Net, and Poverty Among Rural American Families.

David Rothwell (Oregon State University)
Brian C. Thiede (Pennsylvania State University)

Rural Poverty Transitions: A New Look at Movements in and out of Poverty

José D. Pacas (University of Minnesota)
Elizabeth E. Davis (University of Minnesota)

Urban-Rural Divide in the Persistence of Poverty

Iryna Kyzyma (Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research and IZA Bonn)

- 5:15** **Break**
- 5:30** **Reception/Heavy Hors d'oeuvre/Poster Session**
- 7:30** **Adjourn/Dinner on Your Own**

Thursday, March 22nd, 2018

8:30-9:00 **Coffee**

9:00-9:15 **Welcome**

Recap of yesterday and overview of today.

III. Changing Family Dynamics and Poverty

Moderator

James Ziliak (University of Kentucky)

9:15-10:00 **Invited Paper 3: Changing Family Dynamics and Poverty**

Discusses changes in family structure and dynamics over the last 50 years and what we have learned about how this affects the life course of low-income populations, particularly minorities and those in persistent poverty regions.

Linda Burton (Duke University)

10:00 -10:15 **Break**

10:15- 11:45 **Paper Session 4: Reducing Child Poverty**

Moderator:

Jennifer Sherman (Washington State University)

Rural Child Poverty across Immigrant Generations in New Destination States

Brian C. Thiede (Pennsylvania State University)

Leif Jensen (Pennsylvania State University)

***Partnering with Schools for Community
Development: Power Imbalances in Rural Community
Collaboratives Addressing Childhood Adversity***

Catharine Biddle (University of Maine)

***Antecedents of High and Lower Child Poverty: An Analysis of
the County-Level Factors that Precede a Shift to or From
High Child Poverty Between 1980 and 2015***

Andrew Schaefer (University of New Hampshire)

Marybeth J. Mattingly (University of New Hampshire)

11:45-12:00

Break for Lunch

12:00-1:00

Luncheon Keynote

Anne Hazlett, Assistant to the Secretary for Rural
Development, United States Department of Agriculture

**IV. Moving Toward a Policy/Practice-Directed Rural
Research Agenda**

Moderator

Chuck Fluharty

1:00-2:00

**Linking Rural Research to Rural Poverty Policy/Program
Decision-Making**

Leaders from the policy and practice communities will share short comments on their organization's rural poverty perspective/efforts, as well as major rural resource, research or data gaps which should be addressed, as this research community advances a new rural poverty research agenda, which has practical utility for rural poverty practitioners and policy advocates.

Panel:

Suzanne Anarde, Vice President, Rural LISC

Rosa Maria Castaneda, Senior Associate, Family Economic
Success, Annie E Casey Foundation

Matt Chase, Executive Director, National Association of Counties (NACO)

Doug O'Brien, President and CEO, National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA)

2:00-2:50

What Have We Heard, Learned, and Been Challenged to Address Together?

These senior rural poverty scholars will reflect on the content of the past two days. Since this conference is intended to provide the backdrop for a collaborative Rural Poverty Research Agenda Setting Conference in the near future, each will also briefly reflect upon how that enterprise could be most relevant and impactful, not just for the rural research community, but especially for the policy and practice communities which we all hope might benefit from our joint efforts. General audience Q & A will follow.

Panel:

Mark Partridge (Ohio State University)

Ann Tickamyer (Pennsylvania State University)

2:50-3:00

Closing Remarks

Bruce Weber (RUPRI)

Chuck Fluharty (RUPRI)

3:00

Adjourn

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Posters

Nicole Bernsen, Mindy Crandall and Jessica Leahy, University of Maine, "Linking labor supply and demand in resource dependent rural places: An assessment of workforce spatial and cultural (mis)matches"

Jessica A. Carson and Marybeth J. Mattingly, University of New Hampshire, “We’re all sitting at the same table’: Challenges and Strengths in Service Delivery in Two Rural New England Counties”

Katherine Curtis and Junho Lee University of Wisconsin-Madison, **Heather A. O’Connell**, Louisiana State University, and **Jun Zhu** University of Wisconsin – Madison. “The Spatial Distribution of Poverty and the Long Reach of the Industrial Makeup of Places: New Evidence on Spatial and Temporal Regimes”

Robert Francis, Johns Hopkins University, “Men Fleeing Work or Work Fleeing Men? A Qualitative Exploration of Chronic Labor Force Nonparticipation Among Rural, Working-Class Men”

Todd Flournoy, University of Wisconsin–Madison, “Sticking to Rural Places: The Importance of Social Ties and Socialization When the Good Jobs Disappear”

Pierce Greenberg, Washington State University, “Spatial Inequality and Uneven Development: The Local Stratification of Poverty in Appalachia”

Tom Johnson, University of Missouri, **Emily Wornell**, Ball State University and **Sam Cordes**, Purdue University, “Comprehensive Rural Wealth Framework”

Emily Partin and Paige Schneider, University of the South, “Post-Secondary Educational Experiences among Rural Appalachian Youth in a Persistently Poor County”

Lisa R. Pruitt and Rebecca Williams, University of California – Davis, “Safety Net Work Requirements State by State”

Shoshana Shapiro, University of Michigan, “Rural-Urban Variations in Nonprofit Human Services Funding”

Michele Statz University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth, “Poverty, Justice, and Lived Expertise Across the Rural Northland”

Barry L. Steffen, George Carter, and Alisha Coleman-Jensen, HUD and USDA Economic Research Service, “Housing Cost Burden and Food Insecurity in Rural Areas”

Andrew A. Zekeri, Tuskegee University, “The Causes of Persistent Poverty among African Americans in the Alabama Black Belt”