

Call for papers

“New rural geographies in Europe: actors, processes, policies”

– European Rural Geographies Conference June 14–17, 2017
at the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Braunschweig (Germany) –

The Rural Geography Group (Arbeitskreis Ländlicher Raum) within the German Association of Geography (DGfG) and the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Braunschweig (Germany), are pleased to announce the conference

“New rural geographies in Europe: actors, processes, policies”

Succeeding the Rural Geography Conference in Nantes in 2014 and a number of binational meetings in the decades before, we invite human geographers and social scientists from neighbouring disciplines, such as sociology, political science, evaluation and planning studies, to present and discuss research findings relating and relevant to the social and economic development of rural areas in Europe. Theoretical considerations, empirical case studies, comparative analyses and methodological issues are welcome to be presented during three conference days (June 14–16, 2017). On the final day (June 17, 2017), two excursions to rural areas in Central Germany that were subject to a variety of socio-economic, political and landscape transformations in the past decades will be organised.

We invite you to submit **abstracts** for **individual papers** (maximum 5,000 characters incl. blanks) by **October 31, 2016** on one or several of the following issues:

1. Socio-demographic challenges

- Social inequalities and rural poverty
- Demographic change (ageing, shrinkage/growth, internal and international migration)
- Gender roles and role perceptions of men and women

2. Regional disparities, territorial justice and cohesion

3. Rurality/ruralities as narratives, lifestyles and/or practices

4. Governance and policies

- Multi-level and rural governance, including impacts of European, national and regional policies on rural development
- Infrastructure, public and private welfare services (co-production, multi-actor service delivery, public-private partnerships)
- Rural-urban partnerships and linkages

5. Conflicts and actors of rural change

- New (and traditional) actors in rural areas (e.g., urbanites, refugees, “spatial pioneers”, energy cooperatives, community land trusts, non-agricultural investors on farmland markets)
- Conflicts due to social, economic and/or landscape change

6. *Economic issues of rural development*

- Rural labour markets
- Smart specialisation and smart countryside (growth and innovation performance, place-based strategies, new technologies)
- New organisation of economic production (emerging networks, global value chains, tensions between cooperation and competition, prosumers and cooperatives)

Abstracts for an individual paper must be uploaded on www.ruralgeo2017.de (accessible from August 8, 2016). There, further information will be provided. Deadline for submitting an abstract for an individual paper is **October 31, 2016**. All abstracts will be reviewed by two members of the scientific committee. You will receive a notification about acceptance by January 31, 2017.

If you want to submit an **abstract for an entire session** relating to one or several of the aforementioned topics, please send a session abstract (maximum 3,000 characters incl. blanks) by providing the title and a description of the session as well as the (preliminary) titles and tentative authors of the individual papers **by August 15, 2016** to ruralgeo2017@thuenen.de. Ideally, a session consists of 3–4 papers interested in the same topic but relating to different countries, spatial contexts and/or disciplinary perspectives. Session chairs will be informed about acceptance by September 6, 2016 in order to give the authors of the individual papers the opportunity to upload their paper abstracts by October 31, 2016 on the conference website as described above. These abstracts will also be reviewed and given notice about acceptance by January 31, 2017.

The conference schedule is as follows:

- August 15, 2016 Deadline for submitting abstracts for sessions.
- September 6, 2016 Notification to session organizers.
- October 31, 2016 Deadline for submitting abstracts for individual papers.
- January 31, 2017 Notification about acceptance of papers.
- February 2017 Call for photos.
- March 2017 Preliminary program.
- June 2017 **Welcome to Germany!**

The Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute is the German Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries. More information about the venue is to be found on the institute's website: <http://www.thuenen.de/en/>

Further information:

Conference website: www.ruralgeo2017.de

E-mail contact: ruralgeo2017@thuenen.de

Organizers:

Dr. Annett Steinführer

Local organizer
Thünen Institute of Rural Studies
Bundesallee 50
38116 Braunschweig

Prof. Dr. Ulrike Grabski-Kieron

DGfG Rural Geography Group
University of Münster
Institute of Geography,
Spatial Planning Research Group

Prof. Dr. Ingo Mose

DGfG Rural Geography Group
University of Oldenburg
Applied Geography and Environmental
Planning Research Group