



RSS Oral History Project

Project Goals and Outline

The RSS Oral History Project is a collective effort to capture the memories, recollections, and insights of members of the Rural Sociological Society. In particular, three goals form the focus of the project:

- (1) to develop a sense of where rural sociology has been, what progress it has made, and where it is heading;
- (2) to compare past challenges/issues/opportunities with those of today; and
- (3) to develop a better understanding of the relationship between sociology and rural sociology.

While the initial focus has been on interviewing past presidents, all interviews are welcome.

Project Overview

- Interviews are conducted by volunteers, likely from within the RSS membership, but anyone is welcome.
- The interviews follow a semi-structured format with 5 questions common to all interviews.
- Beyond those 5 common questions, interviewers and interviewees are encouraged to follow whatever path they prefer as their time available allows.
- Persons living close to the interviewees are particularly encouraged to conduct an interview. Other ideas such as incorporating conducting an interview as part of a graduate course are welcome. Graduate students are also encouraged to consider conducting an interview.
- All interviews are to be recorded and a copy sent to the RSS Historian. While video recording is preferable, audio-only is also acceptable. Interviewers are encouraged to use the technology they feel most comfortable with. When choosing digital recording (ie. DVD/CD, etc), try to select a format that does not require specialized computer programs. And, if at all feasible, please use an external microphone. This will help ensure the highest quality recording possible.
- All interviewers are expected to provide basic biographical information for their interviewee: degrees, jobs, major works, and positions in RSS. This can be gathered either during the interview or through the person's vita.
- Interviewers will only be expected to provide transcripts of the interviewee's responses to the 5 common questions. Still, should an interviewer be able to secure a transcription of the entire interview – that would ensure its longevity as technology rapidly changes.
- A copy of the recorded interview and any transcripts should be sent to the RSS Historian to be deposited in the RSS Archives at the University of Missouri.

Questions Common to all Interviews

- How did you become interested in rural sociology?
- What led you to decide to become active in (or run for President of) RSS?
- What were some of the dominant issues or challenges confronting RSS/rural sociology or rural society when you first joined RSS and/or were President?
- If you were involved in other associations (e.g. ASA, PAA, regional associations), based on that experience, how was rural sociology/RSS seen by those within that association?
- What do you see as the future issues or challenges for RSS as an organization or rural sociology as a field?

Background

The RSS Oral History Project is the brainchild of Joachim Singelmann, President of the Rural Sociological Society (2009-2010). Initially conceived in December 2009, Joachim sought to have captured the memories and recollections of past presidents of the Society, their contributions, as well as the context in which the scholars worked. A key aim in developing the project was an interest in the evolution and development of rural sociology as a specialty area of sociology, but also the development of rural sociology as an organization – particularly for past presidents who worked in the South since rural sociology there often was the vanguard of the establishment of general sociology at land-grant institutions.

How can I be involved?

Everyone is encouraged to participate – be it as an interviewer or an interviewee.

In addition to past Presidents of RSS, those in other leadership positions should also be interviewed (ie. Treasurer/Executive Director, Editors of *Rural Sociology*, Editors of *The Rural Sociologist*, etc).

For more information on how to be a part of the RSS Oral History Project, contact the RSS Historian.

Interviews Conducted (last updated: Feb. 2012)

<u>Person Interviewed</u>	<u>Interviewer</u>	<u>Person Interviewed</u>	<u>Interviewer</u>
C. Milton Coughenour	Jess Kropczynski	Bo Beaulieu	Lori Garkovich
James A. Christenson	Lori Garkovich	Jan Bokemeier	Cynthia Struthers
Olaf Larson	Julie Zimmerman	Ann Tickamyer	Lisa Pruitt
Jan Flora	Brent Hales	Ron Wimberley	Roz Harris
Bill Heffernan	Gill Gillespie	Bill Lacy	Lisa Pruitt
Cornelia Flora	Cynthia Struthers	Larry Busch	Ray Jussaume
Lou Swanson	Lori Garkovich	Gerald Klonglan	Peggy Petrzelka
David Brown	Julie Zimmerman		

Planned Interviews (last updated: Feb 2012)

<u>Person to be Interviewed</u>	<u>Interviewer</u>	<u>Person to be Interviewed</u>	<u>Interviewer</u>
Linda Lobao	Lisa Pruitt	Jess Gilbert	Julie Keller
Shannon Stokes	Clair Hinrichs	Carolyn Sachs	JoAnn Jaffe
Archie Haller	Joachim Singelmann	Rabel Burge	Rick Krannich
Glenn Fuguitt	David Brown	Bill Friedland	Michael Schulman
Don Field	Rick Krannich	Gene Summers	Mark Harvey

For more information, contact:

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