Southern Rural Sociological Association
50th Annual Meeting

Pathways for Equity in Development: Exploring the Past and Informing the Future through the Rural Social Sciences

Birmingham, AL
February 3-4, 2019

Concurrent with Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists (SAAS)
Program at a Glance

Abbreviations

Organizations
Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists: SAAS
Southern Rural Sociological Association: SRSA

Sunday, February 3, 2019

8:00 am – 3:30 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum Registration Room: Registration

8:00 am – 8:30 am, Forum Building-2, Forum A: SRSA Executive Committee


9:55 am – 11:10 am, Forum Building-2, Forum A: Session 1 – International Agriculture and Development

11:20 am – 12:35 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum A: Session 2 – Livestock Systems and Food Security

12:35 pm – 1:35 pm, Lunch (on your own)

1:35 pm – 2:50 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum B: Session 3 – Rural Engagement and Climate Change

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum B: Session 4 – Politics, Health, and Gender

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum A: Session 5 – Heir Property and Property Rights

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum C: Section 1: SAAS Board Meeting

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum C: Section 2: SAAS General Business Meeting

5:00 pm SAAS Social & Super Bowl Party: Southern Kitchen and Bar (walking distance)

Monday, February 4, 2019

8:00 am – 3:00 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum Registration Room: Registration

8:00 am – 8:45 am, Forum Building-2, Forum B: Session 6 – Information Sources and Community Engagement
8:55 am – 10:10 am, Forum Building-2, Forum B: Session 7 – Rural Poverty and Food Resource Utilization

8:55 am – 10:10 am, Forum Building-2, Forum A: Session 8 – Farm and Timber Issues


11:45 am – 1:15 pm, Sheraton Birmingham Hotel-1, Birmingham Ballroom 12: Section 4: SRSA Awards Luncheon and Presidential Address

1:20 pm – 2:35 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum A: Session 9 – Community and Development

1:20 pm – 2:35 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum B: Session 10 – Health and Wellness

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm, Sheraton Birmingham Hotel-1, Ballroom Prefunction: Poster Session

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum A: SRSA Business Meeting
(all members are encouraged to attend)

4:45 pm – 5:30 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum A: SRSA Executive Council Meeting

7:00 pm, Sheraton Birmingham Hotel-1, Presidential Suite: SRSA Presidential Reception
Detailed Program

**Sunday, February 3, 2019**

8:00 am – 3:30 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum Registration Room: Registration

8:00 am – 8:30 am, Forum Building-2, Forum A: SRSA Executive Committee


Moderator: David N. Tackie (Tuskegee University)

Southern Rural Development
Steve Turner (Mississippi State University & Southern Rural Development Center)

Rural Development Research in Relation to Transformations of the Agriculture and Food System
Keiko Tanaka (University of Kentucky & Rural Sociological Society)

Southern Rural Development Research and Dissemination
John J. Green (University of Mississippi)

9:55 am – 11:10 am, Forum Building-2, Forum A: Session 1 – International Agriculture and Development

Moderator: Anthony Winson (University of Guelph)

Mainstreaming Adaptation into Rural Development Policy: A Cautionary Tale from Rwanda
Jessica Marter-Kenyon (University of Georgia)

Community Resilience: A Meta-Study of International Development Rhetoric in Emerging Economies
Rachel Haggard, Anne Cafer, and John J. Green (University of Mississippi)

Early Life Nutrition in Context of War and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa. What is the Role of Urban-Rural Residence?
Aramide Kazeem (University of West Georgia) and John M. Musalia (Western Kentucky University)

Eco-labeled Seafoods in the Canadian Retail Environment: Issues and Insights from a Seafood Consumer Survey in Central Canada
Tony Winson (University of Guelph) and Jin Young Choi (Sam Houston State University)
11:20 am – 12:35 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum A: Session 2 – Livestock Systems and Food Security

Moderator: Buddhi Gyawali (Kentucky State University)

The Effects of Socioeconomic Factors on Acreage Owned and Acreage Farmed by Small Livestock Producers in Alabama
David N.O. Tackie, Jannette R. Bartlett, and Nicole Nunoo (Tuskegee University)

Impact of Year-Round Forage and Pasture Production: Analysis of Perception and Adoption of Technology
Lila B. Karki and Uma Karki (Tuskegee University)

Farmers’ Perception of Food Security (Safety)
Cynthia Rice and Buddhi Gyawali (Kentucky State University)

12:35 pm – 1:35 pm: Lunch (on your own)

1:35 pm – 2:50 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum B: Session 3 – Rural Engagement and Climate Change

Moderator: Lila B. Karki (Tuskegee University)

Gender Matters: Masculinities among African-American Men Farming in North Carolina
Marcus Bernard (Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund) and Rosalind Harris (University of Kentucky)

A Regression on a Social Communication Index to Determine Climate Change Communication
Moses R. Mike and Glenn D. Israel (University of Florida)

Feeding the World and Climate Change: Sustainable Intensification versus Agroecology
Douglas H. Constance and Clara Rondon (Sam Houston State University)

Climate Change, You Might not Believe in it but it won’t Hurt to be Prepared in Case!
Cynthia Rice and Buddhi Gyawali (Kentucky State University)

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum B: Session 4 – Politics, Health, and Gender

Moderator: Brooklyn Wynveen (Sam Houston State University)

Impacts of Politics on Health Messaging Campaigns: Perceptions of the Affordable Care Act in Kentucky
Emily Rodes and Patricia Dyk (University of Kentucky)
The Role of Political, Dispositional and Demographic Variables on Vaccine Beliefs: Results from an Analysis of a Nationally-Representative Probability Sample
Nick Rudnik and Mike Swain (University of Florida)

Gender and Rural Vitality: Empowerment through Women Community Groups
Pilela Majokweni and Joseph J. Molnar (Auburn University)

3:00 pm – 4:15 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum A: Session 5 – Heir Property and Property Rights
Moderator: Conner Bailey (Auburn University)

The Relationship Between the Church, Land Ownership, and Heir Property for the African American Community in Macon County, Alabama
Kara Woods, Robert Zabawa, and Souleyman Fall (Tuskegee University)

Dismissal of the Collective in Cooperatives: Producing Conceptual Absence with “Vaguely Defined Property Rights”
Thomas W. Gray (USDA, Rural Business--Co-op Service, & Co-op Center, University of Saskatchewan)

The Impact of Race and Region on the Incidence of Heir Property in Alabama
Folashade Adalumo, Dalal Alkordi, Jabeka Macklin, Kara Woods, and Robert Zabawa (Tuskegee University)

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum C: Section 1: SAAS Board Meeting

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum C: Section 2: SAAS General Business Meeting

5:00 pm SAAS Social & Super Bowl Party: Southern Kitchen and Bar (walking distance)

Monday, February 4, 2018

8:00 am – 8:30 am, Forum Building-2, Forum Registration Room: Registration

8:00 am – 8:45 am, Forum Building-2, Forum B: Session 6 – Information Sources and Community Engagement
Moderator: Michael J. Swain (University of Florida)

Collecting Data from the Field: Using Text Message Surveys to Engage with Rural Audiences
Jessica Holt, Madison Crosby, Adam Rabinowitz, Abigail Borron, and Ethan Cartwright (University of Georgia)

A Critical Examination of University Outreach and Engagement Based on the Community Capitals Framework
Abigail Borron, Kevan Lamm, Carolina Darbisi, and Nekeisha Randall (University of Georgia)

Where Did They Get That? County Commissioners’ Sources of Agriculture and Natural Resources Information
Becky Raulerson, Morgan T. Vance, Ricky W. Telg, and Shelli D. Rampold (University of Florida)

Assessing Social Justice in Alabama Using Geographic Information Systems
Nicole I. Nunoo, Robert Zabawa, and Souleymane Fall (Tuskegee University)

8:55 am – 10:10 am, Forum Building-2, Forum B: Session 7 – Rural Poverty and Food Resource Utilization

Moderator: Jessica Marter-Kenyon (University of Georgia)

Rural Blight: Housing Conditions and Social Disorder in Southern Small Towns
Kim Skobba and Adenola Osinubi (University of Georgia)

Fifty Years after, The People Left Behind: Causes of Persistent Poverty in the Rural South
Andrew A. Zekeri (Tuskegee University)

Food Insecurity and Food Resource Utilization among Low-Income Households in North Alabama
James O. Bukenya (Alabama A&M University)

8:55 am – 10:10 am, Forum Building-2, Forum A: Session 8 – Farm and Timber Issues

Moderator: James O. Bukenya (Alabama A&M University)

The (Not) So Great Transformation: Corporate Land Grabs and the Agrarian Identity
John Canfield, Loka Ashwood (Auburn University), Kathryn De Master (University of California Berkeley), Madeleine Fairbairn (University of California Santa Cruz), and Anand Kumar (University of California Berkeley)

Alabama as an Internal Colony: Addressing Problems of Persistent Rural Poverty and Timber Dependency
Conner Bailey (Auburn University)

Farm Safety Practices: Reports from Rural Youth in North Carolina
Paula E. Faulkner, John Owens, and Amber Brown (North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University)
10:20 am – 11:35 am, Forum Building-2, Forum B: Pre-Organized Workshop Session – Engaging for Success

   Moderator: Robert Zabawa (Tuskegee University)
   Donny Ingram (Ingram Management Group)

11:45 am – 1:15 pm, Sheraton Birmingham Hotel-1, Birmingham Ballroom 12: Section 4: SRSA Awards Luncheon and Presidential Address

   Moderator: Jin Young Choi (Sam Houston State University), President Elect
   Awards Presentation
   Presidential Address: John J. Green (University of Mississippi)
   Pathways for Equity in Development: Exploring the Past and Informing the Future through the Rural Social Sciences

1:20 pm – 2:35 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum B: Session 10 – Health and Wellness

   Moderator: Jin Young Choi (Sam Houston State University)
   Restoring the Health of the Marshallese
   Sarah Wagner and Jin Young Choi (Sam Houston State University)
   The Role of Academic and Governmental Partners in School Wellness across Florida
   Mike Swain and Glenn Israel (University of Florida)
   Eating and Shopping Habits of Food Desert Residents: The Case of Guilford County, North Carolina

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Terrence Thomas (North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University) and Cihat Gunden (Ege University, Turkey)

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm, Sheraton Birmingham Hotel-1, Ballroom Prefunction: Poster Session

Integrating Soil Health Research into Practical Application by African American and Small Farmers Has Major Results in Changing Attitudes
Edwin Chavous, Marion Simon, Maheteme Geremedhim, and Louie Rivers (Kentucky State University)

Agricultural Experiences of an Urbanite
Jennifer Lopez (Texas A&M University- Commerce)

Evolution of a Campus Food Studies Movement
Robert L. Williams, Jennifer Lopez, and Carolyn Edler (Texas A&M University- Commerce)

Fight the Bite: An Elementary School Education Campaign to Combat Container-Breeding Mosquitoes
Macarena Urreets-Zavalia, July Nelson, Casey Parker, Sebastian Galindo, Andrea Lucky, (University of Florida), Roxanne Connelly (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), and Anthony Andenoro (Iowa State University)

The Role of Work Requirements for Public Programs: How Food Insecurity and Health Affect Employment Status
Mike Swain (University of Florida)

From “Whoa! That’s Weird” to “That’s So Cool”: Developing CQ While Studying Abroad
Patricia H. Dyk (University of Kentucky)

3:45 pm – 4:45 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum B: SRSA Business Meeting
(all members are encouraged to attend)

4:45 pm – 5:30 pm, Forum Building-2, Forum A: SRSA Executive Council Meeting

7:00 pm, Sheraton Birmingham Hotel-1, Presidential Suite: SRSA Presidential Reception
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Abstracts

Oral

Mainstreaming Adaptation into Rural Development Policy: A Cautionary Tale from Rwanda
Jessica Marter-Kenyon (University of Georgia)

This paper explores the danger that climate adaptation strategies can further entrench rural poverty when mainstreamed into development models that fail to account for the complexity and diversity of farmer lives, livelihoods, and coping strategies. I use a case study of Rwanda, where the government is implementing a policy of forced resettlement for smallholder farmers living in ‘high risk zones’ (steep slopes and wetlands) deemed susceptible to climate-related disaster. I draw on interview and survey data collected between 2015 and 2017, basing my analysis in a Foucauldian framework of power and governance. I find that resettlement fails in its stated aim of reducing vulnerability to climate change (by undermining household access to fundamental resources and autonomous coping strategies) but succeeds in furthering elite goals related to agricultural modernization (by relocating the households to planned villages where their behavior can be more effectively surveilled and controlled from the top down).

The Effects of Socioeconomic Factors on Acreage Owned and Acreage Farmed by Small Livestock Producers in Alabama
David N.O. Tackie, Jannette R. Bartlett, and Nicole Nunoo (Tuskegee University)

Acreage owned and acreage farmed could be influenced by socioeconomic factors. The study, therefore, assessed the effect of socioeconomic factors on acreage owned and acreage farmed by small livestock producers in Alabama. Data were obtained from a sample of producers from several counties in Alabama, and analyzed using descriptive statistics and ordinal logistic regression analysis. The results revealed that a majority of the producers farmed part-time, were males, had at most a two-year technical degree, had been in farming for over 30 years, and had been raising livestock for over 25 years. Additionally, a little over half owned over 60 acres of land, and a majority (58%) farmed over 60 acres of land. The ordinal logistic regression analyses revealed that only age and education had statistically significant effects on acreage owned and acreage farmed. The findings suggest that socioeconomic factors are important to farm size in the study area.

Impacts of Politics on Health Messaging Campaigns: Perceptions of the Affordable Care Act in Kentucky
Emily Rodes and Patricia Dyk (University of Kentucky)

With Affordable Care Act implementation in 2014, states needed to create understanding of options for consumers, address political biases, and assure quality care through new coverage plans. Kentucky opted to run a state-based health insurance marketplace, rather than operate under the federal mandate. Without being overtly tied to “Obamacare,” Kynect became one of the most successful adoptions of the ACA. Within the frame of policy-level decisions on healthcare marketing and health messaging are the lives of those affected by those decisions. As
part of the ongoing Rural Families Speak about Health project, low-income mothers in rural Eastern Kentucky shared perceptions of and experiences with healthcare after ACA implementation. We compare knowledge of ACA terminology and functions, perceived changes in personal healthcare coverage after 2014, and usage of ACA healthcare services. We learn that politics matter and health messaging campaigns greatly affect the ways people come to understand their own health.

The Relationship Between the Church, Land Ownership, and Heir Property for the African American Community in Macon County, Alabama
Kara Woods, Robert Zabawa, and Souleyman Fall (Tuskegee University)

Land ownership has been pivotal in attaining privilege, status and wealth since the birth of this country. Heir property, or the transfer of ownership rights without a will endangers the insurance of land ownership for cultural continuity, community and self-development. The African American church has also played a role in the creation, development, and preservation of the Black community by providing education, security, financial, and spiritual support. The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship between the location of African American churches in Macon County, Alabama and the incidence of heir property. Research will include a comprehensive examination of the location of historically significant African American churches heir property. This will be followed by a case study of one such church and community – Shiloh. Tax records, GIS mapping, and ethnographic interviews as primary and secondary methods of research will be employed as well as key informant interviews.

Farm Safety Practices: Reports from Rural Youth in North Carolina
Paula E. Faulkner, John Owens, and Amber Brown (North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University)

Farms require an extensive labor force to meet production demands. In rural areas, the demand is greater, and farm operators must often rely on family members, including youth, who face unique risks due to farming practices. This quantitative study examined two rural high school agricultural education programs in which students participate in family farming operations. The purpose of this study was to determine participants’ knowledge about farm safety hazards. Participants completed class activities related to farm safety, participated during a farm safety demonstration and completed a survey. It was found that most students reported being slightly knowledgeable about and practiced safety farming practices. It was concluded that, while most students reported having knowledge of farm safety practices, they fail to always practice them. It was recommended that youth of diverse backgrounds receive more farm safety practice initiatives in order to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities.

Dismissal of the Collective in Cooperatives: Producing Conceptual Absence with “Vaguely Defined Property Rights”
Thomas W. Gray (USDA, Rural Business--Co-op Service, & Co-op Center, University of Saskatchewan)

This article is about the financial structure and capitalization of agricultural cooperatives. It is not an article directly about agricultural cooperatives and industrialization, merger, strategic
alliance, concentration and centralization, and globalization. It is a more modest work about the neoclassical economics discourse of cooperative finance, with particular attention given to the construct “vaguely defined property rights.” The purpose of this article is to deconstruct this term by examining the concrete formative structuring of agricultural cooperatives, as cooperatives were formed in the early first half of the 20th century in the US. (and how this structuring is carried forth in derivative form to the present day). The construct “vaguely defined property rights” is an expression of the organizing rationale of neoclassical economics itself, as this view reaches the concrete limit of historical financial structures of cooperatives, what it can intellectually specify and appropriate (and what it cannot) given its individualizing perspective.

Collecting Data from the Field: Using Text Message Surveys to Engage with Rural Audiences
Jessica Holt, Madison Crosby, Adam Rabinowitz, Abigail Borron, and Ethan Cartwright (University of Georgia)

Farmers’ survey response rates have been lower than average within survey research scholarship. As a result, it is difficult to measure and analyze farmer perceptions at a quantifiable level. Understanding rural audiences have limited access to internet connectivity, text message surveys (SMS) can be used on cell phone data plans. Using SMS, this research pilot tested a survey to understand if using SMS was a viable option for engaging with farmers and agriculturalists to explore their perceptions of using technology to make irrigation scheduling decisions. The current research used an SMS survey, distributed through Qualtrics, with [state] farmer and agriculturalists at an educational event. The survey had a 6.2 percent response rate, consistent with farmer survey response rates. Results showed certain demographics may be accessible through SMS; however, there are limitations to consider. Researcher accounts, advice, and future directions for utilizing SMS technology to engage with rural audience will be discussed.

A Critical Examination of University Outreach and Engagement Based on the Community Capitals Framework
Abigail Borron, Kevan Lamm, Carolina Darbisi, and Nekeisha Randall (University of Georgia)

Based on the Community Capitals Framework (CCF), this presentation discusses the development of a scale that quantifies community members’ individual perceptions of their community at large, as well as their perceived personal agency within their community. The scale focuses on community capitals (social, cultural, human, political, economic/built, and natural) as measured constructs, and is intended to serve as a diagnostic tool for a given community, providing more nuanced insight into the current state of that community. Scale output data will aid in program development, delivery, and evaluation. Researchers will discuss the validity of the scale based on results from six piloted counties in a Southeastern state. Researchers will also discuss plans and implications for data collection in every county across the state, including, but not limited to, juxtaposing the data with existing economic and health indices, and serving as a starting point for more in-depth, community-based case studies.
Where Did They Get That? County Commissioners’ Sources of Agriculture and Natural Resources Information
Becky Raulerson, Morgan T. Vance, Ricky W. Telg, and Shelli D. Rampold (University of Florida)

Many agriculture and natural resources (ANR) issues are influenced by decisions made at local government levels. County commissioners from various counties in [State] vote on policies and permits that impact members of ANR sectors. As such, it is necessary for members of the ANR community to be able to effectively communicate with their county commissioners. This study described [State] county commissioners' use of information sources, including media and agriculture organizations/agencies, when seeking ANR information. Results of this study showed that county commissioners used agriculture specialists, community events, the university, and [State] Farm Bureau as sources of ANR information. These findings are encouraging for members of the ANR community and provide practical recommendations for ANR members to more effectively plan for and design communication targeted at local government officials. In addition, findings of this study provide insight for recommendations for future research in this area.

Rural Blight: Housing Conditions and Social Disorder in Southern Small Towns
Kim Skobba and Adenola Osinubi (University of Georgia)

Though the concept of blight clarifies housing and neighborhood changes in small towns experiencing disinvestment and decline, the term is rarely examined outside of urban discourse. This study explores the extent of rural blight and its relationship to community characteristics using survey results from rural small towns in one Southeastern state. We examine the historical background of blight, including its connections to urban renewal, racial bias and stereotyping, and the broken windows theory. Dilapidated housing, vacant housing, and low housing values were prevalent among the communities in the study. Forms of social disorder, which include behaviors that are thought to be threatening or criminal in nature, were less common but correlated with physical forms of blight. More research is needed to understand the relationship, both observed and perceived, between housing conditions and social disorder in rural small-towns and how these issues may be remediated through local collective action.

Alabama as an Internal Colony: Addressing Problems of Persistent Rural Poverty and Timber Dependency
Conner Bailey (Auburn University)

Both the landscape and the rural economy of rural Alabama are dominated by timberland. Based on data for all 67 Alabama counties, ownership of timberland is highly concentrated. Moreover, 59 percent of all timberland (which equals 70 percent of all land) is absentee owned. Analysis of these data show concentrated and absentee ownership of timberland in Alabama are factors which help us understand persistent rural poverty, the major source of rural wealth is extracted away from the rural economy. One way to capture a part of that wealth is to increase property tax rates. Alabama’s property tax rates are the lowest in the nation and there is strong sentiment against taxes in the state. By conscious design, Alabama’s Constitution makes it difficult to raise
property taxes. Both challenges and needs are great but the alternative to raising taxes to improve schools, roads, and other social and infrastructural needs are limited.

Community Resilience: A Meta-Study of International Development Rhetoric in Emerging Economies
Rachel Haggard, Anne Cafer, and John J. Green (University of Mississippi)

Understood generally, community resilience is the ability of communities to adapt, absorb, mitigate, and recover from shocks and stressors in such a way that facilitates positive future outcomes and reduces overall vulnerability to future shocks and stressors (Adger 2000; Norris, Stevens, Pfefferbaum, Wyche and Pfefferbaum 2008; USAID 2013; Walker et al. 2004). The core of this definition relates to sustainability and the capability of socio-ecological systems and communities to adapt and transform to both fluctuations and stressors (Milman and Short 2008; Walker et al. 2004). This meta-study seeks to shed light on how the large body of international development literature addresses, measures, and operationalizes community resilience. This analysis uses two resilience frameworks, from USAID and FAO, to understand and codify dominant themes in community resilience to assess whether the international development literature is holistically studying community resilience: touching upon nutrition, food security, economic security, and ecological sustainability.

The (Not) So Great Transformation: Corporate Land Grabs and the Agrarian Identity
John Canfield, Loka Ashwood (Auburn University), Kathryn De Master (University of California Berkeley), Madeleine Fairbairn (University of California Santa Cruz), and Anand Kumar (University of California Berkeley)

With the increase of farmland financialization in the wake of the food crisis of 2007-2008, large-scale investors and absentee landowners looked to farmland as an investment tool, resulting in a “land grab.” Farmland emerged as a popular commodity for investment by private equity funds, hedge funds, derivatives, and pension funds. Agricultural liberalization, thus, took on yet another layer of financial complexity, a complexity that has yet to be fully understood. Several studies show how corporations use absentee ownership and financialization to exert economic control over farmers and rural people. The paper discusses how farmland financialization exemplifies Polanyi’s notion of social relations’ embeddedness in the economic system. Based on an archival analysis of investor and public relations communications of a large US-based farmland investment corporation, this paper explores the ways in which changes in farmland tenure alter the identity of the farmer.

Agents of Change: An Assessment of Cultural Transmission, Place and Agency amongst Rural African Americans in the Mississippi Delta
Denae Bradley (University of Mississippi)

This project will assess the experiences of black people living in rural Mississippi, and how their experiences influence perspectives about education and social-status mobility. Relevant literature, for example, Bourdieu and Lareau, supports social-class based approaches that signify a connection between cultural and social capital and educational inequalities, but the research does not provide an analysis of how children acquire and activate relevant capital in order to
improve their educational outcomes. In response, Calarco’s ethnographic study explored the activation approach to capital in cultural transmission from parents to children and how the children respond. However, her study only looked at white students in different social-classes. This paper accounts for this discrepancy through an intersectional approach specific to race and class.

**Mapping Community Resilience Using Community Based Participatory Methods and Fuzzy Cognitive Mapping**
Anne Cafer, Georgianna Mann, and Kimberly Kaiser (University of Mississippi)

This presentation will explore the use of fuzzy cognitive mapping (FCM) to increase sociological understandings of community resilience. There are a number of models for what resilience looks like, but a significant gap exists in the literature on how communities become resilient, particularly from a sociological perspective. Sociology offers a critical perspective on the role of social norms, community structure, and geographic space in limiting or facilitating the adoption of specific adaptive strategies to address community threats. Not yet widely used in sociology, FCM is a powerful method with which sociologists can contribute to this discourse. FCM grounds understandings of actors and power within a specific geographic context, it allows for both qualitative and quantitative analysis, and importantly, FCM allows for the identification of both individual decision makers and communities who are receptive to new ideas, based not on previous adoption, but on how they view their social/natural landscape.

**Fifty Years after, The People Left Behind: Causes of Persistent Poverty in the Rural South**
Andrew A. Zekeri (Tuskegee University)

Neither the current situation nor the future are transparent, and there is no assurance that even a thorough-going appraisal of either will reveal the secrets we seek. Still, questions about the causes of persistent poverty in rural America and the future of the region are compelling to those who study and care about the well-being of people in the changing countryside. Poverty is a social problem, and finding policy solutions requires us to take a close look at our society and social institutions. Using qualitative and quantitative data from over 20 years of ethnographic field research in rural Alabama, the purpose of this paper is to identify causes of persistent poverty in the rural south.

**Early Life Nutrition in Context of War and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa. What is the Role of Urban-Rural Residence?**
Aramide Kazeem (University of West Georgia) and John M. Musalia (Western Kentucky University)

The research on the gender differences in the nutrition of children age five and under in sub-Saharan Africa is mostly those conducted in countries that are untouched by civil wars and conflicts. These works restricted their analyses to children age three and below, utilized primary datasets that had small sample sizes, and found that boys three and under are more likely to be nutritionally disadvantaged than girls in sub-Saharan African countries untouched by wars and armed conflicts. Our research focuses on the nutrition of children age five and under in Rwanda. It uses the difference-in-differences method, and analyzes the 1992 and the 2000 Rwanda Demographic and Health Surveys (RDHS) to examine the following research questions. Does
the interaction of exposure caused by the 1994 genocide and being a boy increase early childhood malnutrition, measured by weight-for-height (wasting)? If so, does this relationship differ by urban-rural residence?

The Impact of Race and Region on the Incidence of Heir Property in Alabama
Folashade Adalumo, Dalal Alkordi, Jabeka Macklin, Kara Woods, and Robert Zabawa (Tuskegee University)

Land ownership has been pivotal in attaining privilege, status and wealth since the birth of this country. Heir property, or the transfer of ownership rights without a will is an issue that endangers the insurance of land ownership for cultural continuity, community and self-development. Previous research has hypothesized that the incidence of heir property among African Americans is significantly. However, Caucasians, especially in Appalachian’s poor areas, also have a high incidence. The purpose of this study is to examine whether race and region have an impact on intergenerational land transfers. Comparisons will made between 10 contiguous South-Central Alabama counties with an African American population of more than 50 percent and 10 contiguous North Alabama counties with an African American population of less than five percent. The analysis of tax records, GIS mapping, and interviews as primary and secondary methods of research are employed.

Impact of Year-Round Forage and Pasture Production: Analysis of Perception and Adoption of Technology
Lila B. Karki and Uma Karki (Tuskegee University)

Raising livestock to supplement household income is economically unfeasible for small farmers if there is a shortage of green forages during winter months. Assessing effects of year-round forage/pasture was a primary objective of this study. A SurveyMonkey was introduced to 78 participants who have been engaged in the project. Before vs. After analytical approach was used to estimate the impact of year-round forage and pasture on perception and adoption decision. Almost 49% of respondents completed the survey. Eighty percent improved the grazing systems, 94% upgraded the pastures, 75% transferred their knowledge, aspirations, skills, and attitude to the community, 83% disclosed willingness to adopt the technology. Nearly 28% of professionals educated their clienteles. Conversely, lack of funds and time were reported major reasons for not fully introducing the practice. Sustainable technology to reduce feed was identified paramount training need. Peer experience backed-up by figures influences perception and adoption of technology positively.

Front Yard People: Contemplating the Antecedents, Outcomes, and Potential Research Agendas Associated with a Lifestyle
Brooklyn J. Wynveen (Sam Houston State University)

The popular media has touted the benefits of becoming front yard people (e.g., the Turquoise Table movement). A digital search turns up many results—but few scholarly or research-based reports. Work related to the phenomenon of the front porch typically revolves around features of the built environment design (e.g., city and regional planning, New Urbanism). And yet, one can intuitively identify many directions for research related to this phenomenon. Potential research
questions could explore the antecedents of front yard lifestyles (e.g., psychological/personality traits, values and priorities, education level, familial status, religious affiliation, social norms, etc.), outcomes of these lifestyles (e.g., community attachment/involvement, civic engagement, bridging and bonding social capital, etc.), and so on. In this conceptual presentation, I will explore some of these avenues for research, as well as invite participation in the form of a brainstorming exercise involving session participants.

The Role of Academic and Governmental Partners in School Wellness across Florida
Mike Swain and Glenn Israel (University of Florida)

Schools across Florida and the U.S. implement a wide range of programs that affect health, including gardens and nutrition education in addition to policies aimed at increasing physical activity and improving nutrition. Through a survey of over 3,000 school principals in Florida, this paper presents results that describe the prevalence of these programs and policies based on school level demographics and inferential results on what demographics are associated with a high level of implementation of wellness policies and programs. Additionally, the paper presents the role of evidence-based partners, including university extension and state departments of health and agriculture in the wellness state of schools and the school populations reached by each partner based on geography, race and income. Finally, the paper describes changes in school health over time in Florida based on earlier surveys completed by colleagues.

Eating and Shopping Habits of Food Desert Residents: The Case of Guilford County, North Carolina
Terrence Thomas (North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University) and Cihat Gunden (Ege University, Turkey)

Early attempts to address the impact of food deserts on the nutrition related health status of residents focused on the lack of access usually defined as the distance from full service supermarkets, lack of transportation and lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables in the community. This paper presents evidence to demonstrate that other factors related to the psychometric characteristics of residents play a significant role in the shopping and dietary habits of residents. Data for this study were collected using multiple methods, such as listening sessions, survey using random samples, and interviews using purposive samples of residents. The data describe the shopping habits, the food-related lifestyle, values, and behavior of residents, and provide insights and opportunities for taking action to modify behavior to achieve desirable dietary habits.

The Role of Political, Dispositional and Demographic Variables on Vaccine Beliefs: Results from an Analysis of a Nationally-Representative Probability Sample
Nick Rudnik and Mike Swain (University of Florida)

Attitudes toward vaccinations and science have been a topic of concern nationally in recent years. Leveraging data from a nationally-representative probability sample, we examine the relationship between vaccine attitudes and political, dispositional, and demographic covariates. The dependent variables queried respondents on their perceptions of vaccine risks and benefits, and if they believed vaccinations should be mandatory for school attendance. With our empirical
analysis, we directly test the effect of political and demographic covariates have on vaccine attitudes. Political sophistication, authoritarianism and egalitarianism, education, and race and ethnicity are the most significant predictors of negative vaccine attitudes. The implications of our empirical work is relevant not only to social scientists, but to public health practitioners and how these practitioners can use these social science insights to better communicate with groups reporting low trust in vaccines. Additionally, our analysis touches on the contours of racial equity and minority trust in health care.

**Food Insecurity and Food Resource Utilization among Low-Income Households in North Alabama**
James O. Bukenya (Alabama A&M University)

The objective of this study is to examine food security status of selected low-income households in north Alabama and to assess the factors that influence their participation in public-funded and private/community-based food assistance programs. The analysis draws on primary data from a food security and socio-economic survey administered to 700 low-income households. The main tools of analysis include descriptive statistics and logistic regression models. The descriptive results show that roughly 21 percent of the low-income households, who successfully completed the questionnaire, are characterized as being food insecure; while the participation rate in food assistance programs is also estimated at 21 percent. The factors that predict households’ participation in food assistance programs, based on the logic model results, include gender of household head, education, household size, income, and ethnicity. The results can assist local leaders in designing appropriate strategies to reduce food insecurity among low-income households in North Alabama.

**Restoring the Health of the Marshallese**
Sarah Wagner and Jin Young Choi (Sam Houston State University)

The purpose of this study is to review nutritional programs implemented in the Marshall Islands in terms of purpose, content, impacts, and challenges faced during the implementation of these programs. Through careful document analysis of journal articles, websites, and newspapers, we uncovered multiple nutritional programs intended to implement positive changes in the lives of the Marshallese. The programs related to diabetes focus on reducing the prevalence of diabetes in the Marshall Islands through exercise programs, increased intake of healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables, and educational programs. Similarly, the programs related to childhood nutrition emphasize implementing healthy lifestyle choices for children and reducing the prevalence of childhood obesity. Finally, the programs related to agriculture emphasize building resilience following disaster and encouraging healthy eating habits. It is expected that these programs will reduce the prevalence of obesity and diabetes, and ultimately, improve the health of the Marshallese people.

**Gender and Rural Vitality: Empowerment through Women Community Groups**
Pilela Majokweni and Joseph J. Molnar (Auburn University)

Rural women are often the main supporters of their families and have been involved in improving the quality of life for households and communities. The attainability of sustainable rural development and poverty reduction is linked to empowering women. Community groups
are one mechanism for empowering women and fostering economic development. For the poor, the ability to organize and mobilize to solve problems is crucial because collective capability assists in overcoming challenges arising from marginalization and limited resources. Even though considerable work has been done on the impact of institutional support on community groups, it is not well documented how the efforts of women community groups actually lead to improved socioeconomic wellbeing. This study analyzes women community groups as interventions for advancement, empowerment and socioeconomic wellbeing. The findings are intended to help institutions that work with women groups improve the impact and sustainability of these key mechanisms for development intervention.

A Regression on a Social Communication Index to Determine Climate Change Communication
Moses R. Mike and Glenn D. Israel (University of Florida)

Talking about climate change can be challenging. However, Social Penetration Theory (SPT) acknowledges the breadth and depth of communication and this can aid in understanding how to improve communication on the topic. As individuals disclose their feelings on climate change with another person, reciprocity allows for deeper discussion and understanding of the topic. Knowing the factors that affect climate change communication for an individual can assist delivering the right information with the right people. For this study, a non-probability sampling method was used to collect 514 online responses. The data was imputed and weighted to account missing data and to reflect population characteristics, respectively. A Social Communication Index (SCI) was created and evaluated through factor analysis and it was deemed suitable for further analyses (Cronbach’s Alpha = 0.852). The multiple regression analysis showed that age, employment, and race were associated with higher SCI scores, while reading newspapers decreased the SCI.

Eco-labeled Seafoods in the Canadian Retail Environment: Issues and Insights from a Seafood Consumer Survey in Central Canada
Tony Winson (University of Guelph) and Jin Young Choi (Sam Houston State University)

The perilous state of global fish stocks has spurred interest in sustainable certification and eco-labeling programs as a key tool to arrest the depletion of marine species humans harvest for food. To date a limited number of consumer studies have examined consumer receptivity to such programs in Europe, the UK, and the United States. No such studies exist in the Canadian context. This paper reports on the results of an on-site self-administered survey of consumers (N= 350) undertaken in the Greater Toronto Area and a nearby city. Findings indicated concern around marine issues and insight into perceptions of barriers to increasing eco-label seafood sales, but also (i) low awareness of what constituted sustainably sourced seafood, (ii) low recognition of eco-labels, and (iii) confusion over the proliferation of labels.

Feeding the World and Climate Change: Sustainable Intensification versus Agroecology
Douglas H. Constance and Clara Rondon (Sam Houston State University)

The food, energy, and financial crises of 2007-2008 triggered a re-evaluation of the sustainabilities of the global agrifood system. The growing realizations of (1) the need to intensify food production to feed a predicted 9 billion people by 2050 but (2) that industrial
agriculture is the major contributor to climate change accelerated the discourse on agrifood transitions. In response to the growing legitimation crisis of the conventional agrifood system, competing discourses have emerged around the general and opposing positions, which can be typed as “agroecology” and “sustainable intensification.” This paper compares and contrasts these two agrifood transition paths to inform discussions on the contested discourses of feeding the world in the face of global climate change.

**Climate Change, You Might not Believe in it but it won’t Hurt to be Prepared in Case!**
Cynthia Rice and Buddhi Gyawali (Kentucky State University)

Climate change, global warming, desertification, and severe storms! Farmers are facing a variety of environmental and weather changes, and planting or harvesting schedules can be different from previous seasons. In fact, suggestions for planting and harvesting cycles no longer coincide with current weather patterns and related budding and fruiting guidelines for scheduling of additives (chemical or organic), and worker scheduling may be impacted. Also, new invasive species are showing up in different places. With these impacts, many farmers, especially new farmers, are trying to meet market demands and supply crops and value added products both locally and beyond. Mitigation and adaptation as well as introduction of new crops or varieties, which may be more compatible with evolving weather patterns are all part of the solution as farmers try to cope with unexpected impacts. Farmers with plans in place are planning for success!

** Farmers’ Perception of Food Security (Safety) **
Cynthia Rice and Buddh Gyawali (Kentucky State University)

A farmer must be aware of possible issues of food security (safety) on the farm until food leaves the farm and thereafter. Temperature, contamination, storage, transportation, proper health care (both preventative and post processing) are some factors a farmer must be aware of and document for food security (safety) in order to deliver quality, safe food to the middle man and to the end consumer. Common practices and standard practices do not always coincide and may be a point of food degradation and possible contamination. Awareness of these issues and perceptions provides a starting point for dialogue on food security (safety) on the farm and in respect to the consumer and community. This starting point gives a basis for approaching farmers to inform them of safe practices as food security has become very important in the food production system, and also, it is of importance to the government and policymakers.

**Gender Matters: Masculinities among African-American Men Farming in North Carolina**
Marcus Bernard (Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund) and Rosalind Harris (University of Kentucky)

Racism, institutional discrimination, and class warfare continue to displace constructions of masculinity for African-American men farming. These conditions are unique to the plight of African American men farming, and their loss of farms and land. This study explores the social construction of masculinity and gender roles among African-American men farming, and the impacts of these constructions as African American farmers are being forced to negotiate issues of survivability? Ethnographic methods are employed: in-depth interviews, focus groups, and participant observations. Results indicate that the most reoccurring themes in the data were
Assessing Social Justice in Alabama Using Geographic Information Systems
Nicole I. Nunoo, Robert Zabawa, and Souleymane Fall (Tuskegee University)

This study presents a unique approach in exploring the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for creating a Social Justice Index for Alabama using a variety of capital indicators to identify regions of social disparity. Secondary data are obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau and various State agencies. Indicators for each capital are mapped using a GIS Hotspots Analysis tool and aggregated into a sub-index. Sub-indices for all capitals are then combined to create the Social Justice Index, reflecting disparity. The results show a sharp contrast between very low levels of capital distribution in the Southeastern parts of Alabama, and very high levels along the Southwestern parts. The identification of areas of concern is a crucial step toward the achievement of social justice by policy makers. In an attempt to bridge the unequal distribution of capital along the Black Belt, very stringent economic development policies should be implemented statewide.

Poster

Integrating Soil Health Research into Practical Application by African American and Small Farmers Has Major Results in Changing Attitudes
Edwin Chavous, Marion Simon, Maheteme Geremedhim, and Louie Rivers (Kentucky State University)

The soil research was conducted on African American farms using manure, commercial fertilizers, and no fertilization to demonstrate practical uses by small farmers. The African American farmers also had their first experience using no-till drills. After they saw the success of the different production systems, the farmers and the researchers changed. The researchers became more aware and receptive of the farmers and their needs. After the third year, the farmers began to believe in the need for soil improvements and became more willing to be leaders and to teach other farmers. They also changed their attitudes toward research.

Agricultural Experiences of an Urbanite
Jennifer Lopez (Texas A&M University- Commerce)

When I changed my major to agricultural sciences, I was nervous that my lack of background would make me an inadequate student, and in the long run, I would end up being inadequate for a career in the industry. However, through experiential learning provided to me through different opportunities, I have gained more experience than I could have ever imagined. This qualitative single case-study was designed to describe my experience as a student pursuing a degree in agricultural sciences with no prior background in agriculture. It was also designed to describe how I gained practical knowledge through experiential learning opportunities presented through participation in research, internships, conferences, and travel opportunities. While in-class learning can build a foundation for agricultural study, experiential learning through research,
internships, travel, and public speaking can help students better grasp concepts covered in courses, while also helping them build and form their own opinions and ideas.

**Evolution of a Campus Food Studies Movement**
Robert L. Williams, Jennifer Lopez, and Carolyn Edler (Texas A&M University-Commerce)

Food studies is an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary approach to learning about food in multiple contexts or through a variety of lenses. Going beyond the traditional food-related disciplines such as nutrition and food science, food studies may include coursework from agriculture, economics, health, history, literature, and sociology. A regional university recently gained approval to offer an interdisciplinary minor in food studies. This presentation will reveal the origin of this new curriculum and the courses, activities, resources, and professionals that fostered a climate conducive to approval of the new minor. The role of teaching philosophies, instructional techniques, service learning, and social interaction as components of this program will also be presented.

**Fight the Bite: An Elementary School Education Campaign to Combat Container-Breeding Mosquitoes**
Macarena Urrets-Zavalia, July Nelson, Casey Parker, Sebastian Galindo, Andrea Lucky, (University of Florida), Roxanne Connelly (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and Anthony Andenoro (Iowa State University)

The 2016 Zika outbreak in Florida highlighted the importance of community education about mosquitoes. Education campaigns can lead to increased knowledge and awareness, which can lead to disease prevention. During the 2017-2018 school year, an education program was launched in elementary schools in Marion County, FL. By Florida Next Generation State Standards, students must learn about insects' life cycles in fourth and fifth grade. This creates an ideal opportunity to teach students in those grades specifically about container-breeding mosquitoes and what they can do to prevent their reproduction in their household. Knowledge change and retention were assessed through a series of survey questionnaires (i.e., pre-test, post-test, and follow-up). Preliminary results showed increase in knowledge from pre- to post-tests, however, the two-month follow-up sows knowledge levels similar to the pre-test. These findings offer valuable information on teaching elementary students about container-breeding mosquitoes and potential areas of improvement for this educational program.

**The Role of Work Requirements for Public Programs: How Food Insecurity and Health Affect Employment Status**
Mike Swain (University of Florida)

This poster presents results from a cross-sectional study of the relationship between employment, health and food insecurity. Utilizing a sample of over 10,000 residents of North Central Florida through a community-based participatory research program, we analyzed participant data using regression models to predict both food insecurity and employment using clinical and demographic covariates. The goal of the research is to help inform policies on work requirements for public programs, such as SNAP (i.e. food stamps) and Medicaid.
From “Whoa! That’s Weird” to “That’s So Cool”: Developing CQ While Studying Abroad
Patricia H. Dyk (University of Kentucky)

Education abroad leadership courses have great potential to cultivate students’ cultural intelligence through experiential activities designed to prepare them to succeed in a VUCA world. By developing adaptability, openness to uncertainty, and clear communication skills, students are primed to experience and interpret a foreign context through new lenses. Subsequently, they are better prepared to assume leadership roles within culturally diverse contexts. With enhanced CQ, one can encounter new cultural situations, reflect on what’s occurring, and make appropriate adjustments to effectively respond to individuals from diverse backgrounds or potentially disorienting situations. Poster content will include the CQ developmental framework and cultural dimensions that were foundational to four cohorts of students’ leadership development. Excerpts from student blogs will depict reflexive growth. Attendees desiring to discuss how to design meaningful experiential learning opportunities to assist students in developing the skill set necessary to lead in a VUCA world are welcome to gather round.

Pre-Organized Workshop Session

Engaging for Success
Donny Ingram (Ingram Management Group)

“Engaging for Success” centers on personal and professional development that will not only entertain and inform every listener, but it will awaken the desire to improve in every phase of life. Attendees will walk away with tools and methods to implement immediately. We will share keys about human design, communication, and attitude. Attendees will hear personal experiences in dealing with difficult decisions and situations as well as documented studies to show the power we have when we understand and use the tools we are equipped with in our human design.