

National Academy of Sciences
Workshop on Rationalizing Rural Area Classifications

The Keck Center
Room 201
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

April 16-17, 2015

Thursday, April 16, 2015 – Day 1

Session 1: 8:30 am – 9:10 am
Welcome

Moderator: David Brown, Cornell University, chair of steering committee

8:35 - 8:50 Welcome to the National Academies
Connie Citro, *Director of CNSTAT*

8:50 - 9:10 Welcome to Workshop and Description of Workshop Goals
Mary Bohman, *Administrator of ERS*

Session 2: 9:10 am – 10:40 am
Historical development of current rural area classification systems

Moderator: Stephan Goetz, Pennsylvania State University

9:10 - 9:40 Census and OMB classifications
James Fitzsimmons, *Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau*

9:40 - 10:20 Classifications used by ERS (*with background paper*)
John Cromartie, *ERS-USDA*

10:20 - 10:40 Open floor discussion

Break 10:40—11:00

Session 3: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm
How rural area classification is done elsewhere in the US and internationally

Moderator: Mark Partridge, *Ohio State University*

11-11:20 am Non-ERS classifications in the US (*Commissioned paper with Ayoung Kim, Purdue University*)
Brigitte Waldorf, *Purdue University*

11:20 - 11:40 Labor market area delineations in U.S.
Leif Jensen, *Penn State University*

11:40 - 12:00 How rural area classification is done in Europe and other highly developed nations
Paolo Veneri, *OECD*

12:00 - 12:15 A social constructionist critique of rural area classification
Keith Halfacree, *University of Swansea*

12:15 - 12:30 Open floor discussion

Working Lunch 12:30 – 1:30

Session 4: 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
**Panel discussion followed by open floor discussion: “The Big Picture”:
Changes in society and economy that have contributed to the need for
reconsidering rural classification systems**

Moderator: James Fitzsimmons, *U.S. Census Bureau*

Discussion to include changing context: transformation of US economy, information technology revolution, transformation of global-local relationships, population size and composition, etc. and changing organization of the intergovernmental system increasing the need for socio-demographic and economic information at state and local levels.

Panelists: Bruce Weber, *Oregon State University*
David Plane, *University of Arizona*
David Brown, *Cornell University*
Linda Lobao, *Ohio State University*
Jeffrey Hardcastle, *Nevada State Demographer*

Break – 3:00 – 3:15

Session 5: 3:15 pm – 5:00 pm
Different ways to conceptualize rural areas in metropolitan society

Moderator: David Plane, *University of Arizona*

- 3:15 - 3:35 A rural view (*with commissioned paper*)
Michael Woods, *University of Aberystwyth*
- 3:35 - 3:45 Discussion from an urban demography/sociology point of view
John Logan, *Brown University*
- 3:45 - 3:55 Discussion from a regional inequality point of view
Gregory Hooks, *McMaster University*
- 3:55 - 4:05 Discussion among speakers
- 4:05 –4:15 Open floor discussion
- 4:15 - 4:30 The urban-rural interface as a space of integration rather than of separation, first view
Daniel Lichter, *Cornell University*
- 4:30 - 4:45 The urban-rural interface as a space of integration rather than of separation, second view
Mark Partridge, *Ohio State University*
- 4:45 - 5:00 Open floor discussion

5:00 Adjourn for the day – David Brown

Friday, April 17, 2015 - Day 2

Session 6: 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Panel discussion followed by open floor discussion: How the current rural area classification systems are used in research and in program design and administration

Moderator: Brigitte Waldorf, *Purdue University*

Panelists: Douglas O'Brien, *White House Domestic Policy Council*
Timothy Parker, *ERS, USDA*
Thomas G. Johnson, *University of Missouri, and a member of the RuPRI leadership team*
Kenneth Johnson, *University of New Hampshire*
Rose Olfert, *University of Saskatchewan*

Break 10:00-10:15

Session 7: 10:15 - 11:45

Changes in social science data and methods and their impact on rural classification

Moderator: James Fitzsimmons, *U.S. Census Bureau*

10:15 - 10:35 Changing analytical possibilities including GIS and spatial statistics, increasingly powerful computing, etc. (*Commissioned paper*)
Alan Murray, Drexel University

10:35 - 10:50 Changing analytical possibilities
Sarah Low, *ERS, USDA*

10:50 - 11:05 Availability and quality of data from the American Community Survey
Richelle Winkler, *Michigan Technological University and member of ACS Data Users Group National Steering Committee*

11:05 - 11:25 More frequent availability of local level data at lower levels of geographic scale (*Background paper with Marc Perry, Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau*)
Michael Ratcliffe, *Geography Division, U.S. Census Bureau*

11:25 - 11:45 Open Floor Discussion

Working Lunch 11:45-12:45

Session 8: 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm

Evaluating the reliability and validity of rural area classifications

Moderator: Mark Partridge, *Ohio State University*

12:45 - 1:05 Evaluation using statistical modeling (*Commissioned paper, with Yicheol Han, Penn State University*)
Stephan Goetz, *Penn State University*

1:05 - 1:20 Ground truthing
Mark Shucksmith, *Newcastle University, UK*

1:20 - 1:35 Discussant
Carlianne Patrick, *Georgia State University*

1:35 - 2:00 Open floor discussion

Session 9: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Panel Discussion among members of the workshop's steering committee and ERS sponsors followed by open floor discussion: Alternate futures for rural area classification

Moderator: David Brown, *Cornell University*

Panelists: John Cromartie, *ERS, USDA*

James Fitzsimmons, *U.S. Census Bureau*

Stephan Goetz, *Pennsylvania State University*

David McGranahan, *ERS, USDA*

Timothy Parker, *ERS, USDA*

Mark Partridge, *Ohio State University*

David Plane, *University of Arizona*

Brigitte Waldorf, *Purdue University*

Closing Remarks

David McGranahan, *ERS, USDA*

3:00 pm Adjourn the workshop - David Brown