Call for Contributions

For the edited volume “Rural Geographies in Transition” (working title)

Published as volume no. 13 in the series
“Rural areas: Issues of local and regional development”
by LIT Publishers (Münster, Zurich, Berlin, London, Vienna)

Edited by Prof. em. Dr. Ulrike Grabski-Kieron, Dr. Lena Greinke,
Prof. Dr. Ingo Mose and Dr. Annett Steinführer

Rural areas in Europe are under increasing and intersecting pressures and transitions. The landscapes, the actors, the uses, the challenges, and the ways in which the rural is produced and reproduced, are all changing rapidly. This brings forward new research questions and asks for new approaches, both in terms of theoretical perspectives and in terms of empirics, on topics such as population change, socio-spatial inequalities, governance and policies, economic challenges, quality of life, smart villages, landscape transitions, rural entrepreneurship, agricultural transformations, rural housing, energy transitions and climate change adaptation.

The planned edited volume will take its starting point from the conference topic “Rural Geographies in Transition”. It will address some of the following questions: What effects do current developments have on the quality of life, well-being as well as on civic engagement and communities? To what extent do increasing migration and mobility lead to processes of change in rural areas? What role do different modes of governance, revitalization and sustainability efforts play in the ongoing rural transitions? How do the multiple crises impact the economy, society, environment, politics and planning systems?

We invite interested authors to contribute articles on the following and other topics:
- Quality of life, Third spaces, Well-being, Civic engagement, Neighbourhood
- Migration, Mobility
- Revitalization, Resilience, Sustainability
- Rural urban divide, Rural-peripheral Regions, Border regions
- (Local) policy, Rural governance
- Public services, Infrastructures, Housing, Digitalisation
- Labour Market, Entrepreneurship, (European) Agriculture, Food and drinking (production), Tourism, Nature protection
- (Energy) Transition, Climate change, Crisis, Pandemic
- Gender, Diversity, Queering

Submission of abstracts by 31.07.2023
Submission of contributions

Abstracts (max. 500 words) can be submitted by July 31, 2023. Please send your abstract, mentioning all author(s) and institutional affiliation(s), to Dr Lena Greinke (greinke@umwelt.uni-hannover.de). Information about acceptance will be sent in mid-September. The full papers must be submitted by the end of November 2023.

Please contact Dr Lena Greinke (greinke@umwelt.uni-hannover.de or +49 511 762 31 76) if you have any questions.

Selected volumes published so far


Rural peripheries are usually framed as regions with structural disadvantages in economic, demographic, social and locational terms. Yet, some peripheral areas display signs of an economic renaissance, innovative models of governance and new self-esteem. The volume brings together research on seemingly, current and former peripheral areas and considers processes of peripheralisation and deperipheralisation in Europe.


Europe is a meaningful frame and research topic for rural geography. This edited volume assembles 14 contributions from various countries that shed light on the variety, as well as the differences and commonalities of rural regions in Europe.


In the early days of the social sciences, the village used to be an essential object of knowledge acquisition and the development of appropriate methodological approaches. However, in the past decades and in Germany in particular, sociology and its neighbouring disciplines have hardly dealt with the village. This edited volumes aims to close the gaps resulting from this neglect.


The book addresses the challenges and opportunities provided by the manifold impacts of the COVID 19-pandemic in and for rural areas. Case studies deal, among others, with daily mobilities, the tourism sector, agriculture, neighbourhood relations and changes in local supply.