



## **Call for Chapter Proposals – Building Inclusive Communities in Rural Canada**

Building on the momentum of a recent interdisciplinary academic workshop held at the University of Alberta, Augustana Campus entitled “Enhancing Inclusivity in Rural Canada,” we are inviting chapter proposals for an edited book volume that examines the issue of inclusivity in rural Canada.

Recent research has demonstrated that attitudinal trends in Canada are following those in Europe and the United States with respect to weakening levels of popular support for immigrants and refugees, increasing occurrences of “hate group” activity and specific incidents of “hate crimes,” and a growing suspicion of Muslims in particular. Indeed, shifting political/civic discourse and social norms across developed Western democracies have placed a direct spotlight on acts of hatred motivated by racism and bigotry, highlighting an alarming trend toward increased levels of intolerance. This book project aims to explore many facets of rural Canada within this context of growing xenophobic sentiment across the globe.

Rural areas have long been singled out as geographies of intolerance in popular culture. In addition, relations between Indigenous and Settler communities remain tense in several rural areas across Canada, despite the myriad of government and community-led programs aimed at Reconciliation. Yet, the idea that rural Canada is a bastion of intolerance tells only one side of a very complex history. It ignores efforts to counter intolerance being made by rural municipalities, community groups, spiritual leaders, and rural schools. It also ignores the deeply-embedded ideas of “neighbourliness” that form the core part of rural consciousness and identity. Thus, this book project aims to examine both contemporary levels of intolerance in rural Canadian communities as well as the many efforts by rural citizens, community groups, and municipalities to counter intolerance and build truly inclusive communities.

The editors welcome abstracts for both empirical and theoretical chapters on all manner of topics from different academic disciplines related to this general theme. We may also consider submissions from scholars focusing on non-Canadian rural cases to serve as comparative pieces. At this stage, we are particularly interested in academic work that addresses the following questions:

- 1.) What is the state of the research on inclusivity, tolerance and civic discourse in rural Canada?**
  - What does data tell us about levels of intolerance in rural Canada? Do these levels vary by region? By distance from major urban centres?
  - What can we learn from studying the lived experiences of ethnic and religious minorities living in rural Canada?
  - What are the characteristics of the intolerance that does exist? What minority groups are most likely to be the targets of intolerance?
  - What is the current state of Indigenous-Settler relations and the broader promise of Reconciliation in rural Canada?
  - To what degree are attitudes toward inclusivity or intolerance related to social, political, and/or economic structures of rural communities?
  
- 2.) What are the examples of either government-led or community-led programming aimed at building inclusive communities in rural Canada?**
  - What government policies (and at what level) have helped promote tolerance and inclusivity in and among rural communities? What policies have promoted intolerance and hindered inclusivity? What policies are most effective for Reconciliation?
  - What role can/do rural schools play in these efforts?
  - What do the various community-level efforts that are taking place look like?
  - How important is grassroots organizing?

- Who are the leaders that emerge and why? What challenges and barriers do they face?
- Who is excluded from these organizations?
- How is trust built between long-term rural residents and newcomers, and how is it eroded?

**3.) How does rural identity or rural consciousness affect attitudes toward “others”?**

- How do rural people conceive of their identity and how does this affect attitudes toward minority groups?
- What role does the “politics of resentment” play in creating rural identity? How does this identity contribute to the creation of “in” and “out” groups?
- How do rural settler and Indigenous peoples and communities conceive of Reconciliation?
- What is the role of stories in (re)constituting and/or (re)shaping rural narratives, particularly around tolerance and inclusivity?

Contributors interested in participating in this project should submit an extended abstract proposal for a chapter (no more than 500 words) and an anticipated date of completion of the first draft of the chapter to [csbanack@ulberta.ca](mailto:csbanack@ulberta.ca) by June 15, 2019. We will inform contributors whose proposals are selected by July 30, 2019, and final chapter submissions will likely be due in the late Fall of 2019.

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