



CALL FOR WORKING GROUPS AND POSTERS

A number of social challenges and policy issues are confronting Nordic rural areas. The shifting flows and paths of global change, climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as environmental changes, create diverse challenges and opportunities for social and economic transformations in the Nordic setting. The theme of the second Nordic Rural Research conference is "*Rural at the Edge*" indicating not only our Nordic location at the outskirts of Europe, but also a focus on issues that emerge in this changing landscape and increasing interdependency between countries and regions.

The conference will be held in Joensuu 21st – 23rd May 2012 with the following subthemes:

1. Cultures and people, places and identities

Nordic rural communities are under redefinition and rural places are under flux. Mobility and migration increase and new rural-urban relations, disparities and complementarities emerge. Distance working and migrating labour increase, as do the number of second homes. The depopulation continues in many regions, while again some rural areas are thriving. The importance of place and of location is transformed. These processes have effects for social cohesion and social differentiation in rural areas and for the construction of identities across borders and places. How are such processes expressed in different locations? How do issues of migration and mobility affect rural areas?

2. Natural resources governance and landscape management

New pressures, interests and claims on the use of natural resources and on landscapes lead to processes of innovation, re-evaluation as well as depletion. Natural resources are not just valuable economic resources, but also ecological, political and social resources. Continuities in both natural resource governance and landscape management are

questioned and transformed. Yet, path dependencies and institutional contexts shape activities as well. Multifunctional and sustainable landscapes and use of natural resources have become some of the keywords. How are these processes enacted in different contexts? How do trends in food and energy production, forestry, mining, tourism and nature conservation affect Nordic rural areas? How are entitlements, ownership and right of access and use of nature transformed? What are the impacts on local levels, on local development and social cohesion?

3. Rural economy and entrepreneurship

Rural economy usually is related to traditional industries and sectors such as agriculture, forestry, recreation and tourism, and innovations are very often incremental or organizational within the same lines, carried out by the same entrepreneurs; or entrepreneurship is seen upon as a black box. Nevertheless, can changing landscapes also open for new rural economies and entrepreneurship? Can new industries and new modes of entrepreneurship operate "at the edge" and revalorize local resources and be seen as important and keys to growth within rural economic and cultural life? There is a need to explore more on such new industries and modes of entrepreneurship and how they can contribute to the advance of rural economy.

4. Policies and politics of the rural

Rural and agricultural politics and policies increasingly open for new constellations in rural development bringing new kinds of conflicts to the fore. Dilemma inherent to the balance of subsidiarity and common regulations emerge. Changing regional policies, the new CAP and welfare state regimes also affect rural areas. What concepts of rurality underpin these different policies? Are urban ideals and rural realities at variance in the policy formation? What are the new issues and edges emerging in rural policy formation and policy practices?

Those interested in organizing working groups should send a proposal no more than 200 words to workinggroups@mua.fi

Those interested in poster presentation should send a proposal to posters@mua.fi

The deadline for proposals is 21st of October 2011.