

The **RSS Oral History Project**
Is an effort to collect
interviews
with members of the
Rural Sociological Society.

The project goals are:

- 1) To develop a sense of where rural sociology has been, what progress it has made, and where it is heading.
- 2) To compare past challenges/ issues/opportunities with those of today.
- 3) To develop a better understanding of the relationship between sociology and rural sociology.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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For more on the Rural Sociological Society
or to visit the RSS Historian's website

WWW.RURALSOCIOLOGY.ORG



**ORAL
HISTORY
PROJECT**

2012

BACKGROUND

The RSS Oral History Project was initiated by Joachim Singelmann, President of the Rural Sociological Society (2009-2010) to capture the memories and recollections of past presidents of the Society, their contributions, as well as the context in which the scholars worked.

A key aim in developing the project was Joachim's interest in the evolution and development of rural sociology as a specialty area of sociology, but also the development of rural sociology as an organization - particularly for past presidents who worked in the South since rural sociology there often was the vanguard of the establishment of general sociology at land-grant institutions.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the RSS Oral History Project –

*be it as an interviewer
or an interviewee.*

The RSS Oral History Project is a collective effort to capture the memories, recollections, and insights of members of the Rural Sociological Society.

Details in Brief

- Interviews should contain some variation of the 5 common questions.
- Interviews are expected to expand beyond the 5 common questions. (They are intended as a starting place.)
- Interviews should be recorded (video/audio)
- A copy should be sent to the RSS Historian to be deposited in the Society's archives.

5 Common Questions:

- How did you become interested in rural sociology?
- What led you to decide to become active in (or run for President of) RSS?
- What were some of the dominant issues or challenges confronting RSS/rural sociology or rural society when you first joined RSS and/or were President?
- If you were involved in other associations (e.g. ASA, PAA, regional associations), based on that experience, how was rural sociology/RSS seen by those within that association?

- What do you see as the future issues or challenges for RSS as an organization or rural sociology as a field?

How can I help?

- Interviews will be conducted by volunteers from within RSS, but anyone is welcome.
- To ensure the longevity of the interviews, those conducting them are asked to provide a transcript of the 5 common questions.
- Should a complete transcript be possible, this would assure long-term access as technology rapidly changes.
- To learn more about the project or how to volunteer to conduct an interview, contact the RSS Historian.

While the project's initial focus was on interviewing past presidents,

All Interviews Are Welcome!

The Rural Sociological Society is a professional social science association that promotes the generation, application, and dissemination of sociological knowledge. The Society seeks to enhance the quality of rural life, communities, and the environment.