

**Rural Sociological Society Population Research Interest Group**  
**Student Paper Competition**  
**Submission Deadline: March 15, 2026**

The Population Research Interest Group (RIG) is pleased to announce its annual Student Paper Competition, designed to highlight student research on rural populations. We welcome submissions on a wide range of topics, including demographic change, migration, fertility, mortality, aging, health, and demographic methodology—reflecting the breadth of expertise within the RIG. Submissions should demonstrate high-quality scholarship that deepens our understanding of rural populations and the dynamics of population change.

**Eligibility and Guidelines**

- Open to undergraduate and graduate students.
- Papers must be solely or primarily authored by the student, following standard authorship guidelines. Co-authored papers will be considered if the student is the lead author.
- Faculty and non-academic researchers are not eligible.
- Manuscripts should be 20–30 double-spaced pages and include a literature review, original analysis, discussion of findings, conclusions, and references.
- Papers must be written at a professional level.
- The awardee must attend the RSS 2026 Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina, and present the paper there, or have presented it at the 2025 meeting.

**Submission Instructions**

To be considered, students must submit an abstract to present the paper at the 2026 RSS Annual Meeting (or have presented it at the 2025 meeting). Manuscripts should be submitted as a Word (.doc or .docx) file to [smindes@iastate.edu](mailto:smindes@iastate.edu) by **March 15, 2026**, with the subject line: “*Population RIG Student Paper Competition Submission.*” PDF submissions will not be accepted, as papers must be anonymized for judging.

Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of judges. Winners will be notified via email by May 30, 2026, and honored at the Population RIG business meeting during the RSS Annual Meeting.

**Award**

The winner will receive a \$150 cash prize and complimentary registration for the 2026 RSS Annual Meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina.

For questions, contact any of the Population RIG co-chairs:

- Sam Mindes ([smindes@iastate.edu](mailto:smindes@iastate.edu))
- Ayse Akyildiz ([aq6158@psu.edu](mailto:aq6158@psu.edu))
- Edith-Marie Green ([emgreen3@wisc.edu](mailto:emgreen3@wisc.edu))