



**RURAL
SOCIOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

Annual Meeting 2027



July 26-31
Kansas City, Missouri
The Westin Kansas City at Crown Center

Policies, Politics, and the Wellbeing of Rural People and Places



THE WELLBEING OF RURAL PEOPLE AND PLACES—ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD—IS SHAPED BY POLICY DECISIONS ACROSS NUMEROUS DOMAINS MADE AT MULTIPLE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. YET RURAL PERSPECTIVES ARE OFTEN MISSING FROM POLICY DESIGN, AND THE EFFECTS OF POLICIES ON RURAL COMMUNITIES FREQUENTLY DIVERGE FROM THEIR INTENDED OUTCOMES. IN ADDITION, POLITICAL DYNAMICS SUCH AS POLARIZATION, SHIFTING IDEOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES, GROWING DIVERGENCE IN POLICY REGIMES ACROSS REGIONS, AND RISING DISTRUST IN SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS ARE TRANSFORMING THE CONTEXTS IN WHICH RURAL FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES NAVIGATE DAILY LIFE. THESE FORCES INTERSECT WITH DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE—POPULATION LOSS AND AGING IN SOME PLACES, GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION IN OTHERS—TO SHAPE RURAL WELLBEING IN COMPLEX AND UNEVEN WAYS. IMPORTANTLY, RURAL PEOPLE ARE NOT PASSIVE RECIPIENTS OF THESE DYNAMICS. COMMUNITIES RESPOND, ADAPT, RESIST, AND INNOVATE, AND WHAT HAPPENS IN RURAL PLACES REVERBERATES FAR BEYOND RURAL BORDERS.

More information to come!

