

The Ninth Workshop on
Social Capital and Development Trends in the
Swedish and Japanese Countryside with special
subtheme:
Linkages between development in rural and urban
areas and the role of Social Capital.

24th-25th May, 2012, Österlen, Sweden
(With arrival 23rd May and post-workshop excursion 26th May)

Call for Papers

Title and Abstract Submission Deadline: 1st February, 2012
Finished Papers Submission Deadline: 30th April, 2012

As globalisation has become a key term for understanding contemporary societies, also our perception of what is rural is under discussion. The common view is one of rural problems and challenges as a separate phenomenon with its identified problems: depopulation, aging societies, degradation of natural resources to mention a few. This has also been the focus of previous workshops in Japan and Sweden where the importance of Social Capital has been a specific focus. This will remain in this ninth workshop, but with one perspective added.

The reason for this addition is that in parallel with these development trends in rural areas, urban societies are affected by interlinked problems but of another character. Here the population in many big cities is growing beyond control, huge environmental problems are apparent and social problems as drug abuse and unemployment, crime and poverty are in focus.

One attitude to this is emphasising differences between urban and rural areas, as the effects are different in many respects. But one can also argue that this dichotomy is overrun by tendencies inherent in globalisation and that stressing differences can hinder us from observing forces that bind rural and urban areas together. They are mutually dependent and interlinked by many tendencies of which migration might be the most obvious. People mainly move from rural areas into cities, a trend seen worldwide in all kinds of societies. Another indication of a joint picture is how rural areas in the vicinity of great cities can benefit from urban growth. This is seen in particular as many rural areas are becoming popular as residential areas. Apart from these trends, rural areas are important also to provide recreation for population in huge cities. This reciprocity rural-urban can be exemplified in many other ways as well.

The objective of the workshop is to discuss common topics of rural regions and urban-rural interaction in Sweden and Japan, with the concept of social capital as common denominator. This workshop is the ninth workshop with this theme. Added to this established objective is thus the theme of interdependence between the rural and urban areas, what forms these connections take and what the implications might be of the linkages. Another challenging issue is the role innovation can play in light of connections between cities and the countryside.

Topics of interest in this workshop include (but are not limited to):

- Social capital in business life, government and civil society
- Policies for rural development
- Community governance and partnerships
- Commons and their management
- Local engagement, social economy and the third sector
- Sustainable management of natural resources
- Tourism's role in rural development
- The role of innovation in joint urban/rural issues.
- Climate changes' threats and opportunities for the countryside
- Urban-rural interaction

Most of these topics have relevance for both rural and urban areas, and we in particular welcome contributions that can illuminate any interdependence and connections between the urban and rural with point of departure in one of these suggested topics or some other appropriate theme.

PARTICIPANTS

The workshop is open for participants from universities, research institutes, government, practitioners, developers, and for people being interested in rural development, urban-rural relations and social capital.

VENUE

Blåsingsborgs conference hotel (<http://www.blasingsborg.se>) Österlen, Skåne, Sweden. The hotel is situated 2 km south of Kivik, and nearest airport for international participants is Copenhagen Airport (Kastrup).

ABSTRACTS

Abstracts should contain maximum 300 words, be written in English and in MS Word. The abstracts should include title, author(s), affiliation, complete address, telephone number and e-mail address. Send your abstracts to stig.westerdahl@mah.se and katarina.blaman@jibs.hj.se

PUBLICATION

Selected papers from the workshop will be published as proceedings. Also, the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Spatial Economics (CEnSE) of Jönköping International Business School is planning a book about rural development issues for an international publishing house. Presented papers will be considered for this publication as well.

IMPORTANT DATES

1st February: Deadline for abstract submission
28th February: Information on acceptance of abstracts
30th April: Deadline for submission of finished papers
24th-25th May: Workshop
26th May: Post-workshop excursion

COSTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Travel costs to and from Österlen/Copenhagen Airport are paid by the participants. Meals and accommodation for the Japanese participants, during the period 24-26 May, are covered by the organizers. Other participants' costs are paid by the participants themselves.

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