

## EDITORS' PREFACE

It is our pleasure to introduce you to the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences (JRSS)*. *JRSS*, formerly *Southern Rural Sociology (SRS)*, is the official journal of the Southern Rural Sociological Association (SRSA). The purpose of *JRSS* is to disseminate knowledge on rural issues inclusive of a broad range of disciplines, theoretical perspectives, and research methodologies. The editorial scope of *JRSS* is international and its content is multidisciplinary.

*JRSS* is published electronically in open access format. Besides general research articles, we publish research notes, brief commentaries on rural and rurality-related topics, and book reviews in *JRSS*. General research articles and research notes submitted to *JRSS* will go through a double-blind peer-review process. Commentaries, however, will not be peer-reviewed. As co-editors, we will review each commentary and decide whether it addresses a relevant, timely and/or salient issue. Often, we will invite authors to submit thought-provoking commentaries to foster future discussions. Therefore, we welcome and encourage original submissions of manuscripts, research notes, and commentaries from scholars working in a variety of disciplines and specialty areas including, but not limited to: Rural Sociology; Agricultural Economics; Natural Resource Sociology; Demography and Immigration; Community Sociology; Sociology of Agrifood; Rural Health; Agricultural Education; Cultural Anthropology; Cultural Geography; Rural Policy, and Rural History. We also invite proposals for guest-edited special issues of *JRSS*.

This first issue of *JRSS* marks the change in editorship of SRSA's official journal from Douglas Clayton Smith to us. We wish to formally thank Doug for all of the advice and assistance that he provided to us over the past 18 months as we transitioned the editorial office from Western Kentucky University to Sam Houston State University. Thank you, Doug.

Based on his impeccable record as editor of *SRS*, we asked Doug if he would be willing to serve on the editorial staff of *JRSS*. Doug graciously agreed, and will serve as Managing Editor. Other key individuals on the *JRSS* editorial staff whom we wish to introduce include Brooklynn Wynveen and Ed Reeves. Brooklynn will serve as Copy Editor and Ed will serve as Book Review Editor.

We look forward to reviewing your work soon.

Gene L. Theodori and Douglas H. Constance  
Sam Houston State University