

## The Plymouth Rural Futures Conference

### **The Rural Citizen: governance, culture and wellbeing in the 21st century**

The University of Plymouth, United Kingdom, 5-7 April 2006

[www.ruralfuturesconference.org](http://www.ruralfuturesconference.org)

This is a conference concerning people who live and dwell in rural areas, and as such is particularly relevant both to those employed in the processes of rural development, and to academics engaged in studying those processes. Each of the words in the title of this conference is open to many interpretations, and our aim is to offer an event which encourages and celebrates that multiplicity in the interests of creative, and potentially exciting, analysis of rural life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Multiplicity is important in other respects. This conference is essentially about people, and people have many and differing goals, values, cultures and traditions. No one discipline or professional cadre can hope to capture the essence of rural existence completely and uniquely, and it makes sense to combine a variety of perspectives, including the artist, the sociologist and the environmentalist along with the technologist, the economist and the politician: bringing together academics, policy-makers and practitioners (from private, public and voluntary sectors).

We are inviting contributions to the conference in various forms:

- Contributed papers
- Poster papers
- Proposals for events of various kinds, including workshops, symposia and exhibitions
- Display stands on behalf of relevant organisations

Please visit our conference website for further information

[www.ruralfuturesconference.org](http://www.ruralfuturesconference.org)

We will particularly welcome proposals which cross discipline boundaries and/or professional/academic boundaries, while being rigorous in approach. The primary focus for contributions should be the rural citizen, but this can encompass a wide range of issues, for instance:

- The array of organisations concerned with governance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and the consequences (e.g. participation vs democratic deficit);

- The way in which rurality does or does not affect living and working conditions, health and welfare, access to services, artistic endeavour, preservation of cultural heritage;
- The relationship between rural people and the natural environment, (and attempts to protect that environment);
- The effects of EU structural funds, LEADER, and similar interventions;
- Social exclusion: does it have a rural dimension, and why? Are the remedies peculiar to rural areas?
- Rural arts schemes: enriching lives or wasting public money?
- The impact of the Single Farm Payment on livelihoods and environments;
- New technologies and their promise for dispersed populations;
- Land use planning regulation – help or hindrance to rural communities?
- ‘Creative industry’ as a tool of rural economic regeneration;

This list is far from exhaustive.

### **Contributed Papers/Poster Papers**

Proposals for contributed papers or poster papers should be in the form of an abstract of between 200-300 words outlining the content of the paper and indicating its conclusions. Abstracts should be through the conference website: <http://www.ruralfuturesconference.org/default.asp?page=submit> to arrive by **31 October 2005**.

Authors of papers will be advised of acceptance by the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2005. Electronic versions of the full paper will be required by **31 January 2006**. Papers presented at the conference will be compiled into Proceedings, issued to all registered delegates on arrival.

### **Workshop Proposals**

Proposals for workshops should be no more than one page of A4, outlining the objectives of the workshop, likely content and approach. Both these and requests for exhibition stands should again be emailed to [ruralfutures@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:ruralfutures@plymouth.ac.uk).

### **Conference location**

Plymouth is situated on the border between the counties of Devon and Cornwall, at the mouths of the rivers Tamar and Tavy. This area has for well over a century been a favourite destination for holidaymakers, and Plymouth has one of the most beautiful situations of any English city. It lies within easy reach of the stunning coastal, moorland and pastoral landscapes of the South West peninsula, offering excellent opportunities for an extended stay in the area.

### **Conference costs and Registration**

The cost for the full conference is listed below. For further information on conference registration please visit:

Early Registration (by 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2006) £260  
Registration (after 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2006) £320

Day Rates Days 1 and 2 £150 per day  
Day 3 £90

Postgraduate/Student Rate £160 (by 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2006) £200 (after 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2006)

Conference registration information will be available through our conference website at [www.ruralfuturesconference.org](http://www.ruralfuturesconference.org)

### **Accommodation**

Delegates will need to make their own accommodation arrangements, information on accommodation can be found at our website through clicking on the link below;

<http://www.ruralfuturesconference.org/default.asp?page=accommodation>

If you would like any further information please contact.

Rural Futures Conference Secretariat

Faculty of Technology

University of Plymouth

Plymouth

PL4 8AA

UK

Phone: +44 (0)1752 233304

Fax: +44 (0)1752 233305

[admin@ruralfuturesconference.org](mailto:admin@ruralfuturesconference.org)