

## **Editorial**

# **The Tenth Anniversary of the Journal of Rural Community Development**

**Doug Ramsey**

Department of Rural Development

Brandon University

Brandon, Manitoba, Canada

[ramsey@brandonu.ca](mailto:ramsey@brandonu.ca)

This issue marks the tenth anniversary of the Journal of Rural and Community Development (JRCD). It contains six articles on a range of topics covering North America, Europe, and Asia. At the JRCD we are all very proud of our accomplishments over the past decade. In this editorial, I wish to outline the history and context of the journey that has taken us to 2015.

A proposal to develop a new journal focused on rural development was presented to a research workshop on the rural economy in Canada held in April 2002 in Altona, Manitoba, Canada. Well received, a formal journal proposal was developed and distributed to social scientists working in Canada, the United States, Europe, and the United Kingdom between 2002 and 2003. The feedback was extremely positive. By spring 2003, the decision was made to pursue an online format. Dr. Robert Annis, the former Director of the Rural Development Institute (RDI) at Brandon University (BU) and the Dean of Arts Office at BU provided funding to acquire the domain name ([www.jrcd.ca](http://www.jrcd.ca)) and train an IT specialist, Patrick Johanneson, at BU in the Open Journal System. IT services, and in particular Patrick and his director, Al Dunthorne, have been instrumental in supporting our desire to create an online, open access journal.

The site was operational by 2004 and a 'call for papers' was sent out to various social science lists. The Open Journal System (OJS) site and the new JRCD site also received attention on their own. By late 2004 and early 2005, the first submissions were made through the JRCD site. The first issue was published in October 2005 with RDI as the JRCD publisher providing financial assistance, organizational support, and marketing. Until receiving Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) support through the Aid to Scholarly Publications Programme in 2011, RDI had been the core funder and administrator of the JRCD with much of the labour provided by the Editor (faculty time) and members of the Editorial Board. Part of the RDI funding came from the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives.

Since that first issue in 2005 we have published 25 more issues, nine of which were special issues. Together, the JRCD has published more than 250 peer-reviewed articles and case studies. We have a truly global reach, including six of the seven continents. The special issues are worth listing as they provide an illustration of the variety of issues and regions published in the JRCD.

1. New Rural Economy (2006: Canada)
2. Adaptation to Climate Change (2008: Canada)
3. Rural Tourism (2010: Canada)
4. Human Resources and Indigenous Communities (2012: Australia, Canada, Norway, USA)
5. From Rural Research to Policy and Back Again (2012: Canada)
6. Palliative and End-of-Life Services in Rural and Remote Geographies (2012: Canada)
7. Rural and Remote Broadband Deficit in Canada (2013: Canada)
8. Rural Geography—Rural Development (2013: Canada, UK, Ireland, USA, Australia)
9. Community Impacts from Large Oil and Natural Gas Ventures in Rural and Remote Areas (2014: Canada, USA, Australia, Norway)

The original purpose and mandate for the publication of the JRCD continues to be followed. The purpose of the JRCD is to provide a venue for academics to publish findings in development studies that fall within rural and/or community contexts. Beyond the demographic trends toward urban living, there are issues of remoteness, regional differences, resource dependency and restructuring, environmental degradation, unemployment and depopulation, urban influence/dominance, etc., that need to be addressed. Connections can be made to a variety of traditional (e.g., Geography, Sociology, Political Science, Economics) and non-traditional (e.g., Rural Development, Health Studies, Environmental Studies) academic disciplines, as well as research areas and perspectives (e.g., resource analysis, political economy, community action theory, community development). The desire to achieve an international audience of readers and authors was both sought and achieved.

The mandate of the JRCD remains true to the rationale stated above. Further, the JRCD strives to ensure timely publication of research and encourages scholars at all stages of their career to consider the JRCD. In order to attract applied development research submissions, two sections were established in addition to regular full-length articles at the outset: case studies and policy/programme evaluations. The JRCD has also embraced special issues. More recently, this interest has been coming from international scholars. The current subject areas of interest to the JRCD include: economic restructuring and diversification; social capital, capacity and cohesion; community, economic and regional development; social problems and community development; experiences with development activities; program and policy evaluation; rural condition; gender issues in development; land-use, environmental and community planning; rural governance and service provision; and changing communications technology. It is a source of pride to me that the JRCD is accessible to anyone, anywhere, who can access the Internet—bringing examples of improved development opportunities in rural areas and small communities to the world.

In November 2014, the JRCD received a second grant through the Aid to Scholarly Publications Programme of SSHRC. As with the first grant, this grant provides annual funding for three years. The funds go to journal management, copy editing and layout. Without this support, it would be very difficult to provide the services we offer and still offer the journal free for publishing and accessing. The continued support of

Brandon University and SSHRC and the support of the Editorial Board and manuscript reviewers are vital to the continued success of the JRCD.

RDI, as publisher of the JRCD, has begun a process of better engaging the Editorial Board and marketing the JRCD. The current Director of RDI, Dr. William (Bill) Ashton, has been playing a lead role in this regard. I look forward to another ten years with the continued support of institutions such as RDI, the Editorial Board, authors, reviewers, and readers. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and encouragement. I hope you enjoy this issue, previous issues, and those that will appear in the future.