

**Call for Papers / Short Presentations**

**Conversations on the future for arts, education and enterprise in Scottish rural communities**

**Symposium on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023**

Deadline for abstracts: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Venue: Glasgow Caledonian University

Organisers: Dr Laurence Lasselle (School of Management, University of St Andrews) and Professor Simon McKerrell (Department of Media and Journalism, Glasgow Caledonian University)

We are interested in hearing from academics and practitioners with an interest in the many possible futures for arts, education, and enterprise in rural Scotland. We hope to build a conversation across 2023 that incorporates both multidisciplinary academics as well as community activists, educators and entrepreneurs focused on rural Scotland. In setting out this agenda, we acknowledge the various pre-existing fora dedicated to discussing rural affairs in Scotland, and much of the previous work, however the purpose of these conversations is to explore the possible innovative and/or future-facing issues and models for policy that are specifically driven by rural concerns and lifestyles.

We acknowledge the transformative effects of the digital turn during the pandemic, and the growth of creative micro-enterprises across the Highlands and Islands, as well as the efforts to devolve decision-making to rural regions. And simultaneously acknowledge the substantive challenges of additional costs resulting from geography, the cost and time of travelling around the vast area, services, suppliers, connectivity, power supply, etc. We hope that the outcome of these conversations might be to provide common cause cross-sectorally, where resource-, people-, or networked-solutions might work across boundaries.

With a recognition that Rural Scotland is not a homogenous place and each place has unique characteristics, participants in this symposium will explore the extent to which the different contexts (social, cultural, educational, geographical, etc.) of rural influence the role of schools, artists, enterprises, communities and local authorities.

- We invite contributions for papers on a range of topics including but not limited to:
- Whose rural knowledge is valued in Scotland?
- Where does decision-making power lie in rural Scotland?
- Where are the gaps between urban policy making and rural policy making implementation?
- Should there be a convergence between a national reality and a local specificity in research?
- How does rural research provide insights on the elaboration of inclusive (local and national) policy measures?
- How is local knowledge utilised and embedded in rural schools or in informal education networks?
- How do rural-based organisations promote the participation and engagement of families in their communities?
- What are the most effective ways to support artistic and creative enterprises in the rural economy?
- How do enterprises, in particular micro-enterprises, mediate and convert different forms of capital in their rural communities? How might collectivization offer a means to securing better, and more substantial resources and visibility?

*Part 2 will be held in St Andrews in Autumn 2023.*

This symposium will bring together academics and practitioners from all career stages for a discussion from across disciplines in arts & humanities and social sciences. We encourage papers and roundtables, and particularly wish to encourage research students to participate in the day.

**Please submit your proposal abstract(s) up to 250 words and a short bio by Thursday 12th January 2023 to: [laurence.lasselle@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:laurence.lasselle@st-andrews.ac.uk)**

*In order to promote participation, please forward this to colleagues and anyone else who may be interested.*