

The  
**RSS Oral History Project**  
Is an effort to  
collect interviews with  
members of the  
Rural Sociological Society.

The project goals are:

- 1) To develop a sense of where rural sociology has been, what progress it has made, and where it is heading.
- 2) To compare past challenges/ issues/opportunities with those of today.
- 3) To develop a better understanding of the relationship between sociology and rural sociology.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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For more on  
the Rural Sociological Society  
or to visit the RSS Historian's website

[WWW.RURALSOCIOLOGY.ORG](http://WWW.RURALSOCIOLOGY.ORG)

2021



**RSS**  
**ORAL**  
**HISTORY**  
**PROJECT**

## BACKGROUND

The **RSS Oral History Project** was initiated by Joachim Singelmann, President of the Rural Sociological Society (2009-2010) to capture the memories and recollections of past presidents of the Society, their contributions, as well as the context in which the scholars worked.

A key aim in developing the project was Joachim's interest in the evolution and development of rural sociology as a specialty area of sociology, but also the development of rural sociology as an organization – particularly for past presidents who worked in the South since rural sociology there often was the vanguard of the establishment of general sociology at land-grant institutions.

*Everyone is encouraged to participate in the RSS Oral History Project*

*–  
be it as an interviewer  
or an interviewee.*

**The RSS Oral History Project is a collective effort to capture the memories, recollections, and insights of members of the Rural Sociological Society.**

### Details in Brief

- Interviews follow a semi-structured format with 5 common questions. (Everyone is encouraged to expand beyond these.)
- If possible, interviews should be recorded (either video or audio).
- A copy of the interview (along with a photo and vita) should be sent to the RSS Historian to be deposited in the Society's archives.

### 5 Common Questions:

1. How did you become interested in rural sociology?
2. What led you to decide to become active in (or run for President of) RSS?
3. What were some of the dominant issues or challenges confronting RSS/rural sociology or rural society when you first joined RSS and when you were active or President?
4. If you were involved in other associations (e.g. ASA, PAA, regional associations), based on

that experience, how was rural sociology/RSS seen by those within that association?

5. What do you see as the future issues or challenges for RSS as an organization or rural sociology as a field?

### How can I join?

- Interviews can be conducted by anyone – including students.
- To ensure the longevity of the interviews, if possible, interviewers are asked to provide a transcript of the 5 common questions.
- Should a complete transcript be possible, this would assure long-term access as technology rapidly changes.
- To learn more about the project or how to volunteer to conduct an interview, contact the RSS Historian.

***The Rural Sociological Society is a professional social science association that promotes the generation, application, and dissemination of sociological knowledge. The Society seeks to enhance the quality of rural life, communities, and the environment.***