Tuesday • June 8 • 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

*Social enterprise in rural communities: Our experiences **and Yours!***

This pre-conference session will share the joys and obstacles in examining social enterprise off the beaten track. Researchers listed below will relay the realities associated with such fieldwork and ask for audience participation and questions. A dialogue will be opened and hopefully connections established to stay in touch and share questions and solutions.

While time may be devoted to critiquing the dominant view/examination of social enterprise in an urban context, the majority of time will be devoted to hearing from those who are/have boots on the ground in the rural and remote, including Northern Canada, Sweden, Australia, and elsewhere.

Simon Berge, Ph.D. Faculty of Business & Economics, University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, co-operative enterprises, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis entrepreneurship, melding/merging of pro-social and capitalist means

François Brouard, Ph.D. Sprott School of Business, Carleton University, Ontario, Canada. social enterprise, social innovation strategies, non-profit governance, creativity under adversity

Heather Douglas, Ph.D. University of Queensland, Australia. social entrepreneurship, social innovation, agriculture, developing island nation-states

Prescott C. Ensign, Ph.D. Lazaridis School of Business & Economics, Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, Canada. Indigenous enterprises, Northern Canada, rural and regional social policy for capacity development

Douglas Lionais, Ph.D. Shannon School of Business, Cape Breton University, Nova Scotia, Canada. economic geography, rural enterprises, community economic development

Natasha Webster, Ph.D. Human Geography, Stockholm University, Sweden. female immigrant entrepreneurs, gig-work in migration and integration, food culture diversity

Spicy meatballs promoting entrepreneurship in rural Sweden

Female, migrant entrepreneurs in small communities (video)*

Exploring the role of privilege in migrant women's self-employment

Rural prosocial enterprise ecosystems for positive change
Problem 1: changing socioeconomic landscape in rural Australia
Problem 2: engage long-term residents in reconsidering their economic future

Cooperative education Vital Arctic business – the Northern Co-ops

Social enterprise in comic form Social enterprise in Atlantic Canada
Constructing alternative institutional spaces for economic development

People in charge of the solution are often part of the problem, this might include pensioners, scientists, govt. folk, natural resource sector, legacy family farms.
Not a lot of diversity in thinking (particular when it is the same people invited to the discussion table).

Barunga Festival Social enterprise in Canada
Toward a better understanding Social enterprises model in Canada

Mapping the social shift

Local cry that government should fund outback farming to make it sustainable.
Disconnect – 1) it's not sustainable, 2) government is no longer the answer, 3) modern political appetite has shifted, 4) city-based population no longer has tolerance for this.

*may have to copy link into new browser

Need for moral and ethical leadership:
- to engage and lead the rural population into new fields as a relational and collective process.
- for a renewal of values based ethical economic practices
- to manage the political process of engaging governments (local, state, federal) to support the change processes.