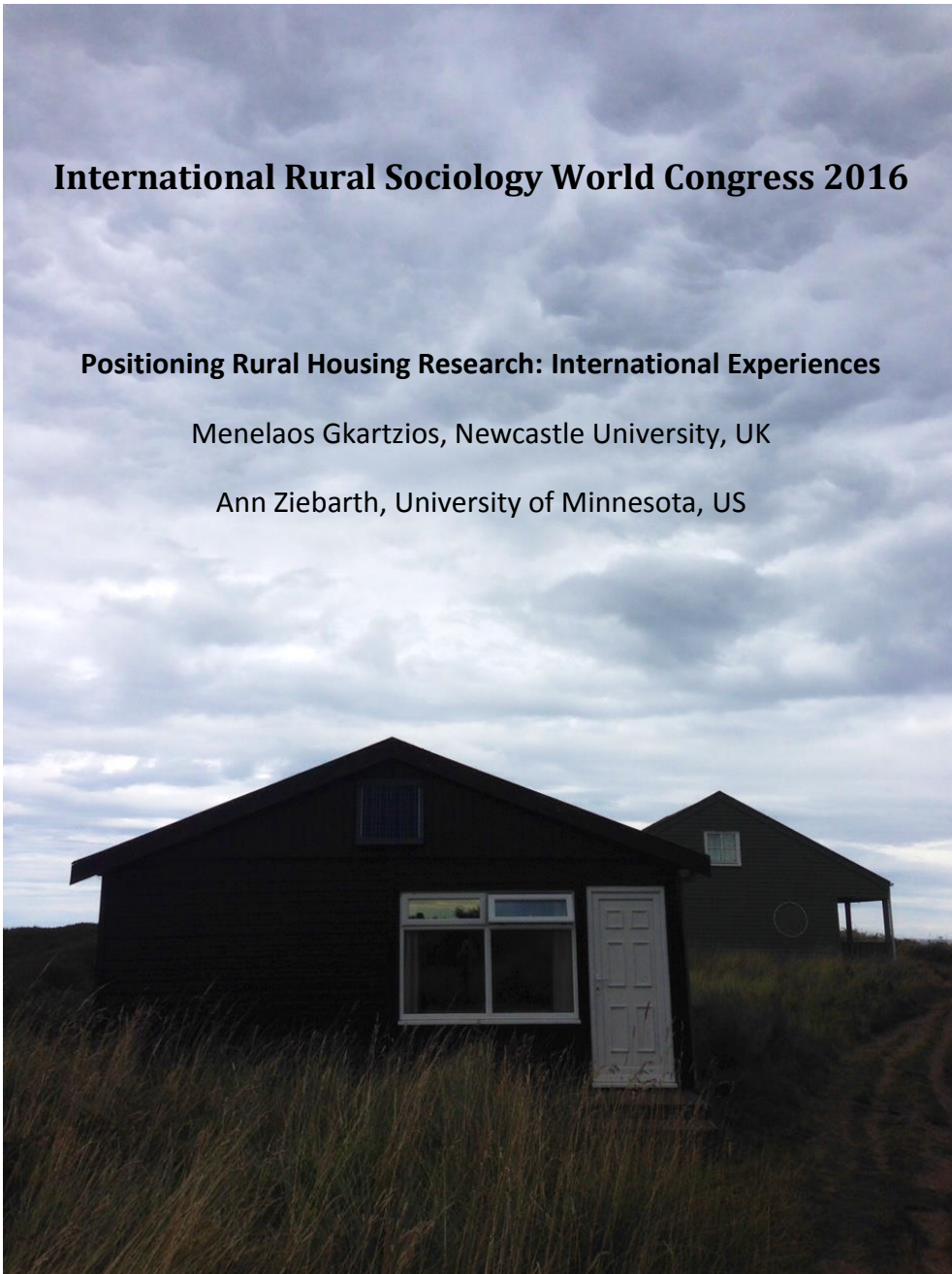


# **International Rural Sociology World Congress 2016**

## **Positioning Rural Housing Research: International Experiences**

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### **Session Abstract:**

The aim of this session is to discuss the state of art of contemporary rural housing research in international contexts and set new directions for housing research. Rural housing has provided an insightful lens for studying a series of social phenomena: from counterurbanisation and gentrification, to poverty and social exclusion. We focus on rural housing as a symbol of transition and restructuring, adding new meanings to rural areas and perhaps changing power relations in the countryside. We are interested to contrast rural housing policies as indicators of norms embedded in national planning systems, reflecting wider notions about what the countryside is and what needs to be done with it. We also view rural housing phenomena in times of crisis (i.e. unfinished houses, vacant houses, foreclosures). Therefore, we aim to explore what sustainability means in the context

of rural housing and how resilience could be interpreted in rural housing policies. We question whether there are 'ideal' rural housing policies and how these might be developed in diverse contexts. What values should underpin rural housing policy and who is responsible for articulating these? Some of the areas we are interested to explore in our session include:

- The paradoxical (or not) relationship between rural housing and rural development policies
- The role of social housing and alternative tenures in the countryside
- Rural housing and affordability
- Rural housing and mobilities
- Homelessness and social exclusion
- The governance of rural housing: policy communities and power struggles
- Housing, poverty and race
- Rural housing research and gender/sexualities
- Rural housing, crisis and neoliberalism
- The meaning of resilience in rural housing policies
- Second holiday homes in rural areas: opportunity or threat?

We welcome both empirical and theoretical papers and we aim to draw on diverse international perspectives.

**Submit abstract at:**

<http://www.ryerson.ca/arts/irsacongress2016/call-for-submissions/call-for-papers.html>

**Deadline: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

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