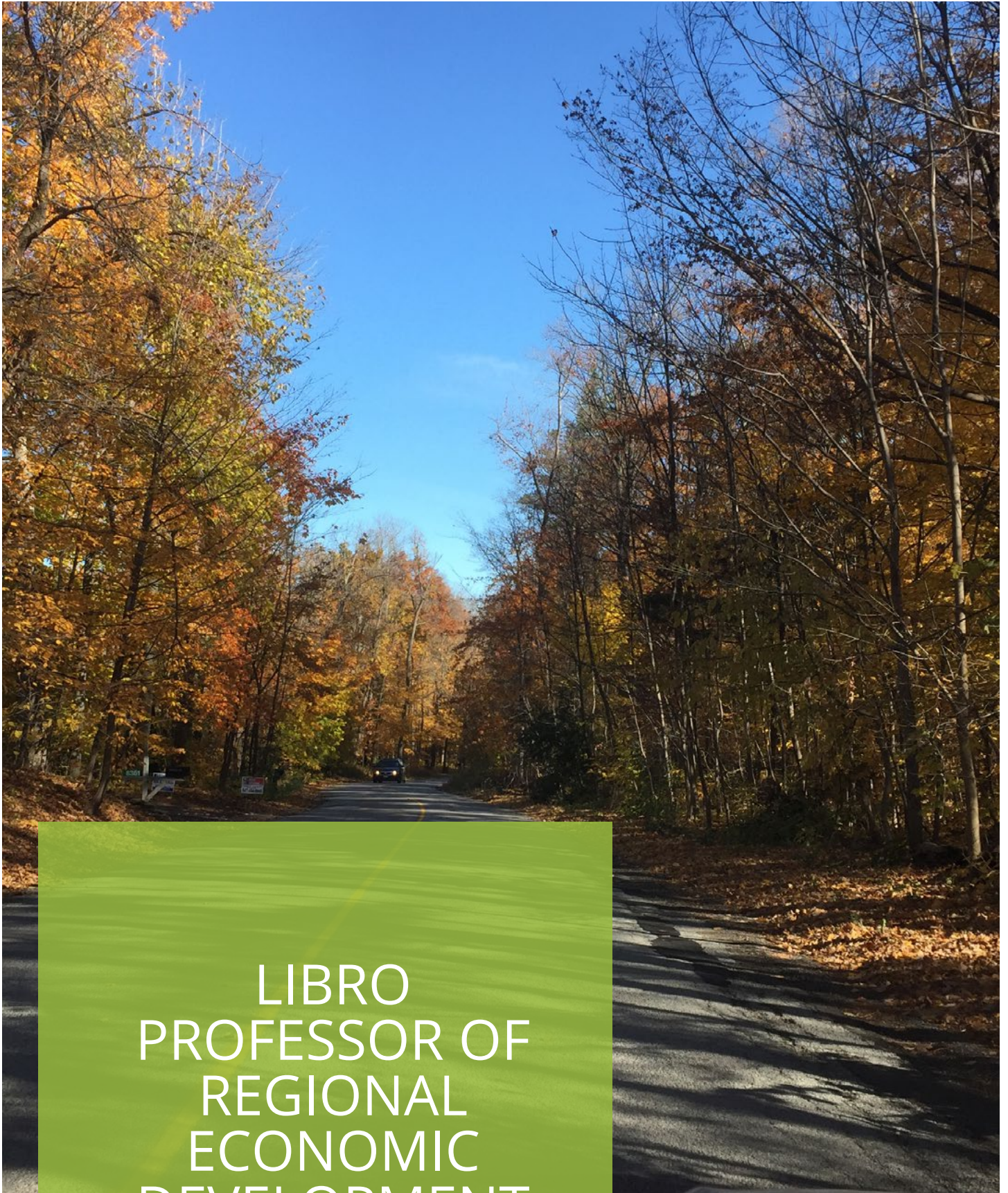


2018-2019 Annual Report



LIBRO PROFESSOR OF REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

UNIVERSITY
of GUELPH

School of
Environmental Design
& Rural Development

The Libro Professor of Regional Economic Development was established in 2016 through the generous donations from Libro Credit Union, the Klosler family, and the Roberts family. Together, a \$1 million gift was created to serve as a catalyst for enhancing regional economic development in Southwestern Ontario.



THE LIBRO PROFESSOR

Dr. Ryan Gibson began the Libro Professorship of Regional Economic Development in the summer 2016. Based in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, Dr. Gibson has a deep interest in and respect for communities, their people, and the events that shape their futures. He is interested in regional and economic development, multi-community collaborations, governance, philanthropy, and public policy. Since joining the University of Guelph, Dr. Gibson has been actively engaged with community leaders, nonprofit organizations, and businesses throughout southwestern Ontario and beyond.

This annual report provides an overview of the achievements over the 2018-2019 academic year. Teaching, research, and service activities are briefly discussed. Throughout the annual report hyperlinks to further information can be found online. Details on activities, research initiatives, and resources can always be found at www.ruraldev.ca.

2018-2019

LIBRO PROFESSOR HIGHLIGHTS



6 new
research
projects

8 on-going
research
projects



10
research
assistants



36

support for travel to
conferences, workshops,
and events

18
presentations
delivered



supervisor to
18
graduate
students



8
publications



3
meetings of the
Advisory
Committee

49
stories
published
online



MORE INFO ...

www.ruraldev.ca



TEACHING

Over the past year the Libro Professor taught three courses in the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development: Regional Planning, Economic Development, and Integrated Research Methods. Further, independent courses were facilitated focusing on rural immigration, recreation and trails, and place-based development, innovation, cannabis, and public policy.

RESEARCH

The Libro Professor actively engages in many research initiatives focused on economic development, public policy, philanthropy/wealth, and employment. Illustrative descriptions of the research initiatives are enclosed in this report. Further details can be found at www.ruraldev.ca.



SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

The Libro Professor has been actively involved in service and community engagement commitments within the university, within the region, and within the professional community. The Libro Professor met with community groups, delivered presentations and workshops, provided guest lectures, wrote articles/book chapters, reports. He is also actively engaged in organizing events that bring people together to discuss the future rural regions.



SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The School of Environmental Design and Rural Development brings together major academic fields concerned with creating strong communities in Canada and around the world. The four highly respected units that have come together to form SEDRD share many common goals but approach them in different and complementary ways. This model reflects the imperatives in building authentic communities where planners, leaders, communicators, landscape architects, the citizens, and politicians all play important interdependent roles in strengthening communities. For more information, visit www.sedrd.uoguelph.ca.

BUILDING STUDENT CAPACITY

Over the past year, the Libro Professor provided opportunities for graduate students to enhance their skills and capacities. These opportunities include engagement as research assistants on research initiatives, support networking with key actors in the region, and financing attendance at regional, national, and international conferences, events, and workshops.

11 students hired as research assistants



18 students supervised at Master or doctoral level



32 opportunities for students to attend conferences & workshops



ILLUSTRATIVE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

INTERNATIONAL COMPARATIVE RURAL POLICY SUMMER INSTITUTE

Louis Helps, Marc-Antoine Larrivée, and Asheligh Weeden participated in the 2019 International Comparative Rural Summer Institute held in Rovaniemi, Finland. This year's program focussed on place-based development, smart specialization, and rural development. [For more information on ICRPS click here.](#)



CANADIAN RURAL REVITALIZATION FOUNDATION

Tracey Harvey, Alex Petric, and Neil Stoop shared their insights at the CRRF 2018 Conference in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. They contributed research findings focused on cannabis lgalization, open data in rural regions, and definitions of rural. [Details and copies of the presentation can be found by clicking here.](#)



Mallory Smith and Menakah Yoharaja delivered presentations focused on rural Ontario immigration at the 2019 Metropolis national conference on immigration in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Their presentations highlighted the challenges associated with rural immigration. [More details available here.](#)

METROPOLIS IMMIGRATION CONFERENCE



Graduate students worked with elected leaders and staff at the Ontario Good Roads Association Conference in Toronto, Ontario. Students facilitated round table discussions focused on six key trends impacting rural communities. [Further information on the session can be found here.](#)

ONTARIO GOOD ROADS ASSOCIATION

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Below is a list of graduate students supervised by the Libro Professor. Further information about their research can be found at www.ruraldev.ca.



OMOTAYO APAMPA

MSc RPD Graduate

Research: The immigrant experience and challenges in rural communities

Hometown: Lagos, Nigeria



TRACEY HARVEY

PhD Student

Research: Examining the role of cannabis legalization in the Kootenays region of British Columbia

Hometown: British Columbia

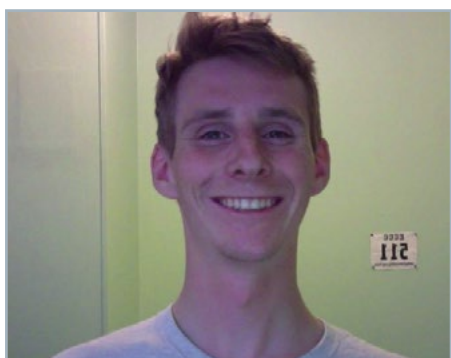


LOUIS HELPS

MSc RPD Student

Research: Understanding the use of temporary foreign worker programs in the Canadian agri-food sector

Hometown: Carling Township, Ontario



TIMOTHY HUNTING

MSc RPD Student

Research Interests: assets of tacit knowledge transfer, as a mechanism to enhance the development of the Trans Canada Trail

Hometown: Cowansville, Québec



EMMANUELA JADA

MSc RPD Student

Research Interests: Migration and immigration issues and policies, integration of refugees, and international rural development

Hometown: Guelph, Ontario

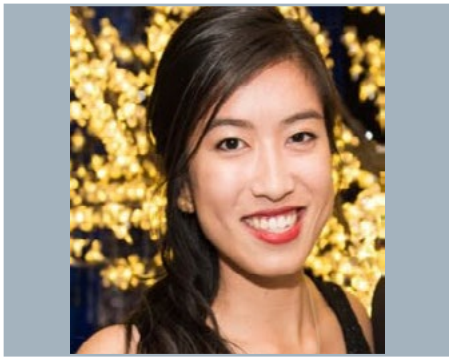


SHANNON LABELLE

MSc RPD Student

Research: Examining the impacts of substance abuse in rural and remote First Nations communities in Northern Ontario, community-based approaches to treatment and intervention

Hometown: Burlington, Ontario



KOREN LAM

MSc RPD Student

Research Interests: examining the lack of broadband in rural communities

Hometown: Brampton, Ontario



MELANIE LANG

PhD Student

Research: examining the role rural entrepreneurship has on community economic development and community resiliency in Pontiac, Quebec

Hometown: Quyon, Québec



SARAH PARISH

MSc RPD Student

Research: Determining if agritourism can revitalize the rural sector in North Durham Region

Hometown: Oshawa, Ontario



ALEX PETRIC

MSc RPD Graduate

Research: Analyzing charitable/social data and modelling the transfer of wealth within Canada's rural communities

Hometown: Brampton, Ontario



MATT RAPKE

MSc RPD Student

Research Interests: Interested in exploring the patterns and causes of unequal spatial economic development with a focus on rural areas

Hometown: Markdale, Ontario

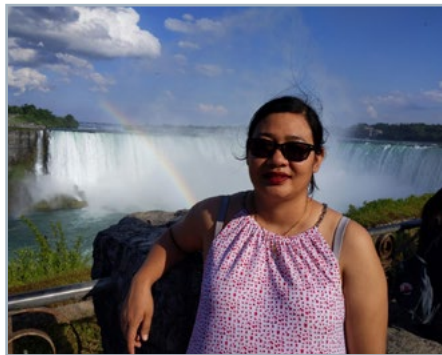


GURSEWAK SINGH

MSc RPD Student

Research Interests: Construction, municipal planning, re-development and neighborhood design

Hometown: Surrey, British Columbia



NIVA SHRESTHA

MSc RPD Student

Research: Exploring how can settlement services be provided to immigrants in rural areas of Southwestern Ontario

Hometown: Kathmandu, Nepal



MALLORY SMITH

MSc RPD Student

Research: Examining how rural communities in Ontario can enhance immigration attraction and settlement

Hometown: Hamilton, Ontario



VINIT YADAV

MPlan Student

Research Interests: land use planning, environment, sustainability, tourism and rural planning development

Hometown: Amritsar, Punjab, India



MENAKAH YOHARAJA

MSc RPD Student

Research Interests: immigration; mental health and housing; accessible transportation for disadvantaged groups; and poverty alleviation

Hometown: Cornwall, Ontario



ASHLEIGH WEEDEN

PhD Student

Research: Examining how place-based innovation ecosystems have been utilized in rural communities

Hometown: Ariss, Ontario

INFLUENCING PUBLIC POLICY

Influencing change in public policy is a key activity of the Libro Professorship. Over the past year, the Professor has met with community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, provincial governments, and national governments to provide evidence, knowledge, and insights on rural and regional economic development. Four key activities from the past year are outlined below.

1 NATIONAL CBC RADIO INTERVIEWS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Gibson participated in 11 CBC Radio interviews to discuss the new federal minister of rural economic development. Details can be found by clicking [here](#), including a recording of the interview the CBC Radio Morning with Wei Chen.

2 2019 FEDERAL BUDGET SUBMISSION

Dr. Gibson was invited by the House of Commons Finance Committee to bring perspectives on how the 2019 federal budget could be utilized to enhance and support local economic development in rural and northern communities. The committee is studying the pre-budget consultations and more specifically what steps the federal government can take to support and encourage Canadian businesses to grow the economy in the face of a changing economic landscape.



3 MEETINGS WITH PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANT TO MINISTER OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Gibson met with the Marc Serré (Member of Parliament for Nickel Belt), the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Rural Economic Development, to discuss rural economic development in Canada and potential strategies the federal government of Canada may employ to empower rural regions to compete in the global economy.

4 TESTIMONY TO HOUSE OF COMMONS FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dr. Gibson was part of a team that submitted a set of recommendations to the federal Ministry of Finance for the 2019 budget. The recommendations focused on how the federal budget could better support local community development. A copy of the recommendations can be found [here](#): Recommendations for the 2019 Federal Budget: Pre-Budget Submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance.



STAY CONNECTED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Many of the Libro Professor's activities, achievements, and engagements have been documented through social media, both on Twitter (@ryanfgibson) and on LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com/in/ryanfgibson/). A sample of mentions of Dr. Gibson's work from Twitter are presented here.

Follow Dr. Gibson on Twitter and LinkedIn for the most recent updates!





ADVANCING RESEARCH

The Libro Professor is actively engaged in research initiatives focused on critical topics of regional and rural development. In 2018-2019, Dr. Gibson received funding for **6 new** research initiatives worth in excess of \$200,000.

1. Charting a New Course for Regional Economic Development: A Comparison between Ontario and Ireland
2. Evaluating Sustainable Governance for Non-Profit Organizations in Rural Canada
3. Housing Integration of Mexican Season Agricultural Worker Program Workers in the Ontario Economy
4. Rural Immigration: Strategies for Rural Economic Development and Labour Force Planning
5. Improving the Effectiveness of Advisory Services for Facilitating Information Sharing, Accessibility, and Adoption of Sustainable Farm Management Practices in Ontario
6. Rural Proofing: Rural Considerations Approach Evaluation

Each of these research initiatives, along with ongoing research activities, engages a series partners, including communities, organizations, nonprofits, local governments, Indigenous communities, provincial government ministries, federal government ministries, and international partners. Graduate students are engaged in each of these research initiatives, providing them opportunities for gaining employable skills, building networks, and enhancing their knowledge.

In addition to the new research initiatives, Dr. Gibson remains actively engaged in 8 research initiatives. A full list of these research initiatives, along with online resources, can be found on page 18.

A few illustrative research projects are listed on the next two pages. Further information on all research initiatives can be found at www.ruraldev.ca.



CHARTING A NEW COURSE IN RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2019 - 2020

What is the future of rural economic development? How can communities with low population densities and typically high distances to density carve out a place in the ever-interconnected and globalized world? How can technological and transportation innovations be utilized to sustain and revitalize rural regions? What is the role of all stakeholders in this new reality for rural economic development?

These questions are fundamental to the future of rural regions. Rapidly changing technological, political and other conditions, yesterday's solutions or assumed solutions are now being aggressively challenged. Changing senior government priorities and resources availabilities are pressing governments, communities & civil society organizations to reconsider their roles in the area and regional development agenda, and pressing for innovative approaches to governance. Community leaders, economic development practitioners, government policy makers, businesses, and researchers are striving to find answers to build and sustain vibrant rural regions.

This initiative focuses on building networks across rural economic development practitioners, policy makers, businesses, and researchers in Ontario and Ireland. The initiative will facilitate linkages between Community Futures organizations in Ontario with Leader groups in Ireland to generate knowledge sharing of successful practices, create an invaluable network, and identify seminal questions required to advancing rural economic development in this new rural reality.

This initiative is funded through the Connections Grant program of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Find out more about this initiative by [clicking here](#).

SUSTAINABILITY OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

2019 - 2020

Shifts in government restructuring led to an increasingly critical role of non-profit organizations and charities presence in rural communities. These organizations are integral to the social, cultural, economic and environmental fabric necessary to the resilience and revitalization of rural communities. However, they experience systemic organizational capacity and human capital challenges, as well as precarious funding and heavy administrative reporting burdens. These challenges impact the long-term sustainability of non-profit and charitable organizations and the ability to deliver their mandate.

The overall objective of this project is to identify and understand the critical factors that contribute to successful governance of non-profit organizations and charities in rural communities and what strategies and practices have been successful in other places.

This initiative was funded by Mitacs Elevate Grant in partnership with the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation. [For more information click here.](#)



TRANSITIONING TO THE NEW RURAL CANNABIS ECONOMY

2018 - 2020

Over the last 40 years or more, rural communities from the coastal islands, Fraser Valley, Okanagan and Kootenay region grew into cannabis producing clusters. While the outlaw cannabis industry was largely ignored and certainly excluded from economic contributions up until recently, it has been a significant, yet largely hidden part of the socioeconomic fabric of rural B.C. communities for decades. With the Kootenay region as the case study, the project goal is to evaluate how historically producing rural regions can effectively transition to the new legal cannabis economy.

Questions guiding this project include: To what extent has the cannabis industry supported rural B.C. economies? How will rural communities historically supported by the

cannabis industry be impacted socially and economically with legalization of recreational cannabis? Who are the legalization stakeholders and how are they engaging in decision making? What training and education is needed for the rural workforce in response to legalization? What barriers exist for current cannabis industry participants to transition into the legalized regime? What opportunities and challenges come with legalization?

This initiative is funded through the Mitacs Elevate grant in partnership with Community Futures Central Kootenays and Selkirk College. [For more information click here.](#)

OUTPUTS

ARTICLES, BOOKS, AND BOOK CHAPTERS

Gibson, R. (2019). Seeking Multi-Level Collaborative Governance. In Vodden, K., Douglas, D. Markey, S., *Minnes, S., & Reimer, W. (Eds.), *The Theory, Practice and Potential of Regional Development: The Case of Canada* (pp. 80-97). London: Routledge.

Gibson, R., & Annis, R. (in press). Negotiating the culture of care. In A. Vollman, & S. Jackson (Eds.), *Canadian Community as Partner: Theory & Multidisciplinary Practice* (5th Ed). Philadelphia: Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkins.

Gibson, R., & Annis, R. C. (in press). Rural immigration and welcoming communities. In M. Vittuari, M. Pagani, J. Devlin, J. I. Stallmann, & T.G. Johnson (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Comparative Rural Policy: Theories, Methods, and Case Studies*. London: Routledge.

Gibson, R., & *Barrett, J. (2018). Philanthropic Organizations to the Rescue? Alternative Funding Solutions for Rural Sustainability. In Greg Halseth, Sean Markey, Laura Ryser (Ed.), *Integrative Services and Service Infrastructure for 21st Century Rural Sustainability* (pp. 109-122). London: Routledge.

*Weeden, A., & **Gibson, R.** (2019). Building the Future: Rural Infrastructure and Regional Economic Development. *Milestones*, 19 (1), 33-36.

REPORTS

*Epp, S., Longboat, S., & **Gibson, R.** (2019). Enhancing Rural Research and Policy: Report of the 2019 Rural Symposium. Report submitted to Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and University of Guelph.

*Epp, S., & **Gibson, R.** (2019). Report on the 2018-2019 SEDRD Speaker Series. Report submitted to School of Environmental Design and Rural Development, University of Guelph.

*Haines, R., *Harris, N., *Helps, L., *Lam, K., *Parish, S., *Pashley, M., *Rapke, M., *Shrestha, N., *Singer, R., & **Gibson, R.** (2019). Socio-Economic Impact Assessment of Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health. Report submitted to Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health.

* student contributor

PRESENTATIONS

- Bradshaw, B., **Gibson, R.**, Burr, J., *Durish, N., & Cánovas, A. (2019, May). Mitacs Accelerate Internships: Opportunities, Strategies, and Stories of Success. Presented at Perspectives on Experiential Learning, Guelph, Ontario.
- Gibson, R.** (2019, July). Going, Going, Gone? Disappearing Rural Development Strategies in Canadian Public Policy. Presented at Working Landscapes and Livable Communities: 9th Quadrennial Conference of British, Canadian, and American Rural Geographers, Burlington, USA.
- Gibson, R.** (2019, June). Rural Matters: Realities and Opportunities in Philanthropy. Presented at All in: 2019 Community Foundations of Canada Conference, Victoria, British Columbia.
- Gibson, R.** (2019, June). Defining Rural: Exploring the International Diversity of Definitions. Presented at 2019 International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute, Rovaniemi, Finland.
- Gibson, R.** (2019, April). Growing Trends in the Rural Community. Invited presentation at Libro Credit Union Seminar Series, Jarvis, Ontario.
- Gibson, R.** (2019, March). Strange Bedfellows or Useful Strategies? Research, Teaching, and Social Media. Presented at Bridging the Gap: Making Research Accessible to the Public, Guelph, Ontario.
- Gibson, R.** (2018, December). Rural Immigration and Welcoming Communities. Presented at 2019 Western Region Workforce Summit: Western Ontario Wardens Caucus, London, Ontario.
- Gibson, R.** (2018, November). Building a Strong Welcoming Community: Leadership, Business Engagement, and Knowledge Sharing. Presented at Regional Forum on Newcomer Integration, Blue Mountains, Ontario.
- Gibson, R.** (2018, November). Rural philanthropy. Invited presentation at Community Foundations of Canada Rural Philanthropy Community of Practice, Guelph, Ontario.
- Gibson, R.** (2018, October). Passport to Research. Invited presentation at Rural Resilience: Rural to Rural 2018, Blythe, Ontario.
- Gibson, R.** (2018, October). Searching for multi-level collaborative governance in rural Canadian regions. Presented at Health and Shared Prosperity: 2018 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
- Gibson, R.** & Fürst, B. (2018, October). Right in the Middle of Somewhere: Public Engagement in Northern and Remote Regions. Presented at People, Place and Public Engagement, St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Gibson, R.**, Greenslade, K., & Osborne, T. (2019, February). Advocating for Rural Immigration Programs. Presented at The Immigration Summit: The Economics of Rural Immigration, Elora, Ontario.
- Gibson, R.**, & *Helps, W. (2019, May). Measuring the Socio-Economic Impacts of the Gateway Centre of Excellence in Rural Health. Invited presentation at Celebrating Ten Years of Improving Rural Health, Goderich, Ontario.
- Gibson, R.**, Smith, P., Sparling, S., & Barbet, A. (2018, October). Understanding Economic Transformations in Southwestern Ontario. Presented at Libro Credit Union Fall Forum, London, Ontario.
- Gibson, R.**, *Smith, M., & *Yoharaja, M. (2019, March). Doing Immigration Differently in Rural Canada. Presented at 21st National Metropolis Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- Gibson, R.**, *Weeden, A., & Fürst, B. (2018, September). Moving Local Knowledge and Experiences into Public Policy. Presented at Econous 2018: An Economy that Work for All, Moncton, New Brunswick.

* student contributor

Gibson, R., *Weeden, A., Mendez-Smith, G., & Jilesen, P. (2019, March). Rural Workforce Development Innovations. Presentation at Let's Talk: Labour Shortages, Saugeen Shores, Ontario.

*Harvey, T. & **Gibson, R.** (2019, May). Transitioning to the New Rural Cannabis Economy. Invited presentation at Changing Rural Economies Workshop: Community Futures of Ontario, St Thomas, Ontario.

Kelly, W. & **Gibson, R.** (2018, October). Rural Policy Learning Commons Overview. Presented at Health and Shared Prosperity: 2018 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Vihinen, H., **Gibson, R.**, & Meyers, W. (2019, June). Comparative Rural Governance Models: An International Perspective. Presented at 2019 International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute, Rovaniemi, Finland.

*Weeden, A. & **Gibson, R.** (2019, February). Building for the Future: Rural Economic Development and Infrastructure. Presented at 2019 OGRA Conference, Toronto, Ontario.

Zabawa, R., **Gibson, R.**, Ashton, W., & Bollman, R. (2019, June). Rural Policy Research Methods. Presented at 2019 International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute, Rovaniemi, Finland.

POSTERS

*Weeden, A. & **Gibson, R.** (2018, October). Making a Difference: Provincial Policy Reflections on Knowledge Mobilization. Presented at Health and Shared Prosperity: 2018 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

*Weeden, A., **Gibson, R.**, Breen, S., & Markey, S. (2018, October). Building the Future: Rural Infrastructure and Regional Economic Development. Presented at Health and Shared Prosperity: 2018 Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

CONFERENCE AND EVENT ORGANIZING

2018 Rural to Rural Conference

Blyth, Ontario | Member of the Planning Committee

2019 Rural Symposium

Guelph, Ontario | Member of the Planning Committee

Building Community Sustainability Conference

St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador | Member of the Planning Committee

Canada-Ireland Rural Development Forum

Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland | Chair of Planning Committee

Econous 2019

London, Ontario | Member of the Planning Committee

Enhancing Smart Ecosystems in Rural Areas

Rovaniemi, Finland | Member of the Planning Committee

Health and Shared Prosperity Conference

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan | Member of the Communications Committee

North Atlantic Forum 2021

Letterfrack, Ireland | Member of the Planning Committee

Provincial-Territorial Rural Development Forum

St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador | Chair of Planning Committee

RESEARCH GRANTS

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

Building for the Future: Rural Infrastructure and Regional Economic Development

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (2018-2021 | \$143,000)

Charting a New Course for Regional Economic Development: A Comparison between Ontario and Ireland NEW

Connections Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2019-2020 | \$49,000)

Economic Implications of Policy Change in Rural Regions: Implications of Legalizing Cannabis in the Kootenay Region

Mitacs Accelerate Program in partnership with Community Futures Central Kootenays (2018-2020 | \$60,000)

Evaluating Sustainable Governance for Non-Profit Organizations in Rural Canada NEW

Mitacs Accelerate in partnership with the Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation (2019-2020 | \$15,000)

Exploring the Role of Place-Based Collective Endowments in the Canadian Periphery

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Grant (2017-2021 | \$205,726)

Housing Integration of Mexican SAWP Workers in the Ontario Economy NEW

Mitacs Global Link (2019-2020 | \$6,000)

Making a Difference? Evaluating Rural Development Policy Interventions

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (2017-2020 | \$139,000)

Rural Immigration: Strategies for Rural Economic Development and Labour Force Planning NEW

Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Knowledge Mobilization Research Grant (2019-2020 | \$38,000)

CO-INVESTIGATOR

Évaluation du rôle et des actions de fondations subventionnaires canadiennes en réponse à l'enjeu des inégalités sociales et des défis environnementaux

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Partnership Grant (2018-2024 | \$2,500,000)

Primary Investigator: Jean-Marc Fontan (Université du Québec à Montréal)

Improving the Effectiveness of Advisory Services for Facilitating Information Sharing, Accessibility and Adoption of Sustainable Farm Management Practices in Ontario NEW

Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Knowledge Mobilization Research Grant (2019-2021 | \$68,912)

Primary Investigator: Atahural Chowdury (University of Guelph)

Innovations in Corporate Social Responsibility and impacts on mine-community relations: case studies from Canada and the Philippines

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Grant (2018-2021)

Primary Investigators: Nonita Yap and Nicolas Brunet (University of Guelph)

Rural Proofing: Rural Considerations Approach Evaluation NEW

Government of British Columbia (2019 | \$25,000)

Primary Investigator: Terri MacDonald, Selkirk College

Rural Policy Learning Commons

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Partnership Grant (2015-2021 | \$2,500,000)

Primary Investigator: Bill Ashton (Brandon University)

Rural Revitalization for Health and Shared Prosperity

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Connection Grant (2018-2019 | \$25,000)

Primary Investigator: Lois Berry (University of Saskatchewan)

GRADUATE STUDENT-LED RESEARCH

RECENTLY COMPLETED

[Beyond the Smart City: Assessing open data in rural Ontario \(2018\)](#)

Alex Petric (Master of Science in Rural Planning and Development Thesis)

Lessons from Participatory Community Development in Informal Settlements in Honduras (2018)

Stephanie Patzer (Master of Science in Rural Planning and Development Major Research Paper)

Local Trail Development along Rural Canada's Share of The Great Trail (2019)

Timothy Hunting (Master of Science in Rural Planning and Development Thesis)

The Opioid Epidemic and Rural, Remote Northern Ontario First Nation Communities (2019)

Shannon Labelle (Master of Science in Rural Planning and Development Major Research Paper)

[Understanding Rural: A Comparison of Academic, Political and Lay Discourses of Rural \(2018\)](#)

Neil Stoop (Master of Science in Rural Planning and Development Thesis)

Understanding the Dynamics of Rural Immigration: The Case of Perth County (2019)

Mallory Smith (Master of Science in Rural Planning and Development Major Research Paper)

ONGOING RESEARCH

Agrotourism Diversification in Ontario

Sarah Parish (Master of Science in Rural Planning and Development Thesis)

Housing Arrangements in the Integration and Experience of Season Agricultural Worker Program Workers

Louis Helps (Master of Science in Rural Planning and Development Thesis)

Transitioning to the New Rural Cannabis Economy

Tracey Harvey (PhD in Rural Studies Dissertation)

Place-Based Rural Innovation Systems

Ashleigh Weeden (PhD in Rural Studies Dissertation)



LOOKING AHEAD ...

1 ADVANCING UNDERSTANDING OF RURAL IMMIGRATION

The upcoming year will launch two community-based research initiatives focused on rural immigration. The first project examines the intersection of rural immigration, labour force development, and economic development. The second initiative will examine the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program. Watch for more details!

3 THE FUTURE OF RURAL - ICRPS 2020

The Libro Professor has been invited to contribute to the 2020 International Comparative Rural Policy Summer Institute in Brandon, Manitoba. The 2020 Summer Institute will focus on the future of rural in 2040, bridging economic, social, and environmental opportunities.

2 PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT MEETING

In the fall 2019 a one-day meeting will be hosted with provincial and territorial government departments responsible for rural development in St John's, Newfoundland and Labrador. The discussions will focus on information sharing about provincial/territorial policies and programs to advance rural development.

4 NEW RESEARCH INITIATIVES

A series of new research proposals have been submitted for adjudication. In the coming months, it is anticipated a number of new research initiatives will commence focused on building local capacity, prosperity, and sustainability. Stay tuned to www.ruraldev.ca for updates on new initiatives.



STAY CONNECTED



gibsonr@uoguelph.ca



www.ruraldev.ca



[@ryanfgibson](https://twitter.com/ryanfgibson)



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryanfgibson/>

IDEAS FOR RESEARCH? QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE RESOLVED?

Do you have a question that you would like answered? Could your organization benefit from someone examining an issue you are encountering? If so, let us know! We encourage individuals and groups/organizations to propose ideas that could be pursued by students and faculty at the School of Environmental Design and Rural Development at the University of Guelph. The submission of an idea does not need to be lengthy. Rather, it should provide enough information for someone to understand the current issue and why it is important. All ideas will be shared with students and faculty members. Should someone be interested in your idea, they will contact you directly. Unfortunately, we can not guarantee someone will be able to take up your question. [Click here to submit an idea!](#)



**School of
Environmental Design
& Rural Development**

**LIBRO PROFESSOR OF
REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

www.ruraldev.ca