Dr. Craig Carpenter is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Community Economics and Business Development. He is located in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A&M University. Dr. Carpenter’s research expertise includes the interaction of race, ethnicity, entrepreneurship, and regional economic growth. He uses limited-access federal administrative data on millions of businesses to conduct much of his research at Federal Statistical Research Data Centers. Dr. Carpenter is currently PI on multiple granted projects from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to conduct research using federal administrative data and develop research-based extension efforts to support rural communities and their entrepreneurs.

George Carter is a Social Science Analyst in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) and works in the Division of PD&R that oversees HUD-sponsored surveys collected by the U.S. Census Bureau, including the American Housing Survey (AHS). Prior to coming to HUD in 2013, he worked for 7 years at the U.S. Census Bureau, 2 years as a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Center for Survey Methods Research and 5 years as a Survey Statistician in the American Housing Survey Branch of the Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division. He holds a B.A. Degree in Sociology and Philosophy from Haverford College and M.A. and Ph.D Degrees in Sociology from the University of Michigan. He is an expert in Urban Sociology and Survey Methodology and has conducted research on homelessness, residential segregation, affordable housing, housing quality, neighborhoods, negative equity, foreclosures, and utility costs.

Alisha Coleman-Jensen is a social science analyst with the Food Assistance Branch of USDA’s Economic Research Service (ERS). Her research focuses on the measurement and determinants of food insecurity and effects of participation in Federal nutrition assistance programs. She is the team leader of U.S. food security research at ERS and is the lead author of USDA’s annual report *Household Food Security in the United States*. Alisha joined the Economic Research Service in 2009. In 2003-2004 she served as an AmeriCorps*VISTA* volunteer in Tompkins County, NY, where she helped to coordinate services to rural food pantries. Alisha holds a Ph.D. in Rural Sociology and Demography from The Pennsylvania State University, an M.S. in Rural Sociology from The Pennsylvania State University, and a B.S. in Human Development from Cornell University.
Mindy Crandall is an assistant professor of forest management and economics in the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine. Her research is focused on the forest products industry, forest management, and rural forest-located communities, and the interactions between them.

Elizabeth ("Liz") Davis is a Professor of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota, where she has been on the faculty since 1999. Her research interests focus on public policy related to low-income families, child care and early education, and low-wage and rural labor markets in the U.S. Recent research projects include studies of child care subsidy programs in Maryland, Minnesota and Oregon focusing on parents’ decisions about child care and employment, participation in the child care subsidy program, and child outcomes. Past studies looked at the impact of local competition on wages and job turnover in the retail food industry and the relationship between local labor market conditions and employment outcomes for disadvantaged workers. She currently is a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on Financing Early Care and Education with a Highly Qualified Workforce. She earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from the University of Michigan.

Michael Delgado is Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University. He holds a PhD in economics from Binghamton University, and his research focuses on the application of nonparametric and spatial econometrics to environmental and developmental issues. Current research focuses on intergenerational income dynamics and regional development, in collaboration with others from Purdue Agricultural Economics, the Purdue Center for Regional Development, and USDA ERS.

Jack DeWaard is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology and Graduate Faculty in Population Studies in the Minnesota Population Center at the University of Minnesota. A sociologist and demographer with a strong inclination toward interdisciplinary research, Jack studies the causes, characteristics, and consequences of human migration in and outside of the United States. He is particularly interested in how migration systems, including how these systems are manifested in unique spatial patterns of migration flows among places, interconnect with other systems (economic, environmental, geopolitical, sociocultural, etc.). Jack earned his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his MA degree in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.
**Gloria ("Chloe") Gagin** is a student economist with the Resource and Rural Economics Division of the Economic Research Service, USDA. Chloe’s research areas include rural poverty and well-being. As part of her appointment at ERS, Chloe investigates the intergenerational transmission of poverty. Chloe’s current and ongoing academic research focuses on the gender dimension of rural American poverty. Chloe is a current graduate student in economics at American University in Washington, DC. She received her B.S. in environmental science and B.A. in economics from the University of North Carolina Asheville.

**Amy Glasmeier** is professor economic geography and regional planning. She runs the lab on Regional Innovation and Spatial Analysis, in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT. Glasmeier’s atlas, *Poverty in America: One Nation Pulling Apart* traces the growth of poverty in the U.S. and the effects of four decades of policies to alleviate economic insecurity. Another project, “Good Bye American Dream” traces the ideology of opportunity which undergirds America’s relationship to the poor. Through analysis of census data, popular media, and personal narratives Glasmeier seeks to expose the contradictions in this most scared of constructs by demonstrating the ephemeral nature of economic opportunity encumbered as it is by locational accident, institutional inertia and unintended consequences of public policy. The work builds on her long operating Living Wage Calculator, www.livingwagecalculator@mit.edu, which analyzes the minimum level of income required for individuals and families to pay for basic living expenses. Glasmeier holds a professional Masters and PhD in Regional Planning from UC Berkeley.

**Tom Hertz** has served as an Economist in the Rural Economy Branch of the Resource and Rural Economics Division since 2009. Prior to coming to ERS he taught at American University and the International University College in Turin, and was a visiting scholar at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome. His current research focuses on poverty, inequality and income mobility in rural areas, and on agricultural labor markets and immigration.

**Leif Jensen** is Distinguished Professor of Rural Sociology and Demography at The Pennsylvania State University. He received his undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of Vermont, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Wisconsin. His areas of specialization include demography, social stratification, and the sociology of economic change. He has published two books and more than 80 journal articles and book chapters on a range of topics including poverty and inequality, underemployment and other forms of employment hardship, informal work and household economic strategies, immigrants and immigration, children and youth in the Global South, and gender, agriculture and development. Much of his work focuses on rural people and places, and rural disadvantage. Jensen is a Policy Fellow of the Carsey School of Public Policy (UNH). He served as Director of Penn State’s Population Research Institute (2003-06), and as President of the Rural Sociological Society (2015-2016).
Nicholas Kacher is a graduate student, instructor, and researcher in the Department of Economics at Colorado State University. Originally from Waltham, Massachusetts, Nick earned a BA in Economics at Wheaton College (MA) in 2011. He has worked for nonprofit economic development organizations in Tanzania and in Massachusetts, giving him an appreciation for the crucial roles of culture, history, and institutions in regional economic growth. Since joining Colorado State University's economics department, Nick has taught courses in micro- and macro-economics, history of economic institutions and thought, and recent economic though. Nick's research centers on regional entrepreneurship, distribution, and working hours.

Indraneel Kumar is the “Regional planner: GIS and Spatial Analysis” at Purdue Center for Regional Development. He focuses on regional economic and demographic data, and GIS and spatial analyses. He has a bachelor’s degree in architecture and a master’s in urban and regional planning from India. Indraneel earned a second master’s degree in community planning from the University of Cincinnati. He completed a Ph.D. in civil engineering with major in transportation and infrastructure systems from the Lyles School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University, in 2014. He is a member of the American Planning Association and American Institute of Certified Planners. His 15 years of work experience include comprehensive planning for large metropolitan and rural regions and counties in India and USA. He has participated in several research grants and programs funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration; Office of Economic Adjustment, U.S. DOD; U.S. DOL; and Economic Research Service, USDA.

Jessica Leahy is a professor of human dimensions of natural resources management in the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine. She was born and raised in Alaska, adjacent to the second largest state park in the United States. As a result, she has always been curious about the connection between rural communities and forests. Jessica researches environmental attitudes and behaviors towards forests, forestry, and other natural resource management topics using a social psychology and communication approach. She tends to study five human populations: family forest landowners, rural community residents, natural resource managers, outdoor recreationists, and the “general public.” Jessica’s research program encompasses forest landowner decision-making processes; rural prosperity; the role of social capital and trust in public involvement, participation, and citizen science; and influence of media and educational campaigns on attitudes and behavior.
**Michael Lotspeich** is a Ph.D. student in Sociology at Baylor University in the Community Analytics track. He is also a research analyst at Baylor University’s Center for Community Research and Development and is a research associate with special sworn status at the Center for Economic Studies of the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Lotspeich specializes in quantitative and spatial methodologies, rural, and political sociology. His research portfolio integrates multiple, restricted datasets to empirically define the innovative capacities of rural America. Lotspeich’s current research looks at the effect of macro socioeconomic change on institutional trust. Lotspeich also studies the intersection of national defense and rural life. This includes economic competitiveness of veterans and assisting on the use of big data to profile rural ‘Vetpreneurs’. Before attending Baylor, Lotspeich completed his B.A. in Sociology and GIS at the University of Illinois.

**Beth Mattingly** is director of research on vulnerable families at the Carsey School of Public Policy. She manages all of Carsey’s policy relevant work relating to family well-being. Topics covered by the vulnerable families research team range from refundable tax credits, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other federal programs, as well as policies that help families balance the domains of work and family like access to affordable child care and paid sick leave. Her interests center on women, children, and family well-being. Her work at Carsey examines child poverty and how different family policies affect rural, suburban, and urban families and how growing up in poverty influences life outcomes. Beth’s research also looks at obstacles to stabilities in family life and how state and federal policies may better support children and families. Beth is also a research consultant for the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality. As a research consultant, she works on a host of projects including developing innovative poverty measures like the California Poverty Measure and research toward understanding Hispanic poverty and inequality.

**Paige Schneider** has been teaching at Sewanee (The University of the South) since 2000. She has a joint appointment with the departments of Politics and Women's and Gender Studies. Prof. Schneider is a founding member of the College's community engaged learning program and employs engaged learning pedagogies and collaborative action research approaches in her Politics of Poverty and Inequality course. As a first-generation college student herself, she is a mentor and advocate for First Gen Sewanee students from both urban and rural contexts. While much of her research focuses on gender and politics in the international context her passion for expanding access to college for underserved youth in the U.S. drives her interest in research (with Emily Partin) on challenges and barriers to post-secondary education for rural Appalachian youth.
Tim Smith is a fourth year PhD student in Agricultural Economics at Purdue, focusing on Spatial, Health, and Population Economics. His research focuses on the long-term effects of childhood environment, and the implications these effects have for opportunity and intergenerational mobility. In his dissertation, he studies the effect of the timing of child poverty spells on individuals' adulthood positions in the income distribution, the relationship between the movement away from agricultural employment and intergenerational mobility in the U.S., and the long-term effects of income segregation. He is also interested in the scale of policy interventions aimed at reducing poverty and improving human capital, and the effects of rurality on policy scale decisions. He plans to graduate in May 2019.

Brigitte Waldorf is a professor of agricultural economics at Purdue University. Earlier she held faculty positions at Princeton University, Indiana University and the University of Arizona, and received degrees in mathematics and geography from the Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany, and a Ph.D. in geography from the University of Illinois. Her research interests focus on spatial and place-based underpinnings of population, transportation and health issues, including the associated methodological challenges. Current projects include poverty and economic mobility; international migration of knowledge workers; the nexus between migration and climate/environment; transportation/access to healthcare; and the rural-urban interface. She was a member of the 2015 steering committee on Rationalizing Rural Area Classifications for the Economic Research Service, organized by the National Academy of Sciences. She serves on the editorial boards of the several professional journals, including *Journal of Regional Science* and *Papers in Regional Science*.

Rebecca Williams is a graduate of University of California, San Diego and is currently a second-year law student at the University of California, Davis. Her interests are in public service law, public policy, and gender and sexuality issues in the law. She grew up in the foothills of Northern California.