

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts are invited for papers from anyone with an interest in rural entrepreneurship; we encourage contributions from academics and practitioners alike. Please indicate which of the conference themes you think is/are most appropriate and limit your abstract to 400 words.

Your Details

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Please use the following headings: (boxes will expand as you type)

Title: Rural Businesses: Aligning Perceptions with Policies to target support
<p>Purpose of this paper (please also indicate whether empirical, conceptual or case study etc)</p> <p>This paper seeks to examine the alignment and misalignments, between current academic thinking about what are 'rural businesses' and how they use their rural locations, with relevant public policies and interventions that focus on supporting business, including those in rural areas. It will aim to identify the extent to which targeting of business and rural policies and intervention mechanisms utilise traditional perceptions, or locational definitions of rural businesses, or current typologies of rural business, and explore whether these help or hinder rural business development and support</p>
<p>Design/methodology/approach (including limitations if applicable)</p> <p>Recent discussions amongst researchers have explored the meaning, and typologies, of 'rural businesses'. These discussions, include papers presented at recent Rural Entrepreneurship conferences, are summarised and extended in a pre-publication paper from the co-authors of this proposal. This work broadens the application of the term beyond traditional locational or sectoral determinants to recognise diverse influences of supply chain, harnessing environmental attributes etc. This will form one side of the assessment, about alignment with business policies and programmes. It will draw on relevant recent examples mainly from England, but with references also to other UK countries, of policies, surveys, statistics, programmes, research and announcements.</p> <p>On the other hand much business and economic policy and their delivery mechanisms are focused by single criteria ie location, sector, outcome. Perceptions given by politicians, policy papers, surveys and announcements about 'rural businesses' adopt either a view that 'rural businesses' are only those distinctly or uniquely rural ie farming, forestry, fishing, landownership, countryside tourism etc; or a view that they are those which operate from areas defined in public policy as rural locations. An increasing number of business policies and support measures are targeted only by location, though rural appears to be rarely or weakly included. The first approach results in a very narrow base for determining policy and interventions to support rural economies. The second puts them at odds with current</p>

<p>thinking and typologies for rural businesses. The paper will draw on both sides of the argument, and both communities' work to identify if either offers the best potential for recognising the realities of Britain's rural economies, and potential for supporting rural business needs, or does their need to be an amalgamation of approach.</p>	
Findings	Unknown at present.
Practical implications	It could contribute to giving practical effect and outlets to researchers' recent thinking and typologies of rural businesses AND help variety of public and business bodies better understand how to focus their support and representation of rural business
Policy Implications (if applicable)	The paper could help politicians, policy makers and public sector economy/ business support providers to more fully embrace their business policies such that they are more inclusive of firms operating in rural areas, whatever their sector, distinctiveness, growth pattern etc
What is the originality/value of paper	
Please state if your paper is a:	
Practitioner Paper	
Please indicate the theme(s) that you consider most appropriate for your paper:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities and challenges for rural development	

Are you interested in the Early-Career researcher development seminar on the 14th June?

No