

# Collection Policy: DEVELOPMENT SOCIOLOGY (draft)

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## 1.0 TEACHING, RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAMS

### *1.1 Mission and emphases of the department*

The Department of Development Sociology has studied and served the world's rural people and developing communities for more than 75 years. Sociology is a diverse discipline united by a common interest in social institutions, social relationships, and the structure, function and interaction of human groups. Throughout its history the department has had active programs in undergraduate and graduate teaching, research, extension teaching, and public service. The focus is on analyzing societal transformation, as opposed to training development practitioners. Theory and methodology are emphasized.

### *1.2 Faculty research*

The 17 faculty members concentrate their teaching, research, and extension programs in four areas of study:

- Community and regional sociology
- Population and development
- Rural and environmental sociology
- International development of the state, economy, and society

The faculty's scholarly activities focus on people and communities in rural New York and around the world. Faculty conduct active research programs in the United States, Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

### *1.3 Graduate program*

The department houses one of the world's foremost graduate programs for the study of development in rural societies. The student body, numbering about 60, is broadly international. Since 1922, the department has awarded master's and doctorate degrees to more than 600 students. Recently about 10 to 15 degrees, two-thirds of them doctorates, have been conferred annually. These men and women work in educational institutions, government service, and private organizations around the world.

### *1.4 Undergraduate program*

The bachelor's degree in rural sociology is of increasing interest to Cornell undergraduates, and today more than 60 students major in rural sociology. In addition to our growing major, the department provides top-notch social science courses for all of the college's students. Last year 2,000 students took undergraduate courses in rural sociology. Undergraduate majors focus their studies in one of three concentrations:

- Development sociology
- Population, environment, and society
- Social data and policy analysis

### *1.5 Extension activity*

Departmental faculty with extension responsibilities provide information to state and local decision makers to enhance public policies and programs that serve New York's rural people and communities. The department houses Cornell Cooperative Extension's Population Information Program (covered in a separate collection policy) and hosts the annual Social Trends and Outlook Conference.

### *1.6 Noteworthy facilities (e.g. unique classrooms, laboratories, farms, etc.) and Programs*

The department houses several special programs that support larger college and university initiatives. The Community, Food, and

Agriculture (CFAP) Program, which focuses on small farms, community agriculture and food systems; the Population and Development Program which provides training and research in population studies and demographic issues; and the Polson Institute for Global Development, which serves as the domestic and international research and outreach institute for the department.

## **2.0 SUBJECT DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES**

### ***2.1 Subject definition***

The science of rural human relations. (John W. Winburne, A Dictionary of Agricultural and Allied Terminology)

### ***2.2 Subject scope***

Departmental research covers the spectrum from basic to applied research, but most studies are motivated by a concern about real world problems. In general, there is interest in the relationship between sociology, on one hand, and agriculture, natural resources, appropriate technology, sustainable development, the environment, health, population, gender roles and family welfare, on the other.

Current research projects include determinants of rural poverty in the United States; start-up and innovation in small manufacturing firms; participatory public policy; and natural resource protection; impacts of retirement migration on service delivery in the rural Northeast; effects of population density on welfare use; fertility differentials in Nigeria; economic restructuring in the rural Northeast; fertility knowledge and attitudes of teenage Costa Rican women; fertility and reproductive health issues for Southeast Asians; gender relations, Islam and economic reorganization in Bangladesh; labor and management constraints of low-input sustainable agriculture in New York; U. S. agriculture in a changing world economy; fiscal capacity and sociodemographic change in rural New York; health-seeking behavior of mothers and children in Nigeria; and rural development in Indonesia.

Other areas of interest include: environment and society and social impact assessment of environmental and agricultural development. Land reform. The lives of rural dwellers, including fishermen, artisans and cottage-industry workers (in New York State only), Folklore of rural peoples (Olin collects most comprehensively; Mann collects major research works and works dealing with agriculture or natural resources.) Indigenous agriculture and ethnobotany (North and South America). History of U.S. rural organizations. Transport in rural areas. The rural life of developed countries, such as Australia and France is of interest, but is not a high priority, unless migration is involved.

The American Indian Studies program is no longer affiliated with the Department of Development Sociology.

### ***2.3 Emerging trends in the subject area***

Proposed research within the department includes reregulation and global restructuring; comparative analyses of sustainability; environmental sociology; population, environment and development; the sociology of agriculture; restructuring of the labor force; regional dynamics, pluralism, local government and urban hierarchies (collected by Olin Library); and textual analysis of development communications. There is an increased focus on the life course and on multi-level analysis involving the individual within the larger society.

## **3.0 SPECIAL INFORMATION NEEDS AND RESOURCES**

### ***3.1 Special information needs of those working in this subject area.***

Government documents from international organizations

### ***3.2 Special collections or noteworthy resources in the field***

Cornell International Institute for Food, Agriculture, and Development (CIIFAD) Resource Center  
<http://ciifad.cornell.edu/>

Cornell Institute for Social and Economic Research (CISER)

<http://www.ciser.cornell.edu/>

Community and Rural Development Institute (CaRDI)

<http://www.cardi.cornell.edu/>

### ***3.3 Endowment funds or special funding arrangements***

The Department recently received a new acquisitions fund to develop collections in conjunction with the Community, Food, and Agriculture (CFAP) Program. The Thomas A. Lyson and Duncan L. Hilchey Acquisitions fund will be used in support of resources for the study of small farms, community food systems, community agriculture development, and agroforestry.

## **4.0 TYPES OF MATERIALS**

### ***4.1 Priorities for types of materials***

See [Priorities Table](#).

### ***4.2 Format***

### ***4.3 Geographical guidelines***

Global, but the U.S. is the highest priority. The next priority is for areas where faculty are doing research.

### ***4.4 Language guidelines***

English, French, Spanish. Works in Asian languages are collected in the Kroch Library, and in Mann by special request only.

### ***4.5 Chronological guidelines***

Current.

## **5.0 OTHER RELATED LIBRARY COLLECTIONS**

- Olin--area studies; history; anthropology; sociological theory; social indicators research; social research design social, political and feminist theory; public policy in urban areas; innovation in small manufacturing firms.
- Within Olin, Southeast Asian studies are collected in the Echols collection, and East Asian studies in the Wason collection.
- ILR--labor relations, history of women and work, labor market analyses
- Africana--African studies
- Fine Arts--regional development, city planning, urban growth
- JGSM--Planning

## **6.0 POLICY QUESTIONS, COLLECTION NEEDS, FUNDING PROBLEMS OR OPPORTUNITIES**

## **7.0 PRINCIPAL LC CLASSES**

HB848-879

HT400-485

## **8.0 RELATED COLLECTION POLICIES**

- [AEM](#) -- siting of hazardous waste dumps in rural communities
- [COMM](#) -- development education
- [EDUC](#) -- development education
- [HLTH](#)
- IAD
- Population Studies
- [NATR](#)
- [HORT](#) -- community gardens in urban areas
- [HDFS](#) -- family life

## Priorities Table for Rural Sociology

Code	IMPORTANCE/INTENSITY CODES DEFINITIONS
NA	Not applicable to the discipline.
0	Ephemeral; of insufficient value to be provided by library.
1	Of short term interest, but with little or no enduring value; very selectively acquired; retained, uncataloged, for limited duration only, e.g. newsletters in newly emerging, poorly documented areas, and manuals or pamphlets for reserve reading.
2	Limited scholarly interest or utility; collected very selectively, but not of high priority.
3	Important for research and/or instruction; should be well represented, but collected selectively rather than intensively.
4	Very important for faculty and/or students; intensively collected, i.e. every effort is made to provide as deep coverage of this literature as possible.
5	Essential to work in the discipline; the most important type of material for research or instruction purposes. Ensuring the highest possible coverage should be the library's top priority in this discipline.

Code	SERIALS	Notes
5	Journals, scholarly	Africa, South, SE & East Asia; Latin & Central America; Eastern and Western Europe
3	Journals, technical	-
4	Journals, other (describe)	Development studies
4	Annual reviews, advances in...	Social sciences, humanities

3	Scientific and technical reports and research bulletins of major academies, learned societies, professional research and educational organizations and government agencies	Urban Institute, Institute for Research & Policy (WI), East-West Center
3*	Proceedings, of international congresses and symposia	only refereed
3*	Proceedings, national or local	-
4	Statistical series	-
1	Trade journals and periodicals	-
1	Popular periodicals, hobby	-
2	Popular periodicals, semi-technical	-
3	Popular periodicals, farm press	-
3	Newsletters/newspapers	-
3	Proceedings of legislative bodies	-
1	Student publications	-
2	Administrative publications of major academies, learned societies, professional, research and educational organizations and government agencies	-
1	Corporate annual reports	-
4	Yearbooks	-
0	Press releases	-
0	Lists	-
2	Working papers	Rand Corp.
<b>Code</b>	<b>MONOGRAPHS</b>	<b>Notes</b>
5	Major scholarly monographs	-
4	Professional and technical	-
4	Subject histories	-

3	Textbooks, upper division, graduate	-
3	Biographies	-
3	Popular monographs	-
3	Technical reports	-
3	Government reports	-
3	Proceedings, international	-
2	Proceedings, other	-
3	Theses and dissertations (outside CU)	-
1	Festschrift	-
1	Patents	-
2	Corporate histories	-
1	How-to books & lab manuals	-
1	Pamphlets	-
0	Ephemera (describe)	-
3	Maps	-
2	Technical bulletins/handbooks/compendia	-
<b>Code</b>	<b>ELECTRONIC INFORMATION</b>	<b>Notes</b>
5	Applications programs	Major statistical and word processing packages
5	Bibliographic databases	Sociological Abstracts, AGRICOLA, Popline
3	Bulletin boards	-
3	Fulltext files	-
3	Geographic information systems	-
3	Numeric/statistical files	-

-	Other (describe, taking as much space a necessary)	-
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\*Unique meetings on specific topics are more important than annual meetings.

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