



Call for Papers

Law and Rurality Workshop

The 2026 Law & Rurality Workshop will be hosted in-person at the University of South Dakota (Vermillion, South Dakota) on Friday, October 9, 2026.

This Workshop is a joint project facilitated by the Rural Reconciliation Project at the University of Nebraska College of Law (Professor Jessica Shoemaker) and the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law (Professor Hannah Haksgaard).

The Law & Rurality Workshop is intended for scholars of all levels and disciplines whose work engages with law and its relation to rural people and places. The Workshop provides a forum for scholars to share and receive feedback on draft works-in-progress that address, broadly, any topic related to rurality and the law, including legal issues viewed through the lens of rurality, rural geographies, or rural-urban difference.

Participants will be expected to read and comment on other draft works. Depending on demand, we may also host at least one incubator session for scholars to receive feedback on more nascent ideas, and other thematic discussion or events might be organized.

There will be no access to hybrid or remote participation options for this Fall 2026 Workshop, but our hope is to continue to alternate in-person workshops with remote workshops every other year. Therefore, scholars can anticipate an exclusively online version of this Workshop in Fall 2027.

Workshop Expenses and Event Logistics

There is no fee for the Workshop. Participants are expected to cover their own travel expenses.

The Workshop will take place on the University of South Dakota Campus inside the [National Music Museum](#) and at the [Oscar Howe Gallery](#). The University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law will provide most meals during the Workshop, including a pre-workshop meal on Thursday evening. Nearby airports include Sioux City (45-minute drive) and Sioux Falls (60-minute drive). More event details, including affordable lodging recommendations, will be provided after acceptance. Questions about Vermillion travel logistics should be directed to our local host, Hannah Haksgaard (hannah.haksgaard@usd.edu).

Submission Process and Related Deadlines

If you are interested in workshopping an idea or an in-progress paper, please submit a title and abstract to Hannah Haksgaard (hannah.haksgaard@usd.edu) no later than Monday, July 27, 2026.

At the time of your title/abstract submission, please also communicate whether you seek to workshop an in-progress draft paper (however early stage) or prefer to present more briefly an idea only at an incubator session.

For full in-progress Workshop sessions (as opposed to idea-only incubator sessions), draft papers will be due Friday, September 25, 2026, and will be circulated to other Workshop participants soon thereafter.

We are happy to consider particularly interested scholars who wish to attend without workshopping a paper or presenting an idea for future work, though participation may be limited by space or other logistical constraints. If you wish to attend all or part of the Workshop – either as a general participant or as a commentator – please also e-mail hannah.haksgaard@usd.edu by July 27, 2026, with some background and context about your proposed engagement (i.e., as a formal discussant or general Workshop member).

Interested scholars and students may also consider subscribing for other future Rural Reconciliation Project news and events at this link: <https://www.ruralreconcile.org/subscribe>