

JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY

**The *Journal of Economic and Social Policy* (JESP) Special Edition:
Digital Rural Futures Conference, 25th – 27th June 2014, University of
Southern Queensland's Toowoomba campus.**

Articles are invited to be submitted for consideration to be published in a special edition of the Journal of Economic and Social Policy which looks at Digital Rural Futures. This special edition is linked to the Regional Universities Network (RUN) *Digital Rural Futures Conference* being held in Toowoomba, 25-27 June 2014.

The JESP Special Edition aims to collate a series of articles which provide insight into the future of regional areas under the key themes:

Regional futures

- Skills for transforming regions
- Creating New Value – Clusters, hubs and value chains
- Growing innovation and entrepreneurship in regional Australia
- Enhancing regional wellbeing using digital technologies
- Building regional social capital

Agricultural futures

- Agricultural extension including agricultural systems and mechatronics
- Revolutionising farming using Big Data
- Digital decision making and discussion support system tools for agriculture and climate
- Innovative technologies for agricultural and regional issues

Digital futures

- Digital literacies to transform rural and regional futures
- Early adoption of technology in education, health, agriculture and associated sectors
- Regional communication, digital and mobile networks and impacts on the digital divide on regional communities
- Assisted living and telehealth including digital applications for aged care
- Innovative approaches to learning and teaching including blended learning, flipped classroom, personalised learning, digital communities and learning spaces
- Research related to digital identity, digital inclusion, digital economy and digital society

A range of article types will be considered, and we welcome contributions from both academics and practitioners across private and public organisations. Attention should be paid to the social policy implications of specific area examined with reference to the implications for rural and regional areas.

All papers will undergo a double-blind peer review by a board of renowned academics tailored to this special issue. Final acceptance of approved papers will be contingent on incorporating reviewer's feedback to the satisfaction of the editors.

Deadlines: Manuscripts must be submitted no later than 29th August 2014	
Digital Rural Futures Conference	25-27 June 2014
Final date for manuscript submission	29 August 2014
Authors advised of the outcome of review	17 October 2014
Final date for revised manuscripts	7 November 2014
Publication of the Special Issue	28 November 2014

The *Journal of Economic and Social Policy (JESP)* is an interdisciplinary scholarly journal that has published conceptual, theoretical and empirical research aimed to advance the understanding of economic and social policy for more than fifteen years.

It is double blind reviewed and comprises an international editorial board, with expertise across the many social and economic policy areas.

JESP is ranked in the 2010 Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) list and is catalogued by APAIS, Informit and the EconLit databases. It is an online, open access journal <http://epubs.scu.edu.au/jesp>.

To discuss further please contact Assoc. Prof Jeremy Buultjens, JESP Managing Editor at Email: jeremy.buultjens@scu.edu.au Telephone: 61 2 6620 3382 or Amanda Shoebridge, JESP Assistant Editor at Email: amanda.shoebridge@scu.edu.au or Telephone: 61 2 66 20 3470.