

THE ROLE OF GENDER IN RURAL POPULATION DECLINE IN KANSAS AND NEBRASKA, 1990–2010

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Migration patterns of young adults are thought to have a significant role in the overall dynamics of population change in the Great Plains. Although most research has discussed migration patterns of “young people” as if this group were homogenous, there is evidence of gender differences with regard to residential preferences among youth, and still other research has noted the disparate opportunities afforded to men and women of the rural Great Plains. Sex ratio data for Kansas and Nebraska, calculated from US Census records at the county and subcounty levels for the years 1990, 2000, and 2010, were analyzed for differences in residential outcomes of young men and young women by creating age-sex “cohorts” and comparing their changes over a period of 10 years. Although more young men left areas of low population, places with populations of 800 or fewer residents experienced a mean sex ratio increase of 38.9% (+14.66 net change) over the period from 2000 to 2010, indicating increasing imbalance between men and women in those places. Conversely, places of more than 5,000 residents experienced an increase in young women relative to young men, resulting in a mean sex ratio decrease of 2.26% (–2.88 net change). Further analysis provides evidence that young women are disproportionately more attracted to urban places within the study area, and these places appear to be trending toward far more balance between young men and young women compared to less populous places.

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SCREAMERS, WHINERS, AND DRIVE-BYS HOW UMPIRES VIEW BASEBALL COACHES’ ATTEMPTS TO INFLUENCE THEIR CALLS

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Baseball managers and umpires don’t always see eye-to-eye. Their on-field confrontations long have been part of the game—and the outcome of those contests. But those confrontations have received scant attention by researchers who focus on the dynamics of the game. This study serves as the sequel to our previous work that applied management and leadership theories in exploring the strategies baseball coaches use to contest an umpire’s decision. We used leadership scholar John E. Barbuto’s concept of influence tactics and the types of social power discussed by sociologists John R. French and Bertram Raven. The use of influence tactics and social power are standard in the workplace between managers and subordinates, managers and their peers, and managers and their supervisors. This study examines the success of those influence tactics—but from the umpire’s perspective. We interviewed 12 umpires who call high school and collegiate games and categorized their findings into four themes: (1) when to

approach umpires about a call; (2) how to approach them; (3) how umpires' age and experience affect their reactions to coaches; and (4) how to show umpires respect. This study, in investigating the interactions of baseball managers and umpires, reinforces congruence theory—that baseball imitates the workplace.

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HEALTHCARE AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS IN NEBRASKA AFTER THE GREAT RECESSION

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The economic fallout from the Great Recession has not been experienced similarly across the United States. Therefore, our understanding of well-being is enhanced by analyzing state-level data. This study employs survey data of Nebraskans compiled shortly after the recession to assess factors affecting healthcare affordability and access. Findings show that the affordability of health care for households is significantly affected by income (i.e., as income increases, problems with affordability decrease) and household size (i.e., as household size increases, problems with affordability increase). Someone in the single-and two-parent household being unemployed and having children in the household also are predictors of increased problems affording health care. Key predictors of individuals delaying health care due to costs are lower income, less education, and being younger. Other contributing factors toward delaying health care are being more affected by the economic downturn, being female, living in rural counties, having more people in the household, and not using a regular physician for routine care.

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RELIGIOSITY'S IMPACT ON AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT ON THE AMERICAN FRONTIER

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This paper investigates the impact of religiosity on agricultural investment in the Great Plains region of the United States at the turn of the twentieth century. We find that counties with higher concentrations of religious adherents tend to experience greater growth in land improvements on farms. In addition, we find that increases in religious diversity leads to growth in land improvement investments. Overall, the results generally support hypotheses that assert social capital, as measured by religious group concentrations, played a significant, and until recently, overlooked, role in the development of the American agricultural economy.

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**JUNK JAUNT GEOGRAPHY
BUYING AND SELLING AMERICA'S CULTURAL PAST IN CENTRAL NEBRASKA**

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This project builds on previous material culture research by providing a detailed examination of material diffusion at central Nebraska's Junk Jaunt. What began in 2003 and is now in its 10th year, the Junk Jaunt annually attracts some 20,000 participants from across the United States and Canada. This article briefly defines material culture and reviews several traditional distribution methods—auctions, the Internet, and garage sales. It also introduces Nebraska's Junk Jaunt as an example of the growing phenomenon of place-based antiques tourism as communities capitalize on local culture and sense of place. Junk Jaunt organizers provided multiple datasets including participant surveys, guest book registrations, vendor information, and sales of shopper guides. These data illustrate the immense drawing power of Nebraska's perception as an authentic place, which is reflected in its material culture.

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**EXPLORING THE POLITICS OF PORK:
INDUSTRIAL HOG FARMING AND THE ROLE OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE IN
STATE AGENDA SETTING**

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The growth of Nebraska factory hog industry over the past two decades has been contentious, creating both new opportunities for economic growth and substantial hazards to the rural environment and quality of life. Given that news media played a key role in motivating large-scale policy changes in hog industry conflicts in North Carolina, this study uses content analysis to explore how Nebraska’s media coverage relates to legislative actions on the issue in the state. The results suggest that there is a positive but nuanced relationship between state newspaper coverage and state legislative attention to industrial hog farming in Nebraska from 1994 to 2009. The results also indicate the significance of local government in addressing this statewide controversy, and the prominence of concern for water resources in industrial hog operation discussions in Nebraska. This exploratory case study contributes to the currently deficient body of literature on both factory hog farms in Nebraska and the relationship between media and policy attention on a state level.

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STATUS OF NATIVE STREAM FISHES WITHIN SELECTED PROTECTED AREAS OF THE NIOBRARA RIVER IN WESTERN NEBRASKA

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Lotic systems within the Great Plains are characterized by highly fluctuating conditions through both space and time. Fishes inhabiting these systems have adopted specific life-history strategies to survive in such environments; however, anthropogenic disturbance to prairie streams has resulted in declines and extirpation of many native stream fishes. Terrestrial protected areas (i.e., parks and reserves) are designated to support native flora and fauna and, it is assumed, to provide protection to native fishes. We assessed the presence and relative abundance of stream fish populations within protected areas along the Niobrara River in western Nebraska based on data collected during 1979, 1989, 2008, and 2011. The

spatial extent of protection, landscape changes resulting in degraded physiochemical parameters, and introduced species may reduce the effectiveness of these terrestrial protected areas in protecting native fishes in Great Plains stream environments.

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AN ASSESSMENT OF PRAIRIE RESTORATION AT FORT SCOTT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

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The purpose of this study was to describe and assess the current condition of the restored prairie at Fort Scott National Historic Site (nhs), and to compare its condition to that of a tallgrass prairie remnant. Cover values for plant species were estimated using a systematic random design. Species richness and floristic quality values were significantly higher at the native prairie than at the Fort Scott nhs restored prairie in June and September 2011. Big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*) Vitman was the only dominant species found at both study sites. The summer/fall forbs guild was the main functional group at the Fort Scott nhs restored prairie in June, with c4 grasses becoming dominant by September. The c4 plant guild was the major functional group at the native prairie in June and September. Differences in species composition and their relative abundances indicate that the Fort Scott nhs restored tallgrass prairie has only partially recreated the native prairie that was once found in the region.

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