

# Uneasy neighbours?: Rural-urban relationships in the nineteenth century. International interdisciplinary conference

20 September 2013

Keynote speaker: Keith D.M. Snell  
Professor of Rural and Cultural History, University of Leicester

The relationship between urban and rural communities in the nineteenth-century Western world was increasingly strained by the unprecedented rate and scale of social, industrial, technological and economic changes. These included rural-urban migration and the difficulties this created in food-production and housing, perceptions about the breaking down of 'natural' social divisions, and the emergence of deeply-rooted anxieties about irreversible national decay. This 1-day interdisciplinary conference, aimed at both academics and interested members of the general public, aims to explore how these issues were debated and articulated in different national, regional and generic contexts across the century.



Over 30 speakers from Britain, Europe and the United States will address the vexed relationships between town and country living, morality and decay, traditional and new crafts, and progress and national identity in an era of rapid industrialisation and population migration. The papers will cover regional and social histories from rural Dorset and Ireland to the American South, the rise of the garden suburb in London, the impact of urbanisation on traditional rural trades, changing architectural and estate-management practices, and the roles played by literature and journalism in debates about national and regional character. The conference will culminate in a keynote talk by Keith Snell, Professor of Rural and Cultural History at the University of Leicester, titled 'Thomas Hardy's sense of rural and urban 'communities': from 'The Mellstock quire' to Jude's urban obscurity.'

Conference price: £30 (full rate) £20 (concessionary rate)

Online registrations accepted through the following link  
<http://go.soton.ac.uk/5iq> until 17 September 2013