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GREAT PLAINS RESEARCH

A JOURNAL OF NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2 FALL 2011



CENTER FOR GREAT PLAINS STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

CENTER FOR GREAT PLAINS STUDIES

Director: James Stubbendieck
Professor, Grassland Ecology
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

THE CENTER FOR GREAT PLAINS STUDIES was established in 1976 by the University of Nebraska Board of Regents to promote a greater understanding of the people, culture, history, and environment of the Great Plains through a variety of teaching, research, and outreach programs. Under the administration of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Center encompasses nine divisions: the Great Plains Art Museum, three academic journals (*Great Plains Quarterly*, *Great Plains Research*, and *Plains Song Review*), Plains Humanities Alliance, undergraduate and graduate programs, editing projects, research support, outreach programs, interdisciplinary symposia, and Fellows and Associate Fellows.

GREAT PLAINS RESEARCH

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GREAT PLAINS RESEARCH is a peer-reviewed, biannual, multidisciplinary science journal, which publishes original research and scholarly reviews of important advances in the natural and social sciences with relevance to the Great Plains region and with special emphases on environmental, economic, and social issues. It includes reviews of books.

Articles include:

- **original research findings**, such as have been published in *GPR* since 1991;
- **synopses** of the "state of the science" on topics relevant to the Great Plains;
- **overviews** of critical environmental, economic, and social issues for the plains;
- **reviews** of knowledge on important questions and their regional application; and
- **syntheses and cross-disciplinary analyses** relevant to the Great Plains.

Great Plains Research is indexed or abstracted in *America: History and Life*, *BIOSIS Previews*, *Biological Abstracts*, *Environment Abstracts*, *Historical Abstracts*, *Geographical Abstracts* and *GEOBASE*, *Meteorological and Geostrophysical Abstracts*, and *CSA Sociological Abstracts, Inc.*

The editor encourages those submissions in particular that report general findings in the sciences relevant to this vast region. Articles should include thoughtful reviews of critical scientific findings and issues relevant to the Great Plains, whether the research was done in the Great Plains or not. The key to acceptance will be how well the findings are related to the region, and how well the science is communicated to other scientists outside the specific discipline, in the style of *Scientific American*, for example. The Board of Governors' Publication Committee will select annually the best paper in natural sciences and the best paper in social sciences. The author/s of the winning papers will be presented cash prizes for the **Charles E. Bessey Award** (natural sciences) or the **Leslie Hewes Award** (social sciences).

Scientists doing interesting work with important implications for this region are invited to synthesize their significant research results and present them to our readers. The overall goals are to develop *Great Plains Research* as a centralized outlet for science of regional importance, to communicate important scientific findings to as wide an educated audience as possible, and to help keep scientists, interested citizens, and leaders of this region up-to-date on scientific progress relevant to the Great Plains.

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NEWS AND NOTES

CONFERENCES

November 14, 2011

The 2011 McGovern Conference will be at the Sherman Center, Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, SD. The theme is "The Plains Political Tradition: South Dakota's Political Culture." Senator George McGovern will speak on his new book, *The Plains Political Tradition: Essays on South Dakota Political Culture* (SDSHS Press, 2011). Website: mcgoverncenter.com/conference/index.htm.

November 16–20, 2011

The 110th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association will be held in Montreal, QC, Canada. The theme is "Traces, Tidemarks and Legacies." Website: www.aaanet.org/meetings/. Sarah Green is the Executive Program Chair. E-mail: 2011aaaprogram-chair@gmail.com

November 13–16, 2011

The 59th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America will be held in Reno, Nevada, where we'll celebrate the theme, "Identify... Clarify... Speak Out!" Website: www.entsoc.org/am/index.htm.

January 29–February 3, 2012

The 65th Annual Meeting of the Society for Range Management will be held in Spokane, WA. The theme is "Lessons from the Past—Strategies for the Future." Website: www.rangelands.org/spokane2012/.

February 24–28, 2012

The 2012 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers will be held in New York. Website: www.aag.org/cs/annual_conference.

March 1–3, 2012

The 55th Annual Missouri Valley History Conference will be at Embassy Suites Downtown/Old Market, Omaha, NE. The theme is "The Tides of War: Navies, Privateers & Pirates, aggression on the seas from antiquity to the present." Contact Dr. Jeanne Reames, MVHC Program Chair by e-mail: mvhc.coordinator@gmail.com; website is www.unomaha.edu/mvhc/index.php.

March 7–9, 2012

The 46th Annual Meeting of the South-Central Section of the Geological Society of America will be in Alpine, TX. Abstract deadline is December 6, 2011. Website: www.geosociety.org/Sections/sc/2012mtg/.

March 28–30, 2011

The Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska–Lincoln, presents its 38th Interdisciplinary Symposium in collaboration with Homestead National Monument of America, National Park Service. "1862–2012: The Making of the Great Plains" will be held at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

In 1862, Congress passed four landmark pieces of legislation: the Homestead Act, the Morrill Act, the Pacific Railroad Act, and the act to establish the U.S. Department of Agriculture; it was also the year of the fateful Dakota Conflict. These acts and events fundamentally shaped the Great Plains as well as the nation. This symposium will examine their consequences for the society, culture, and commerce of the Great Plains.

The conference is free and open to the public. See pages 144 and 202 for more information. Contact the Center by e-mail: cgps@unl.edu; website: www.unl.edu/plains.

March 30–31, 2012

The 144th Annual Meeting of the Kansas Academy of Science will be held at at Wichita State University. Website: www.kansasacademyscience.org/.

April 20, 2012

The Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences and the Nebraska Junior Academy of Sciences State Science Meeting will be held at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska. Website: www.neacadsci.org.

May 9–11, 2012

The 64th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section of the Geological Society of America will be in Albuquerque, NM. Website: <http://www.geosociety.org/Sections/rm/2012mtg/>.

CALL FOR PAPERS

October 28, 2011

The 55th Annual Missouri Valley History Conference is issuing a call for papers. The theme is "The Tides of War: Navies, Privateers & Pirates, aggression on the seas from antiquity to the present." Contact Dr. Jeanne Reames, MVHC Program Chair by e-mail: mvhc.coordinator@gmail.com; website is www.unomaha.edu/mvhc/index.php.

January 2, 2012

The South Dakota State Historical Society (SDSHS) Press invites chapter proposals for a book, *The Political Culture of South Dakota*, to be edited by Jon K. Lauck, John E. Miller, and Donald C. Simmons, Jr., and published by the SDSHS Press in 2014. Interested parties should consult the forthcoming *The Plains Political Tradition: Essays on South Dakota Political Culture* (SDSHS Press, 2011), which will serve as a model for the future volume and an building block for future research. For more information, contact Martyn Beeny, Associate Editor, SDSHS

Press, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501; website: <http://faculty.isi.org/announcements/index/view/id/258>; e-mail: Martyn.beeny@state.sd.us.

February 15, 2012

The 75th Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society will be held July 25–29, 2012, in Chicago at the Palmer House Hilton. By this time pretty much everybody knows that 2012 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Rural Sociological Society and that our meetings will be held in the same hotel where the RSS was launched in 1937.

What you may not realize is that 2012 is also the 150th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the federal agency that has primary responsibility for the quality of life in rural America. This confluence should encourage us to use the annual meetings as a time of reflection not only of the path traveled but the road ahead. What policies – public and otherwise – have contributed to the patchwork of uneven prosperity we find at home and abroad and how can we do better? For more information, see the website: www.ruralsociology.org.

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