

Preface

The origins of this book lie in the research promoted by the International Geographical Union's (IGU) Commission on 'The Sustainability of Rural Systems' since 1993. Established first as a Study Group of the IGU, the Commission subsequently developed a programme of annual international and regional conferences, with each of the proceedings published in book form (www.strateg.ca/igu_rural_systems). Although drawing researchers mainly from rural geography, the Commission has attracted academics and practitioners interested in rural sustainability from planning, resource management, administration, politics and information technology. The content of this book comprises specially commissioned chapters that reflect the theoretical and empirical knowledge developed by the research community surrounding the Commission, but mainly in relation to rural systems in developed countries.

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Geographical Interpretations

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