

From the Chair's Desk

Dear NRRIG members,

It is my pleasure to share our Spring 2020 newsletter with you. I hope that you, your family, friends, and colleagues are staying safe during this unprecedented time.

Although we won't be able to come together in Colorado this summer, we are already looking forward to next year when RSS will be hosting our annual meeting in Burlington, Vermont. Mary, Hannah and I had a great time reading all the natural resources-focused abstracts submitted for this year's annual meeting, and we can't wait to see what our members submit next spring. We are delighted to have such a broad range of invaluable research represented in the work of our members. We also have received several outstanding student paper submissions and RIG award nominations; we are currently reading them and look forward to sharing award recipients soon. Additionally, I would like to extend a special thanks to Hailey Wilmer from ARS, who had gone above and beyond to help organize what would have been an outstanding field trip for our RIG, focused on rural social-ecological systems in Colorado.

In light of COVID-19 disruptions, RSS has asked current RIG leaders to extend their terms into 2021; I am extremely grateful to be working with Mary and Hannah to support NRRIG for another year. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us if you have any comments or suggestions to make sure our RIG is serving your needs. We are particularly interested in hearing about field trips or special sessions you would like to see planned for the 2021 RSS meeting in Vermont.

This newsletter outlines some of our RIG's most recent achievements and celebrations. Although we won't be meeting together in person this August, I hope you are still able to make the most of your summer – whatever that means for you.

Take care,
Cat

Rural Sociological Society Natural Resources Research Group Newsletter Spring 2020

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We are now on
Facebook! Join us [here](#)

Member Announcements

Recent Publications authored by NRRIG members

- Bodenhamer, Aysha, and Thomas E. Shriver. *Forthcoming*. "Environmental Health Advocacy and Industry Obstruction: The Case of Black Lung Disease." *Rural Sociology*.
- Church, Sarah P., Nicholas Babin, Belyna Bentlage, Michael Dunn, Jessica D. Ulrich-Schad, Pranay Ranjan, Joe Magner, Eileen McLellan, Susi Stephan, Mark Tomer, Linda S. Prokopy. 2019. "The Beargrass Story: Utilizing social science to evaluate and learn from the 'watershed approach.'" *Journal of Contemporary Water Resources and Education* (167):78-96.
- Hossain, Md Belal and Angela G. Mertig. 2020. "Socio-structural forces predicting global water footprint: socio-hydrology and ecologically unequal exchange." *Hydrological Sciences Journal*, 65 (4): 495-506. DOI: 10.1080/02626667.2020.1714052
- Hua Q., Bass, M., Ulrich-Schad, J., Matarrita-Cascante, D. Sanders, C. & Bekee, B. (2020). Community, Natural Resources, and Sustainability: An Introduction and Overview. *Sustainability*12(3): 1061.
- Joshi, Deepak, Jessica D. Ulrich-Schad, Tong Wang, Sharon A. Clay, Barry D. Dunn, Stephanie A.H. Bruggeman, and David E. Clay. 2019. "Grassland Retention During Periods of High Commodity Prices and Climate Variability Pressures in the North America Midwest." *Soil Science Society of America Journal* 83:1290-1298.
- Matarrita-Cascante, D., Sene-Harper, A. & Ruyle, L. (2019). A Holistic Framework for Participatory Conservation Approaches. *International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology*. 26(6): 484-494.
- Sene-Harper, A., Camara, S. & Matarrita-Cascante, D. (2019). Does Diversification Lead to Livelihood Security in Fishing-Farming Communities? Insight from the Senegal River Delta. *Human Ecology* 47(6): 797-809.
- Sene-Harper, A., Matarrita-Cascante, D. & Larson, L. (2019). Avoiding the "Empty Bag": Leveraging Local Livelihood Strategies to Support Conservation and Development in West Africa. *Environmental Development* 29: 16-28.
- Sketch, M., Dayer, A. A., & Metcalf, A. L. (2020). Western Ranchers' Perspectives on Enablers and Constraints to Flood Irrigation. *Rangeland Ecology & Management* 73(2): 285-296.
- Thompson, Diego and Silvina Lopez Barrera. 2019. "Building Collaborative Governance and Community Resilience under Socio-spatial Rural Disparities and Environmental Challenges." *Community Development Practice* 23:8-16.

Thompson, Diego and Silvina Lopez Barrera. 2019. "Community Resilience and Collective Agency Under Significant Changes in the Natural and Built Environment: A Community Capitals Framework Approach." *Local Environment* 24 (12): 1156-1177. DOI: 10.1080/13549839.2019.1683723

Ulrich-Schad, Jessica D., Michael Fedder, and Julie Yingling. 2019. "You shouldn't worry walking a block and a half to your car': Exploring Perceptions of Crime and Community Norms in the Bakken Oil Play." *International Journal of Rural Criminology* 4(2).

Ulrich-Schad, Jessica D. and Jennifer Givens. 2020. "The Forest in the Future: A Response to Seeing the Forest for the Trees." *Society and Natural Resources*. DOI: 10.1080/08941920.2019.1709004.

Xu, Y., Matarrita-Cascante, D., Lee, J.H., & Luloff, A.E. (2019). Physical Environment-Related Factors in an Assessment of Community Attachment: Understanding Urban Parks Contributions. *Sustainability* 11: 5603.

Winkler, R. & Matarrita-Cascante, D. (2020). Exporting Consumption: Lifestyle Migration and Energy Use. *In Press, Global Environmental Change*

Upcoming Meetings

Digital Agriculture and Conservation Policy Workshop

You are invited to join the upcoming Digital Agriculture and Conservation Policy Workshop hosted by the Cornell Initiative for Digital Agriculture, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Farm Foundation. This is a four-part online event, May 20, 27, 29 and June 3. All sessions begin at 10:00 am EDT/9:00 am CDT and run for 60-90 minutes. Session 1-3 are open to the public. Session 4 is focused on research planning and strengthening the science-policy interface. People engaged in research, research policy, and applications of research are specifically invited. The complete program and registration portal is available here <https://www.advancingdigitalagandconservation.com/>.

Session 1: May 20 10:00 am EDT, *Framing of Risks and Opportunities*,

Panelists:

- [Charles Baron](#), Chief Innovation Officer and Co-Founder, Farmers Business Network
- [Jason Weller](#), Senior Director, Land O'Lakes SUSTAIN

Workshop Coordinators: Steven Wolf, Cornell University; Jonathan Coppess and Kathy Baylis, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Shari Rogge-Fidler, Tim Brennan and Martha King, Farm Foundation

Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop

The 45th Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop will be held virtually this year. We still have much work to do to transition the Workshop to a virtual platform. We will continue to update our website and send you more details as they become available. Here's what we know and would like to share with you now:

- The Workshop will still be held July 12 to July 15, with the Researchers Meeting to follow on July 15 and 16. Please continue to save those dates!
- The theme of Active Hope will still guide our conversations. Chris Johnstone, who co-authored the inspiring book by the same name, will serve as our opening plenary speaker. Johnstone, a physician and renowned psychologist, has dedicated his life to promoting resilience and well-being.
- The structure of the Workshop will remain as consistent as possible with previous years, with an additional COVID-19 focus throughout.
- There will be plenty of opportunities to connect with your colleagues, including virtual meeting rooms, chat features, and online networking.
- We will host an online Poster Session, with fun interactive features in the new virtual environment. We will soon release the call for abstracts for the Poster Session and Research and Practice Highlights!
- We will offer continuing education credits through our partnerships with the Association of State Floodplain Managers, the International Association of Emergency Managers, and the American Planning Association.
- Registration fees will be reduced. We will announce the cost of registration as soon as we have a final estimate of hosting a virtual event. Please know that we will, as always, do everything we can to keep costs down so that as many people can participate as possible.

Please feel free to reach out to us at hazards.workshop@colorado.edu with any inquiries.

Call for Papers

Sustainability Special Issue "Global Resource Industries and Environmental Conflicts: Disciplinary Approaches, Methods, Literatures and Comparative Insights"

The Human Geography and Social Sustainability section of the international scholarly journal *Sustainability* invites contributions for a Special Issue entitled: "Global Resource Industries and Environmental Conflicts: Disciplinary Approaches, Methods, Literature, and Comparative Insights". Over the past twenty years, investment in primary resource production has grown dramatically across the globe. This has been the case with the production of precious and semi-precious metals as well as industrial metals. We have also seen booms in rare earth mineral production and novel forms of energy development. Few regions of the world have

been spared the experience of this global scramble for resources. Scholarship of resource conflicts has followed suit, and we know quite a bit now about the factors that drive these conflicts and the character of collective movements to challenge these industries; however, there are three challenges to this body of scholarship that this Special Issue aims to take up.

First, the extant literature has been somewhat contained within disciplinary boundaries with little cross-talk among disciplines. This Special Issue is particularly interested in manuscripts that bring disciplinary/conceptual/methodological and literature-specific themes to the fore to begin to think through how scholars might harness the strengths of the variegated approaches to these issues. Topics within this rubric might include:

- Case studies/reflections on methodological approaches to studying resources industries and conflicts;
- Reviews of the literature within certain disciplinary or cross-disciplinary parameters;
- Conceptual and theoretical approaches to thinking through resource industries and conflicts.

Second, the extant literature has also made relatively few efforts to conceptualize specific resource conflicts within global webs of geopolitical contests in the context of climate change, resurgent nationalist populism, mass migrations, and late fossil capitalism. To this end, this Special Issue seeks papers that aim to link site-specific cases (be these mines, conflicts, or countries) within such global webs. These papers could take the form of:

- Commodity chain/production network analyses of particular primary commodities;
- Global geopolitical strategy and competition in land grabs and resource production;
- Global flows of finance/financialization of the ground/underground;
- Competition, embedded fossil energy, and the future of energy production;
- Linking energy and mineral production with expulsions and migrant flows.

Finally, the extant literature would benefit from more comparative work. Intraregional and cross-regional comparative analyses highlight points of convergence and divergence in ways that make compelling stories with salient conclusions. This Special Issue is keen to include comparative analyses including but not limited to any of the following:

- Comparing state engagement with extractive industry across countries;
- Comparing collective movements to challenge resource industries;
- Comparing industry social and environmental engagement across commodities;
- Comparing development impacts of extraction in various countries or world regions.

Dr. Michael L. Dougherty
Guest Editor

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability/special_issues/global_resource_industries_and_environmental_conflicts

The deadline has been extended to April 30th, and **could be extended further**.

Sociology of Agriculture and Food (SAFRIG) 2020 SAFRIG Student Paper Award

The Sociology of Agriculture and Food Research Interest Group (SAFRIG) will present a Student Paper Award at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Society. Requirements for this award include that:

- 1) the paper focuses on an agrifood topic,
- 2) the paper is authored by a student or group of students (no faculty co-authors),
- 3) all authors are members of the Rural Sociological Society,
- 4) the paper will be presented at the 2020 RSS annual meeting (i.e. abstract has been accepted for presentation),
- 5) the paper uses the Rural Sociology journal guidelines for style, formatting, and references.

Papers will be particularly competitive if they demonstrate effective use of innovative theories, methods, and/or attention to unique geographic, cultural, and political contexts. Submissions for the Student Paper Award competition can be under initial review at a peer-reviewed journal but cannot be already accepted (in press) or published in a peer-reviewed journal. The winner(s) will receive a certificate and monetary award. The award will be presented during the SAFRIG Business Meeting at the 2020 conference. Questions and submissions should be sent to Florence Becot at becot.1@osu.edu. Submission deadline is **May 15, 2020**.

CfP Conference "The participative village"

"The Participative Village: Governing rural everyday worlds in times of the New Rural Paradigm", is organized by the section "Cultural Analysis of the Rural" of the German Association of Cultural Anthropology and Folklore Studies (www.kulturanthropologie.uni-bonn.de/nachrichten/call-for-papers-das-partizipierende-dorf.-8.-10.10.2020).

The conference will take place from October 8-10, 2020 in Bonn and is the closing event for the DFG-project "Participative Development of Rural Regions" (www.kulturanthropologie.uni-bonn.de/forschung/aktuelle-forschungsprojekte/dfg-projekt-partizipative-entwicklung-laendlicher-regionen-participative-development-of-rural-regions).

For more information, [click here](#).

SESYNC short course: Introduction to Spatial-Agent Based Modeling

The National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) invites applications to a 5-day short course: Introduction to Spatial-Agent Based Modeling (ABM). The course will be held Monday, July 13–Friday, July 17 at SESYNC. (We are hopeful that the course will continue as planned but should any changes in scheduling or formatting occur due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, we will notify applicants promptly.) We kindly ask that you explore the announcement online at: <https://www.sesync.org/opportunities/short-courses/introduction-to-spatial-agent-based-modeling-2020-short-course> and share this opportunity with interested colleagues. Deadline: April, 20 2020.

Participants will learn the essential theoretical background and technical expertise needed to conceptualize, build, and analyze their first agent-based model. The course will combine lectures with hands-on model-building sessions to acquire basic and intermediate programming skills. Applicants whose research or teaching focus on the dynamics and interdependencies of human and natural systems (i.e., socio-environmental (S-E) systems) will be given preference, but applicants with other areas of interest are also welcome. The course material will be structured for students with little to no experience with ABM and/or programming, but it could also be of interest to researchers/faculty with limited ABM experience. The three main topics of the course will be: AMB theory, model development, and model analysis.

Costs: Registration fees are \$100 for graduate students and postdocs and \$250 for faculty and all others. Financial assistance for the registration fee and/or flights and hotel costs for non-local participants is available in accordance with our travel policies but requires a formal application demonstrating a clear need for assistance.

For questions, please contact Dr. Nicholas Magliocca (nrmagliocca@ua.edu), Instructor and Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Alabama.

University of Washington EarthLab Panel on Stakeholder Engagement in a Water for Agriculture Project

Curious about trans-disciplinary work? The EarthLab Lunch & Learn series provides a space to learn more about the skills needed to collaborate across diverse fields and communities. Come grab some lunch and partake in an interesting conversation with others from various disciplines!

Every second Tuesday of the month, two or more individuals from different disciplines are invited to share lessons from their efforts to collaborate with each other. Such partnerships might include artists collaborating with scientists, researchers collaborating with community members, academics collaborating with practitioners, and researchers collaborating across

wide disciplinary divides (e.g. sciences and humanities). The discussion will include reflection on challenges and opportunities they encounter, the specific awareness and skills they have developed in order to collaborate, and recommendations for others attempting similar feats.

Each event will last two hours. The first hour will consist of a 20-30 minute panel followed by discussion with a general audience and socializing. The second hour will be an opportunity for students to meet with the panelists and learn from those who are a few steps ahead about how to become collaborative boundary-crossers.

From Knowledge to Understanding: Lessons Learned from Integrating Research and Stakeholder Engagement in a Water & Agriculture Project

May 12, 2020 | 12:30 – 2:00 PM | Online

RSVP at <https://earthlab.uw.edu/news-and-events/lunch-learn-series/>

Panelists include:

Kathryn Brasier, Penn State University

Barbara Quimby, Arizona State University

Mark Burbach, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Jon Laughner, Penn State University

Walt Whitmer, Penn State University

Weston Eaton, Penn State University

Clinton Williams, USDA Agricultural Research Service

The Water for Agriculture (W4Ag) is a 4-year, multidisciplinary USDA funded project that studies stakeholder engagement as a means to address complex water problems in agricultural working landscapes. To do this, team members are facilitating, studying and supporting stakeholder working groups in 5 projects sites across diverse water contexts in Arizona, Nebraska and Pennsylvania. In this panel discussion, project personnel will share insights into several challenges and adaptations related to undertaking multidisciplinary work in partnership with community members.

The discussion will highlight experiences from the perspectives of both junior and established scholars and practitioners on the project. After a brief overview of the project goals and description of activities and focus in each project site, panelists will reflect on several themes. These include: the practical challenges of bringing together new groups of diverse stakeholders to participate in the project; lessons learned through the attempt to hold the engagement process constant across diverse project sites while allowing variation in content and topical focus; and navigating the ‘tug’ between theory and practice of engagement.

Panelists will also shed light on their experience with professional and personal aspects of community-grounded research through discussing d) the reality of mingling one's personal life with a scientific research agenda in working with local community partners on public issues; and e) the professional implications of stepping outside of typical scientific approaches and reorienting one's work toward supporting community-driven efforts.

Panelists will then invite session attendees to share in a broader discussion of collaborative approaches to research on complex natural resource problems—what does it take to successfully navigate disparate disciplinary cultures in pursuit of both practical and scholarly goals? Where was growth, learning, or some sort of change needed to keep the project moving—did it happen and to what end? What worked well, and less so?

The goal of the panel session then is to identify, share, and foster dialogue that can form the basis for a more robust framework for undertaking research on water in agricultural landscapes in collaborative fashion, that is grounded in the experiences of stakeholders whose lives are directly tied to the issues we study.

Employment Opportunities

Director of Undergraduate and Field Education, The Wilderness Institute, University of Montana

The Wilderness Institute (WI) of the W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation invites applications for the position of Director of Undergraduate and Field Education. This position is responsible for managing the Wilderness and Civilization program (W&C), as well as the Wilderness Studies Minor.

Job Description

Key duties include:

- Instruction of field and classroom-based courses in the W&C program, as well as stand-alone classes
- Support success of students enrolled in Wilderness Lecture Series
- Development and supervision of field courses during the academic year and summer session, including hiring and supervision of temporary field instructors
- Plan and implement annual student recruiting
- Provide high-quality student mentoring and advising
- Develop annual course and program budgets
- Annually update and continuously implement the Risk Management Plan
- Contribute to W&C alumni and donor stewardship
- Support Wilderness Institute communications and development and development

- Represent the Wilderness Institute and partner with Campus Recreation in the planning and implementation of the Freshman Wilderness Experience orientation program
- Other academic and administrative duties as needed

How to Apply

Full position description, required and preferred qualifications, and application procedures are available at: <https://bit.ly/2Wvdfz> (UM Tracking Code: 2594-254)

USGS Social Science Research Assistant

The Coastal and Marine Hazards and Resources Program & Water Resources Mission Area of the U.S. Geological Survey are looking for a research assistant to support stakeholder engagement efforts associated with coastal change hazards and water availability assessment. (Please see <https://www.usgs.gov/natural-hazards/coastal-marine-hazards-and-resources> and <https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/science/integrated-water-availability-assessments-iwaas>.)

The research assistant will provide support for two projects using human-centered design and stakeholder engagement methods to iteratively design decision support tools and data portals disseminating information about hazards on the nation's coasts and key water budget metrics. Key tasks include: (a) identifying, obtaining, synthesizing, and reviewing interdisciplinary literature from a range of fields such as human-computer interaction, participatory action research, and geography; and producing written summaries of these literature reviews (b) conducting interviews and/or focus groups with internal and external stakeholders and (c) analyzing qualitative data. Additional duties may include helping interpret results and contributing to peer-reviewed publications or other means of disseminating results. The research assistant will provide support to an interdisciplinary, geographically dispersed research team and will be expected to be an active member of this team.

The USGS Water Resources Mission Area and Coastal Change Hazards program are a dynamic, collegial group of research scientists, data experts, and information specialists providing a multifaceted perspective on the data, knowledge, and tools produced that aim to understand water availability and coastal change as well as potential hazards associated with these changes. The research assistant will have the opportunity to interact with Coastal Change Hazards scientists, Water Resource Mission Area scientists, project stakeholders from other institutions and government agencies, and collaborating social scientists.

The research assistant should be currently enrolled in a masters or PhD program (or a recently graduated masters student) in a social science field, design, human-computer interaction, or another relevant discipline.

The candidate also must have:

1. Experience conducting social science, design, or usability research or equivalent experience working with stakeholders.
2. Demonstrated ability to independently collect and analyze qualitative interview and/or focus group data.
3. Demonstrated ability to conduct interdisciplinary literature reviews.
4. Excellent writing ability.
5. A U.S. driver's license (as operation of a Government vehicle may be required).

Our preferred candidate will have:

1. A degree related to and/or experience with natural hazards, ocean and coastal management, and/or water management.
2. Experience with any of the following: other qualitative social science research methods, human-centered design, usability research, stakeholder engagement, decision support tools, NVIVO software, and interdisciplinary research environments.

This position is a USGS Student Services contract position. This means:

1. Applicants must be U.S. citizens
2. Applicants must either have graduated within the past year or be currently enrolled as a student.
3. For all legal purposes, student is regarded as an independent contractor. Payments for services are reportable and taxable as earned income. No Federal, State, or Local income taxes will be deducted. No Social Security or Medicare taxes will be deducted. Student is responsible for payment of all taxes. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will report the total amount paid under this order to the Internal Revenue Service on a Standard Form 1099. The student is not considered an employee and will not receive a W-2 form.

The work schedule is part-time and flexible and would be ideally suited to a current student who wants to work close to full time over the summer and continue approximately 15-20 hours/week over next academic year. We are looking for someone available beginning in June 2020. While most of the work can be done remotely, the research assistant needs to be located in occasional commuting distance to one of the following USGS locations: Fort Collins, CO; St Petersburg, FL; Santa Cruz, CA/ San Francisco, CA; Woods Hole, MA. The pay rate for this position is determined by level of education completed and ranges from \$24.46 per hour to \$36.20 per hour.

For questions related directly to the job, contact Amanda Cravens, Research Social Scientist, at aecravens@usgs.gov.

To Apply:

Please submit a cover letter, resume, transcripts (unofficial ok), and a writing sample demonstrating your ability to interpret qualitative data to aecravens@usgs.gov by 11:59 PM

(Mountain Time) Tuesday May 19th. Please use “Usability Research Assistant application” as the subject line for your email.

NIFA is Recruiting for Institute Deputy Directors

The United States Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is seeking to fill Deputy Director positions in its Science Institutes. These are Senior Executive Service positions, and the salary ranges from \$175,501 to \$186,500 per year, commensurate with experience.

Four Institute Deputy Director positions may be filled from this vacancy announcement. The official titles are:

- Deputy Director, Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment
- Deputy Director, Institute of Food Production and Sustainability
- Deputy Director, Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition
- Deputy Director, Institute of Youth, Family, and Community

For more information, [click here](#).

Graduate Research Assistantship in Food Systems at the University of New Hampshire

Seeking a highly motivated graduate student to join the food systems lab at UNH to contribute to interdisciplinary research focused on food system development in New England. The proposed research will investigate the social and policy dimensions of different pathways for increasing farm income and food production in the Northeast region. The student will play an important role in coordinating and assisting with field research in a project that includes farm-level data collection as well as data collection on local and regional food markets, alternative aggregation and distribution models, local and state level agriculture and food policy, and initiatives that support regional food system development. The ideal candidate for the position has an interest in bringing together the natural resource or agricultural sciences with the social sciences and engaging with extension educators, Sustainability Institute partners, researchers from diverse fields, farmers, and other stakeholders from across the food system.

For more information, [click here](#).

COVID-19 resources

- **NIFA-AFRI call for grant proposals:** “The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced that it is investing in research on the impact of COVID-19 on American agriculture. Last week, NIFA opened its request for applications on research or extension activities that focus on developing and deploying rapid, reliable, and readily adoptable COVID-19 agricultural strategies across the food and agriculture enterprise. Through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program, NIFA will invest up to \$9 million for research in the following areas: health and security of livestock; food and food processing; well-being of farm workforce, food service providers, and rural Americans; and economic security. Applications are due June 4, 2020.”
<https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rfa/FY-2020-AFRI-Foundational-and-Applied-Science-RFA-modified-4-16-2020.pdf>
- **Rural Health Information Hub** list of grant opportunities for rural communities: <https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/topics/covid-19/funding>
- **USDA rural development COVID-19 resources:** <https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus>
- USDA outlines CARES Act funding opportunities for rural communities
<https://www.naco.org/blog/usda-outlines-cares-act-funding-opportunities-rural-communities>
- **Rural Assembly’s COVID-19 Stories and Resources** page: www.ruralassembly.org/covid-19-stories-and-resources