Contributors

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Michael L. Dougherty is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Illinois State University, USA. His teaching and research center, broadly, on the sociology of the environment, development, and rural livelihoods. His current research examines the social dynamics around resistance to gold mining in Central America. Dougherty received his PhD from the University of Wisconsin–Madison, USA.

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David Marcouiller is a Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, USA, where he serves as Department Chair and State Extension Specialist. A resource economist by training, his work focuses on the linkages between natural resources and community economic development with a particular interest in multi-functional rural landscapes, the production of natural amenities, and the recreational home phenomenon. He has published over 160 manuscripts in a variety of outlets that span tourism and forest economics, outdoor recreation planning and rural development. His most recent book project was published by Ashgate Press in 2011 and is entitled *Rural Housing, Exurbanization, and Amenity Drive Development*, which he co-edited with Mark Lapping and Owen Furuseth.

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Elisa Da Vià is a PhD candidate in the Department of Development Sociology, Cornell University, USA. Her research focuses on the political economy and ecology of rural development and agrarian change. Her dissertation examines the emergence of networks of seed saving and exchange in Southern Europe, with special emphasis on the role played by farm-saved seeds, peasant-led research and agro-ecological farming methods in contemporary struggles for food sovereignty and environmental sustainability.

Li Zhang is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University, USA. Her research and teaching interests include demography, urban sociology, health and Chinese studies. Her research has turned into a sole-authored book, *Male Fertility Patterns and Determinants* (Springer, 2010) and a number of peer-reviewed journal articles published by *Social Science Research, Population Research and Policy Review* and *Demographic Research*.

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