

Marshall Seminar on Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide

May 17 to 19, 2019

Thematic Agenda

Summary

The urban-rural divide is often characterized as a major differentiator in our societies. Migration, digitalization, and globalization have accentuated this perception of divergence. Yet the reality is much more nuanced. Many contemporary rural concerns are shared by urban dwellers, and those that are unique can still best be addressed through various forms of collaboration.

GMF's Marshall Seminar on Bridging Urban-Rural Divides, May 17 to 19, will convene leaders from both sides of the Atlantic in Anchorage, Alaska, to identify priorities for greater urban-rural collaboration and model the pathways forward for enhanced social cohesion.

[Register Here](#)

Friday, May 17

Participants arrive

16:00

Welcome to the Seminar

Introduction to the theme
Its domestic and international impact
Prospects for transatlantic collaboration

16:15

Honor the Native Land

Acknowledgment of the traditional Indigenous inhabitants of lands on which the seminar will be taking place

16:30-17:00 **Key Trends in Urban-Rural Divide**

Demographic change
Shared priorities
Divergence in values
Growing misperceptions of each other

17:00-18:00 **Scene Setter and Ice Breaker**

Cohort building
Setting of group objectives for the seminar

18:00-19:00 Transfer to the reception

19:00-21:00 **Welcome to Alaska**

Tour at the Anchorage Museum

Keynote: Mayor of Anchorage **Ethan Berkowitz** (MMF'02)

Devolution of political power
Cities as new global actors
Convergence of urban-rural priorities
Strategies for effective urban-rural collaboration

Saturday, May 18

Breakfast on your own

9:00 - 10:30 **Center Versus Periphery**

The concept of urban-rural divide
Its impact on social cohesion and politics
Solutions to mitigate its adverse effects
What constitutes urban-rural divide today

10:45 -12:15 **Growing Our Way Out of the Problem**

Changing nature of work and marketplace
Infrastructure for urban-rural value chains
Partnership models for asset investment
Solutions for enhanced access to capital

13:00 - 15:00 **Bridging the Gap in Rights and Liberties**

Barriers to resources and opportunities
Furthering education and empowerment
Provision of services to vulnerable groups
Pooling of resources and self-help groups

15:00 - 17:00 **Leadership Simulations**

This leadership simulation will help participants brainstorm solutions to policy dilemmas in transatlantic conversations. Each group will receive a briefing on a specific policy challenge and will then:

1. *Discuss the incident and identify key issues;*
2. *Determine a shared objective and strategize a response;*
3. *Assess the tools at their disposal and detail a course of action; and*
4. *Present their thought processes and outcomes to the other groups.*

Possible immersive experience as a break

19:00 - 21:00 **Singularity in Plurality**

Strategies for regional community development
Building of cross-sectoral coalitions for change
Strategies for breaking down stereotypes
Elevation of rural priorities on the national agenda

Sunday, May 19

9:00-10:30 **Rural Education and Healthcare**

Increasing access to tertiary education
Digital skill development
Remote healthcare provision
Occupation health hazard
Managing the opioid crisis

10:45-12:45 **Breakout Workgroups**

How Can Civil Society Help

How Can Businesses Help

These two sessions will leverage the brain trust of convened leaders to identify how civil society and business on both sides of the Atlantic can help in bridging urban-rural divides and restoring our politics back to the center. Sessions will identify potential solutions which GMF will consolidate and share with the wider alumni community for feedback before finalizing them for publication for both sides of the Atlantic.

GMF's Marshall Seminars address critical leadership issues of transatlantic concern. Lasting from two to three days, they bring together GMF's smart-power network for exchange of perspectives, strategies, and best practices when such exchange is urgently needed. Set in the cities that best showcase the dynamics of the issues being examined, the seminars provide a highly stimulating environment for innovative thinking and collective problem solving

[Register Here](#)

GMF's Marshall Seminars are exclusive to GMF alumni, including those from the **Marshall Memorial Fellowship, Manfred Wörner Seminar, Transatlantic Inclusion Leaders Network**, Transatlantic Forum for Migration and Integration, Asmus Policy Entrepreneurs Fellowship, APSA Congressional Fellowship, and New Länder Fellowship.

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