

# Review of: "Encounters with Others: Student Growth through Fieldwork Studies in Rural Areas"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The material addresses a topic of great interest and importance today - the need for a collaborative education between universities and rural areas, especially, so that the study programs proposed by the universities and the practical activity carried out by the students respond as best as possible to the needs of society.

As the authors point out, a sustained collaboration between universities and the surrounding regions presents benefits for both parties, contributing to the realization of joint projects and, last but not least, to the establishment of graduates in the rural environment.

I appreciate the Theoretical Background chapter, which is very well documented and presented.

Figure 1 (the only figure in the material, by the way) can be improved. The names of two or three cities should also appear in the figure to make it easier to read and understand. In my opinion, the legend explaining the shades and symbols used (crosses, black, white) should appear next to the map, within the figure, not below the figure, after the title.

The methodology is rather vaguely presented. The authors interviewed "officials of local municipalities in the Kansai region whose websites claimed to collaborate with universities". Can websites even appear in the bibliography?

Also, the authors state that they interviewed "some university professors". How many teachers, specifically? What specializations do the respective teachers have?

The presentation of the results and the discussions are relevant.

Conclusions are missing. The chapter cannot end with "discussions", conclusions are needed.