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**How do communities and cultures survive after coal?**

MORGANTOWN, WV—On Monday, January 28, 2019, Tom Hansell of Appalachian State University will discuss [*After Coal: Stories of Survival in Appalachia and Wales*](https://wvupressonline.com/node/748) in an event cosponsored with the WVU Humanities Center, the Appalachian Justice Initiative, WVU's Reed College of Media, and West Virginia University Press. Hansell will be joined by panelists Caity Coyne (*Charleston Gazette-Mail*) and Nicholas Stump (WVU College of Law). Ashton Marra (Reed College and 100 Days in Appalachia) will moderate this conversation about how communities and cultures survive after coal.

This event will take place at West Virginia University’s College of Law on Monday, January 28, 2019, from 4:00-5:30 pm.

Tom Hansell is an award-winning documentary filmmaker whose work has been broadcast on public television and screened at international film festivals. Hansell has more than two decades of experience working with coalfield residents to create collaborative media projects. He began his career at the Appalshop media arts center, and he currently teaches at Appalachian State University.

**Read this interview of Tom Hansell by Elizabeth Catte, author of *What You Are Getting Wrong About Appalachia,*** [**here**](https://wvupressonline.com/node/748#5)**.**

Central Appalachia and south Wales were built to extract coal, and faced with coal’s decline, both regions have experienced economic depression, labor unrest, and out-migration. *After Coal*focuses on coalfield residents who chose not to leave, but instead remained in their communities and worked to build a diverse and sustainable economy. It tells the story of four decades of exchange between two mining communities on opposite sides of the Atlantic, and profiles individuals and organizations that are undertaking the critical work of regeneration.

The stories in this book are told through interviews and photographs collected during the making of *After Coal*, a documentary film produced by the Center for Appalachian Studies at Appalachian State University and directed by Tom Hansell. Considering resonances between Appalachia and Wales in the realms of labor, environment, and movements for social justice, the book approaches the transition from coal as an opportunity for marginalized people around the world to work toward safer and more egalitarian futures.

Praise for *After Coal:*

"Visually appealing . . . . Hansell promises no easy answers, but his optimistic work showcases multiple community-building efforts."  
*Publishers Weekly*

"*After Coal* is an inspiring record of community-driven change that shows us what a great debt we owe to artists, organizers, and visionaries who approach the often overwhelming task of economic transition with clear eyes and a desire for a better future.”  
Elizabeth Catte, author of *What You Are Getting Wrong About Appalachia*

“A badly needed analysis of the situation where post-coal Appalachia finds itself. Books like Hansell’s are necessary to help the region move forward.”  
Denise Giardina, author of six novels, including *Storming Heaven*

“*After Coal* is a deeply moving account of a long-term exchange between miners in the coalfields of central Appalachia and south Wales where, between 1980 and 2000, both regions lost thousands of mining jobs. Tom Hansell captures their struggles through the voices of miners and their families. He brings the reader face to face with Appalachian and Welsh coal miners whose stories will touch the reader’s heart.”  
William Ferris, author of *The South in Color: A Visual Journal*

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