

CALL FOR PAPERS

ESA RN38 MID-TERM CONFERENCE

“Rural and Regional Realities in Motion: Territoriality, Temporality, and Technology”

Chania (Crete) Greece, 3-6 September 2025

Organizer:

Harokopio University of Athens (Greece), Department of Geography

With the support of:

Hellenic Sociological Association (HSS)

Venue:

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICh), Chania (Crete), Greece

Regional and rural realities play an important role in understanding socio-economic characteristics, trends, and dynamics at the European level. Recently, the focus has been on the politics of resentment and the sense of injustice expressed by places/regions that are often considered or reflected as 'left behind' in comparison to the privileged regions and cities, as a recognition of the broader imbalances and inequalities objectified, naturalized and legitimized by the ongoing market competition and the prevailing spatial division of labor within the EU. The existing and reproduced hierarchies of territories, temporal regimes, and technological/digital arrangements need to be exposed and challenged, while the underlying socio-spatial relations and transformative actions should also be researched and theorized.

The focus on rural and regional realities reveals the particular and universal features of the non/less urbanized, remote, and peripheral areas in the course of changing and adapting to wider transformations. Far from adopting a diffusionist approach to social transformation, it is important to decipher the contours and complexities of the changing pace of rural and regional realities and explore the territorial, temporal, and/or technological aspects. Meanwhile, the technology is imprinted on (re)shaping territories and on how temporality is conceived and expressed. Moreover, the nexus of space and time has been extensively discussed and theorized in sociology, human geography, and anthropology.

Both theoretical and/or empirical research that addresses the key issues are welcome, together with methodological contributions and reflections on different aspects of rural and regional realities. Interdisciplinary, intersectional, critical, and comparative approaches are particularly encouraged, representing different schools of thinking and theorization of transformations in rural and regional areas.

Some indicative topics are the following:

- Provision of social services in rural and regional areas
- Infrastructure(s) in rural areas and regions
- The local/territorial impact of technological transformations
- Rural poverty and social inequalities
- Vulnerable populations at local and regional levels
- Depopulation and population renewal
- Migrations (internal and international) and new residents
- Mobilities and immobilities in rural places

- Resilience strategies
- Local and alternative food systems
- Sustainable agriculture
- Digitalisation in rural areas
- Interactions of farming and non-farming activities
- New economic activities and livelihoods
- Local labour markets
- New socio-spatial relations
- Employment and housing in the countryside/ at the regional level
- New forms of governance
- Policies and territoriality
- Climate crisis and rural areas
- Impact of public policies on rural places
- Placed-based policies

Abstract:

Send your abstract, of a maximum of 250 words, to: Conf.RN38@gmail.com. Please, indicate name, surname, affiliation, and email address (for future correspondence). For any questions please don't hesitate to email to: apospapa@hua.gr

Key dates:

Abstract submission (new) deadline: 20th May 2025

Notification of Acceptance: 25th May 2025

Early Bird Registration: Before 4th July 2025

Late Registration: After 4th July 2025

Program publication: 1st August 2025

More details will be shared with the notification of paper acceptance.

Fees:**Early bird**

Teaching and research academic staff - Members of ESA: 85€, Non-members: 125€

Students - members of ESA: 55€, Non-members: 85€

Late registration

Teaching and research academic staff - Members of ESA: 110€, Non-members: 150€

Students - members of ESA: 80€, Non-members: 110€

Local Organizing Committee

Apostolos G. Papadopoulos, Harokopio University of Athens (Greece); Pavlos Baltas, National Centre for Social Research (Greece); Alessandra Corrado, University of Calabria, (Italy); Loukia-Maria Fratsea, Harokopio University of Athens (Greece); Christina Karakioulafi, University of Crete (Greece); George Mavrommatis, Harokopio University of Athens (Greece); Ruth McAreavey, Newcastle University (UK); Nikolaos Metaxidis, Harokopio University of Athens (Greece); Maria Jesus Rivera, Public University of Navarra, (Spain); Eugenia Petropoulou, University of Crete (Greece); Aleka Theofili, National Centre for Social Research (Greece); Ioanna Tsiganou, National Centre for Social Research, (Greece); Chryssa Zachou, The American College of Greece.