

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A
20/01/2026) - SESSÃO ESPECIAL

**MOVING WITH THE WEATHER: WEATHER-WAYS AND THE CONFIGURING
OF CARE IN VINEYARD MANAGEMENT**

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The notion of care is attracting growing attention in social science scholarship on farming and agriculture. While more-than-human entities are recognised as being central to enacting care practices, this has not yet extended to a consideration of atmospheric conditions or what is more widely referred to as 'weather'. In this presentation, we utilise the concept of 'weather ways' to examine how weather contributes to the configuration of 'good' care in farming, and the implications of weather-care relations for farmer engagement in more environmentally sustainable farming practices. Drawing upon qualitative data from a project focused on trials for improving on-farm disease management in the Tasmanian (Australia) wine industry, we show that weather has a critical influence on care practices related to minimising disease risk and growing high quality 'clean' fruit. Farmers calibrate their vineyard management practices to anticipate seasonal variations, and they have well-established routines and repetitions for ensuring that practices for disease prevention are sufficiently

adaptable to changes in weather. Significantly, we highlight the importance of what we term care infrastructures – vineyard canopy design and management – in enabling farmers to have greater control over sunlight, humidity and airflow through the vines. However, while weather is intertwined with practices of vine and vineyard care, our data show that these weather-care relations can pose challenges for farmer uptake of environmentally sustainable practices. Efforts to minimise disease and business risk linked to weather conditions and variability reinforces reliance on synthetic chemicals that farmers know from previous experience will be effective, hindering experimentation with ‘softer’ and more environmentally benign options.

Palavras-chave: care; weather; vineyard management; disease prevention; australia.