

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A
20/01/2026) - IRSA 12 - BUILDING A SOCIOLOGY OF AGROECOLOGY

**RELATIONAL AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITIONS**

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A plethora of different frameworks and co-concepts associated to transdisciplinary sciences (Participatory Action-Research, co-design, Living Labs, etc.) is being applied to the framework of agri-food sustainability transitions, including agroecological transitions. This can result in relevant contradictions from epistemic and ontological points of view or even in political terms, while at the same time can open space for both theoretical and methodological innovation. Relational approaches to food systems' change is an emerging field that could shed light on how different participatory frameworks engage in the transitions towards socio-ecological sustainability, by exploring its ever changing nature, the more-than-human nature of the actors involved, its flat

geography beyond territorial scales, and the interrelations between power, agency, space and materiality. Within the present communication we will explore how relational/assemblage thinking approaches can support the transformative potential of participatory approaches to territorial, agroecological transitions. For this purpose we draw on the main outcomes of a critical review to identify conceptual and methodological bridging-concepts between all three approaches – agroecology, relational thinking, and participatory methods for action-research in agri-food sustainability transitions-. The discussion raises potential avenues for deepening transformative agroecological transitions beyond binaries such as nature/society, material/social, cooptation/transformation, or participation/extractivism. In so doing, the communication offers a set of bridging-concepts that set a fertile ground for developing epistemological, theoretical and methodological approaches for co-designing and assessing transformative, participatory and territorial agroecological transitions.

Palavras-chave: agroecological transformation; participatory action-research; co-design; assemblage thinking; assemblage theory.