

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A 20/01/2026) - IRSA 23 - RURAL YOUTH AND CLIMATE CHANGE: IDENTITIES, TERRITORIAL RESISTANCE, AND THE DILEMMA OF WORK OR MIGRATION

RURAL YOUTH EDUCATIONAL TRAJECTORIES UNDER AGRICULTURAL SHOCKS AND THE ROLE OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

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This study examines how agricultural transformations, captured through coffee price increases, shape young people's educational choices. Additionally, to define the contextual conditions of labor and education decisions among rural youth, we give particular attention to the role of social capital, especially family ties and local social networks, in shaping occupational trajectories. The analysis employs multivariable panel regression models using microdata from Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios Continua (PNADc), a nationwide labor household survey released quarterly, for the period from 2018 to 2024. The dataset covers relevant research areas and additional indicators, such as education, social relations, and household characteristics, as well as broader topics informing Brazil's socioeconomic conditions. The dependent variable is

the educational status of individuals aged 18 to 25, while the independent variables include gender, race, indicators of social support, and fluctuations in agricultural prices. We use an interaction between coffee prices and coffee-producing state dummy variables, with the four largest producers accounting for 91% of Brazilian production. Robustness checks are conducted using alternative agricultural commodity prices to capture broader productive transformations in rural economies. Increases in coffee prices negatively impact the educational enrollment of rural youth in the four major Brazilian producing states. The results indicate that social capital plays a central role in mediating the effects of agricultural price changes on youth trajectories. Providing support to the family is negatively associated with continued education, particularly among household carers and individuals living with children under the age of six, while receiving support positively correlates with school attendance, as observed among those living with parents and reporting higher levels of trust in relatives.

Palavras-chave: panel data; coffee prices; youth education; social capital; social support networks.