

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

**TERRITORY, CLIMATE AND YOUTH: IDENTITIES AND MOBILITIES IN
CONTEMPORARY RURAL WORLDS**

Otávio Alves Simões (otaviosimoes.dp@gmail.com)

Daniele Morales Mallue (danimallue@gmail.com)

Climate change has intensified socioeconomic vulnerabilities in rural territories, particularly affecting rural youth, who find themselves at the center of disputes between remaining in the countryside, territorial resistance, and migration in search of work and better living conditions. In this context, the present study aims to analyze how rural youth construct their social identities in the face of recent climate impacts, investigating territorial resistance strategies and the factors that influence the dilemma between staying in rural areas or migrating to urban centers.

Methodologically, the research adopts a qualitative approach based on a bibliographic review of studies on rural youth, climate change, and territorial development, as well as the analysis of secondary data from institutional reports

and public policies focused on family farming and climate adaptation. Complementarily, case studies presented in recent literature are considered, focusing on rural regions of Latin America, in order to identify recurring patterns of vulnerability, adaptation, and youth mobility.

The results indicate that climate change acts as a structural factor in youth decision-making, intensifying productive, economic, and symbolic insecurities in the field. At the same time, forms of territorial resistance associated with agroecology, productive diversification, and the appreciation of rural identities become evident, especially when supported by public policies and local networks. It is concluded that the dilemma between work and migration is not only economic but also identity-based and political, making it fundamental to recognize rural youth as strategic actors in the construction of resilient territories in the face of climate crises.

Palavras-chave: youth; agroecology; territoriality; resilience; permanence.