

IRSA - CONGRESSO MUNDIAL DE SOCIOLOGIA RURAL (01/10/2025 A
20/01/2026) - IRSA 15 - BEYOND URBAN AND RURAL SOCIOLOGY:
TOWARDS A SPATIALISED AND CIRCULATORY ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL
STRUCTURE

**RURBANITY AND NEW RURALITY IN BRAZIL: A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS
BASED ON IBGE CENSUS 2022**

Elena Castellani (elenacastellani.castellani@gmail.com)

Jaim José Da Silva Júnior (jaim@unb.br)

Amanda Soares Roza (amandasroza@gmail.com)

Lucas Martins De Araújo (lucasmartinsaraujo1@gmail.com)

The rural–urban division has become increasingly insufficient to explain contemporary socio-spatial transformations in Brazil. Using publicly available data from the 2022 Demographic Census conducted by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), this paper examines whether the relative decline of the rural population reflects rural depopulation or broader processes of rural transformation. The study adopts a descriptive quantitative approach, drawing on demographic and socio-spatial indicators such as population totals and shares by official rural and urban residence categories, complemented by basic age-structure comparisons and historical trends across previous

censuses. The theoretical framework engages debates on multiple ruralities, rurality, and new rurality, emphasizing rural–urban interdependencies, economic diversification, cultural transformations, and the enduring relevance of agribusiness in Brazil's national economy. Results show that in 2022 Brazil had approximately 203 million inhabitants, of whom only 12.59% lived in areas classified as rural, while 87.41% resided in urban areas, reaching the lowest rural share in the historical series. However, when examined in absolute terms, the rural population remains relatively stable over recent decades, whereas urban growth accounts for the major demographic shift. These findings suggest that the countryside is not disappearing, but rather being reorganized through intensified functional linkages with urban markets, commodity chains, and cultural repertoires increasingly present in urban spaces, including the contemporary visibility of “agro culture.” The analysis argues that conventional rural–urban binaries are inadequate to capture the relational, multifunctional, and dynamic character of rurality in contemporary Brazil. By reframing census-based demographic change as evidence of circulatory rural transformation rather than disappearance, the paper contributes to discussions on spatialized social structure and rural change under globalization and accelerated urbanization, offering insights for territorial planning, public policy, and rural development research.

Palavras-chave: rurality; rural–urban relations; rurality; demographic change; socio-spatial transformation.