

SESSÃO ESPECIAL - SESSÃO ESPECIAL

**SESSÃO ESPECIAL IRSA - RURAL SOCIOLOGY IN TIMES OF
UNCERTAINTY: AN INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE**

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The session Rural Sociology in Times of Uncertainty: An Institutional Dialogue aims to promote a collective reflection on the contemporary challenges facing rural sociology amid accelerating social, political, environmental, and technological transformations. Bringing together representatives of major academic associations, research networks, and internationally recognized scholars, the session will explore how rural sociology can respond to a global context increasingly marked by climate change, geopolitical instability, democratic crises, armed conflicts, food insecurity, widening inequalities, and rapid transformations in agri-food systems. Rather than focusing exclusively on specific empirical themes, the session seeks to encourage an open and dialogical debate on the role of rural sociology as an academic field and public

intellectual project in times of uncertainty. Discussions may address the institutional future of rural sociology, the changing dynamics of international academic cooperation, and the need to strengthen interdisciplinary and transnational research agendas capable of engaging with complex global challenges. Particular attention will be given to the ways rural sociology can contribute to debates on sustainability transitions, social justice, food systems transformation, agrarian conflicts, migration, rural livelihoods, and the governance of natural resources. The session will also reflect on methodological and epistemological challenges, including the need to incorporate diverse forms of knowledge production and to strengthen dialogue between academia, social movements, policymakers, and civil society organizations. More broadly, the session aims to reaffirm the relevance of rural sociology in understanding contemporary transformations and in contributing to more democratic, inclusive, and sustainable futures for rural and urban societies alike.

Palavras-chave: rural sociology.