

Special Issue

Immigrants, Social Integration and Sustainable Rural Development

Message from the Guest Editors

Over the years, migration research has primarily focused on immigrants' movement to and settlement processes in urban areas. More recently, attention has also turned to investigate the ways immigrants are emplaced and integrated in rural localities and small towns and to study social change and rural restructuring. In this context, it is important to place more emphasis on the processes, the socioeconomic preconditions, the challenges of immigrants' settlement, and the complex ways in which immigrants' movements across rural, regional, and peripheral areas are evolving. Numerous factors are considered critical when discussing the size, intensity, and duration of migration flows towards non-metropolitan areas, such as globalization, counter-urbanization, agricultural intensification/restructuring, climate change, changes in the political and/or economic conjuncture, etc. The placement and social integration of incoming populations raise both opportunities and challenges, and therefore, various aspects and conditions need to be discussed in regard to the attractiveness and/or the resilience of non-metropolitan areas.

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