



INTERNATIONAL RURAL MOBILITY WORKSHOP

University of Turin, Campus Luigi Einaudi

Lungo Dora Siena, 100. Turin, Italy

December 15th, 2023

Rural mobilities and changing rural imaginaries: the role of academia and research

The “International Rural Mobility Workshop” concludes the international research and networking project *Rural Mobility initiatives. Comparing hosting communities’ and participating student’s expectations* promoted by UNITO «GRANT for INTERNATIONALIZATION – GFI 2022» and realized in collaboration with different partners of the UNITA Consortium (i.e. UNIZAR, USMB) and other universities (UPO, Insubria) as joint partners. Starting from the experience of the UNITA Rural Mobility program and investigating other similar programs, the project has explored the role of the rural mobility initiatives in producing and promoting differentiated ruralities.

In the last decades, increasing scientific and institutional attention has been paid to conceptualize rural areas as socially, culturally and politically constructed territorial systems, highlighting the micropolitical processes, based on mediations and conflicts, that involve different populations. New imaginaries of rurality arise as a network of significations, collectively shared by specific groups to think about the multiple countryside. Old and new populations – resident or temporal – move and interact in the rural arena, contributing to reshaping wider trajectories of territorial development.

Within this framework, our discussion, building upon a transdisciplinary international connection and practitioner-led contributions, aims to answer the following questions: How are the imaginaries of rurality evolving between different populations? How are mobilities in rural areas changing? What is the current role and impact of temporal mobilities in the rural world (according to specific cases)? Which are the relations between mobilities and processes of rural hybridization? Consistently, we will also discuss the role of academia in these processes by focusing on the experiences of the UNITA-Montium’s Rural Mobility Program (RMP).

Our aim is to activate an animated multi-level discussion about the potentiality that temporary mobilities may have in supporting (or obstructing) ongoing and emerging local development trajectories. In light of this, our hope is to strengthen the relationship between the university and territory by collectively identifying rural areas as centers for higher education and identifying organizational tools that may facilitate both student mobility there and the territorialization of the initiatives.



STRUCTURE OF THE CONFERENCE

MORNING (9.15 - 13.00)

9.15 - 10.00 - Aula C4 - Webex Meeting ([link](#))

Introduction and Institutional Greetings

Massimiliano Demata (Delegate for Internationalization of the Department of Cultures, Politics and Society - University of Turin)

Marcella Costa (Deputy Vice-Rector for International Education - University of Turin)

Vittorio Martone (P.I. Rural Mobilities Initiatives - University of Turin)

UNITA Rural Mobility

Maria Villaroya Gaudò (Representative of RMP for University of Zaragoza): Rural mobilities in Spain and other initiatives for academic education in marginalized areas

Silvia De Marchis, Giovanni Andriolo (Representative of RM for University of Turin): Present and Sustainability perspectives of the RM program in Italy

SESSION 1

Ruralities on movement: mobilities and changing imaginaries [60 min.]

(10:00 - 11.00) - Aula C4 - Webex Meeting ([link](#))

Giacomo Pettenati (East Piedmont University – Co-PI)

- «*A general presentation of the research framework “Rural Mobilities Initiatives: Comparing hosting communities’ and participating students’ expectation”*»

Francesca Uleri (University of Turin)

- *The Rural Mobility Program between differentiated motivations, expectations and rural imaginaries. Findings from a quanti-qualitative analysis*

Elena Brusadelli (Gran Sasso Science Institute)

- *Rural Mobility and processes of territorialization in Piedmont and Aragon*

Discussant: **Egidio Dansero** (University of Turin) — Wrap-up and questions

Break (11.00-11.15)



SESSION 2

Mobility and territory: depopulation, hybridization, identities

11.15 - 12.45- Aula C4 - Webex Meeting ([link](#))

Vincente Pinilla (University of Zaragoza)

- *Focus on depopulation and re-population trends in Aragona*

Marta Rincón Pérez (University of Zaragoza)

- *Rural Mobility programs and internationalization in Spanish rural areas*

Monica Gilli (University of Turin)

- *New Mountain populations. Short-term mobility and the attractiveness of Alpine territories*

Giulia Ferrante (Gran Sasso Science Institute)

- *Mountains on the move: Mountains on the move. The NEO Project - New Hospitable Experiences.*

Discussant: **Francesca Uleri** (University of Turin) — Wrap-up and questions

Lunch (12.45-14.00)

AFTERNOON (14:00 - 16.00)

SESSION 3

Moving to the territory: local initiatives and RM interactions

14:00 - 15.30 - Aula C4 - Webex Meeting ([link](#))

- *Lucía Camón*, Representative of «Pueblos en Arte» - host organization in the RM program Spain
- *Laura Cantarella*, Cooperativa Viso a Viso - Ostanta
- *Beatrice Verri*, Fondazione Nuto Revelli - Paraloup
- *Francesco Di Meglio*, *Corrado Rampa* Cooperativa Nuova Economia in Montagna - Biella

Discussant: **Giacomo Pettenati** (East Piedmont University) – Wrap-up and key questions

Roundtable with Unita RM Students

15:30 - 17.00 - Aula C4 - Webex Meeting ([link](#))

Discussant: **Maria Villaroya Gaudò** (Representative of RMP for UNIZAR), **Silvia De Marchis**, **Giovanni Andriolo** (Representative of RM for UNITO) and the Project Team