







CALL FOR CASES FOR THE XVII 'AREE FRAGILI' CONFERENCE

Agro-sylvo-pastoral Empathy in Rural Fragile Areas

18-19 March 2022, Rovigo, Italy



The seventeenth 'fragile areas' conference focuses on agro-sylvo-pastoral empathy. Empathy, a concept of philosophical origin, was then developed by psychologists, psychotherapists, social scientists and communication professionals. The aim is to see if empathy opens up new cultural horizons and ensures greater sustainability for the primary sector. Empathy concept is divided into several dimensions, including cognitive, emotional and practical. Essentially, empathy is a form of practical knowledge. In sociology, it has been defined as imagining and sharing the thoughts and feelings of others (Ruiz-Junco 2017). The 'others' go beyond humans, including animals, plants, ecosystems, and inanimate objects. Whether and how this empathy develops, in particular among agro-sylvo-pastoral operators, is the topic of the conference. There are many methods to capture or measure it: from scales and questionnaires to participant observation, real experiments and simulations. Particularly interesting methods are dramatization and story-telling.

The fields of practical application are many, thinking of the agriculture, forestry and pastoralism:

- Animal welfare
- Relationships in production chains
- Monitoring the growth of plants and their parasites (guided agriculture)
- The affective, cognitive and relational aspects of digital farming
- Attitudes towards 'invasive' plants and animals
- Affection, wonder or detachment from semi-natural landscapes and ecosystems
- The weight of empathy in the different types of conservative, organic, integrated agriculture ...
- The network of relationships with stakeholders of multifunctional agriculture, eg. farmhouse
- Irrigation schemes, land reorganization, assignment to contractors.









One

avenue for conference participants would be to consider if agro-sylvo-pastoral empathy is more abundant and lively in inner areas, as it must compensate for the lower density and the lesser integration of semi-automatic expert systems. The opposite hypothesis may also apply, namely, that inner areas suffer from a deficit of empathy due to cultural dependence on urban centers and social-geographical isolation.

Concrete cases, field research, and illustrative experiences of empathy or its lack, can be brought to the conference. Further information can be found in the position paper and on the web page¹. Emblematic cases in Europe and beyond are welcome topics for presentations. The abstract (up to 500 words) must be sent by 31 December 2021 to g.osti@unipd.it and elena.lorenzoni.1@studenti.unipd.it, using the form below. The call is open to scholars, artists, administrators, public officials, grassroots operators, farmers, ecologists, and social and profit entrepreneurs. To the authors of the abstract accepted by the scientific committee, we will offer dinner on March 18 and a buffet on March 19, anti-covid measures permitting. Travel and accommodation expenses cannot be reimbursed, except in exceptional cases. Acceptance of the abstract will be communicated by January 31, 2022.

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¹ They are in Italian; for more information in English you can send an email to g.osti@unipd or gcarrosio@units.it.









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https://www.areefragili.it/convegno-2022/

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Name Surname Email address Institutional Affiliation/Profession

Abstract title:

Titolo

Abstract (max 500 words):

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