

Call for papers: “RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND PLACE TRANSFORMATION: DYNAMICS ACROSS LIFE CYCLES”

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Special issue information

Rural entrepreneurship has become a central field of research in debates on territorial development, sustainability, and socio-economic transformation. However, much of the existing literature continues to rely on static perspectives of neo-endogenous models of rural development and entrepreneurial ecosystems, often paying limited attention to how entrepreneurs, ventures, and rural places co-evolve over time. In a context marked by demographic change, economic restructuring, geopolitical tensions, innovation pressures, and sustainability transitions, there is a growing need to rethink rural entrepreneurship through temporal and evolutionary lenses that capture long-term dynamics, life courses, and processes of place transformation.

Within this framework, AGER – Journal of Depopulation and Rural Development Studies, Q1 in Anthropology and Q2 in Demography and Geography (SJR, 2024), announces a forthcoming special issue entitled “Rural entrepreneurship and place transformation: Dynamics across life cycles”. This special issue seeks interdisciplinary contributions that advance current debates on rural entrepreneurship and territorial transformation by placing strong emphasis on temporal and evolutionary perspectives. It focuses on how entrepreneurial initiatives, entrepreneurs’ life courses, and rural places co-evolve over time, and encourages contributions addressing: (i) the life cycles of rural entrepreneurial ventures and entrepreneurial careers; (ii) the evolving role of entrepreneurial agency in shaping rural places; and (iii) structural transformations affecting rural areas, including demographic change, economic restructuring, innovation processes, and sustainability transitions. Papers engaging with diverse entrepreneurial pathways, entrepreneurs’ profiles, sectors, and rural contexts are particularly welcome.

The special issue builds on the scientific debates that will emerge from the 23rd Annual Rural Entrepreneurship Conference (Newcastle), to be held in May 2026. A selection of papers presented at the conference will be invited to submit full manuscripts for consideration in this special issue. At the same time, the journal also welcomes submissions addressing this topic from researchers who do

not participate in the conference; however, the AGER editorial team strongly encourages conference participation as a valuable arena for exchanging ideas and receiving feedback from academic peers in the field. The special issue is also closely connected to, and supported by, the EPHEMERAL Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network, which explores how entrepreneurship contributes to sustainable development in Europe's rural regions.

All submissions will follow AGER's standard double-blind peer-review process.

Manuscript submission information

- Abstract submission: 20 March 2026 (not required for authors attending the Rural Entrepreneurship Conference)
- Submission Due Date: 1 October 2026 (through the Spanish Repository of Science and Technology -RECYT- of the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology -FECYT-): <https://recyt.fecyt.es/index.php/AGER/login>

Related information

- 23rd Rural Entrepreneurship Conference (Newcastle):

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/academic-departments/newcastle-business-school/nbs-research/epic/newsstory5/>

- EPHEMERAL – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network:

<https://www.sdu.dk/en/forskning/forskningsenheder/samf/clf/forskning/forskningsprojekter/ephemeral>



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- About AGER:

AGER – Journal of Studies on Depopulation and Rural Development is a Q1 (Anthropology) and Q2 (Demography and Geography) journal in Scopus (SJR) (2024), focusing on the processes of rural change, depopulation and territorial development. For more information about the journal, visit: <https://ruralager.org>

- Web: <https://ruralager.org/>

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