



Topic
“The sustainability challenges of an ageing society: a regional ecosystemic perspective”
Goals
Understand one of the social challenges for inclusive growth process; manage the technical skill to analyse the problem(s) and put forward feasible public policies
Competencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the demographic challenge at territorial level • Identifying a proper theoretical setting of analysis • Evaluation of (successful) public policies. Case studies.
Contents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theoretical introduction the territorial dimension of ageing; • Quantitative and qualitative empirical analysis
Applications
Understanding the challenges entailed by the demographic changes at territorial level helps to better understand the targets of the multilevel governance and the most suitable policies to be implemented.
References
<p>Selected references:</p> <p>Acemoglu, D and Restrepo, P. (2017): “Secular Stagnation? The Effect of Aging on Economic Growth in the Age of Automation”, <i>American Economic Review, P&P</i>, vol. 107(5), pp. 174-179.</p> <p>Backman, M. and Karlsson, Ch. (2023): “Ageing places: convergence and the role of foreign population” <i>Regional Studies</i>, 58(5), 922–937.</p> <p>Henning, M., Westlund, H. and Enflo, K. (2023): “Urban-rural population changes and spatial inequalities in Sweden” <i>Regional Science Policy and Practice</i>, vol. 15, pp. 878-892. (Open acces)</p> <p>Loras-Gimeno, D., Díaz-Lanchas, J. and Gómez-Bengoechea, G. (2025): “Rural Depopulation in the 21st Century: a Systematic Review of Policy Assessment”, <i>Regional Science Policy & Practice</i>, 100176. (Open access)</p>

Nicolini, R. and Roig, J.L (2025): International migration, ageing, and growth in rural Spanish provinces: A roadmap for policymakers?, *Regional Science Policy & Practice*, Vol 17 (11), 100236, (Open access)

Nicolini, R. and Roig, J.L (2024): The spatial dimension of ageing and growth in European regions. *Annals of Regional Science*, vol. 73, 1649–1679 (Open access)

Other references will be provided during the lecture.

Instructor



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Biographical note (max. 200 words)

Rosella Nicolini is Professor of Applied Economics at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and coordinator of the PhD programme in Applied Economics at the same university. She is currently Editor-in-Chief of *Papers in Regional Science* and Executive Director of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA). Her research focuses on understanding the role of the spatial dimension in the analysis of location determinants. Her most significant contributions to the literature address: (i) the development of appropriate quantitative frameworks to model spatial agents' distributions by incorporating local interaction effects and tracking their dynamics; and (ii) the quantitative analysis of the relevance of historical factors—through their impact on agents' expectations—in explaining current spatial distribution patterns. Her research has been published in leading journals such as the *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Regional Studies*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *Annals of Regional Science*, and *Papers in Regional Science*, among others. She has participated in and coordinated several local and national research projects. She is currently co-leader of a research project on public policies for a transforming society, funded by the *Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades*, and serves as the local research leader of the Horizon Europe project RURALITIC.

Finally, she has received two research awards: she was among the recipients of the XI Premi Catalunya d'Economia, and she led the research group awarded the Premio del Consejo Económico y Social (CES).

