



Università  
degli Studi di  
Messina

DIPARTIMENTO DI ECONOMIA

*Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Metodi Quantitativi per l'Economia e la Finanza*

*Master's Degree in Quantitative Methods for Economics and Finance*

***SEMINAR:  
Aspects of depopulation  
in Italy***

**January 27, 2026, 11.00 am**

**Room 12**

**PROGRAM**

- Introduction, *Marcantonio Caltabiano*
- Demographic aspects of Italy's marginal areas. A municipal-level analysis, *Alessio Fornasin*, University of Udine
- Between staying and leaving: Understanding depopulation in Sicily's inner areas, *Debora Pizzimenti*, University of Messina

## Abstracts

### *Demographic Aspects of Italy's Marginal Areas. A Municipal-level Analysis*

Mountains and inland areas, largely overlapping territories, have long been experiencing population decline and, in many cases, depopulation. This process has notable exceptions, particularly in the Alps (for example, Trentino-Alto Adige), but is particularly severe in some areas of the Apennines. This presentation discusses some demographic characteristics of these territories, integrating data on population decline with new evidence from the municipal level. It covers the Italian case as a whole and offers an in-depth look at the particularly fragile territory of the Friulian Alps.



### *Between staying and leaving: Understanding depopulation in Sicily's inner areas*

This contribution examines depopulation dynamics in four Sicilian municipalities located in the Nebrodi Mountains - Novara di Sicilia, Castoreale, San Fratello, and Ucria - characterized by demographic decline, economic marginalization, and a progressive reduction of essential services. Using a qualitative approach based on focus groups, the study explores residents' perceptions, everyday challenges, and the strategies of adaptation and resilience developed by local communities. The analysis highlights a structural paradox: although these territories play a crucial role in preserving national environmental and cultural heritage, they are simultaneously affected by infrastructural weaknesses, limited access to services, and scarce employment opportunities, all of which intensify migration processes, particularly among younger populations.