



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, Castroreale, 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.