

## **Third ISA Forum of Sociology, Vienna, Austria, 10-14 July 2016**

**Call for Abstracts: Deadline 30 September 2015 24:00 GMT**

### **RC41: Regional demographic decline and immigration**

Session Organizer: Walter Bartl, Reinhold Sackmann

Today, demographic change in most developed societies means aging and sometimes declining populations. While on a national level population numbers decline at a quite moderate pace, on a regional level population development is far more heterogeneous and in many areas population decline is much more pronounced than at the national level. Despite the ubiquitous phenomenon of regional demographic decline there is comparatively little systematic research on its (possible) consequences and viable coping strategies.

Regional demographic decline is often said to go hand in hand with a peripheralisation of the respective regions. This seems especially plausible when demographic decline itself is a consequence of economic downturn such as deindustrialization or if the redistribution of public revenues is institutionally tied to population indicators. Then demographic decline can reinforce economic trends and lead to a 'downward spiral'. While this is a plausible relationship it is probably not a necessary one.

Recently, under labels such as 'de-peripheralisation' or 'global countryside', very different (regional) coping strategies are discussed with respect to regional (demographic) decline. Among the more prominent ones is immigration as a way to come to terms with a declining resident population. Lately, after years of population decline, in Spain for example, but also in other countries, quite a few rural areas have shown a positive migration balance. The types of migration vary over a fairly broad range (with education being a fairly underrepresented motive). But represent such examples universal models, which can be copied anywhere? Is it possible to deliberately induce immigration to demographically declining regions? What are necessary conditions for immigration-based coping strategies to be viable? These and related questions are to be discussed in this session.

This session is open to different types of conceptual papers and theoretically grounded empirical studies based on qualitative and/or quantitative methods. Papers with a comparative empirical approach are especially welcome.

**Please submit your abstract of no more than 300 words online:**

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2016/cfp.cgi>

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