



*Special Session (SS12) on:  
New Rurality and the Future of Rural Territories*

**Organizers:**

**João Almeida (Chair)**, GOVCOPP, Universidade de Aveiro, [joao.lopes.almeida@ua.pt](mailto:joao.lopes.almeida@ua.pt)

**Diogo Pinto**, Universidade do Porto/CEGOT, [dpinto@letras.up.pt](mailto:dpinto@letras.up.pt)

**Fernando Belezas**, ISCAP - Instituto Superior de Contabilidade e Administração do Porto, [fmpas@iscap.ipp.pt](mailto:fmpas@iscap.ipp.pt)

**The aim and scope:**

Rural territories are no longer defined solely by agriculture or peripheral status but are increasingly positioned as spaces of innovation, resilience, and dynamic transformation. The concept of New Rurality challenges traditional views of rural spaces, bringing forward new opportunities for economic diversification, demographic renewal, and social innovation. This session aims to explore how rural areas are redefining their economic, social, and environmental paradigms in response to global transitions such as digitalisation, climate change, and demographic shifts. We welcome contributions examining governance models and territorial intelligence, rural entrepreneurship, the future of work in rural areas, and emerging forms of rural-urban connectivity. The session particularly encourages research on innovative policies, collaborative networks, and bottom-up rural development initiatives that challenge outdated narratives about rural spaces and foster a debate on how rural territories can position themselves as key actors in global transformations.

**SUBMIT ABSTRACT**