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Special Session Proposal

Sustainable Cultural Tourism in Rural Areas

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Abstract

The session investigates the sustainable potential of cultural tourism in rural and peri-urban areas. The touristic exploitation of the local cultural heritage is a strategic resource for social capital and the achievement of smart and inclusive growth. At the same time, the cultural tourism supply tends to be prevalent in urbanized areas, creating geographical issues of over and under-exploitation, while natural resources and ecosystems are rarely considered for their cultural potential. Consistent with these circumstances, the session will host theoretical insights and case studies on new cultural tourism trends, destination management advances, successful policy interventions, and governance, developing a broad definition of culture in tourism development. Also, the session will eagerly host contributions exploring the impact of rural cultural tourism from a quantitative and regional standpoint, assessing tourism sustainability from different perspectives and geographical scales.