



## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The Rural Commons Festival committee invites you to present contributions for **Rural Commons Festival 2021 | Da Ovest a Est**. The Festival is organized by a team composed by researchers and scholars from Università degli Studi di Trento, Università Politecnica delle Marche, and Eurac Research in co-production with the association Camposaz and with many other local associations. It will be held in three Trentino valleys over three consecutive weekends from **May 21st to June 6th, 2021**, with the support of Fondazione Caritro, the municipalities and associations involved.

The festival will explore the open concept of rural commons by sharing competences and experiences in different fields. Rural commons investigates rural and mountain areas of Italy and Europe, which have a long tradition of **collective management of natural and built resources** and cooperative models of economy. Commons can be defined as a collective response to shared needs and desires expressed by a community. This idea might refer to different fields such as local economy, landscape, habitat, spatial and natural resources, sociology. Much research has been conducted on the relevance of the commons for societies and economies of rural areas, from different perspectives and with different terminologies and concepts. For this reason, there is the need to link and create synergies among the different academic fields and non-academic and practitioner world to **enable a concerted recognition of the commons** for the present and the future of rural and mountain regions. With this **multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral perspective, Rural Commons Festival** aims at becoming a moment of encounter and exchange, especially in this time of forced distance due to the pandemic. The idea is to reconnect old and new practices, to learn by doing, to explore new methods and tools of a collective care of different mountain areas. **The festival will be a journey** from the Western to the Eastern mountain valleys of Trentino in Italy.

Among different activities, Rural Commons Festival integrates an **itinerant research symposium** conceived as a transdisciplinary platform that aims at sharing and producing knowledge on rural commons. **The call for contributions invites practitioners and researchers to present innovative experiences, studies and research on spatial transformation, communities and (new) economies, social innovation, with a focus on “invisible practices”**. Three tracks are identified to describe the topic, as specified below, and applicants are welcome to address their positions to one of them:

### TRACK 1

chair: Cristina Dalla Torre // Val Giudicarie // festival week-end: 21–23.05.2021 // symposium day: 21.05.2021

#### **Rural commons & resources: rethinking values and innovating collective institutions**

The issue of innovation and transformability of collective resource management is not yet receiving all the attention it deserves, especially in relation to its many potential in natural resource management, rural development, social inclusion and innovation. Rural commons, under certain circumstances and transformations, could represent an efficient and viable model of resources management that offer society opportunities for inclusive access to natural resources and for regional development. The main hypothesis that guides this strand is that only if they innovate and transform, rural commons will be able to be resilient systems and promote sustainability in resource use, community engagement and regional development. What innovations and transformation enhance sustainable collective governance of resources and improve quality of life in the region?



## TRACK 2

chair: Bianca Elzenbaumer // Vallagarina // festival week-end: 28–30.05.2021 //  
symposium day: 28.05.2021

### **Rural commons & community economies: a practice and theory exchange**

In this track, we will explore how rural commons and rural community economies are being and can be mobilised in order to create irresistible futures for as many living beings as possible. We will especially focus on how feminist, decolonial and post-humanist thinking and practice can nourish the ways in which rural spaces are (re)produced and lived. As rural places don't stand for themselves, we will engage with the interdependencies between rural and urban spaces and how these can become empowering for actors working towards eco-social transformation along all the rural-urban continuum. This strand especially welcomes practitioners and researchers with an interest in feminist, decolonial and posthumanist approaches to commons, community economies and rural spaces. The festival days and the symposium also constitute the final public event of the research project Alpine Community Economies Lab, funded through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowship. no. 795641.

## TRACK 3

chairs: Sara Favargiotti, Maddalena Ferretti // Terragnolo // festival weekend: 4–6.06.2021 //  
symposium day: 4.06.2021

### **Rural commons & heritage regeneration: collective design approaches for new forms of habitat**

The track will explore the effects of commoning practices on the built and natural heritage of rural settlements. In this line of argument, heritage is not meant as an extraordinary landscape, a listed building or a protected structure, but it also embeds ordinary architectures and common spatial resources that are part of the everyday life of the rural community. Through research findings, examples, and case studies we aim to shed a light on numerous collective practices, design approaches, and operative actions that are significantly transforming our territory, unveiling experiences of spatial transformation and dynamics of innovation in rural and mountain contexts that can perhaps suggest other ways to shape, manage, and enhance our habitats.

## FESTIVAL ATTENDANCE

The call for contributions is addressed to scholars, PhD students, practitioners, organisations, and initiatives aiming at sharing their experiences on rural commons and collective practices of management, care, and transformation of common resources. Applicants can choose among different types of submissions: **position paper, project, creative work.**

An **extended abstract** (min. 1.000 words, max. 2.000 words, ENG) is requested and it can include an iconographic explanation of the paper/project/creative work with 4 images (.jpg, square format, tot. max. weight 5 Mb). The proposals have to include the following elements:

- title of the work
- author's Name and Surname, and affiliation
- selected track
- keywords (a maximum of 3 significant words)

The main text should be submitted in "Arial" font, dimension 10 pt, single-spaced, without paragraphs. Texts that do not follow these submission guidelines will not be accepted.



### **SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE**

The position papers, projects or creative works must be submitted no later than 18.04.2021 in both .doc and .pdf formats to: [info@ruralcommonsfestival.com](mailto:info@ruralcommonsfestival.com)

Accepted contributors will be notified on 26.04.2021. Selected contributions will be invited to publish on the blog "Living Mountains" of Eurac Research.

The contributions will undergo a peer review process and will be published on the festival proceedings.

### **PARTICIPATION FEES AND PROGRAM**

For each selected contribution a fee of 50 € is required to cover the symposium costs, except for travel and accommodation. Information about payment and program will be provided on the Rural Commons Festival website: [www.ruralcommonsfestival.com](http://www.ruralcommonsfestival.com).

[WWW.RURALCOMMONSFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.RURALCOMMONSFESTIVAL.COM)

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