

2025 Joint Summer College for PhD and Early Career Researcher Demographic Change and Regional Development 24th-27th June 2025, University of Palermo, Italy

The sixth RSA Europe College for PhD students and early career researchers brings together researchers in their early career, established and high-profile researchers and policy experts to present latest research, policy developments and insights on demographic change, human capital migration, labour market and regional development.

Keynote presentations will be complemented by sessions on methodologies in academic research and professional development focusing on career development, academic writing and publishing skills. The Summer College will be enriched by an excursion day to learn about successful local development strategies in rural and inner areas.

Confirmed **keynote speakers** are:

[Fabio Mazzola](#), University of Palermo, Italy

[Alessandra Faggian](#), Gran Sasso Science Institute, Italy

[Daniele Vignoli](#), University of Florence, Italy

[Annalisa Busetta](#), University of Palermo, Italy

[Viktor Venhorst](#), Groningen University, The Netherlands

[Filipe Batista](#), European Commission's Joint Research Centre

Offering a friendly and supportive setting, participants will present their research and receive valuable feedback. The Summer College offers great opportunities for socialising, networking and developing long lasting connections within a dynamic community of early career researchers, established researchers and practitioners.

The College is match funded by RSA Europe, GSSI, and the University of Palermo and thus free to attend for successful applicants. Transport and accommodation costs need to be covered by participants.

Programme

Tuesday 24th June – Palazzo Chiaramonte Steri (UNIPA Rectorate)

16.00-16.30 Welcome speech

16.30-17.15 Fabio Mazzola, University of Palermo, Italy
17.15-18.00 Alessandra Faggian, GSSI, Italy
18.00-19.00 Welcome cocktail

Wednesday 25th June – Viale delle Scienze (UNIPA Campus – Building 19)

09.00-11.00 Daniele Vignoli, University of Florence, Italy
11.00-11.30 Refreshment break
11.30-13.30 Annalisa Busetta, University of Palermo, Italy
13.30-14.30 Light lunch
14.30-16.30 Participants Presentations

Thursday 26th June - Viale delle Scienze (UNIPA Campus – Building 19)

09.00-11.00 Viktor Venhorst, Groningen University, The Netherlands
11.00-11.30 Refreshment break
11.30-13.30 Filipe Batista, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Italy
13.30-14.30 Light lunch
14.30-16.30 Participants Presentations

Friday 27th June – Field Trip

08.30-15.30 Castelbuono (lunch included)

Return to Palermo at 17.00.