Abstract:
This paper addresses women's work in rural economies using analytical tools from social capital literature. Symbolic capital, horizontal organizations, resources, and network positioning and ties help to identify mechanisms of women's work into local rural economies. It argues that the lack of visibility and legitimacy of women's skills and tasks result in a misunderstanding of their potential as economic agents by the public and private sectors. Access to information and visibility are recognized as key aspects in helping to unravel the complexity of women's participation in rural economies. Empirically, from a qualitative study approach, it explores these issues through the analysis of women's work and the discourses of local agents in rural Catalonia (Spain). Within the economic development discourse, the paper works to reveal the existing economic value of women's contribution to the local economy and to inform development policies. It contributes to the discussion of decreasing gender inequalities and interiorizing women's labor skills and their contribution into local economic development.

Keywords:
Women’s work, social capital, rural areas, economic development, economic geography