



**R I D G E**

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR  
DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH  
AND ECONOMICS



**UNIVERSIDAD  
DEL PACÍFICO**

Facultad de  
Economía y Finanzas

# XXI RIDGE FORUM

## 2025 RIDGE MAY FORUM

### WORKSHOP ON PUBLIC ECONOMICS PROGRAM

#### Scientific Committee

Marcelo Bergolo (UDELAR-IECON)

Guillermo Cruces (UNLP-CEDLAS, U of Nottingham)

Lucie Gadenne (Queen Mary U of London)

Juliana Londoño-Vélez (UCLA)

Clara Martinez-Toledano (Imperial College London)

Johanna Mollerstrom (George Mason U)

Ricardo Perez-Truglia (UC, Berkeley)

Silvia Vannutelli (Northwestern U)

Mariana Zerpa (U de Chile)

#### Keynote speaker

Jesse Rothstein (UC, Berkeley)



**INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC  
ASSOCIATION**

# Universidad del Pacífico | May 12-13, 2025

## Day 1: May 12

NOTICE: All times are in Peru Time (UTC-5)

Sessions with 2 papers: Presenters will have 30 minutes for presentation + 10 minutes for Q&A

Sessions with 3 papers: Presenters will have 25 minutes for presentation + 10 minutes for Q&A

**09:20-09:30**      **Opening Remarks**

**09:30-11:00**      **▶ SESSION 1**

Payments Under the Table and the Tax System in Peru

**Presenter: Ana Paula Franco, University of Michigan**

Do Taxes Affect Pre-Tax Income Inequality? Evidence from 100 Years of U.S. State Tax Policies

**Presenter: Matias Strehl-Pessina, University of California**

**11:00-11:30**      **Coffee break**

**11:30-13:00**      **▶ SESSION 2**

Resource windfalls, public expenditures, and local economies

**Presenter: Antonella Bancalari, Institute for Fiscal Studies, UCL and IZA**

Access to Loans and Local Development: Evidence from Brazilian Municipalities

**Presenter: Renata Motta Cafe, IADB and FGV EPGE**

**13:00-14:00**      **Lunch break**

**14:00-15:30**      **▶ SESSION 3**

Financial Education: Context Matters. Causal Evidence from Colombia's Dual-Advisory Program

**Presenter: Oscar Becerra, Universidad de lo Andes**

Public Pensions and the Strategic Timing of Formal Employment

**Presenter: Mariano Bosch, IADB**

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:30-17:30

▶ KEYNOTE

● Jesse Rothstein, UC, Berkeley

## Day 2: May 13

09:30-11:00

▶ SESSION 4

Gender-specific subsidies and female empowerment in optimal taxation

**Presenter: Carlos Eugênio da Costa, EPGE FGV Brazilian School of Economics and Finance**

Bad State: Discrimination against Immigrants in the Public Sector

**Presenter: Ignacio Torres-Ulloa, University of Southern California - Economics Department**

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

11:30-13:00

▶ SESSION 5

Optimal Informality: A Mechanism Design Approach

**Presenter: Felipe Lobel, Columbia University**

Foster Care: A Dynamic Matching Approach

**Presenter: Diana MacDonald, Banco de México**

13:00-14:00

Lunch break

14:00-15:45

▶ SESSION 6

The Effects of Better Houses on Infant Health

**Presenter: Helena Arruda, Institute for Health Policy Studies**

Improving Student Learning through Adaptive Learning Platforms: Experimental Evidence from the Dominican Republic

**Presenter: Carolina Lopez, World Bank**

Lost in the Process? Information Barriers and Incomplete Take-up of Rental Vouchers

**Presenter: Javiera Selman, Universidad de Chile**