



RIDGE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR
DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH
AND ECONOMICS



XXIII RIDGE FORUM

2026 RIDGE MAY FORUM

19th MEETING LACEA IMPACT EVALUATION NETWORK (IEN)

PROGRAM

Organizing Committee

Adriana Camacho – CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

Oscar Mitnik – Inter-American Development Bank

Academic Committee

Verónica Amarante - CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

Adriana Camacho - CAF-Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

Gustavo Canavire - World Bank

Oscar Mitnik - Inter-American Development Bank

Claudia Martinez - PUC Chile

Carlos Schmidt-Padilla - UC Berkeley

20-21 May, 2026

The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Day 1: May 20

Building Clico Centre for Teaching Excellence, Room LR9

NOTICE: All times are in Barbados Time (UTC-4)

Time allocation per paper: 30 minutes for presentation, 10 minutes for discussant and 5 minutes open to the floor for Q&A.

09:50-10:00 Openings remarks

▶ SESSION 1: HEALTH

CHAIR:

Oscar Mitnik, Inter-American Development Bank

10:00-10:45 Do Air Purifiers Improve Student Learning? Experimental Evidence from Colombia

Presenter: Santiago Saavedra, Universidad del Rosario

Discussant: Oscar Mitnik, Inter-American Development Bank

10:45-11:30 The Effect of Depression on Income: Evidence from Colombia

Presenter: Arlen Guarin, World Bank

Discussant: Santiago Saavedra, Universidad del Rosario

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

▶ SESSION 2: EDUCATION I (JOINT WITH NETWORK ON INEQUALITY AND POVERTY)

CHAIR

Dirk Foremny, Universitat de Barcelona & IEB

12:00-12:45 School Calendar, Academic Progression, and Agricultural Seasonality: Quasi-experimental Evidence from Rural Colombia

Presenter: Juan Muñoz-Morales, CNRS & IÉSEG School of Management

Discussant: Leopoldo Fergusson, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia

12:45-13:30 Lasting Effects of Retaking College Admission Exams

Presenter: Sebastian Gallegos, UAI Business School, Chile

Discussant: Dirk Foremny, Universitat de Barcelona & IEB

13:30-14:30 Lunch break

▶ SESSION 3: LABOR (JOINT WITH NETWORK ON INEQUALITY AND POVERTY)

CHAIR

Nicolás Campos Bljit, University of British Columbia

14:30-15:15

The impact of labor intermediation and training in high informality contexts. Evidence from Paraguay

Presenter: Nicolás Campos Bljit, University of British Columbia**Discussant:** Ramon Bertotto, Universidade de São Paulo**15:15-16:00**

Evaluating Unemployment Insurance in a Developing Economy: Evidence from Colombia

Presenter: Nicolás Guida-Johnson, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana**Discussant:** Nicolás Campos Bljit, University of British Columbia**16:00-16:20**

Coffee break

16:20-17:50**▶ SESION 4: KEYNOTE LECTURE (joint with Health Economics Network and Network on Inequality and Poverty)****MENTAL HEALTH, POVERTY, AND ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR**

- Manuela Angelucci, University of Texas at Austin

Day 2: May 21

Building Clico Centre for Teaching Excellence, Room LR9

▶ SESSION 5: CRIME

CHAIR

Grace Armijos-Bravo, Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo

10:00-10:45

Drug tenancy thresholds, consumption, and newborn's health

Presenter: Grace Armijos-Bravo, Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo

Discussant: Dario Toman, University of Torono

10:45-11:30

Improving Judicial Protection in Intimate Partner Violence Cases: The Role of Specialized Courts and Judges

Presenter: Dario Toman, University of Torono

Discussant: Grace Armijos-Bravo, Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo

11:30-12:00

Coffee break

▶ SESSION 6: EDUCATION II

CHAIR:

Patricia Yanez-Pagans, IDB Invest

12:00-12:45

(Un)Directed Financial Aid: Evidence from Brazilian Higher Education Student Loans

Presenter: Ramon Bertotto, Universidade de São Paulo

Discussant: Rogerio Santarrosa, Insper

12:45-13:30

Remote tutoring in language: Evidence from Paraguay

Presenter: David Granada Donato, Equilibrium BDC

Discussant: Patricia Yanez-Pagans, IDB Invest

13:30-14:30

Lunch break

▶ SESSION 7: FIRMS

CHAIR:

Arlen Guarin, World Bank

14:30-15:15

Labor Safety and Inspections: Lessons from an RCT in Brazil

Presenter: Rogerio Santarrosa, Insper

Discussant: Manuel Urquidi, Inter-American Development Bank

15:15-16:00

A Gender Impact Assessment of Covid-19 Government-backed Loans on MSMEs Liquidity and Earnings: Results from two RCTs

Presenter: Patricia Yanez-Pagans, IDB Invest

Discussant: Arlen Guarin, World Bank

▶ SESSION 8: NATURAL RESOURCES

CHAIR:

Nicolás Guida-Johnson, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

16:00-16:45

REDD+ Projects Work: Evidence from Afro-Colombian Communities

Presenter: Carolina Castro, Universidad de los Andes

Discussant: Sebastian Bernal, Inter-American Development Bank

16:45-18:00

Direct and Spillover Effects of an Agricultural Technology Adoption Program: Evidence from Bolivia

Presenter: Sebastian Bernal, Inter-American Development Ba

Discussant: Nicolás Guida-Johnson, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

18:00-18:10

Closing remarks