



XXIII RIDGE FORUM

2026 RIDGE MAY FORUM

HUMANS LACEA Migration Network

PROGRAM

Scientific Committee

Antonella Bandiera, ITAM

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José Bucheli, University of Texas at El Paso

Ana María Ibáñez, Interamerican Development Bank

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Sandra Rozo, World Bank

Cynthia Van der Werf, Interamerican Development Bank

Andrea Velásquez, University of Colorado at Denver

Organizing Committee

Antonella Bandiera, ITAM

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Sandra Rozo, World Bank

May 21-22, 2026

The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Day 1: May 21

Building Clico Centre for Teaching Excellence, Room LR7

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

35 minutes for presentation and 10 minutes open to the floor for Q&A.

09:50-10:00	Opening Remarks
10:00-10:45	<p>▶ SESSION 1: VENEZUELAN MIGRATION — ECONOMIC IMPACTS</p> <p>Short-Term Cash, Long-Term Gains: Evidence from the Venezuelan Migration Crisis in Colombia Presenter: Pablo Celhay, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile</p>
10:45-11:30	<p>Migration, Market Power, and Firms Presenter: Leonardo Peñaloza-Pacheco, Cornell University</p>
11:30-12:00	Coffee break
12:00-12:45	<p>▶ SESSION 2: FORCED DISPLACEMENT AND WELL-BEING</p> <p>Forcibly Displaced Childhoods: Longitudinal Evidence from Displaced Youth in Colombia Presenter: Sandra Roza, World Bank</p>
12:45-13:30	<p>Small Boats, Big Impacts: The Ripple Effects of Irregular Migration Presenter: Apurav Bhatiya, University of Birmingham</p>
13:30-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-15:15	<p>▶ SESSION 3: MIGRATION POLICIES AND BORDERS</p> <p>Bordering on Effectiveness: The Uneven Impact of Visa Policies Presenter: Renan Marques, Duke University</p>
15:15-16:00	<p>Citizenship Policy and the Spread of Communicable Diseases: Evidence from the Dominican Republic Presenter: Fabiola Alba-Vivar, Wake Forest University</p>

16:00-16:30 Coffee break

16:30-18:00 **▶ KEYNOTE SPEECH**
 ● Mushfiq Mobarak, Yale University

Day 2: May 22

Building Clico Centre for Teaching Excellence, Room LR7

10:00-10:45 **▶ SESSION 4: LABOR MARKETS AND MIGRATION**

Remittance Declines and Labor Market Responses of Older Adults

Presenter: Emily Conover, Hamilton College

10:45-11:30 The Impact of Title Recognition: Evidence from Venezuelan Health Professionals in Peru

Presenter: Javier Torres, Universidad del Pacifico

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

12:00-12:45 **▶ SESSION 5: EDUCATION AND CHILDREN**

The Impact of Placement Exams on Refugee Children's School Enrollment

Presenter: Carlos Brito, University of California, Davis

12:45-13:30 Schools for Everyone: Social Cohesion in Contexts of High Human Mobility

Presenter: Cynthia van der Werf, Inter-American Development Bank

13:30-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-15:15 **▶ SESSION 6: MIGRATION HISTORY AND REINTEGRATION**

The Short- and Long-Run Effects of Transportation Infrastructure on International Migration

Presenter: David Escamilla-Guerrero, University of St Andrews

15:15-16:00 From Return to Reintegration

Presenter: Juanita Ruiz, Interamerican Development Bank

16:00-16:30 Coffee break