



XXIII RIDGE FORUM

2026 RIDGE MAY FORUM

WORKSHOP ON
PUBLIC ECONOMICS
PROGRAM

Scientific Committee

Marcelo Bergolo (UDELAR-IECON)

Guillermo Cruces (U San Andres, U of Nottingham)

Justine Knebelmann (Sciences Po)

Juliana Londoño-Vélez (UCLA)

Clara Martinez-Toledano (Imperial College London)

Johanna Mollerstrom (George Mason U)

Ricardo Perez-Truglia (UCLA)

Silvia Vannutelli (Northwestern U)

Mariana Zerpa (U de Chile)

Keynote speaker

Zoë Cullen (Harvard Business School)

19-20 May, 2026

The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill, Barbados

Day 1: May 19

Building Sagikor Centre for Lifelong Learning, Room LT4

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

Time allocation per paper: Presenters will have 30 minutes for presentation + 10 minutes for Q&A

09:50-10:00 Openings remarks

▶ SESSION 1: POLITICAL ECONOMY AND FISCAL REDISTRIBUTION

10:00-10:45 Optimal Pension Reforms: An Application to the Brazilian Schedule
Juan Rios, PUC Rio

10:45-11:30 The Effect of Savings Annuitization on Elderly Outcomes
Tatiana Hiller, University of California, Davis

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

▶ SESSION 2: CAPITAL TAXATION & FIRM RESPONSES

12:00-12:45 Estimating the Effects of Investment Incentives on Worker Earnings
Kevin Roberts, Stanford Graduate School of Business

12:45-13:30 Capital and Employment under Offshore Secrecy
Diana Ricciulli-Marin, University of British Columbia

13:30-14:30 Lunch break

▶ **SESSION 3: PUBLIC SERVICES, EFFICIENCY & INEQUALITY**

14:30-15:15

Revisiting Global Poverty Reduction: Public Services and the World Distribution of Income, 1980–2022
Gethin Amory, World Bank

15:15-16:00

The Fiscal Cost of Aging in a Developing Country with Informality
Andrés Zambrano, World Bank

16:00-16:30

Coffee break

16:30-17:45

▶ **KEYNOTE LECTURE**

● **Zoe Cullen, Harvard Business School**

Day 2: May 20**Building Sagcor Centre for Lifelong Learning, Room LT4****▶ SESSION 4: STATE CAPACITY & LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**

10:00-10:45 Urban Planning and Local Development: Evidence from Brazil's City Statute
Guillermo Alves, CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean

10:45-11:30 Voting for Managers: Selection Methods in Public Schools
Andrea Flores, FGV EPGE

11:30-12:00 Coffee break

▶ SESSION 5: MONITORING, ENFORCEMENT & INFORMATION IN PUBLIC PROGRAMS

12:00-12:45 Provider and Worker Responses to Supply-Side Audits in Social Insurance
Pablo Celhay, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

12:45-13:30 Familiar Taste, Safer Choices: Sensory Heuristics and the Adoption of Clean Water
Martin Rossi, Universidad de San Andrés

13:30-14:30 Lunch break

▶ SESSION 6: PROPERTY, GOVERNANCE & WEALTH POLICIES

14:30-15:15 Golden Visas and Real Estate Markets
Dirk Foremny, Universitat de Barcelona and IEB

15:15-16:00 Women's Representation and the Governance of the Commons
Sandra Aguilar Gómez, Tecnológico de Monterrey

16:00-16:10 Closing remarks