

CALL FOR PAPERS

Research Conference

Accelerating Growth for Women-led SMEs (WSMEs)

October 29–30, 2024, IDB Group Offices in Washington, D.C.

Submit papers by: **August 12, 2024**

You are invited to submit a paper to the Research Conference on Accelerating Growth for Women-led SMEs in developing economies, jointly organized by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), IDB Invest, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), and the Institute for Business & Social Impact at UC Berkeley. The conference aims to promote new research and evidence on gender and entrepreneurship, with a special focus on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), start-ups, and micro-enterprises with growth potential. It will also provide a platform for academics, practitioners, and policymakers to network and discuss how to apply research findings to project design and implementation. Academic sessions will be accompanied by policy-oriented sessions aimed at strengthening links between research and policy. The conference will catalyze efforts to generate new evidence and determine key objectives and milestones for the future. Papers are welcome on the following (non-exhaustive) list of topics:

- Access to finance for WSMEs
- Blended finance, digital finance, and fintech supporting WSMEs
- Growth and job creation at WSMEs
- Business training and bundled services for WSMEs
- Access to markets and technology for WSMEs
- Enabling environment (policies, laws, regulations, norms)
- Systemic change and the importance of sex-disaggregated data on financing for SMEs
- Institutional barriers to women's entrepreneurship
- WSMEs and finance in conflict zones and natural disasters
- Women's economic empowerment in the care economy

For additional information on the topics of interest, see the [We-Fi research agenda](#).

The symposium will feature a **keynote address by Pinelopi Goldberg**, Elihu Professor of Economics and Professor of Management, Yale University.

Accommodation expenses will be covered for speakers and discussants according to the rules of the Institute for Business and Social Impact at UC Berkeley.

To submit a paper (full papers only), please use [this link](#). The conference will be held at IDB Headquarters, 1300 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. The conference will begin at 9:00 am on October 29, 2024 and conclude at 5:00 pm on October 30. An invitation-only conference dinner will be held on October 29.

For more information about the conference please visit [this website](#).

ORGANIZING AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

J. Michelle Brock (EBRD & Imperial College London)	Jeanne Lafortune (PUC Chile)	Lakshmi Naaraayanan (London Business School)
Miriam Bruhn (World Bank)	Alessandro Maffioli (IDB Invest)	Felicia Siegrist (We-Fi)
Ralph De Haas (EBRD & KU Leuven)	Claudia Martinez (IDB & PUC Chile)	Farid Tadros (We-Fi)
Luciana Etcheverry (IDB)	Anat Nyshadham (U Michigan)	Diego Ubfal (World Bank)
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Selim Gulesci (Trinity College Dublin)	Jennifer Poole (American University)	Cecilia Vidal (IDB)
Sean Higgins (Northwestern)	Silvia Prina (Northeastern)	Patricia Yañez-Pagans (IDB Invest)