

Research Conference

Accelerating Growth for Women-led SMEs (WSMEs)

OCTOBER 29-30, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Accelerating Growth for Women-led SMEs Conference

Inter-American Development Bank
1300 New York Ave. NW, Washington D.C. | Room Innovation 2nd floor
Date: October 29th-30th 2024

Tuesday, October 29th

8:30 – 9:00 Registration and coffee

9:00 – 9:15 **Opening remarks**

Host: Patricia Yañez-Pagans, Principal Economist at IDB Invest

Ana Maria Ibañez - Vice President for Sectors and Knowledge at IDB

Mona Haddad - Global Director for Trade, Investment and Competitiveness at World Bank

9:15 – 10:00

Panel conversation 1: “The role of evidence to guide policies and interventions that support the growth of women-led SMEs”

This session will feature a panel composed by high-level practitioners and academics, touching on operational and academic aspects that are or should be at the frontier of our work in this topic.

Caridad Araujo - Chief of Gender and Diversity Division at IDB

Rishi Goyal - Senior Advisor on Gender and Deputy Director in its Strategy, Policy, and Review Department at IMF

Paula Pelaez - Director of MSME, Gender, Diversity and Inclusion at IDB Invest

Diego Ubfal - Senior Economist Gender Group at World Bank

Moderator: Wendy Teleki - Head of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi) Secretariat

10:00 – 10:30

Coffee break

10:30 – 12:00

Session 1: Access to Credit and Skills

This session will have two academic papers being presented each followed by an academic discussant.

Chair: Claudia Martinez (IDB and Universidad Católica de Chile)

“Is There a Gender Premium? Financial Frictions and Credit to Female Entrepreneurs”

by David Jaume (Banco de México)

Discussant: Miriam Bruhn (World Bank)

“Building Women’s Skills for Economic Inclusion and Resilience”

by Megan Lang (World Bank)

Discussant: Silvia Prina (Northeastern University)

Policy Discussant: Abigayle Davidson (Aspen Institute for Development Entrepreneurship)

12:00 – 13:30

Lunch

13:30 – 14:30

Session 2: Leveraging data for impact measurement

This session will present short presentations from several initiatives that are collecting interesting data on MSMEs and that could be useful for research purposes.

Chair: Felicia Siegrist - We-Fi

Mohammad Amin and Norma Gomez - World Bank Enterprise Surveys

July Jimenez - Connect Americas (IDB)

Sahiti Sarva - Development Data Partnership

14:30 – 15:30

Keynote address - “Female Entrepreneurship is Good for the Economy”

Pinelopi Goldberg - Elihu Professor of Economics and Global Affairs and Professor of Management (Yale University)

Moderator: Eric Parrado - Chief Economist at IDB

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30

Session 3: Innovative Financing

This session will have two academic papers being presented each followed by an academic discussant.

Chair: Jennifer Poole (American University)

“Innovative Financing Using MicroEquity Contracts: Experimental Evidence from India”

by Sanghamitra Mukherjee (IMF)

Discussant: Diego Ubfal (World Bank)

“Incentivizing Lending to Women Entrepreneurs: Evidence from Vietnam”

by Markus Taussig (Rudgers Business School)

Discussant: Agustin Hurtado (University of Maryland)

Policy Discussant: Ratna Sahay (CGD)

Wednesday October 30th

9:30 – 10:00

Coffee

10:00 – 10:15

Opening of the day and recap from previous day

Michelle Brock (EBRD)

10:15 – 11:45

Session 4: Enabling environment

This session will have two academic papers being presented each followed by an academic discussant.

Chair: Christopher Woodruff (University of Oxford)

“Gender Gaps in Time Use and Entrepreneurship”

by Faisal Sohail (University of Melbourne)

Discussant: Diego Vera (IDB)

“Sexual harassment and survival rates of women-owned businesses”

by Niklas Buehren (World Bank)

Discussant: José Tessada (Universidad Católica de Chile)

Policy Discussant: Christopher Woodruff (University of Oxford)

11:45 – 12:00

Coffee Break

12:00 - 13:00

Session 5: MDBs work with women-led SMEs through WeFi funds and impact evaluation agendas

This session will present ongoing or planned projects from MDBs focused on women-led/owned SMEs to explore possible research or evaluation agendas

Chair: Farid Tadros (We-Fi)

Patricia Yañez-Pagans (IDB Invest)

Jaylan Elshazly (IFC)

Sonia Plaza (World Bank)

Michelle Brock and Aurica Balmus (EBRD)

Russell Toth (University of Sidney)

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 15:30

Session 6: The Care Economy

This session will have two academic papers being presented each followed by an academic discussant.

Chair: Luciana Etcheverry (IDB)

“Self-Employed Mothers: Child Penalties, Maternity Benefits, and Family Health”

by Fabrizio Core (Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Discussant: Samuel Berlinski (IDB)

“Minding Your Business or Your Child? Motherhood and the Entrepreneurship Gap”

by Valentina Rutigliano (University of British Columbia)

Discussant: Valentina Duque (American University)

Policy Discussant: Michelle Adato (Millenium Challenge Corporation)

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee

16:00 – 17:00

Panel Conversation 2: “Working on the ground to support the growth of women-led SMEs”

This session will feature a panel composed by strategic public and private sector actors working to support women-led/owned businesses across the globe, touching on how from different angles they are working on some of the topics covered throughout the conference sessions.

Moderator: Alessandro Maffioli – Managing Director Development Effectiveness at IDB Invest

José Miguel Benavente - Executive Vice President of Corfo Chile

Maria Denise Duarte – Regional Manager for Central America of Agora

Stephanie Garcia Van Gool – Director of Impact Assessment and Strategic Development at FMBBVA

17:00 – 17:30

Closing remarks

Host: Claudia Martinez – Lead Economist at IDB

Diana Rodriguez - Special Advisor on Gender and Diversity at IDB