

III CAF  
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CONFERENCE



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# Understanding the Challenges of Informality in Latin America

Political, Economic  
and Social Dimensions

Friday November 4th of 2016  
08:30 - 18:00  
Nissan Lecture Theatre.  
St Antony's College, Oxford University.

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## Understanding the Challenges of Informality in Latin America

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Despite some improvements during the 2000s as a result of the commodity boom, the informal sector remains significant in Latin America. For some countries, the informal labor market now far outstrips the size of the formal labor market, comprising nearly 60 per cent of the labor market. However, there is notable variation among countries across the region, and even in temporal trends, in the size of labor informality. Traditionally, academics and policymakers have focused on the economic dimensions of informality and in searching for ways to reduce it. Yet the political dimensions remain largely unexplored: what do companies and workers in the informal sector want? What are their preferences regarding tax and social policy? How do political parties respond to their needs? This conference will examine the political and distributive consequences of this variation in labor informality across the region and delve into the political preferences of informal workers.



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### PROGRAMME

- 8:30-9:00 — **REGISTRATION**
- 9:00-9:15 — **WELCOME PANEL**  
— **Enrique García**, Executive President, CAF -Development Bank of Latin America-  
— **Diego Sánchez-Ancochea**, Director of the Latin American Centre, University of Oxford  
— **Roger Goodman**, Head of Social Sciences Division, University of Oxford
- 9:15-10:30 — **OPENING PLENARY.**  
**Social Policy and Informality: Are Latin America's advances sustainable?**  
CHAIR: **Diego Sánchez-Ancochea**, Director of the Latin American Centre, University of Oxford  
— **José Antonio Ocampo**, Professor, Columbia University & Former Minister of Finance, Colombia
- 10:30-12:15 — **Informality Over time: Did it really decrease during the commodity boom?**  
CHAIR: **Germán Ríos**, Corporate Director of Strategic Affairs, CAF -Development Bank of Latin America-  
— **Roxana Maurizio**, Researcher, UNGS/CONICET, LAC-CAF Professor 2016  
— **Sonia Gontero**, Economic Affairs Officer, ECLAC  
— **Angel Melguizo**, Head of the Latin American and Caribbean Unit, OECD
- 12:15-13:30 — **LUNCH**  
— **Margaret MacMillan**, Warden of St Antony's College, University of Oxford
- 13:30-15:15 — **Labor Informality: Political implications and long-term prospects**  
CHAIR: **Timothy Power**, Director of the Brazilian Studies Programme, University of Oxford  
— **Carlos Ominami**, Former Minister of Economy and Former Senator, Chile  
— **Cecilia López**, President, CiSoe  
— **David Doyle**, Associate Professor of Politics, University of Oxford
- 15:15-15:45 — **COFFEE BREAK**  
— (Hilda Besse Building Foyer)
- 15:45-17:30 — **The Evolution of Government Policy Towards Informality**  
CHAIR: **Eduardo Posada-Carbó**, Professor of the History and Politics of Latin America, University of Oxford  
— **Daniel Ortega**, Director of Impact Evaluation and Policy Learning, CAF -Development Bank of Latin America-  
— **Carlota Pérez**, Professor of Technology and Development, London School of Economics  
— **Fabiana Machado**, Research Economist, IDB
- 17:30-18:00 — **CLOSING REMARKS**  
— **Diego Sánchez-Ancochea**, Director of the Latin American Centre, University of Oxford  
— **Enrique García**, Executive President, CAF -Development Bank of Latin America-