



MiFOOD Network

GLOBAL MIGRATION & FOOD SECURITY



4TH ANNUAL MiFOOD CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION & FOOD SECURITY

MIGRANT LIVES IN URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS:
BRIDGING INFORMAL DIVIDES, STRENGTHENING
FOOD SECURITY

7 - 8 May 2025, 10 AM

Casa de la Primera Imprenta de América
Mexico City



BALSILLIE SCHOOL
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



Laboratorio de
Ciudades en Transición

PROGRAMME

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4th ANNUAL MiFOOD CONFERENCE ON MIGRATION AND FOOD SECURITY

DAY ONE	WEDNESDAY, 7 MAY 2025
10.00 – 11.00 AM	WELCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salomón González, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Unidad Cuajimalpa• Juan Carlos Cárdenas Gómez, Director of Migrant Protection, Migrant Care Institute• Gabriela Hernández Chalte, Director of Casa Tochán, Network of the Documentation of Migrant Defense Organizations (REDODEM)• Jonathan Crush, Director, MiFOOD Network• José Antonio De los Reyes Heredia, Rector General of Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana	
11.15 AM – 1.15 PM	PANEL ONE
URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS AND MIGRANT INCLUSION Moderator: Salomón González, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Unidad Cuajimalpa	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tiana Bakić Hayden, College of Mexico, and Mercedes Eguiguren, Balsillie School of International Affairs. <i>Migration and Urban Food Systems in Latin America.</i>• Graeme Young, University of Glasgow. <i>Street Vending and Inclusion in Cali, Colombia.</i>• Mercedes Eguiguren, Balsillie School of International Affairs, and Yolanda Alfaro, Universidad San Francisco de Quito. <i>Between Gastronomic Ventures and Survival: Venezuelan Migrants in Quito's Informal Food Trade.</i>• María Fernanda Vázquez, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Unidad Azcapotzalco. <i>Collective Ethnographic Mapping and Migrant Experiences in Food Processing and Vending: The Vulnerabilities of Socio-Labour Insertion of South Americans and South Asians in Mexico City.</i>	
1.15 PM – 2.00 PM	LUNCH BREAK
2.00 PM – 4.00 PM	PANEL TWO
GENDER, INFORMALITY, AND COVID-19 Moderator: Tiana Bakić Hayden, College of Mexico	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sam Owuor and Veronica Mwangi, University of Nairobi. <i>Vulnerability and Resilience of Marginalized Migrant Communities During COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from Women Food Vendors in Nairobi's Informal Settlements.</i>• Elizabeth Onyango, University of Alberta. <i>A Gendered Analysis of the Role of Informal Food Business in Urban Food Security During Emergencies: A Case of Kisumu, Kenya.</i>• Cheryl Martens, Universidad San Francisco de Quito. <i>The Rise and Fall of Food Trucks in Quito: Migrant Responses to Post-Pandemic Precarity.</i>• Sean Sithole and Mulugeta Dinbabo, University of the Western Cape. <i>Urban Transformation, African Migrant Women, and the Informal Food System in Cape Town: Adaptation, Challenges, and Opportunities.</i>	

4.00 PM – 5.45 PM

PANEL THREE

MIGRANT ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE INFORMAL FOOD ECONOMY

Moderator: Ndeyapo Nickanor, University of Namibia

- **Godfrey Tawodzera**, University of the Western Cape. *Migrant Entrepreneurship During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Experiences and Challenges in the Cape Town Informal Food Sector.*
- **Sujata Ramachandran**, Balsillie School of International Affairs. *"Little Pockets of Joy and Happiness": Migrant Momo Entrepreneurial Economies in New Delhi, India.*
- **Zack Ahmed**, Balsillie School of International Affairs. *The Role of Somali Migrants in Informal Food Economy and Transformation of Urban Food Chains in Nairobi, Kenya.*
- **Cherie Enns**, University of the Fraser Valley. *'Seed to Market': The Case of Urban Youth Refugees and Migrants in Nairobi.*

DAY TWO

THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025

10.00 AM – 12.00 PM

PANEL FOUR

RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY: WOMEN FEEDING CITIES

Moderator: María Fernanda Vázquez, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana - Unidad Cuajimalpa

- **Guénola Capron**, **Soledad Díaz**, and **Salomón González**, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana – Unidad Azcapotzalco. *Impacts of the COVID Crisis on the Activities of Women Selling Food in The Streets of Mexico City.*
- **Natalie Dietrich Jones**, University of the West Indies. *Post-Pandemic Resilience of Women Informal Food Vendors in Two Cities in Jamaica.*
- **Inês Raimundo**, Eduardo Mondlane University. *Nhonguistas and the 'Accept Us as Intermediaries, or Your Merchandise will Rot' Slogan: Resilience of Cross-Border Traders During COVID-19 Lockdown and Curfew.*
- **Ndeyapo Nickanor**, University of Namibia. *Women Informal Food Traders After COVID-19: A Case Study in Urban Namibia.*

12.00 PM – 1.00 PM

BOOK LAUNCH

- **Jonathan Crush**, **Abel Chikanda** and **Sujata Ramachandran** (Eds.), *New Directions in South-South Migration* (Edward Elgar, 2025).
- **Tiana Bakić Hayden** and **Joaquin Perez Martin** (Eds.), *Urban Food Systems in Latin America: Territories, Mobilities and Governance* (Routledge, 2025).

1.00 PM – 2.00 PM

LUNCH BREAK

2.00 PM – 4.00 PM

PANEL FIVE

INFORMAL FOOD PATHWAYS AND LOCAL MOBILITIES

Moderator: Zhenzhong Si, Balsillie School of International Affairs

- **Abel Chikanda**, McMaster University. *Informal Cross-Border Traders from Mozambique and Zimbabwe and Food Trade During the COVID-19 Pandemic.*
- **Taiyang Zhong**, Nanjing University. *The Role of Food Vendors and Takeaway Riders in Urban Food System in Nanjing, China.*
- **Bernard Owusu**, Balsillie School of International Affairs. *Urban Food Security in the Global South: The Role of International Migration in the Meat Industry in Accra, Ghana.*
- **Jonathan Crush**, MiFOOD Network, Wilfrid Laurier University. *Informal Food Traders and the Fresh Produce Supply Chain in Namibia.*

4.00 PM – 4.30 PM

SUMMARY AND CLOSING REMARKS

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