

# Informal Work and Ergonomics: Experiences from Chile and Ecuador

## Informal Work Webinar Series

**Date:** 29 January, 2025

**Time:** 16:00 UTC (13:00 Chile, 11:00 Ecuador)

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Summary:** This webinar organized by the IEA Informal Work TC in collaboration with the Universidad de Atacama and the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador will present an overview of the situation of informal work in Latin America with emphasis on Chile and Ecuador and then delve into specific case examples from both countries. The cases presented focus on the use of human factors and ergonomics methodologies and their utility to diagnose the situation and identify opportunities for transformation of work. The results of these experiences will be discussed to address aspects ranging from the logic of socio-technical reorganization and public policy to the adaptation of tools and design applications focused on precarious work.



### Presentations and Presenters:

- 1) **Opening remarks, Andrés Mideros**, Vice Chancellor of Teaching and Students, PUCE; **Forlin Aguilera**, Chancellor of the Universidad de Atacama, Chile; **Aida Chacón**, National Director of the Institute of Labor Safety of Chile

2) **Informality and Precarious Work in Latin America,**  
**Dasten Julián-Véjar, PhD, Social Researcher, Chile**

This presentation describes an overview of the processes of informality and job insecurity in Latin America, the impact of public policies on these processes and the common elements that can appeal to ergonomics to address labor problems in these populations.

3) **Case Study 1: Characterizing the Work Activity of Informal Street Sellers in Ecuador,**  
**Caridad González, PhD, PUCE, Ecuador**

Informal street sales in Quito are characterized as the most representative informal work in the capital city. We analyze the determinants of this work activity and seek to understand the phenomenon of informality from a systemic approach that includes working conditions, environmental risks, schedules, forced postures and the productive logic that connects individual, family and collective spaces in this type of work situation.

4) **Case Study 2: Ergonomics approach to the study of precariousness in workers in micro and small-sized enterprise in Chile,**  
**Carlos Ibarra, PhD, University of Atacama, Chile**

This presentation will address the need for the implementation of ergonomics in micro and small-size enterprises in Chile, reflecting as part of this panorama the question of the precariousness of employment and the challenges that this represents for ergonomics.

**Moderator: Denis Chávez, PhD, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador**



**Dasten Julián-Véjar, PhD, Social Researcher, Chile**

Dr. Julián-Véjar is a prominent social researcher. He holds a PhD from the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena in Germany. He previously worked at the Institute of Cultural and Territorial Studies of the Universidad Arturo Prat in Chile. He is an adjunct researcher at the Society, Work & Politics Institute (SWOP) of the University of the Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa) and a member of the Research Committee on the Sociology of Work of the International Sociological Association. His work focuses on the precariousness of work and life, socio-technological changes and social and trade union organizations in the global south from an intersectional, ecological and systemic approach. Author and co-author of dozens of books and multiple scientific publications on informal and precarious work, including the books “Precariedades del trabajo en América Latina” (Precariousness of work in Latin America) (2021) and “Precariedades del trabajo en América Latina: Continuidades estructurales, experiencias de coyuntura y desafíos ante la pandemia” (Precariousness of work in

Latin America: Structural continuities, experiences of conjuncture and challenges before the pandemic) (2022).



**Caridad González Maldonado, PhD**  
**Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador**

Dr. Maldonado is an Industrial Designer with a Masters in Design Management and Innovation, Havana, Cuba, and a PhD in Design from the University of Palermo in Buenos Aires. She has more than 15 years of academic experience. She is currently a Research Professor at the Faculty of Habitat, Infrastructure and Creativity of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE). Among her lines of research she deals with the informal work of women in Ecuador and the design of assistive technologies.



**Carlos Ibarra Villanueva, PhD(c), Universidad de Atacama, Chile**

Professor and researcher in the Ergonomics Program of the Department of Kinesiology Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Atacama, Chile. He is PhD candidate in Ergonomics at Universidad del Valle, Colombia. He holds a MSc. in Ergonomics from de Université du Quebec à Montreal, Canada and a Master in Ergonomics from Universidad Politécnica de Catalunya España. His research focusses on ergonomic intervention, gender integration in occupational health, occupational musculoskeletal disorders, precariousness and informal work, and training in ergonomics. He is a member of the IEA TC in Gender and Work and recently a member of the IEA TC in Informal Work.

**Organisers:**

Denis I. Chávez, PhD, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Ecuador.

Pamela Astudillo Cornejo, PhD(c), Universidad de Atacama, Chile.

Clive D'Souza, PhD, University of Pittsburgh, and Chair, IEA Informal Work Technical Committee.

**Zoom Registration:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NQ9izhDjSsyII2PtzsQbhQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NQ9izhDjSsyII2PtzsQbhQ)

Registration is complimentary (free) but required. The webinar will be recorded and published on YouTube. Attendance permits live interaction with the presenters via Q&A.

The webinar will be broadcast live on Zoom in Spanish, with simultaneous translation into English.