



# IEA

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## Informal Work in Latin America: Ergonomics Perspectives and Experiences from Brazil

Informal Work Webinar Series

**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**Time:** 16:00 UTC (13:00 Brazil, 09:00 US EST)

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Summary:** This webinar, organized by the IEA Informal Work TC and the ICOH Working Group on "Demographic Changes, Inequalities and the Future of Decent Work" in collaboration with the School of Public Health of the University of São Paulo and the Federal University of São Carlos will present an overview of informal work in Brazil with an emphasis on the impacts of technological and organizational innovations in the precariousness of working conditions. The dynamics of precariousness and how informality repositions the place of work in society will also be addressed.



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Wilson Dias/Agência Brasil

### Organisers:

Frida Marina Fischer, PhD, School of Public Health, University of São Paulo, Brazil

Vivian Aline Mininel, PhD, Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil



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



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## **Presentations:**

- 1) **Opening Remarks, Frida Marina Fischer**, PhD, Department of Environmental Health, School of Public Health, University of São Paulo, Brazil.
- 2) **How can technological and organizational innovations in the world of work increase the precariousness of working conditions and push more people into informality? Brief notes from Brazil, René Mendes**, PhD, University of São Paulo, Brazil.  
Productive restructuring, which combines technological innovations (information and communication technologies, digital work, automation, robotization, “industry 4.0,” etc.) with organizational innovations (platform work, uberization, teleworking, etc.) has not contributed to the “humanization” of work, nor to the reduction of workloads and the increase of free time. On the contrary, under the control of capital, and in contexts of financialization of the economy, technological and organizational innovations have been producing work intensification, extension of working hours, increased productivity demands and, even worse, the loss of jobs and loss of social protection at work. Precarious work and increased informality are worrying impacts in contexts of countries with high social inequality, such as Brazil, as well as other countries in Latin America. Some statistical data will be presented, by way of example. Therefore, there are paradoxical, conflicting and contradictory processes that challenge not only Ergonomics, but also Workers' Health and Environmental Health.
- 3) **Transformations at work in the context of multifaceted crisis, Dari Krein**, PhD, University of Campinas.  
The profound transformations in the world of work are articulated through five interrelated factors: 1) The characteristics of a historically unstructured labor market, marked by informality, a structural surplus of labor, and low wages; 2) Changes in the direction of the economy, especially in how the country integrates into the dynamics of globalization and financialization; 3) Technological and organizational innovations that reconfigure occupations — most of which tend to be precarious; 4) The dominant political vision, under the hegemony of neoliberalism, which has promoted labor reforms and encouraged individual entrepreneurship; 5) The generation of jobs as a result of social power relations, leading to predatory competition among individuals and producing harmful effects on both work and workers' health. To these factors, we must add the challenges posed by the environmental/ecological crisis and a broader, multifaceted crisis that affects not only work, but also social life and institutional structures in recent years. The result is a society with higher levels of social inequality, where gender and racial discrimination are reaffirmed, and social protection becomes increasingly absent. Based on these elements, statistical data on employment, informality, and working hours in Brazil will be presented. Finally, I intend to show that there are signs of resistance to the current configuration of work, especially among the youth in Brazil.

**Moderators: Prof. Frida Marina Fischer**, PhD, School of Public Health, University of São Paulo, Brazil; and **Prof. Vivian Mininel**, Department of Nursing, Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil.



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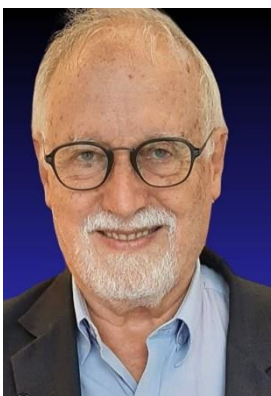
## Presenter Information:



### **Frida Marina Fischer, PhD**

Full Professor, Senior, in the School of Public Health, University of São Paulo, Brazil. Her main interests are the investigation of topics related to occupational health, particularly the work organization including night and shift work, psychosocial factors at work, work injuries and early aging and work. She is an ICOH member and currently chair of the working group "Demographic Changes, Inequalities and the Future of Decent Work". She was granted the title of IEA Fellow. Prof. Fischer received a productivity grant 1A, from the Brazilian National Research Council- CNPq.

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### **René Mendes, MD**

Professor (retired) of Public Health, Preventive Medicine and Occupational Medicine. Currently, he is a Collaborating Researcher at the Institute of Advanced Studies of the University of São Paulo (IEA/USP), where he coordinates the "Observatory of Labor and the Working Class". São Paulo/Brazil.

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### **José Dari Krein, PhD**

Professor at the Institute of Economics at State University of Campinas (Unicamp). Researcher at CESIT (Center for Trade Union and Labor Economics Studies). Member of the coordination team of REMIR (Network for Studies and Monitoring of Work Reconfigurations) in Brazil.

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## **Zoom Registration:** (will be added later by IEA staff)

Registration is complimentary (free) but required.

The webinar will be held in Brazilian Portuguese and English. Registered attendees can complete a brief post-webinar survey to receive e-certificates of completion from the IEA. Presentations will be pre-recorded in Brazilian Portuguese with English subtitles; Q&A will be in both languages with simultaneous translation by the moderators, Drs. Vivian Mininel & Frida Fischer. A recording of the webinar will be published on the IEA YouTube channel. Attendance will allow live interaction with the presenters during Q&A.