



IBEI RESEARCH SEMINAR

13 March 2015, 2pm
Room 24.120 – IBEI (1st Floor)

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Syracuse University / IBEI

The Impact of ICTs on Latin America's Employment Prospects

The purpose of this research is to determine the manner in which employment will evolve as a result of information and communication technologies. Prior research has shown that both communication and automation are displacing certain type of employment, mainly those with middle level skills. Given the evidence from countries with greater penetration of ICTS we expect Latin America to follow a similar path and potentially be negatively affected by the elimination of some professions. ICTs are currently generating employment in the Latin American region and this is likely to remain the case for some years as these technologies make business and government operations more efficient. In the long term, however, the problem for Latin America is that without "knowledge and innovation policies" that invest in education as well as in research and development the region may be relegated to providing simple services that pay low wages, potentially increasing poverty in the region. Using statistics from the International Telecommunications Union, the World Bank and the International Labor organization this author developed a panel of 200 countries over a 20 year period to allow for comparisons across regions, specifically Europe with Latin America, and to determine if countries that have invested in education and R&D also benefited from service employment with higher level skills. The paper concludes with policy recommendations.

Prof. Martha Garcia-Murillo

Martha Garcia-Murillo is a Professor of Information Studies at Syracuse University. She has an M.S. in Economics and a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Public Policy from the University of Southern California. She has done consulting for several United Nations Agencies and has provided training for regulators from all over the world through the World Bank and the United States State Department. She is also an expert in theory construction and has written and led workshops on the subject at multiple conferences and universities. She is Catedra Telefonica visiting researcher at IBEI from January to March 2015.

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