

## Research Conference

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Accelerating Growth for Women Entrepreneurs Conference

Venue: European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

E14 4BG, London

**Date: 27-28 October 2025**

#### Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

8:30 – 9:00 Registration and Coffee

9:00 – 9:15 **Opening Remarks**

9:15 – 10:00 **Policy Panel**

*This session will feature a panel composed by high-level practitioners and academics, touching on operational and academic aspects that are or should be at the frontier of our work in this topic.*

10:00 – 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 – 12:00 **Session 1: Increasing WSME Lending through Innovation**

*This session will have two academic papers being presented each followed by an academic discussant.*

***“Eliciting Client Referrals to Increase Lending to Women Entrepreneurs: Evidence from Vietnam”***

by Russell Toth, University of Sydney

Discussant: Alejandro Becerra, Banco de México

***“Liquidity, Business Development, and Gender: Evidence from Credit Contracts”***

by Selim Gulesci, Trinity College Dublin

Discussant: Miriam Bruhn, World Bank

Policy Discussant: tbc

12:00 – 13:30

Lunch

13:30 – 15:00

## **Session 2: Strengthening the Enabling Environment**

*This session will have two academic papers being presented each followed by an academic discussant.*

### ***“Generous to Men or Harsh to Women? Experimentally Unpacking Gender Bias in Lending”***

by Youngjoo Jung, University of Illinois

Discussant: Silvia Prina, Northeastern University

### ***“Rural roads, small business creation, and the gender-gap in entrepreneurship”***

by Lakshmi Naaraayanan, London Business School

Discussant: Pedro Rosa-Días, Imperial College London

Policy discussant: tbc

15:00 – 15:30

Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:30

## **Session 3: Unlocking MSME Data for Research**

*This session will present short presentations from local initiatives that are collecting interesting data on MSMEs and that could be useful for research purposes.*

16:30 – 17:30

**Matchmaking Academics and Practitioners (Closed door session)**

19:00

**Dinner (By Invitation Only)**

## Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

8:30 – 9:00

Coffee

9:00 – 9:15

**Opening of the Day and Recap from Previous Day**

9:15 – 10:45

### **Session 4: Improving Access to Skills**

*This session will have two academic papers being presented each followed by an academic discussant.*

#### ***“Individual vs Group Mentoring for Female Entrepreneurship: Experimental Evidence from Small Firms in Urban Peru”***

by Claudia Martínez, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Discussant: Maddalena Ronchi, Kellogg School of Management

#### ***“Personal Initiative Skills, Gender Gaps, and Social Norms: Experimental Evidence from Microenterprises in Rural India”***

by Sofia Amaral, World Bank

Discussant: Diego Ubfal, World Bank

Policy Discussant: tbc

10:45 – 11:15

Coffee Break

11:15 - 12:15

### **Keynote**

Marianne Bertrand, Chris P. Dialynas Distinguished Service Professor of Economics, Chicago Booth School of Business

Moderator: Beata Javorcik, EBRD Chief Economist

12:15 – 13:30

Lunch

13:30 – 15:00

### **Session 5: Accelerating High-Growth Entrepreneurship**

*This session will have two academic papers being presented each followed by an academic discussant.*

#### ***“Financing The Next VC-Backed Startup: The Role of Gender”***

by Camille Hebert, University of Toronto

Discussant: Simon Quinn, Imperial College London

#### ***“Social Image, Organisational Values and Inclusion: Evidence from a Field Experiment”***

by Tom Schwantje, Bocconi University

Discussant: Karmini Sharma, Imperial College London

Policy Discussant: tbc

15:00 – 15:15

### **Closing remarks**

15:15 – 16:00

Social Coffee

## **Academic session summaries**