

#tjn18

PARADISE LOST?

DESIGUALDAD E INJUSTICIA FISCAL (INEQUALITY AND TAX INJUSTICE)

Lima, 13-14 June 2018

Tax is a crucial tool to challenge inequalities, redistributing incomes and raising revenue for important public spending. But the sovereignty of states to pursue such policies is comprehensively undermined by the ability of elites and multinational companies to hide or otherwise remove their income from the tax net; through broader patterns of corruption; and by their lobbying against policies for direct taxation of income, profits and capital gains. And while Latin America is widely recognised as having had a period of success in reversing the growth of income inequality in recent years, that trend may be weakening – and many countries in the region continue to exhibit both high inequality and only weak redistribution.

The *Paradise Papers* have confirmed once again how wealthy individuals hide their assets and income streams in financial secrecy jurisdictions ('tax havens'), and how multinational companies are able to reduce their tax liability in a range of largely hidden ways, exploiting the gaping flaws in international tax rules to shift their income abroad, and also playing governments against each other to obtain tax breaks. Governments may also be unwilling or unable to impose genuinely progressive tax measures in the face of elite resistance.

But the world is changing. The failure of the OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) project to curtail multinational tax avoidance has led to greater pressure for real changes in the rules, with countries in the region responding in a range of ways – with some major economies seeking OECD entry, and others such as Ecuador putting their full focus on UN options for a more fully representative forum to consider rule changes. Meanwhile, efforts to end secret ownership have made significant progress – although most non-OECD countries remain excluded from arrangements for the automatic exchange of financial information, and public registers of beneficial ownership for companies, trusts and foundations are not yet widespread. Argentina, chairing the G20 in 2018, has an opportunity to show dynamic leadership in the name of inclusion.

These critical policy challenges must be addressed at national, regional and global levels, if progress is to be made against the powerful inequalities that undermine human rights – including importantly those of women and marginalised ethnolinguistic groups.

The 2018 conference of the Tax Justice Network, part of an annual series dating back to 2003 and co-organised with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and Latindadd, will showcase cutting-edge research from the region and beyond, bringing together researchers, academics, journalists, policy staff of civil society organisations, consultants and professionals, elected politicians and their researchers, government and international organisation officials. The purpose is to facilitate research, open-minded debate and discussion, and to generate ideas and proposals to inform and shape political initiatives and mobilisation. The conference will be held in Spanish, Portuguese and English, with full translation. For more information or with any queries please contact: Fariya Mohiuddin, fariya@taxjustice.net (English) or Claudia Kremer, ckremer@latindadd.org (Spanish).

PUBLIC EVENT – 12 June 2018, 6pm

Leading or following? Latin America and the fight for tax justice

Jose Antonio Ocampo – ICRICT

Magdalena Sepulveda – ICRICT

Marcio Verdi – Head of the Interamerican Center of Tax Administrations

+ additional speakers to be confirmed

NB. This event will have a separate registration process

Conference Programme

DAY ONE – 13 June 2018

08h30 – 09h00 Registration and coffee

09h00 – 09h30 Plenary: Welcome and introductions: *Desigualdad y injusticia fiscal #tjn18*

Astrid Becker (FES)

Carlos Bedoya (Latindadd)

Alex Cobham (Tax Justice Network)

09h30 – 11h00 Plenary session One: *Inequalities and tax justice*

Chair: **Attiya Waris** (U. Nairobi)

Kathleen Lahey (Queens University and TJN, presenting a UNWomen report)	<i>Gender, Taxation, and Equality in Developing Countries: Key Issues and Recommendations</i>
Antonio David Cattani (Instituto Justica Fiscal, Brazil)	<i>Tributar a la riqueza, hacer justicia fiscal</i>
Miguel Niño-Zarazúa (UNU-WIDER, Finland)	<i>Fiscal policy, state building and economic development: A special issue of the Journal of International Development</i>

11h00 – 11h30 Coffee

11h30 – 13h00 Parallel session Two:

a. *Tax justice: Theoretical inquiries*

Chair: **Dereje Alemayehu** (Global Alliance for Tax Justice, Ethiopia)

Verónica Serafini (DECIDAMOS, Paraguay)	<i>Los desafíos de la política fiscal a la luz de los derechos de las mujeres y la desigualdad de género</i>
Christian von Haldenwang (DIE, Germany)	<i>International tax justice and the principle of fiscal equivalence</i>
Patricia Lampreave (Universidad Complutense, Spain)	<i>Tackle harmful tax competition, a compromise of the States with international organizations</i>

b. Tax breaks and the race to the bottom

Chair: **Vera Mshana** (Ford Foundation)

Rodolfo Bejarano (LATINDADD, Peru)	<i>Privilegios a cambio de nada: Incentivos fiscales a la inversión en America Latina</i>
Laure Gnassou (France)	<i>Tax Base Erosion: A Cautionary Tale of the DR Congo</i>
Paolo de Renzio (IBP, USA)	<i>Tax expenditures and their impact on inequality in Latin America: An overview of findings from country case studies</i>

13h00 – 14h00 Lunch

14h00 - 15h30 Parallel session Three:

a. Tax justice challenges of inequalities

Chair: **Vilani Oliveira** (CONFETAM - Confederacion Nacional de los Servidores Públicos Municipales)

Vanessa Jorda (U. Cantabria, Spain) & *Miguel Niño-Zarazúa (UNU-WIDER, Finland)	<i>Global inequality: how large is the effect of top incomes?</i>
Gemma Patón (U.Castilla La Mancha, Spain)	<i>Retos fiscales de la economía digital en América Latina</i>

b. Hiding individual wealth: Old and new challenges

Chair: **Sargon Nissan** (Financial Transparency Coalition)

Andres Arauz (UNAM, Mexico; former Minister of Knowledge of Ecuador)	<i>Fuga de capitales institucionalizada: las subsidiarias offshore de los bancos ecuatorianos</i>
Fabio Bothner, Lukas Hakelberg & Thomas Rixen (U.Bamberg, Germany)	<i>Their hands untied but still imprisoned? National tax policy under the automatic exchange of information</i>
Riva Jalipa (TJN-A/SOAS, UK)	<i>Cryptocurrencies and tax justice</i>

15h30 – 16h00 Tea break

16h00 – 17h30 Plenary session Four: Tax justice and women's rights

Chair: **Gaby Oré Aguiar** (CESR)

Rachel Sharpe (ActionAid UK) and Kasia Szeniawska (ActionAid Denmark)	<i>Making tax work for women in developing countries</i>
Frank Kalizinje (Malawi Revenue Authority)	<i>Tax policy and female labour force participation in Malawi: Implications for tax justice and women's rights</i>
Felogene Anumo (AWID)	<i>AWID report "Illicit Financial Flows: Why we should claim these resources for gender, economic and social justice" (authored by Attiya Waris)</i>

DAY TWO – 14 June 2018

08h50 – 09h00 Welcome to day two

09h00 – 10h30 Plenary session Five: Taxation and gender (Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Bolivia and Venezuela)

Chair: **Maria Valdes Fernandes** (FES, Colombia)

Irma Yaneth Lima Pantaleón and Sofía Farfán de Rodriguez (Superintendencia de Administración Tributaria, SAT – Guatemala)	<i>Impuestos y género, iniciativa desde las administraciones tributaries</i>
Maria Dolores Almeida (consultora independiente, ex viceministra de finanzas del Ecuador)	<i>Estado de la tributación para la equidad de género en Ecuador</i>
Esther Pineda (consultora independiente en temas de género y equidad)	<i>Perspectiva de género y justicia tributaria: una aproximación al caso venezolano</i>

10h30 – 11h00 Coffee

11h00 – 12h30 Parallel session Six:

- a. El aporte fiscal de la minería y comentarios sobre la erosión de la base gravable y traslado de beneficios en la industria extractiva.**

Chair: **Victor Garzon** (GIZ, Germany)

Panel: **Maria Dolores Almeida** (consultora independiente, ex viceministra de finanzas del Ecuador)

Marcio Ferreira Verdi (CIAT)

Michael Hanni (CEPAL)

Fabian Klemme (GIZ)

- b. Trade and tax injustices**

Chair: **Savior Mwambwa** (Open Society Foundations) **tbc**

Christine Carton & *Sadri Slim (El Colegio de Chihuahua, Mexico)	<i>Trade misinvoicing in OECD countries: What can we learn from bilateral trade intensity indices?</i>
Swati Verma (Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, India)	<i>Intangible payments and tax avoidance: Transfer pricing appraisal challenges in Indian context</i>

12h30 – 14h00 Lunch

14h00 - 15h00 Parallel session Seven:

- a. Money-laundering: Spotlight on Kenya**

Chair: **Attiya Waris** (U. Nairobi)

Nancy Chepkorir Kiget (Kenya)	<i>Financial institutions' money laundering affecting tax base in Kenya</i>
Ann Ng'ang'a & Rodgers Koima (Kenya)	<i>Addressing money laundering in developing economies: Lessons from the Kenyan experience</i>

b. Illicit financial flows: Estimates and case studies

Chair: **Alan Fairlie** (member of the Andean Parliament)

William Davis (UN ECA, Ethiopia)	<i>Illicit financial flows and structural transformation in Africa</i>
Sakshi Rai (CBGA, India on behalf of FTC)	<i>The Independent Working Group (IWG) on Illicit Financial Flows</i>

15h00 - 15h30 Coffee break

15h30 - 17h00 Plenary session Eight: International analyses of tax justice

Chair: **Alvin Mosioma** (TJN-Africa)

Inês Sofia de Oliveira & Haylea Campbell (RUSI Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies, UK)	<i>The international struggle against financial secrecy: An analysis of actors, incentives, and effectiveness</i>
Miroslav Palansky (Charles U Prague, Czech Rep), Petr Jansky (Charles U Prague, Czech Rep) & Markus Meinzer (TJN, Germany)	<i>Secrecy jurisdictions' spheres of influence and international cooperation against tax avoidance: The Bilateral Financial Secrecy Index</i>
Jahanzeb Akhtar and Verónica Grondona (European Parliament)	<i>The evolution of tax haven lists</i>

17h00 – 17h30 Closing Session: Reflections and looking ahead

Panel tbc