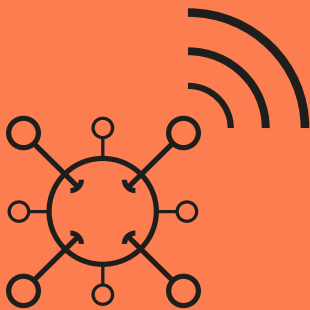


# DAWN TALKS ON COVID-19

*Development Alternatives  
with Women for a New Era*



***A Financialised Life: what is it,  
and why is it a feminist issue?***

**MASAYA LLAVANERAS BLANCO  
& LENA LAVINAS**

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Banks and financial markets have encroached on our homes in ways that we are often not aware of. They have been part of our lives through mortgages and pension funds, but we are no longer using credit only to make large purchases such as a new house. Increasingly, we rely on credit to pay for basic needs such as groceries, education and health emergencies. While this has particularly affected the middle class, it has also become part of the lives of people who live in poverty. Social protection systems (and rights!) are becoming a market niche for private ventures. Our lives have become financialised.

Social reproduction and the sustainability of life are at the heart of feminist struggles. Women and girls play a critical role in care provision and social reproduction. The pandemic made it clear that when education and health systems collapse, it is women who step in to provide the labour and sustain families and communities. That often comes at a cost: physical and mental depletion, declining livelihoods and economic autonomy. It is no surprise that ECLAC estimated that during the pandemic, Latin American and Caribbean women have suffered a setback in labour participation of approximately ten years!

After almost three decades of cash transfer policies, providing monetary support for people living in poverty has become a component of the global mainstream development agenda. Governments on both sides of the political spectrum, multilateral organisations, representatives of a wide diversity of people and institutions agreed on social policies which focused on monetary transfers provided in partnership with the banking sector. In this way, the poor have become part of the banking system.

At the same time, government spending on health, education, housing and other essential aspects of everyday life has declined. In tandem, wages continued to decrease, and the monetary transfers barely covered the costs of living—In other words, survival cash transfers increased while wages and public services decreased. Already deeply

linked to the banking system, people have become increasingly indebted to make up for this decline.

The Covid-19 pandemic came into our lives in a period when public services and labour rights were already weak worldwide. By then, about 2.5 billion people in the Global South were already recipients of some form of monetary transfer. And naturally, cash transfers were among the first social policy responses governments had in their toolbox. These were especially handy with growing unemployment and social distancing measures in place. They helped those who had been particularly hard hit by the pandemic while also providing an enormous boost to the global financial sector. The socioeconomic crisis exacerbated by the pandemic became a business opportunity— Is the future of social policy more household debt and increased financialisation of life?

Concerned as we are with overcoming this health crisis in times of necropolitics, we are convinced, it is vital feminists from around the world examine the direction in which the world is going and, most importantly, the direction to which we want to stir it.

Join the conversation with Lena Lavinias and Masaya Llavaneras Blanco. Lena is a Professor of Welfare Economics at the Institute of Economics at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. She is a member of Brazil's 4D Feminist Collective and an editor at Revista Rosa. Masaya is part of DAWN's Executive Committee, a Venezuelan migrant, feminist, and Assistant Professor of Development Studies at Huron University College, Canada. Lena and Masaya will be joined by Busi Sibeko (Institute for Economic Justice, South Africa) and DAWN's feminist economists, Professors Corina Rodríguez Enríquez and Gita Sen, in what promises to be a great way to close this year's cycle of DAWN Talks.

See you there!



## **LENA LAVINAS**

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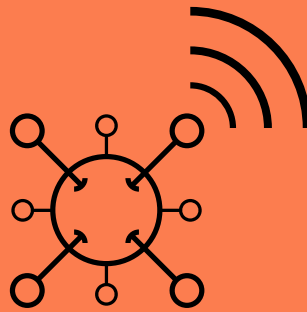
Lena Lavinás is a Professor of Welfare Economics at the Institute of Economics at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. She is currently Leverhulme Visiting Professor at SOAS. She founded the feminist academic journal *Revista Estudos Feministas* in Brazil. She is a member of the Feminist Collective 4D and an editor of *Revista Rosa*, a democratic left-wing online magazine. Most of her research examines how welfare regimes and labour markets adjust to changes in contemporary capitalism, especially under the aegis of financialisation. Her focus is on Brazil, Latin America and countries of the Global South. Her latest book is *The Takeover of Social Policy by Financialization: The Brazilian Paradox* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). She has published extensively on social policy, gender issues, and labour market reforms.



## **MASAYA LLAVANERAS BLANCO**

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Masaya Llaneras Blanco (Venezuela) is a Feminist Political Economist. She is part of DAWN's Executive Committee and has been involved in DAWN's Political Economy of Globalisation analysis team since 2010. She obtained her Ph.D. in Global Governance at Wilfrid Laurier University-Balsillie School of International Affairs in Canada, and her Masters in Women Studies at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. She was the national coordinator of the Gender-Budgets Project in Venezuela, and the thematic coordinator of the country's time use research. Masaya is an Assistant Professor of Development Studies at Huron University College in London, Canada, an associate with the International Migration Research Centre (IMRC, Canada) and the Caribbean Observatory of Migration and Development (OBMICA) in the Dominican Republic. Most recently her research and advocacy centres around issues of care, human mobility, and the rights of people on the move in the Global South, with a particular focus on the Covid-19 pandemic.



**A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS  
WITH DAWN FEMINISTS ABOUT  
THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**

► Registration on <https://bit.ly/DAWNtalks4>

available via **Zoom** | spaces are limited

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021**

8:00 AM London (CA)/ Caracas | 9:00 AM Rio de Janeiro | 12:00 PM UTC

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