

Special Session on:
From Safety Nets to
Sustainable Mobility: Poverty
Dynamics, Social Capital, and
Long-Term Impacts of
Transfers in the Americas



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Purpose and Scope

This special session examines poverty as a dynamic, place-contingent process and assesses whether social protection and related mechanisms translate into sustained mobility. Two papers using longitudinal U.S. microdata evaluate whether safety net programs enable permanent exits from poverty or mainly stabilize income temporarily, emphasizing recidivism, benefit design, coverage gaps, and the “welfare cliff.” A Latinobarómetro 2020 study analyzes how social capital—networks, social media, and institutional trust—shapes subjective poverty across social environments. A Brazilian administrative-data study estimates the long-term impacts of Bolsa Família on education and formal labor-market participation, linking policy design, institutions, and regional disparities.

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT