



The Center for Iberian & Latin American Studies, UCSD

Rethinking the Informal Economy: An analysis of the *Tianguis* in Mexico City

Thursday, June 2, 2016

**2-3:30 PM, Deutz Room in the Copley International
Conference Center, Institute of the Americas Complex, UCSD**

The concept of “informal economy” was created in the 1970’s, and since then debates about its definition, measurement, origin, causes and solutions has never ceased. This phenomenon of “informality” has become a normal reality all around the world. In Mexico the *Tianguis*, an open-air market that can be traced back to pre-Columbia times, is one of the most important economic and sociocultural activities of the informal sector. A *Tianguis* in Mexico City usually has a self-organized system that, distinct from our stereotypes of the informal economy, creates order out of chaos. Whether that self-organization is forced by circumstances or develops on its own initiative, how people engage and conduct their daily life to make a living in this *Tianguis* reflects the reality of Mexican society and provides us with insights on how to approach the nature of the informal economy.



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