

The case of Venezuelan migrants working for delivery platforms in Colombia and Peru

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Abstract

Colombia and Peru have received most of the Venezuelans who have emigrated in the past seven years. Colombia is home to more than 2.4 million Venezuelans, while Peru hosts 1.5 million. In both countries, Venezuelans have started to rely on delivery platforms as income-generation options. COVID-19 restrictions came with an increase in the demand for delivery services, and more Venezuelans started offering them, partially because of their economic situations. Moreover, the need for safety and security in the workplace and access to social protection appeared to be priorities extended to migrant workers, even those with an irregular immigration status (Vera Espinoza, et al., 2021). The purpose of this presentation is to provide a general overview of the gig economy via depictions of delivery platforms in Colombia and Peru while considering legislative advancements in regulating the sector, its effects on Venezuelan migrants' precarious socio-economic inclusion despite generous regularization policies, and civil-society and trade-union proposals to provide a social and legal framework that improves protection and access to employment for Venezuelans.

Biographies

Stephanie López Villamil is a Research Associate at Equilibrium, Centro para el Desarrollo Económico. She holds a PhD in Political Studies and International Relations from the National University of Colombia and an MA in Political and Social Sciences from the University of Strasbourg. She is also an alumni of the Forced Population Displacements and the Making of the Modern World program at Brown University's International Advanced Research Institutes in Rhode Island. Stephanie is a member of several networks, including the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration and the International Public Policy Association. She has published papers on the economic integration of Venezuelans and reintegration policies in Colombia, and she counsels the Colombian government on migration policies.