

The Future of Work in the Global South (FoWiGS)

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The Gig Economy: Challenges and Opportunities for Latin American Youth

New technologies are reshaping employment and the nature of work.

How are these transformations affecting countries in the Global South?

Q1: What are the challenges these changes are generating?

Q2: How are they affecting young people in relation to adult workers?

Q3: Are there specific features of the LAC region that may imply different effect than in developed regions?

The Gig Economy: Challenges and Opportunities for Latin American Youth



The Gig economy can *optimize* the matching and *reduce* labor market frictions (e.g. “virtual” labor mobility).



The Gig economy is already generating *social tensions* which can be exacerbated when looked through the lens of a developing region.

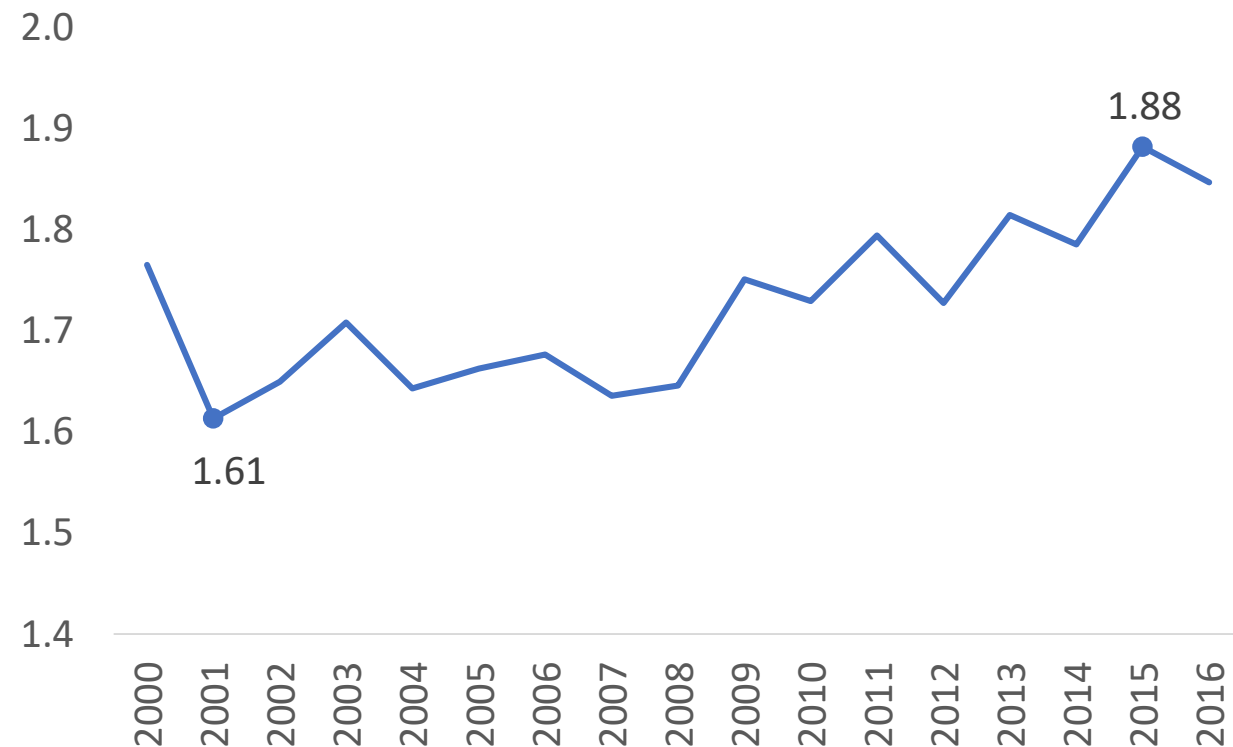
Challenges and Opportunities for LA Youth (1)

Is the Gig economy exacerbating or reducing pre-existing inequalities in labor market outcomes between young and adult workers?

Adult-young employment rate ratio

Simple average for 15 LA countries

Source: SEDLAC (2018)



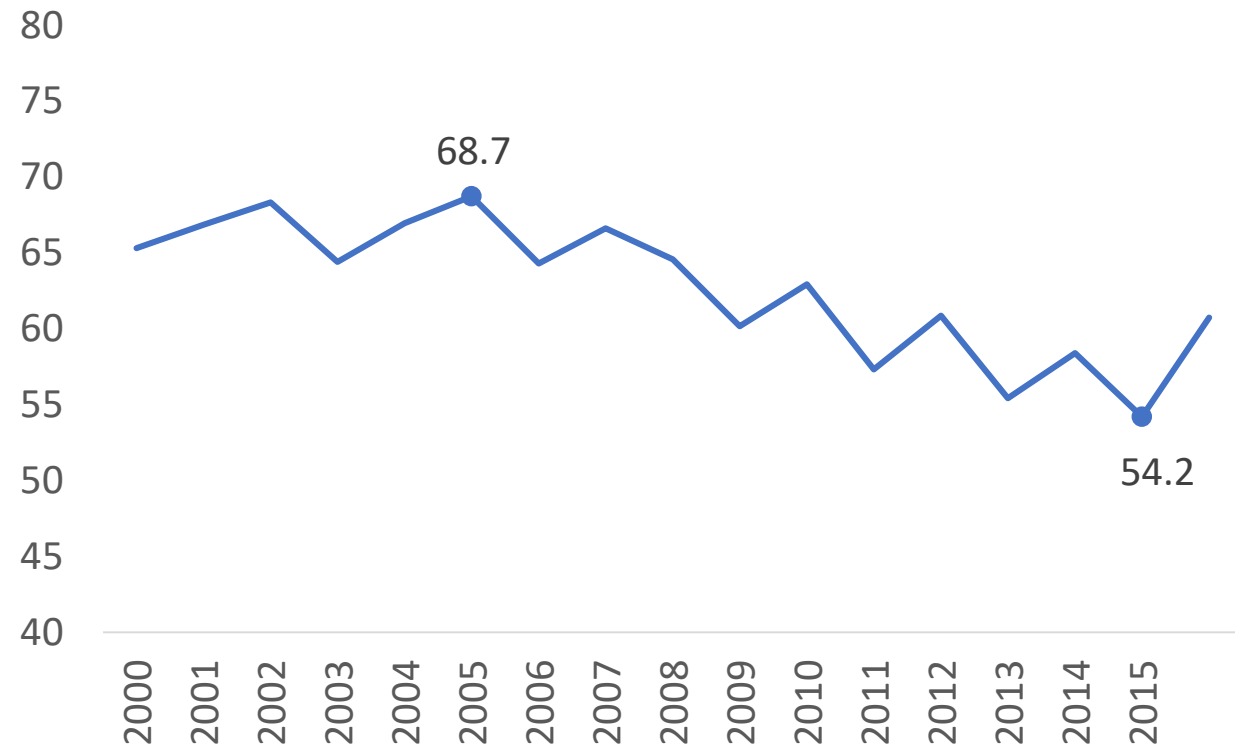
Challenges and Opportunities for LA Youth (2)

The Gig economy is creating a growing class of workers who lack the social protections and entitlements associated with wage employment.

Youth labor informality rate

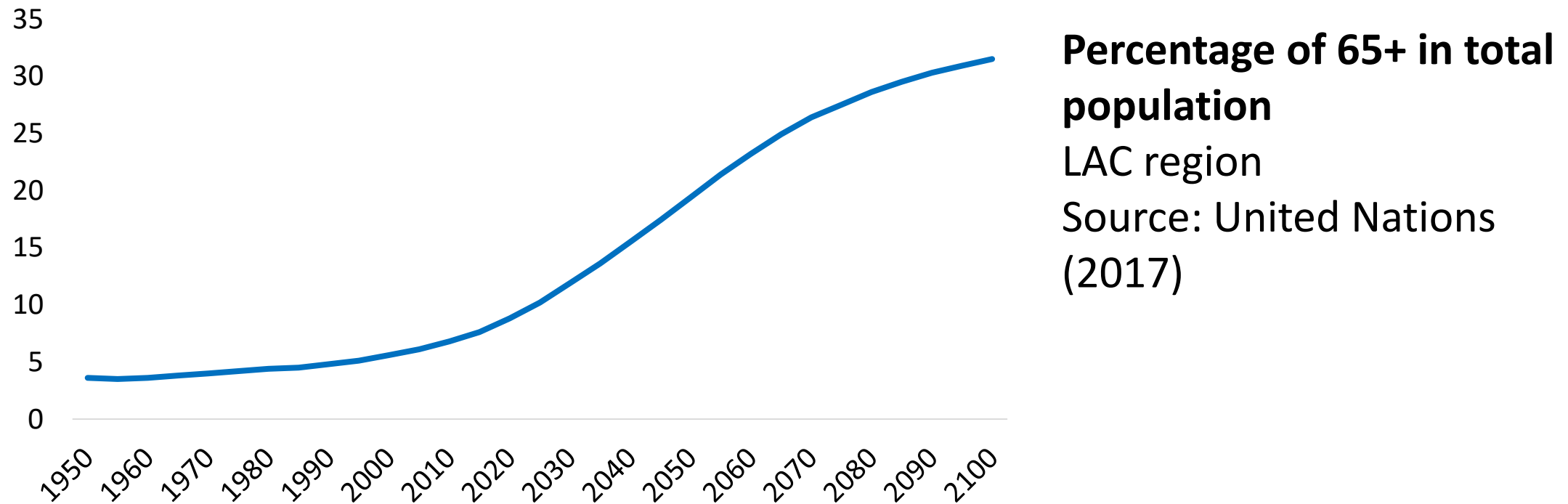
Simple average for 15 LA countries

Source: SEDLAC (2018)



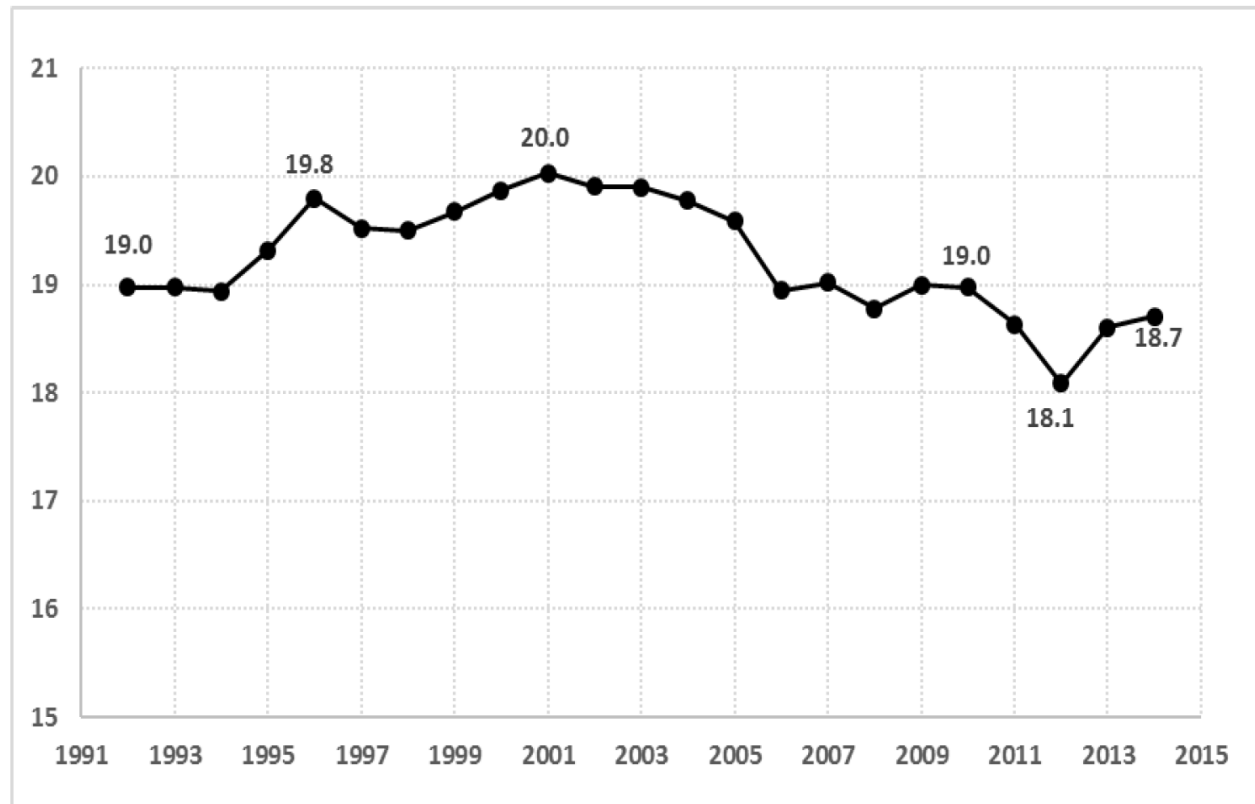
Challenges and Opportunities for LA Youth (3)

The potential increase in the share of unprotected workers represents a big problem in a region with an aging population.



Challenges and Opportunities for LA Youth (4)

Are LA young workers prepared for the new economy?



Millions of young people not working or studying

Average of 15 LA countries

Source: Tornarolli (2017)

Our project: The Future of Work in the Global South

FoWiGS

What: FoWiGS is a research initiative that seeks to:

- Give support to the production and dissemination of high-impact knowledge that outlines the challenges ahead.
- Provide evidence-based recommendations for policymakers and other stakeholders about how to navigate these changes and promotes equitable development in the Global South.

Our project: The Future of Work in the Global South FoWiGS

How: With funding from IDRC we are currently launching the second phase of the project at CIDE (CDMX):

- **Online repository** of existing knowledge: www.fowigs.net
- **Open call for research projects** on the broad topic of the Future of Work in the Global South (mid-October).
- Organization of **international meetings**.
- **Publication** of policy briefs, working papers, edited volume.

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