

Join our webinar

# Contributions of the Latin American and Caribbean Food Security Scale (ELCSA) to Food Insecurity Monitoring & Policy Making Globally

**01 September 2021 | 9:00-10:30 am ET/ 6:30-8:00 pm IST**

The Latin American and Caribbean Food Security Scale (ELCSA) is an experience-based food insecurity scale originally created for Latin America and Caribbean contexts. Since its creation, its use has expanded globally and it became the basis for the FAO's Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). Join us for a discussion of the influence of experience based scales on food security monitoring and policy making globally. Presentations will showcase examples of how the ELCSA has been used in Mexico and Sri Lanka. Confirmed Speakers include Rafael Perez-Escamilla (Yale University), Mireya Vilar-Compte (Montclair State University), and Thilini Agampodi (Rajarata University of Sri Lanka ). Q&A moderated by Pablo Gaitán-Rossi (Universidad Iberoamericana) will follow presentations.

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## Speaker Spotlight



**Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, PhD**  
Yale School of Public Health

Dr. Pérez-Escamilla is a Professor at the Yale School of Public Health where he is also Director of the Global Health Concentration. He co-led the development, validation, and dissemination of the Latin American and Caribbean Food Security Scale (ELCSA). His work has led to improvements in maternal, infant and young child feeding, and household food security programs globally. He has published over 290 peer reviewed articles and lectured extensively across world regions. He is an elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine and recipient of the 2020 American Society for Nutrition Award for Lifetime Achievements in International Nutrition. He has served as senior scientific advisor to UNICEF, the World Health Organization, FAO, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



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## Speaker Spotlight



**Mireya Vilar-Compte, PhD**  
Montclair State University

Dr. Vilar-Compte is an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health at Montclair State University. Her work focuses on health inequities and early life health determinants, and the translation of this research into feasible and evidence-based interventions. She has performed extensive research in the area of food insecurity, including psychometric validations and adaptations of the ELCSA, food insecurity during crises and emergencies, the interplay between urban poverty and food insecurity, amongst others. Her research has been funded by national and international agencies, and she has worked in liaison with international organizations and universities globally. She has more than 40 peer reviewed publications.



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## Speaker Spotlight



**Thilini Agampodi**, MBBS, MSc,  
MPH, PhD

Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Dr. Agampodi is a Professor in the Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Allied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka. She is the lead investigator of validation of self administered ELCSA-P-SL, to assess food insecurity among pregnant women in Sri Lanka. Her research interest are on maternal and child health, infant feeding, mental health and social capital. She is a professor in social epidemiology and an expert in qualitative health research.



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Meet our guest moderator



**Pablo Gaitán-Rossi, PhD**  
Universidad Iberoamericana

Dr. Gaitán-Rossi is an Associate Professor at the Research Center for Equitable Development at Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. His research interests are food insecurity, mental health, and aging from a health equity perspective. Recent work exposed some of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in food insecurity, anxiety and depression in Mexico. He has examined food insecurity measurement, contexts affecting food insecurity, and how some population groups are disproportionately affected by food insecurity, such as households with children and older adults.



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