

Mexico Podcast Chatter – April 1st, 2026

Our top recommended podcast this week is The Mexpat Interview, which tackles the debate over what El Mencho's death actually means, more than a month after the operation that led to his capture. Historian Benjamin T. Smith, author of *The Dope: The Real History of the Mexican Drug Trade*, analyzes why "kingpin" strategies are largely ineffective – cartels are not hierarchies to be decapitated, but decentralized systems embedded in local governance (see below).

On the business and economic side, *Whitepaper 10* featured economist Juan Carlos Calderón, who discussed growth risks and opportunities for 2026. The podcast also examined Olinia, a two-seat electric vehicle assembled up to 70% in Mexico targeting urban micromobility, alongside Arca Continental's 18.5 billion peso investment plan – in its centennial year – in production and logistics, including the drilling of wells to extract spring water and guarantee Topo Chico production. *Chisme Corporativo* profiled Blanca Treviño, who founded Softec in 1982 with just \$10,000 after graduating as the only woman in her systems engineering class at TEC de Monterrey, building it into a 15,000-employee firm operating in 30 countries and becoming the first woman admitted to the Consejo Mexicano de Negocios.

MexMoves spoke with Manuel Rodríguez Arregui, co-founder of AINDA, about the fund's approach to infrastructure and energy investment in Mexico under high ESG standards, alongside an analysis of Walmex's response to e-commerce and the potential Pemex–Petrobras alliance. *Estrategia del Día's* weekly summary covered Banxico's rate cut to 6.75% despite rising inflation, Mexican crude surpassing \$100 per barrel and the government's consequent diesel subsidies and gasoline price cap, oil revenues at a six-year low, and Walmart's \$2.425 billion investment announcement.

On politics, *Broojula* with Ana Paula Ordorica covered the hydrocarbon spill affecting the Gulf coast of Veracruz, Tabasco, and Tamaulipas, and rising inflation at 4.63% annually. *Tercer Grado's* panel dissected the failure of Sheinbaum's Plan B electoral reform – with the recall mechanism rejected and attempts to reduce party funding falling short – while analyzing how internal party dynamics are already shifting toward 2027. *El Noti's* weekly summary tied together the Senate's partial approval of Plan B, internal frictions within the Morena-PT-PVEM coalition, the persistent hydrocarbon spill crisis in Tabasco and Veracruz, school violence in Michoacán, and corruption cases linked to relatives of López Obrador and ghost companies in Quintana Roo.

On security, *Narcosistema* with Anabel Hernández examined the detention and release of Mónica Zambada Niebla, daughter of Sinaloa Cartel leader Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, drawing parallels with the 2019 "culiacanazo" and highlighting the Zambada family's near two-decade impunity. *Latin America Today* spoke with human rights lawyer Ana Lorena Delgadillo Pérez about the resilience of Mexico's "buscadoras" against a backdrop of over 130,000 disappearances and structural impunity.

Finally, on culture and society, *Mexico: The Podcast* traced the history of Chapultepec Park from its pre-Hispanic role as a water source to its transformation under Maximilian and Porfirio Díaz. *Sal con amigos* featured Graciela Márquez, president of INEGI and the first woman to lead Mexico's Secretariat of Economy, who discussed the role of statistics and geography in understanding the country. *El Colmex* dedicated one episode to the report *Conectadas al Cambio*, examining how women face real barriers in platform work despite labor reform recognition; in another, it explored the journal *Tlalocan*, which since 1943 has documented and disseminated Mexico's indigenous languages and cultures.

Mexico Business, Economics & Finance

Economic perspectives for Mexico – Whitepaper 10

In this week's deep dive, guest speaker Juan Carlos Calderón takes a stand on Mexico's 2026 economy, highlighting risks and opportunities. They examine Banco de México's recent rate cuts against 4.4% core inflation and the structural challenge of insufficient public investment, where spending on pensions and social programs greatly exceeds infrastructure, water, and education. Labor informality is discussed, with southern states exceeding 70%, and the importance of foreign investment and T-MEC negotiations for growth.

30/03/26, René Lankenau Lankenau and Karla Berman with Juan Carlos Calderón, [Whitepaper 10](#)

Breaking barriers in technology from Monterrey: Blanca Treviño – Chisme Corporativo

In this episode, Macarena Riva and Rosalaura highlight how Blanca Treviño became a tech pioneer in Mexico. The only woman in her systems class at TEC de Monterrey, she founded Softec in 1982 with just \$10,000. The company introduced the "Near Shore" model and now employs 15,000 people in 30 countries. Treviño also paved the way for women, becoming the first woman invited to the Consejo Mexicano de Negocios and prompting its name change. The podcast emphasizes her vision, leadership, and how her story reflects the challenges and opportunities for female entrepreneurship in Mexico.

30/03/26, Macarena Riva and Rosalaura López, [Chisme Corporativo](#)

AINDA on Mexico Infrastructure & Energy Stagflation Fears, Walmex Investor Day, PemBras, and Casinos – MexMoves

Manuel Rodríguez Arregui, co-founder of AINDA, explains how the fund approaches Mexico's infrastructure and energy sectors through carefully selected projects and high ESG standards, creating sustainable value. Hosts Eduardo and Damian frame the discussion amid weak growth and rising inflation, examining Walmex's strategic response to e-commerce and discount competition. The episode also assesses a potential Pemex-Petrobras partnership and the expansion of Mexico's casino sector, highlighting its cash flow and technological significance. It provides a balanced perspective on investment, energy policy, and opportunities in key sectors.

26/03/26, Eduardo García and Damian Fraser with Manuel Rodríguez Arregui, [MexMoves](#)

Olinia, Arca Continental, and industrial innovation in Mexico – Whitepaper 10

René Lankenau and Karla Berman examine Mexico's efforts in electric mobility and industrial growth. They highlight the Olinia project: a two-seater electric car designed for micromobility in cities such as Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterrey, assembled up to 70% in Mexico, home-chargeable, with government involvement limited to regulation and ownership protection. The episode also covers Arca Continental, which plans to invest 18.5 billion pesos this year in plants, logistics, distribution, and vending networks, including deep wells to secure Topo Chico production.

25/03/26, René Lankenau and Karla Berman, [Whitepaper 10](#)

Weekly Summary – Estrategia del Día

This week, Mexico's economy faced key challenges. The Bank of Mexico cut its interest rate to 6.75% despite rising inflation. Mexico's crude oil benchmark exceeded \$100 per barrel, prompting President Claudia Sheinbaum's administration to raise diesel subsidies and set a cap of 28.50 pesos per liter. Oil revenues fell to their lowest level in six years. Walmart announced a \$2.425 billion investment in store renovations and expansions. The reopening of Estadio Azteca revealed urban mobility challenges, and Sheinbaum's public approval showed a slight decline.

25-31/03/26, Jimena Tolama, [Estrategia del Día](#)

Mexican Domestic Affairs & Politics

Environmental and Economic Pressures in Mexico – Broojula

This week, *Broojula* focuses on two key issues. First, hydrocarbon contamination along the Gulf Coast has affected Veracruz, Tabasco, and Tamaulipas. Federal and state responses remain slow and inconsistent, highlighting gaps in environmental governance. The discussion then turns to Mexico's rising inflation (4.63% annual) and stagflation risks, driven by energy and agricultural pressures. Additionally, while Banco de México lowered its reference rate to 6.75%, external shocks and structural constraints limit policy effectiveness. Both episodes illustrate systemic pressures on public policy, economic stability, and local communities.

30-31/03/26, Ana Paula Ordorica, [Broojula](#)

Parties in motion: the Electoral Reform setback and the race to 2027 – Tercer Grado

The panel this week break down the failure of President Claudia Sheinbaum's "Plan B" electoral reform. The recall referendum was rejected, and attempts to reduce party funding and control allies collapsed, exposing Morena's strategic missteps. Meanwhile, parties are recalibrating for 2027: polls, popularity, and candidate mobility become key tools. The episode highlights coalition tensions, the PT asserting

itself as a counterweight, and the opposition responding, kickstarting pre-campaign jockeying in a political game where political capital is the most valuable currency.

26/03/26, René Delgado with Denise Maerker, Viridiana Ríos, Leo Zuckerman, Raymundo Riva Palacio, and Leopoldo Gómez, [Tercer Grado](#)

Weekly Summary – El Noti

The Senate partially approved “Plan B,” reforming constitutional articles while leaving Claudia Sheinbaum’s recall vote scheduled for 2028. Morena-PT-PVEM coalition tensions surfaced, and the opposition alleged possible electoral financing links to organized crime. Mexico’s economy remains weak, with low growth and limited formal investment. Environmental crises from oil spills in Tabasco and Veracruz, school violence in Michoacán, and corruption involving López Obrador’s relatives and phantom companies in Quintana Roo continued. Road safety and mining incidents also drew national attention.

25-31/03/26, Maca Carriedo and Javier Garza, [El Noti](#)

Mexican Security and Crime

On the past and endless present of the drug war – The Mexpat Interview

This conversation examines whether recent developments, such as the killing of El Mencho, renewed U.S. pressure, and mass extraditions, signal a new phase in the drug war or a repetition of past strategies. Historian Benjamin T. Smith argues that the “kingpin strategy” remains largely ineffective, describing it as politically visible but structurally counterproductive. He frames cartels less as hierarchical organizations and more as decentralized systems embedded in local economies and governance. The discussion highlights how fentanyl has transformed production and trafficking, weakening rural economies while deepening transnational networks. Smith also contends that Mexico’s reliance on extraditions and militarized policing avoids addressing systemic failures in the judicial system.

29/03/26, Kathleen Bohné and Benjamin T. Smith, [The Mexpat Interview](#)

Detention and Release of “La Mayita”: Sheinbaum’s Embarrassing “Culiacanazo” – Narcosistema

The episode examines the detention and release of Mónica Zambada Niebla, daughter of Ismael “El Mayo” Zambada, head of the Sinaloa Cartel, in a Navy operation in Culiacán that left 11 dead in a chaotic confrontation. Investigative journalist Anabel Hernández frames it as a new “Culiacanazo,” referencing the 2019 incident when Ovidio Guzmán, son of El Chapo, was captured and quickly released under cartel threats. Hernández explains how the Zambada family has operated money-laundering businesses with impunity for nearly 20 years, highlights official inconsistencies, and considers the operation’s possible goal of pressuring cartel leaders. The episode offers a critical view of selective justice and the Mexican state’s limited capacity to confront powerful criminal networks.

25/03/26, Anabel Hernández, [Narcosistema con Anabel Hernández](#)

Women, 'las buscadoras': a very strong reference for courage – Latin America Today

Ana Lorena Delgadillo Pérez, human rights lawyer and expert on forced disappearances in Mexico and Central America, discusses the resilience and leadership of women who search for missing persons, known as “las buscadoras.” The episode highlights systemic impunity, cross-border challenges for migrants, and the intersection of femicides with disappearances. Delgadillo Pérez emphasizes the role of families and civil society in driving justice, documenting cases, and creating transnational networks to support victims. The conversation underscores both the scale of the crisis, over 130,000 disappearances in Mexico, and the courage and organizational impact of women demanding accountability and human rights.

26/03/26, Corie Welch with Ana Lorena Delgadillo Pérez, [Latin America Today](#)

Mexican Culture & Society

Mexico's most famous park – Mexico: The Podcast

This week, Alex González Omarod and Tavo Figueroa take a stroll through Chapultepec Park and Mexico's history, discussing the Park's evolution throughout the country's history. They discuss its pre-Hispanic role as a freshwater source, its military significance during the U.S. Intervention War, and the evolution of Chapultepec Castle from Maximilian's imperial palace to Porfirio Díaz's modernization. The discussion also turns to centuries-old plants, architecture, military events, and urban development, to show Chapultepec Park as a lens on Mexico's historical and national identity.

26/03/26, Alex González Omarod and Tavo Figueroa, [Mexico: The Podcast](#)

The trap of chasing happiness – Dimes y Billetes

The episode critiques several widespread beliefs in Mexico about money, success, and personal responsibility. Odin Dupeyron argues that money should not be seen as an emotional goal, but as a tool for freedom in an uncertain economic environment, where shocks like the pandemic can erase years of savings. He rejects magical thinking, common in local financial behavior, from superstition to “manifestation” narratives, and instead emphasizes individual judgment. He also highlights a cultural tendency to externalize blame rather than assume responsibility. In the Mexican context, his perspective aligns with a reality of informality, volatility, and limited financial literacy, where autonomy and critical thinking become practical advantages.

25/03/2026, Moris Dieck and Odin Dupeyron, [Dimes y Billetes](#)

Sal con amigos - Sal with Graciela Márquez

In this episode, Graciela Márquez, president of INEGI and the first woman to lead Mexico's Ministry of Economy, illuminates the historical and societal role of statistics and geography in shaping an understanding of the country. She explains how the geographic mapping used by INEGI allows for detailed, location-specific data on Mexico's population, economy, and resources, while warning about persistent inequalities for microenterprises, gender employment parity, and regional performance. She also discusses initiatives to make statistical information accessible to children and the importance of transparency in surveys and censuses, to build public trust and foster statistical literacy nationwide.

25/03/26, Salvador Camarena with Graciela Márquez, [Sal con amigos](#)

Connected for Change: Women's Work on Digital Platforms – El Colmex

In this episode, Carlos Alba and Rosario Aparicio discuss the Connected for Change report, which explores the challenges women face in Mexico's digital platform economy. Marianela Fernández and Néstor Genis note that while the labor reform formally recognizes employment and provides access to social security, women still encounter real barriers: workplace violence, long hours to earn sufficient income, caregiving responsibilities, and limited maternity and social protections. With only a small fraction of women access social security, and pay gaps remain, the episode emphasizes the need for concrete measures to ensure fair opportunities and effective protection for women in this growing sector.

27/03/26, Carlos Alba & Rosario Aparicio with Marianela Fernández and Néstor Genis, [El Colmex](#)

Néstor Hernández Green, Rosario Melina Rodríguez, and Tlalocan – El Colmex

In this episode, Tania Hernández interviews students and explores the work of Néstor Hernández Green and Rosario Melina Rodríguez Villanueva, researchers focused on translating Mexico's indigenous languages. The discussion centers on Tlalocan, a journal documenting Mesoamerican and neighboring cultures since 1943. The episode emphasizes translation agents who validate and contribute to preserving their linguistic heritage. Key topics include working with endangered languages, the glosado methodology, and ethical practices that recognize informants as co-authors, ensuring cultural and linguistic knowledge is accurately represented and transmitted.

30/03/26, Tania Hernández with Jazmín Ramos Lucas and Valentín Eduardo Sánchez Soto, [El Colmex](#)