

International Call for Applications to a Postdoctoral Fellowship: Concentration of economic power and crisis of democracy

Postdoctoral fellowship associated with the Research Project: “Crises of Democracy: Critical Theory and Diagnosis of Present Time”

Information Chart:

Concentration of economic power and crisis of democracy	
Process Number FAPESP:	2019/22387-0
Researcher responsible for the project:	Rúrion Soares Melo
Institution	Brazilian Center for Planning and Analysis (CEBRAP)
Location	São Paulo, Brazil
Due date for applications	November 20, 2023
Accepted languages in applications	English, Spanish or Portuguese
E-mail do submit applications	selecaoadd@gmail.com

1. Summary

The Law and Democracy Nucleus (NDD) of the **Brazilian Center for Analysis and Planning (CEBRAP)** is opening a call for applications to **one (1) funded postdoctoral fellowship** to work within the scope of the **Thematic Project “Crises of Democracy: Critical Theory and Diagnosis of Present Time”** (FAPESP Process nº 2019/22387-0). The project is hosted in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, under the coordination of Professor Rúrion Soares Melo. The fellowship contributes to the project’s general goal of reconstructing the theses and critical concepts of the intellectual heritage of Critical Theory in order to comprehend the current crisis of democracy and the simultaneous crises of democratic theories, with focus in the distinctive character that the concept of public sphere in the critical-theory tradition, and the concept of counterpublics and its economic, cultural and political dimensions. For more information regarding the project, see : [Auxílio à pesquisa 19/22387-0 - Filosofia social, Teoria crítica - BV FAPESP](#).

The candidate's research should focus on the analysis and reconstruction of the scientific literature about the relationship between concentration of economic power and crisis of democracy and to assess the possibility, especially departing from the diagnoses presented by the literature, of the analysis of the relationship between economic power and

democracy in Brazil. In structural-economic terms, the democratic tension may be presented as having at least two questions: on one hand, the state is progressively less capable of being a channel to realize democratic demands that would determine the course of the economy in a scenario where gigantic economic actors dominate, something that undermines the dominant public sphere; on the other, these actors begin to represent, themselves, threats to the functioning of democratic institutions, when they start to impose their own agendas. This relationship is central in diagnoses of time in central countries of capitalism, but departing from a fragile framework from the standpoint of a theory of democracy. Moreover, this relationship is rarely explored in non-central political economies, such as Brazil. Among the multiple dimensions of this phenomenon, we are interested mainly (although not exclusively) in the relationship between concentration of economic power and crisis of democracy in Brazil.

The following aspects will be evaluated in the 4-page proposal to be submitted with the application (item 3, below):

- a. Reference to the main bibliographical references on concentration of economic power and crisis of democracy, including classic and contemporary scholarship;
- b. Explicit dialogue with the Thematic Project in which this call is embedded (above);
- c. The guiding questions of the research proposal should be political in nature, in the broad sense of the term;
- d. The object of investigation can be theoretical or historical, but *it must consider somehow the current discussions on concentration of economic power and crisis of democracy*;
- e. The proposal must be written in a concise and objective way, and it must include an abstract, clear objectives as well as a work plan that can be executed within a two-year timeframe. It is also important to anticipate the submission of at least one academic paper in a high-impact journal.

2. Requirements

The selected candidate is expected to be assiduous and committed to the activities of the Thematic Project, participating in periodic research and training meetings, seminars, and courses. Among the specific tasks related to this grant, we highlight the production of manuscripts for academic publication, the presentation of the fellow's research in internal and external seminars, preparation of reports, as well as other activities relevant to the project. The scholarship grant is provided by the **São Paulo Research Foundation**

(FAPESP), which aims to strengthen the research staff in the state, through the engagement of young scholars in teaching, research, extension, and, eventually, mentoring activities. The application **requirements** are:

- i. To have completed your doctorate no more than 7 years ago (or expect to complete it before the start of the start of the grant);
- ii. An excellent academic curriculum;
- iii. A project related to the theme of this call;
- iv. Full dedication to the project;
- v. To be living in São Paulo by the start of the grant;
- vi. It is the responsibility of foreign candidates, if selected, to verify and obtain legal documentation for entry and permanence in Brazil.

For more information on the candidate's requirements and commitments, please consult FAPESP's general criteria: [Post-doctoral fellowships \(fapesp.br\)](https://www.fapesp.br/post-doctoral-fellowships). It is important to consider, however, that this call is linked to the Thematic Project, and therefore follows specific rules in its selection process. The scholarship grant lasts **two years**, with an expected starting date of **February 1, 2024**, depending on the bureaucratic procedures of FAPESP. The current value of the monthly payment of this grant is **BRL R\$ 9,047.40**. The grant also includes a one-time relocation allowance in the value of one month's payment (for relocations over 50 km), as well as travel fares for the grantee, its spouse, as well as dependents (for relocations over 350 km). Finally, the grant also offers a technical reserve, whose usage rules can be consulted here: [FAPESP Technical Reserve](#).

3. Application

Applications will be open until **November 20, 2023**. Interested parties should send an email entitled "**Post-Doc - concentration of economic power and crisis of democracy**" to the electronic address selecaondd@gmail.com, with the following documents:

- i. Curriculum Vitae (**up to 2 pages**), including main publications;
- ii. Synthetic research proposal (**up to 4 pages**), which must be related to the topic described in this call. It must include title, abstract, description of objectives, work plan with methodology, work plan with expected results, and justification;
- iii. Complete graduate school transcript;
- iv. Full dedication to the project;
- v. Doctorate completion certificate, or letter indicating its completion before the expected start of this grant.

We strongly encourage the application of black, indigenous, and disabled people.

4. Selection Process

The selection process will take place in two stages.

i) **Elimination**: analysis of the submitted documentation, considering their adequacy to FAPESP's criteria.

ii) **Classification**: interviews with senior and principal researchers of the Thematic Project. The following criteria will be adopted in the selection process: a) experience in the area; b) quality of the project, and adequacy to the aims of this call.

5. Schedule

Applications	Out 20, 2023 - Nov 20, 2023
First phase results	From November 27, 2023 on
Interview	Dec 11, 2023 - Dec 15, 2023
Final result	From December 17, 2023 on
Expected start of the grant	Feb 1, 2024