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International Call for Applications to a Postdoctoral Fellowship: “Non-metropolitan” Bolsonarism: An Ethnographic Perspective

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

Information Chart

“Non-metropolitan” Bolsonaroism: An Ethnographic Perspective	
Process Number FAPESP	2019/22387-0
Responsible researcher	Rúrion Soares Melo
Institution	Brazilian Center for Analysis and Planning - CEBRAP
Location	São Paulo, Brazil
Due date for applications	July 21, 2024
Accepted languages in applications	English, Portuguese, Spanish
Email to submit applications	ndd@cebrap.org.br

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 discussing and updating concepts of Critical Theory in the context of the contemporary crisis of democracies, with a focus on the distinctive character of the category of public sphere in critical-theoretical contributions, as well as its understanding according to the category of counterpublics and their economic, cultural



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and political dimensions. For more information on the process, see: [Auxílio à pesquisa 19/22387-0 - Filosofia social, Teoria crítica - BV FAPESP](#).

The candidate's research will focus on the Bolsonarism phenomenon from an ethnographic perspective outside of large urban centers. The central question that this research aims to answer is: how is Bolsonarism expressed in alternative contexts to those of large urban centers?

Political ethnographies and qualitative research on Bolsonarism have been conducted in Brazilian metropolises in recent years, especially in São Paulo, by social scientists such as Esther Solano, Isabella Kalil, Camila Rocha, Jonas Medeiros, Caio Barbosa, among others. However, Jair Bolsonaro had significant votes in cities in the North, Midwest and South, both in inland municipalities and in capitals that have historically been less important in studies of political-electoral behavior in Brazil. In many of these places, the former president obtained his highest voting rates in the first and second rounds of the 2018 and 2022 elections.

With this in mind, it is proposed to carry out qualitative research on “Non-metropolitan Bolsonarism”, consisting of mini focus groups with Bolsonaro voters who live in places where the politician won the most votes in the North, Midwest and/or South, as well as ethnographic incursions into these places. The research will seek to provide more information to understand the influence of the local social and political context on the possible similarities and differences in the speeches of his supporters in large urban centers. It will also check whether these discourses have similarities with those that circulate in what Camila Rocha and Jonas Medeiros describe as right-wing and far-right counterpublics in Brazil, based on specialized literature on the recent dynamics of the public sphere related to the concepts of publics and counterpublics.

The following aspects will be evaluated in the 4-page summary proposal to be sent in the application (listed in item 3 of this call):

- i. Indication of the main bibliographical references that will underpin the theoretical discussion of the research and dialog with the literature on publics and counterpublics;
- ii. Presentation of data from possible regions of Brazil that fit the above description and could serve as a basis for conducting mini-focus groups and ethnographic studies;
- iii. Notes on the organization of fieldwork;
- iv. Dialogue with the Thematic Project mentioned above;



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- v. Clear and objective writing, including an abstract, objectives, and a feasible work plan within 20 months.
- vi. Submission of at least one academic article to 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, the 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 the doctorate no more than 7 years ago (or expect to complete it before 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 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 **20 months**, with an expected starting date of **September 1, 2024**, depending on the bureaucratic procedures of FAPESP, and finishing at the end of the Thematic Project on **April 30, 2026**. The current value of the monthly payment of this grant is **BRL 9,318.90**. 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



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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. Applications

Applications will be open until **July 21, 2024**. Interested parties should send an email entitled “**Post-Doc - “Non-metropolitan Bolsonaroism: An Ethnographic Perspective”**” to the electronic address ndd@cebrap.org.br, 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. 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 and the requirements of this call.
- ii) **Classification**: interviews with senior and principal researchers of the Thematic Project. The following criteria will be adopted in the selection process: a) adequacy to the requirements of a postdoc fellow established by FAPESP; b) experience in the area; c) quality of the project, and adequacy to the aims of this call.

5. Schedule



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Applications	June 21, 2024 - July 21, 2024
First phase results	August 2, 2024
Interview	August 5, 2024 - August 9, 2024
Final result	August 12, 2024
Expected start of the grant	September 1, 2024