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centro brasileiro de análise e planejamento

International Call for Applications to a Postdoctoral Fellowship: Counterpublic Studies and the Need for a post-Habermasian Theory of Communication

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

Information Chart

Counterpublic Studies and the Need for a post-Habermasian Theory of Communication	
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 should focus on a theoretical investigation into the communications theories underlying the study of counterpublics. The counterpublic studies are interested in social conflicts and assume that power relations permeate communicative processes. Thus, some of the central assumptions of Habermas' theory of the public sphere (such as consensus and solidarity) have been radically questioned for years. The central question of this research will be guided by the following question: what are the impacts of the centrality of conflict on the way in which counterpublic studies theorize communication?

Communication practices have come to be conceived by counterpublic studies as encompassing not only consensus but also dissent, controversy, confrontation, and resistance. Some of the theoretical frameworks and disciplinary fields that have contributed to the construction of a communication theory suitable for counterpublic studies are: cultural studies, rhetorical studies, discourse theories, and, finally, the cultural theory of communication. Thus, a post-Habermasian theorization of communication requires the internalization of asymmetries, hierarchies, and inequalities (i.e. power relations) in the theorization of communication. The research aim is therefore to extract a theory of communication suitable for counterpublic studies, which has not yet been properly systematized by the more empirical literature.

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. Dialogue with the Thematic Project mentioned above;
- iii. Clear and objective writing, including an abstract, objectives, and a feasible work plan within 20 months.
- iv. 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



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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 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 the responsibility of the 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 ending 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 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 - Counterpublic Studies and the Need for a post-Habermasian Theory of Communication**" 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

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