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centro brasileiro de análise e planejamento

International Call for Applications to a Postdoctoral Fellowship: Crisis of Democracy, Critical Theory and the “socio-technological interface”

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

Information Chart

Crisis of Democracy, Critical Theory and the "socio-technological interface"	
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	ddd@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 and political dimensions. For more information on the process, see: [Auxílio à pesquisa 19/22387-0 - Filosofia social, Teoria crítica - BV FAPESP](#).



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The candidate's research will consist of a broad review of the literature on the debate about the socio-technological interface, based on the models of technological determinism and the social determination of technology, which began to develop in the 1960s and was updated over the following decades. To this end, it should take into account a conflict that is developing, in ideal terms, between the Marshall McLuhan hub and the Pinch, Bijker and Williams hub. The research should also highlight the different perceptions of technology and its role in social change, and identify the contours of problems identified by the literature on digital media that began in the 1990s, considering authors such as Pierre Lévy, Esther Dyson, Richard Barbrook, Cass Sunstein, Lawrence Lessig, Yochai Benkler, Evgeny Morozov, Danah Boyd, among others.

Secondly, the research should identify the extent to which recent literature on democracy and the crisis of democracy in the field of Critical Theory addresses the role of technology. To this end, it should specifically consider the relationships established between digital media and concepts such as populism, authoritarianism, political culture, the public sphere, legitimization, subjectivation, among others. It is also hoped that possible gaps or inconsistencies in this literature will be pointed out, as well as possible ways of overcoming them through alternative theoretical formulations.

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 on which the research will be based;
- ii. Dialogue with the Thematic Project mentioned above;
- iii. The study may mobilize authors from different theoretical traditions and disciplinary fields, but must necessarily aim for an enriching dialogue with themes and authors from Critical Theory, as described in the Thematic Project;
- iv. Clear and objective writing, including an abstract, objectives and a work plan that is feasible within 20 months;
- v. 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



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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 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 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 - Crisis of Democracy, Critical Theory and the "socio-technological interface"**" 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