

International Call for Applications to a Postdoctoral Fellowship: Feminist and anti-feminist publishing in Brazil

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

Information Chart

Feminist and anti-feminist publishing in Brazil	
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 04, 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 and political dimensions. For more information on



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the process, see: [Auxílio à pesquisa 19/22387-0 - Filosofia social, Teoria crítica - BV FAPESP](#).

The candidate's research should focus on an empirical investigation into feminist and anti-feminist editorial production in Brazil, as well as the circulation of such content on social networks and a theoretical discussion on feminism and the public sphere.

There is a long tradition of a feminist theory of subaltern counterpublics. Literary theorist Rita Felski was the first to expand the concept of counterpublic by shifting the centrality of class towards gender as the paradigmatic social division for thinking about counterpublicity; for her, the feminist counterpublic sphere is an oppositional discursive arena that unifies the diverse practices of the feminist movement. Her main theoretical contribution was to conceptualize the feminist counterpublic as having a dual function: internally it generates a collective identity and externally it seeks to convince society as a whole of the validity of feminist demands. The critical theorist Nancy Fraser coined the concept of the subaltern counterpublic thinking about the feminist movement as her most relevant historical example; for her, counterpublics are parallel discursive arenas in which contradictory discourses and oppositional interpretations of the identities, interests, and needs of subordinate social groups (such as women) are produced and circulate.

In this context, in recent years there has been an increase in sales of feminist and anti-feminist books, as well as a growing circulation of their content on social networks. This phenomenon is extremely relevant to understanding the dissemination of ideas related to the feminist field, considering the cutting-edge literature on the subject, especially discussions about phenomena classified as post-feminism, neoliberal feminism, and popular feminism, as well as the antagonism represented by the self-styled anti-feminist field. Despite the novelty represented by this phenomenon, it has not yet been analyzed in national or international 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 to be used as a theoretical framework for conducting the empirical research;
- ii. Dialogue with the Thematic Project above-mentioned, in which this grant is included;
- iii. Indicate how you intend to approach the empirical material to be analyzed, both in terms of editorial production and the circulation of texts;

- iv. The proposal must be written objectively, including an abstract, clear objectives, and a work plan that is feasible within 19 months. In addition, it is important that the proposal includes the submission of at least one academic article in a high-impact journal.

02. 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 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 **19 months**, with an expected starting date of **October 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



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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 **August 04, 2024**. Interested parties should send an email entitled "**Post-Doc - Feminist and anti-feminist publishing in Brazil**" 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.

04. 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.



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05. Schedule

Applications	June 21, 2024 - August 4, 2024
First phase results	August 10, 2024
Interview	August 12, 2024 - August 16, 2024
Final result	August 19, 2024
Expected start of the grant	October 1, 2024