



**SÃO PAULO RESEARCH FOUNDATION – FAPESP
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR A POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP**

Thematic Research Project: Toward an Integrated Analysis of the Public Policy-Making Process: Lessons from Brazil

Principal Investigator of the Thematic Project: Prof. Renata Mirandola Bichir

Host Institution: School of Philosophy, Languages and Human Sciences (FFLCH-USP) / Center for Metropolitan Studies (CEM)

Institutional Affiliation: Center for Metropolitan Studies (CEM–CEPIx)

Title of the Postdoctoral Research Project: Religious Organizations and Public Policies: The Case of Therapeutic Communities at the Subnational Level

Supervisor: Prof. Adrian Gurza Lavalle

Research Area: Political Science / Public Policy

Number of Positions: 01 (one)

Duration: 24 months

Application/ Contact Information: centrodametropole@usp.br

Application Timeline:

Call for Applications Opens: September 25

Application Deadline: October 16

Announcement of Candidates Selected for the Second Stage: By October 26

Deadline for Appeals Regarding the First Stage: October 28

Announcement of Appeal Decisions: October 30

Announcement of Second-Stage Results: By November 9

Deadline for Appeals Regarding the Second Stage: November 12

Final Results: November 16

1. About the Fellowship

The FAPESP Postdoctoral Fellowship (PD) is governed by FAPESP regulations. The current reference monthly stipend is BRL 12,570.00. The stipend amount is subject to the FAPESP Fellowship Amounts Table in effect at the time of the award. The complete regulations governing the FAPESP Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, including eligibility criteria and exclusive-dedication requirements, are available at: <https://fapesp.br/en/postdoc>

2. About the Thematic Research Project

The postdoctoral research project is part of the Thematic Research Project “Toward an Integrated Analysis of the Public Policy-Making Process: Lessons from Brazil,” coordinated by Prof. Renata Mirandola Bichir and based at the Center for Metropolitan Studies (CEM). The Thematic Research Project proposes an analytical framework for the study of public policy-making, bringing together institutional, ideational, and relational dimensions, with a focus on social, urban, and environmental policies at different levels of government in Brazil since democratization.

3. About the Postdoctoral Research Project

The project examines how socio-state capacities become institutionalized through interactions between religious organizations, particularly therapeutic communities (TCs), and the state in the implementation of drug policy at the subnational level. It addresses a gap in the public policy literature, which has largely examined the institutionalization of relations between religious organizations and the state at the national level, with less attention to the vertical dimension of these processes and to how they vary across different levels of government.

The research will map the actors, organizations, and repertoires of interaction involved in these processes; identify the different forms of “institutional fit” that emerge between TCs and the state; and examine how these forms of institutional fit vary across national and subnational levels of government. It will also consider the possible configuration of domains of agency.

The project takes a qualitative approach, combining bibliographic and documentary analysis, semi-structured interviews, and process tracing within a triangulation strategy. This study is integrated to Axis 3 of the Thematic Research Project, which focuses on the institutionalization of socio-state capacities and their implications for the production and stability of public policies. The project also builds on CEM’s research agenda on religious organizations and public policies.

4. Candidate Profile and Requirements

- Ph.D. obtained within the past seven years in the Humanities or Social Sciences.
- Academic background and a proven research track record in state–civil society relations, third sector, and/or religious organizations.
- Demonstrated experience with qualitative research methods (documentary analysis, semi-structured interviews, and process tracing).
- Familiarity with the literature on socio-state capacities, institutionalization, and public policymaking.
- Knowledge of drug policy and/or therapeutic communities will be considered an asset.
- Proficiency in reading academic literature in English.
- Ability to conduct independent research and collaborate within an interdisciplinary team.
- Scholarly output commensurate with career stage.

5. Required Documents and Application Procedure

Applicants must submit the following documents to centrodametropole@usp.br:

- Curriculum Summary (Súmula Curricular) in the FAPESP format (available at <https://fapesp.br/6351/instructions-for-the-elaboration-of-a-curricular-summary>), demonstrating alignment with the research profile described above;
- Cover letter explaining the applicant's motivation for the project and the fit between their profile and the research proposal;
- Graduate academic transcripts (Master's and PhD).

6. Selection Process

The selection process will consist of a review of the submitted documents and a remote interview. Candidates will be shortlisted based on their previous experience and alignment with the research project. The documentation of the selected candidate will be submitted to FAPESP, which will be responsible for the final evaluation and award of the fellowship, in accordance with the criteria of the FAPESP Postdoctoral Fellowship Program.