



## POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Call for applicants for three (3) postdoctoral fellowships within the framework of the Thematic Project **“Religion as Politics: Moralities, Activisms, and Secularisms”**, supported by the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP)

**FAPESP number:** 2022/16673-3

**Amount of fellowships:** 3

**Principal Investigator:** Ronaldo de Almeida

**Host Institution:** Institute of Philosophy and Human Sciences (IFCH), University of Campinas (UNICAMP)

Applications are open from **April 17 to June 10, 2026, until 11:59 PM (BRT)**, for three postdoctoral fellowships in the field of the Humanities, associated with the FAPESP Research Project 2022/16673-3, **“Religion as Politics: Moralities, Activisms, and Secularisms”**. The fellowships will be supervised by Professors Ronaldo de Almeida, Maria José Rosado Nunes, and Carlos Alberto Steil. Proposed research projects must be directly aligned with one of the research topics listed below.

### 1. Summary

This Thematic Project seeks to understand political-religious transformations and conflicts in Brazil that resonate with developments in other national contexts, especially in the American continent. The investigation focuses on the resurgence of right-wing and far-right conservatism within democratic regimes, whose effects have eroded the foundations of liberal democracy. The project is structured around four thematic axes that will guide the research in an integrated manner: (1) the contemporary political context in Brazil, which has intensified the actions of a religious right; (2) the transnational and nationalist character of the religious right and far right as part of a systemic reaction against liberal democracies; (3) the counter-hegemonic (re)emergence of progressive religious groups; and (4) finally, the axis of pluralisms, secularities, and democracy, which seeks to understand how these antagonistic and multivectoral political-religious forces shape the configuration of the secular State in Brazil.

**Research Topics of the Thematic Project to which the Postdoc projects must be linked:**

#### a. Transnationalization of the Religious (Far) Right

Supervisor: Ronaldo de Almeida

Over at least the past two decades, political transformations have been underway in several Western democracies, resulting in the rise of far right movements. Despite anti-globalist discourses, political extremisms operate in transnational alignment, as evidenced by the resonance of agendas, modes of action, "glocal" alliances, and the production of internal enemies. This alignment takes different forms depending on the relationships between countries. Religious people, religions, religiosity, and the religious



are constitutive and constituted dimensions of the contemporary cultural-political conjuncture, which supports the broader argument of the thematic project of "religion as politics." This postdoctoral Fellowship aims to select researchers working on this theme in different national contexts, especially in the Americas, which are strongly shaped by Christianity and, significantly, by philosemitism.

### **b. Environment, Politics, and Religion**

Supervisor: Carlos Alberto Steil

The research project to be supported by a postdoctoral fellowship under this section is framed by the emergence of natural events and human interventions at local, national, and planetary scales, associated with the climate crisis and global warming. These processes situate us in a "time of catastrophes" and a "world in ruins," placing a shared future and our earthly utopias at risk. The focus of the research lies in the intersections between religion, politics, and the environment across one or more of the following social spheres: (a) the State; (b) environmental activism; and (c) the everyday lived experience of religious and spiritual communities and groups. Within the sphere of the State, projects may address the formulation and implementation of environmental public policies by right and/or left-wing governments, and their connections to religion. At the level of the National Congress, projects may examine the positions taken by parliamentary groups and politicians, on the right and/or left, who self-identify as religious, particularly in relation to voting on environmental legislation. Within the judiciary, proposals may analyze the positions of legal actors in environmental cases across different levels of the court system, as well as examine the advocacy of religious groups and institutions across the political spectrum to promote environmental agendas. Concerning environmental activism, projects should consider the role of both religious groups and institutions in their articulations within the aforementioned institutional spheres and in street protests and digital networks, with particular attention to the "time of politics," when the "ritual" of elections makes alliances and ideological divisions especially visible. Finally, at the local level of lived religion, proposals may adopt an ethnographic approach, enabling analysis of how everyday practices within communities of belief intersect with institutional political arenas regarding environmental issues.

### **c. Gender, Religion, and Politics in Central and Latin America**

Supervisor: Maria José Rosado Nunes

The disputes surrounding notions of gender and family have emerged, in the contemporary context, as one of the most significant manifestations of the articulation between religion and politics. These disputes shape conservative religious activism concerning human, social, sexual, and reproductive rights, unfolding across multiple arenas of political action: the executive, legislative, and judicial branches; the media and social networks; the everyday practices of education and healthcare services; and churches and families. Anti-gender and anti-abortion campaigns, opposition to contraception and same-sex marriage, among other previously secured rights, constitute central arenas of both institutional and symbolic struggle. These processes mobilize

religious actors who, in recent decades, have increasingly aligned with far right movements and ultraconservatism. At the same time, gender-based violence is often framed as a private matter to be addressed within religious institutions rather than by the State. Conversely, there has been a proliferation of initiatives by collectives, organizations, social movements, and dissident or counter-hegemonic theologies that engage in these disputes from religious perspectives considered left-wing or progressive. This postdoctoral fellowship aims to select a researcher working on this theme, with a focus on religious actors, their anti-gender strategies, and their impacts on legislative proposals, legal actions, public policies, educational and healthcare practices, and media narratives. The analysis should take into account markers such as class, race, territory, and generation, as well as strategies of resistance and resilience developed in Brazil and in other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **2. Research Proposal**

The specific research topic will be defined by the applicants, in accordance with their prior academic experience and publications, as well as their personal research interests. However, fellows are expected to contribute to advancing the broader project's core debates. The proposal must clearly articulate, in light of the applicant's previous academic training and output, the contribution that the development of the individual research project will make to both the research group and the Thematic Project within which the postdoctoral research will be carried out. The project may be written in Portuguese, Spanish, or English.

## **3. Description of the Activity Plan**

Each fellow will develop an individual research project (see item 8.vi) over the duration of the Fellowship. The work plan should include the activities to be carried out by the researcher within the framework of the Thematic Project, as well as the expected outputs, such as: i) Participation in and contribution to regular meetings and activities of the Thematic Project team and the research centers to which the fellow will be affiliated, such as the Laboratory of Anthropology of Religion (LAR/UNICAMP).

ii) Publications in various formats (scientific journal articles, edited volumes, or thematic special editions).

iii) Dissemination of research findings through media outlets and digital platforms. iv) Contribution to the education of undergraduate and graduate students through the supervision of undergraduate research projects.

v) Organization of and participation in working groups, roundtables, and/or panels at national and international academic events.

vi) Offering at least one course at the undergraduate level or within the Graduate Program in which the fellow is registered as a Postdoctoral Researcher during the fellowship period.

## **4. Applicant Requirements**

i) Applicants must have completed their PhD no more than seven (7) years prior to the application and must present an outstanding academic record and an excellent graduate transcript.

ii) The Fellowship requires exclusive dedication to the research project (for FAPESP's full-time dedication policy, see: <https://fapesp.br/7090>).



iii) Applicants must fulfill all requirements set out in item 6.1 of the FAPESP Postdoctoral Fellowship (PD) application guidelines, available at: <https://fapesp.br/en/postdoc>.

### **5. Commitments of the scholarship holder (in case the scholarship is granted)**

A Grant Agreement issued by FAPESP will establish the fellow's commitments. The complete set of "Conditions and Obligations of the Fellow" required by FAPESP is available at: <https://fapesp.br/en/postdoc>.

**IMPORTANT:** Failure to comply with these rules will result in the cancellation of the Fellowship and the refund of payments already made by FAPESP, in updated amounts.

### **6. Duration of the Fellowship**

The Fellowship will have an initial duration of up to 36 months and may be renewed for an additional period of up to 12 months, for a maximum of 48 months, subject to the mutual interest of both parties. The total duration of the Fellowship may not exceed the duration of the Thematic Project to which it is linked, in accordance with the regulations available at: <https://fapesp.br/en/postdoc>.

### **7. Fellowship Amount**

- i) The monthly stipend for the FAPESP Postdoctoral Fellowship is R\$12,570.00 (see the Fellowship Values Table, available at [www.fapesp.br/3162](http://www.fapesp.br/3162)).
- ii) The "Technical Reserve" is intended to support activities carried out by the fellow that are strictly related to the research project during the scholarship period. The amount of the Technical Reserve corresponds to 10% of the annual value of the scholarship, as specified at: <https://fapesp.br/13861/reserva-tecnica-de-bolsas>.

### **8. Application Documents**

Candidates must submit the following documents by email to [religiaocomopolitica@unicamp.br](mailto:religiaocomopolitica@unicamp.br), with a copy to [lar@unicamp.br](mailto:lar@unicamp.br), indicating "Thematic Project – PD" in the subject line. Each document must be attached individually in PDF format, with the candidate's name as the title, followed by the document type. Ex. "João Maria da Silva - PhD completion certificate".

- i) Proof of the conclusion of the Doctorate (diploma, certificate, or thesis defense record).  
**Note:** The request for a Postdoctoral Fellowship (PD) can be submitted before the conclusion of the Doctorate, but the presentation of the proof of conclusion is required for acceptance of the Fellowship.
- ii) Updated Lattes CV. Foreign applicants may submit an updated CV highlighting academic training, scientific publications, teaching experience, supervision of undergraduate and graduate students, and other relevant information.
- iii) FAPESP Curriculum Summary (Súmula Curricular), prepared in accordance with the guidelines available at: <https://fapesp.br/sumula> and [www.fapesp.br/en/6351](http://www.fapesp.br/en/6351)
- iv) Graduate academic transcript issued by the higher education institution.



v) For foreign applicants, it is their responsibility to obtain the necessary documentation for entry into and residence in Brazil in order to carry out the proposed activities.

vi) Research proposal, prepared in accordance with the “Guidelines for Formatting the Research Proposal” available at:

<https://fapesp.br/14197/roteiro-sugerido-para-formatacao-do-projeto-depesquisa-bolsas-no-p-ais-de-pos-doutorado>.

**Note:** Applicants are strongly encouraged to carefully read the regulations governing postdoctoral scholarships, available at <https://fapesp.br/en/postdoc>, as well as the objectives and rules of the FAPESP PD Fellowship Program, described at <https://fapesp.br/bco>. The implementation, continuation, and approval of the scholarships offered in this call are subject to compliance with FAPESP regulations.

## 9. Evaluation of Applications

Applicants will be selected in two stages:

- i) The submitted application documents will be evaluated in accordance with the objectives of the Thematic Project (see items 2 and 3).
- ii) Candidates approved in the first stage will be interviewed via videoconference by the Selection Committee.

**Note:** It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure stable internet connectivity and appropriate equipment for the interview. The Thematic Project bears no responsibility for technical issues or delays during the interview process.

## 10. Calendar

The selection process will follow the schedule below:

- i) Application deadline: June 10, 2026
- ii) Announcement of eligible applications: by June 15, 2026
- iii) Announcement of shortlisted candidates and interview schedule: June 29, 2026
- iv) Interviews: July 01–03, 2026
- v) Final results: by July 07, 2026
- vi) Expected start date: within up to 90 days after the announcement of results, subject to compliance with FAPESP procedures and requirements (<https://fapesp.br/en/postdoc>).

## 11. Additional Information

Further information regarding the selection process may be requested via email at [religiaocomopolitica@unicamp.br](mailto:religiaocomopolitica@unicamp.br), with a copy to [lar@unicamp.br](mailto:lar@unicamp.br), indicating in the subject line: Thematic Project – PD.

Questions regarding FAPESP postdoctoral fellowship regulations should be directed to: <https://fapesp.br/converse>.