

# Call for applications for post-doctoral fellowships linked to the Thematic Project

## *A Connected History of the Middle Ages* *Communication and Circulation from the Mediterranean*

FAPESP 2021/02912-3

### 1. Summary

Applications are open from October 11 to December 8, 2023 for three postdoctoral fellowships in Connected History of the Middle Ages, associated with FAPESP Thematic Project 2021/02912-3 **A Connected History of the Middle Ages. Communication and Circulation from the Mediterranean.**

Each of the post-doctoral fellows selected will be linked to one of the axes of this project:

#### **a) Space and Communities**

This axis is responsible for welcoming, promoting and articulating a set of individual research projects that deal with the relationship between space and communities within the framework of the Thematic Project. The perception that space is both manufactured and, at the same time, the object of representations has pushed forward historical knowledge. Nonetheless, such realization has given historians the problem of identifying the agents of this manufacture and these representations. In this sense, communities can be an effective tool for understanding the spatialization of the social dimensions, since what defines communities, in the context of sociology, is action. This action can be based on expectations, values or common beliefs. However, there is no symmetrical correspondence between community and space. Communities existence go way beyond the common practices of occupying, appropriating, producing and reproducing space. Crises are privileged phenomena for understanding the link between spaces and communities because of their dynamism, their elasticity and

their diffusion in space. This approach to communities and their relation to space makes it possible to focus reflection not on the 'essence' of social groups, but on the modalities of their actions (the space produced, the construction of memory, reactions to crises, etc.) and, through them, their relations to space. The connecting lines of this axis are developed through the study of the responses of communities located in the Mediterranean space to crises, especially migratory, environmental, food and mortality crises. The axis' integration activities will be developed through face-to-face and virtual meetings, within a timetable to be defined, during which the research will be presented and debated.

### **b) Space and Circulation**

This axis of the project proposes interrogating the problem of creation and memory from the point of view of "artistic", "artisanal" and "popular" know-how, in its various expressions and contexts. The aim is to inspect the various forms of creation from the following points of view: 1) of subjects (human and non-human) and materials; 2) from the angle of techniques and instruments, which are themselves created according to diverse agencies; 3) from the point of view of learning and training processes, and the various spaces in which they take place. The set of research projects encompassed by this axis will also attempt to follow the divergent destinies of the things created (practical purposes, ritual uses, political uses, etc.), paying attention to the transformations that the creations undergo along the way like the conversion of the "artefact" into "art", for example. The examination of artisanal creations will also reflect on the mediations and mixtures that link things and people, devices, procedures and materialities. Such creative 'contaminations' will be analyzed considering how they led to processes of differentiation and metamorphosis, flows and processes. Based on the research problems mentioned above, this axis will be concerned with the integration of the Mediterranean space through the circulation of objects. The axis' integration activities will be developed through face-to-face and virtual meetings, within a timetable to be defined, during which the research will be presented and debated.

### **c) Communication and Circulation**

This axis is responsible for welcoming, promoting and articulating a set of individual research projects linked to communication and circulation from the Mediterranean space within the framework of the project. The research linked to the this axis will also be articulated with the other two axes of the project. Thus, the concepts of "communication and circulation" make it possible to address issues related to: the construction of memory and historiography; the

circulation of people, texts and ideas; the transfer of images and objects; political and social communication networks; commercial exchanges and goods; the construction of concepts and knowledge; the use and circulation of forms and representations of established powers and resistances to them; cultural, social and political exchanges in different geographical spaces, whether in continuous or discontinuous times. The axis' integration activities will be developed through face-to-face and virtual meetings, within a timetable to be defined, during which the research will be presented and debated.

The fellowship (and the corresponding grants) associated with the Space and Communities axis will be supervised by Professor Marcelo Cândido da Silva, at the USP History Department; the fellowship (and the corresponding grants) associated with the Space and Circulation axis will be supervised by Professor Néri de Barros Almeida and will be based at the UNICAMP History Department; the fellowship (and the corresponding grants) associated with the Communication and Circulation axis will be supervised by Professor Ana Paula Torres Megiani and will be based at the USP History Department.

\*\*\*

## **2. Duration of the fellowship**

The grant will initially be valid for 24 months and, at FAPESP's discretion, may be renewed for two periods of 12 months each, up to a maximum of 48 months. The period of the scholarship cannot be longer than the period of the Thematic Project to which it is linked, in accordance with the rules described at [www.fapesp.br/bolsas/pd](http://www.fapesp.br/bolsas/pd)

\*\*\*

## **3. Fellowship earning and grants**

The value of the FAPESP Postdoctoral Fellowship is R\$9,047.40 (Table of Values of Fellowships in Brazil, available at [www.fapesp.br/3162](http://www.fapesp.br/3162) ), plus a technical reserve equivalent to 10% of the annual value of the fellowship to cover expenses related to the project, as set out at <https://fapesp.br/13861/reserva-tecnica-de-bolsas>.

\*\*\*

## 4. Required documents and candidate requirements/obligations

### 4.1 Documentation

#### a) Research project

The specific research projects presented by each fellowship candidate will be defined by the candidates themselves, according to their previous academic experience and personal interests. However, it is expected that the fellow will contribute to the collective advancement of the debates related to the Thematic Project. The proposal must clearly explain, in the context of the candidate's previous training, the contribution that the development of the proposed research will make to the axis in which the postdoctoral work will be carried out. In accordance with the general objectives of the Thematic Project, the fellows' research should cover topics that address more than one axis of the Thematic Project (see above).

The research project should follow the formatting guidelines suggested by FAPESP at: <https://fapesp.br/14197/roteiro-sugerido-para-formatacao-do-projeto-de-pesquisa-pos-doctoral-scholarships>

Adaptations to this model are acceptable if they are appropriate for a better presentation of the project.

#### b) Activity Plan

Each candidate must present a plan for the activities they intend to carry out within the framework of the Thematic Project, together with their expected results, such as

- i)** Publications of diverse natures (articles, papers, organization of edited volumes, or special issues on academic journals etc).
- ii)** Organization of working groups, roundtables and/or panels at national and international scientific events. Participation in and organization of scientific events.
- iii)** Contributing to the training of undergraduate and postgraduate students (by mentoring undergraduates, giving lectures, reading and commenting on work-in-progress texts).
- iv)** Participation and collaboration in meetings and regular activities of the Thematic Project team.
- v)** Offering at least one course every twelve months in the Postgraduate Program in Social History at USP or the Postgraduate Program in History at UNICAMP.

The activity plan must be up to 4 pages long and include the name of the candidate.

### **c) Complementary Documents**

- i)** Document proving completion of PhD. Diploma, certificate of completion, or a declaration from the higher education institution stating that the *viva voce* has taken place and that the candidate was approved. Note: The application for a Post-Doctoral Scholarship (PD) can be submitted before the completion of the PhD, but proof of completion is essential when accepting the scholarship.
- ii)** Updated Lattes CV ([lattes.cnpq.br](http://lattes.cnpq.br)). The link to the Lattes CV must be provided in the Activity Plan (see sub-item vi below). Foreigners can send an updated CV, highlighting their academic background, scientific publications, teaching experience and supervision of undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- iii)** FAPESP Curriculum Summary prepared as specified at (<https://fapesp.br/sumula>; [www.fapesp.bemen/6351](http://www.fapesp.bemen/6351)).
- iv)** Postgraduate school record transcripts issued by the Higher Education Institution
- v)** If the candidate is a foreigner, it is his/her responsibility to check the necessary documentation for entry and stay in Brazil.
- vi)** A sample of written work, published or accepted for publication, which shows research interest related to the theme of the Thematic Project (e.g. book; article in an international journal or CAPES Qualis A or B; chapter in a book).
- vii)** Motivation letter, stating the reasons why the candidate is interested in the fellowship, highlighting his/her intentions regarding the opportunity offered.

## **4.2 Candidate requirements**

- i)** The candidate must have completed their doctorate less than 7 (seven) years previously.
- ii)** The fellowship is a full-time job, demanding exclusive labour dedication to the research project (i.e., the candidate cannot have another job at the same time. See <https://fapesp.br/7090> for full dedication under FAPESP rules).

### **4.3 Fellow obligations (in case the fellowship earnings and grants are awarded)**

The obligations will be established through the Grant Agreement issued by FAPESP. The full list of "Conditions and obligations of the scholarship holder" required by FAPESP can be found at <https://fapesp.br/bolsas/pd>.

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

\*\*\*

## **5. Applications**

The applications are open to candidates of any nationality. Applications are open until 6 p.m. (GMT-3) Friday, December 8, 2023, and must be formalized by sending a message to [historiaconectada.fflch@usp.br](mailto:historiaconectada.fflch@usp.br) with a copy to [candido@usp.br](mailto:candido@usp.br). The message should indicate "Postdoctoral selection process" in the subject line and request confirmation of reading.

Each document must be attached individually in PDF format, with the applicant's name as the title, followed by the type of document. E.g. "João Maria da Silva - Certificate of completion of PhD". The body of the e-mail should include full name, address, and contact telephone number.

Note: We strongly recommend that you carefully read the rules for postdoctoral scholarships, available at <https://fapesp.br/bolsas/pd>, as well as the objectives and rules of the FAPESP PD Scholarship Program, described at [www.fapesp.br/dc/in14](http://www.fapesp.br/dc/in14). The implementation, continuation and approval of the PD scholarships provided for in this notice are subject to compliance with FAPESP rules.

\*\*\*

## **6. Analysis of proposals - Selection criteria**

The selection process for the fellowships will be based on an individual analysis of the candidate's academic merit.

After the merit analysis, virtual interviews will be scheduled with the shortlisted candidates.

Candidates whose CVs and motivation letters are considered insufficient will not be invited to the virtual interview.

After selection, the candidate's documents and research project will be submitted to FAPESP for final approval.

Note: In the case of remote interviews, it is the responsibility of the candidate to provide the necessary conditions for a stable connection and appropriate equipment to conduct the interview, and the Thematic Project team is not responsible for any technical problems or delays by candidates in the interview process.

\*\*\*

## **7. Timetable**

- i)** Deadline for applications: December 8, 2023, at 6 p.m. (Brasilia time/GMT - 3)
- ii)** Successful applications announcement: by December 11, 2023.
- iii)** Announcement of the list of successful candidates in the first phase and interview schedule: December 13.
- iv)** Interviews: December 14 and 15, 2023 (Brasilia time/GMT -3).
- v)** Announcement of results: by January 8, 2024, on the Jaime Cortesão Chair website (<https://cjc.fflch.usp.br/>).
- vi)** Start of activities is expected within 90 days of the results being announced, subject to compliance with the procedures and conditions required by FAPESP (<https://fapesp.br/bolsas/pd>).

Additional information regarding the selection process can be sent to the e-mail address [historiaconectada.fflch@usp.br](mailto:historiaconectada.fflch@usp.br) with a copy to [candido@usp.br](mailto:candido@usp.br). Questions regarding the rules governing FAPESP doctoral scholarships should be sent to <https://fapesp.br/converse>.