



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP, CENTER FOR STUDIES AND RESEARCH ON
HEALTH LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

1. Job Description

Fields of knowledge: social participation, community mobilization, right to health, governance, health democracy, pandemics, Covid-19

FAPESP process: 2021/07881-9

Line of funding: TRANS-ATLANTIC PLATFORM (T-AP) RECOVERY,
RENEWAL AND RESILIENCE IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD (RRR) - 2021

Project title: Social mobilization as policymaking lever? A Trans-Atlantic Covid-19
dialogue on community action and decentralized governance

Lead Principal Investigator: Anne-Emanuelle Birn, ae.birn@utoronto.ca, University
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Principal Investigator: Deisy de Freitas de Lima Ventura, deisy.ventura@usp.br,
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Supervisor for this position: Deisy de Freitas de Lima Ventura

Postdoctoral project title: Case Study Paraisópolis, São Paulo (Brazil)

Unit/Institution: CENTER FOR STUDIES AND RESEARCH ON HEALTH LAW
(CEPEDISA) AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SÃO PAULO (USP), BRAZIL

Number of scholarships: 1 (one)

Duration: The position is for 24 months, starting in May/2022.

Salary: BRL 8,479.20 (monthly), plus a research contingency fund equivalent to 10%
of value of the scholarship (to purchase items directly related to the research activity)

Deadline for submissions: March 14th, 2022, 10 am, Brasilia Time (BRT), UTC -3



Decision/Selection made: April, 2022

Selection process: The selection process will take place in two stages: evaluation of curriculum vitae; and interview. Only the candidates with the highest ranked CVs will be invited to participate in the interview process (remotely).

Host Institution: CEPEDISA, School of Public Health, University of São Paulo

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Materials should be submitted via email: cepedisa@usp.br

Any questions, send e-mail to: cepedisa@usp.br

2. General Postdoctoral fellowships ‘profile:

This project is seeking a highly qualified postdoctoral fellow to take part in its case study related to the region of Paraisópolis, in the city of São Paulo, Brazil.

The desired profile for this position is of experienced independent researchers displaying strong ability to work collaboratively, high capacity for communication and dialogue with researchers and social actors of different backgrounds and professional experiences.

The post-doctoral position is open to Brazilian and foreign researchers who have a PhD in one of the following or related fields: public health, sociology, anthropology, social sciences, law or international relations, with experience in community-level research. Candidates must have excellent knowledge of written and spoken Portuguese in order to conduct field research; strong command of English and Spanish are also desirable to facilitate discussion, dialogue, and publication with the international team involved in the project.

FAPESP postdoctoral fellowships are paid at a competitive (R\$ 8.479,20, approximately US\$ 1,700.00) and granted for 24 months, with the possibility of extension for one



additional year. The fellowship includes a research contingency fund, equivalent to 10% of its annual value, which should be spent on items directly related to the research activity.

3. Application procedure:

Applications may be submitted any time until March 31, 2022, by email cepedisa@usp.br.

The applicants must send the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae following FAPESP format (<https://fapesp.br/sumula>), including Lattes (for Brazilian candidates), ORCID and Publon links, as well as citation indices (e.g. number of publications and citations, h-index);
- Research statement delineating the candidate's suitability for the fellowship position;
- Contact information (e-mail, phone) for three references persons who can be contacted if the candidate is selected for an interview.

The initial selection will review the suitability of the candidate to the fellowship profile, as well as the candidate's professional experience and publication records. For those selected in the first stage, interviews are expected to take place in early April, with notification by mid-April for a fellowship start date in May 2022 (following validation of the selection process by FAPESP, according to the Institution's norms). The postdoctoral fellow will be formally linked to the postdoctoral program of the University of São Paulo and is expected to live in the city for the duration of the fellowship.

4. Summary of Project

The Covid-19 pandemic has both worsened social and economic inequalities and highlighted how ordinary people have come together to face mutual hardship. But community mobilization to address urgent needs of shelter, food, income, and access to



public health services is not only an alternative to government policymaking. Civil society and community group activism also aims to make demands for specific social policies on governments, especially at the subnational level (involving decentralized regional or local governments). Whereas much attention has been focused on pandemic responses by national or federal governments, our project explores how social mobilization serves as a policymaking lever (SMAPL) at a subnational level, which is the most direct channel for community input and demands on policymaking. SMAPL examines the interaction between community mobilization and decentralized governance during the COVID-19 pandemic in diverse trans-Atlantic settings within Brazil, Canada, Germany, and Peru. Each of our study sites (Paraisópolis, Southwest Ontario, Montréal, Giessen, Bochum, and communities in the Amazonas region) is characterized by sizeable populations of migrants, racialized and Indigenous groups, and people living with low incomes. These groups are typically excluded from policymaking, yet during the pandemic they have challenged subnational policymaking and mobilized to fill gaps in government responses. Using interdisciplinary research approaches, including community activist and policymaker interviews, co-constructed historical narratives, and knowledge mobilization workshops, SMAPL's team of social scientists and community-based student trainees will explore: How has this civil society and community activism unfolded, and how has it shaped subnational policymaking? What steps have community and civil society groups taken in the absence of effective subnational policymaking? How do these community mobilization efforts and their policymaking impacts compare across the cases? Our overarching objective is to deepen understanding of these interactions and draw relevant learnings for inclusive, equitable, responsive governance during times of crisis and going forward.

The selected fellow will work as part of an international research network involving the University of São Paulo; the University of Toronto, l'Université de Montréal, and Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada; the University of Giessen, Bochum University of Applied



Sciences, and the University of Münster in Germany, and Cayetano Heredia University, in Peru.

Under the supervisor's guidance, the fellow will work on the Paraisópolis community case study, in São Paulo, Brazil. Full and exclusive dedication to the project is a requirement. The researcher will fulfill the following activities:

- a) Conduct initial data collection, comprising a literature review including news stories and scholarly research, and a historical review of the mobilization experience of the Paraisópolis community before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, the case context and preparation of the ethics protocol that will govern the collection of qualitative data;
- b) Along with the supervisor and the associate researchers, the fellow will help design and carry out the qualitative research related to the Brazilian case study, consisting mainly of semi-structured interviews with activists, community members and subnational public policymakers and, when possible, meetings organized with community leaders and activists, public agents and policymakers, in a dialogical approach;
- c) Share results with the other countries' teams, taking active part in the communication, periodic meetings (mostly virtual) and other forms of interchange organized by the international team, in order to carry out comparative studies and ensure the quality of data collection and analysis, and its accessibility to international audiences;
- d) Take part in the publication of results in international journals, reports, and other documents, as well as be involved in the development of an international early-career scholar network. If funding is available, the fellow will also participate in the project's culminating international conference.

5. Requirements for the position:

- PhD in one of the following or related fields: public health, sociology, anthropology, law, social sciences or international relations, obtained no earlier than 7 years before the fellowship start date;



- Excellent knowledge of Portuguese; good knowledge of English and Spanish;
- Previous knowledge or experience with the project topic;
- Field research experience;
- Literature review skills;
- Database management skills;
- Ability to work collaboratively, including with non-academic stakeholders.