

# Call for Papers

## LASA2027: Navegar el colapso: reinventar la política, cuidar lo común

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Over the past decade, phenomena have emerged with unprecedented speed representing setbacks that until recently were unthinkable, with harmful effects on citizens' rights, democratic standards, and the rule of law. In this context, numerous armed conflicts and reconfigurations of world order have added layers of collapse and civilizational crisis. However, if we look more closely, beyond the stupor, we can see that new progressive experiences are taking place simultaneously. These emerging phenomena are observed in a variety of contexts at the macro, meso, and micro levels of analysis. In this Congress, we seek to engage with the multiple dimensions of collapse without focusing solely on it, but also to learn and discuss innovative actions, strategies and initiatives that help us navigate this collapse and move beyond it.

On one hand, we are witnessing the emergence of new alliances among countries that are reshaping the global geopolitical balance in the military, technological, and financial spheres. These transformations range from collective mandates to polling mechanisms, including new forms of digital consultation and deliberation. Additionally, democratic innovation has consistently sought, in successive waves, to address the decline of traditional political representation, yielding results that range from resounding failure to outstanding contributions. Paradoxically, their impact depends on the strength of traditional political movements and civil societies with which these initiatives are associated.

Furthermore, additional proposals have emerged from social and organizational mobilization itself, ranging from innovative activism in support of fiscal justice to transnational coalitions operating both within and beyond digital networks. Specifically in the digital domain, we are witnessing a true revolution based on advances in artificial intelligence that impacts not only public policies and social activism, but also the configuration of growing post-human or biodigital societies and cultures. Finally, in the same context, in contrast to the ultraconservative and dehumanizing dystopias, new future society programs are emerging based on the care paradigm (CEPAL 2025). This roadmap to a caring society draws on both institutional efforts by governments and international cooperation, as well as community initiative.

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*FLACSO-México*

### **Program Coordination**

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*Universidad de Costa Rica*

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**The deadline to  
submit proposals is  
September 9, 2026  
at 05:00 p.m. ET.**

This Congress proposes opening a space to question, discuss and analyze these nascent fields of experience that today enable us —or suggest the possibility — to reinvent politics and care for the common good. We believe this discussion should encourage people to seek out emerging spaces for resistance and social and political innovation, while weighing the growing obstacles and setbacks. In other words, we maintain that structural transformations denote collapses that must be “navigated, without erasing future horizons, provided that the current storms are not dismissed. This is the only way we can discuss and learn about the real potential of what we must do. Navigating the collapse invites us to understand both the force of the waves that may sink us and the paths that lead to new ports.

Thus, we propose focusing on two main points. We start with the conviction that **without political mediation there can be no civilized conflict resolution**, and that **without caring for the collective good, the tragedy of the common man is no longer a theoretical prediction but rather becomes an empirical reality**. Therefore, using this forum to find a mutual space to reflect and discuss the future is not only relevant, but also a necessary and promising endeavor.

### Accelerated transformations: geopolitics, technology and inequality

These new experiences are emerging in a context marked by far-reaching social, economic, political and cultural transformation. Latin America and the Caribbean are not strangers to these dynamics. The region simultaneously experiences the impacts of geopolitical restructuring, rapid technological changes and growing inequalities.

On the geopolitical front, the military, political, diplomatic, financial and even technological hegemony of the United States is showing signs of waning given the rise of China —and other Asian alliances— as well as the persistence of Russia. After the end of the Cold War, disputes were no longer organized around opposing ideological frameworks,

shifting toward the internal dynamics of **informational or platform capitalism**, characterized by the central role of data, digital infrastructure and technology companies.

The fast technological evolution, continuous innovation and expansion of artificial intelligence are reshaping both the economic sphere and social and cultural life, as well as environmental sustainability. However, this dynamism coexists with **global deepening of inequality**. In Latin America, considering the footprint of the colonization process and, in that regard, the persistence of alarming levels of racism, the concentration of wealth is particularly extreme: the wealthiest 10% earn, on average, **12 times more** (versus a 4:1 proportion in OECD countries). One in every five residents of the region is still living in poverty (CEPAL et al., 2023). Meanwhile, the technological revolution presents great challenges for a region that has developed economies based on the over-exploitation of raw materials (petroleum, lithium, etc.). This increases the risk of worsening the environmental crisis in the region and the world. This perverse coexistence of development promises based on a biodigital society and the persistence of intersectional inequality, along with the growing environmental crisis, merits particular attention.

### Erosion of post-war agreements and weakening of the State

In addition to these dynamics, the fundamental agreements that characterized the post-war order of the 20th Century are rapidly eroding. **Welfare states**, which vary widely across the region and have been eroding since the crisis of the 1970s, and due to the structural reforms in Latin America and the Caribbean in the 1990s, today face even greater weakening. Even the **fiscal agreements** that sustain the nation-states are under pressure.

New economic elites, in many cases political leaders, **shirk their public responsibilities**, evade or abandon their tax commitments, leading to a scenario of **weakened or dismantled states**. This seriously compromises the capacity of the State to guarantee rights and provide public benefits.

At the same time, another fundamental agreement—that of **human rights** derived from the Universal Declaration of 1948 and the International Covenants of 1966—is also threatened. Escalating conflicts, migration crises, increasing autocratic tendencies and the influence of powerful and criminal forces are severely straining these regulatory frameworks.

### **Polarization, democratic decline and withdrawal from the public sphere**

The modern paradox is that, despite the uniformity of geopolitical disputes after the end of the Cold War, polarization is growing within nation-states. As the States deteriorate, so do **democratic regimes**. Elites are increasingly withdrawing from public life while becoming more entrenched, while broad segments of the population are distancing themselves from the exclusive decision-making circles (Urbinati, 2023). This weakens traditional forms of intermediation—parties, unions, corporations—and increases distrust, skepticism and anti-political sentiments, with special emphasis on Latin America and the Caribbean.

In this climate, **ultra-conservative, anti-right coalitions** proliferate, which have local roots and diverse national expressions, winning elections and regressively transforming democracy from inside democratic institutions. These coalitions invoke the concept of the **heteronormative family** as a symbolic and material solution to the dismantling of the State and social rights. When the democratic State cannot provide guaranteed rights, it is the family—and especially women—who absorb this burden, deepening the gendered division of labor, which further deteriorates democracy by increasingly excluding more than half of the population from public-political life, reinforcing their subjugation to the reproductive sphere (Tronto 2013).

### **Regressive redefinition of citizenship and those who can be killed**

Conservative anti-rights initiatives also undermine the notion of citizenship understood in the framework of human rights and welfare states. They propose that only certain groups—men, whites, those with resources, “from good families”—are worthy of full citizenship. The excluded groups—migrants, indigenous peoples, people of African descent—therefore become **those who can be killed**—reduced to “bare life” (Agamben 1998), people whose lives are outside of the protection of the State infrastructure and under its police, military and paramilitary control, even in coordination with national and global criminal actors.

The dismantling of the State is thus accompanied by a **narrowing of the population considered “worthy”** of rights, property and public services, as well as protection of life itself.

### **Between uncertainty and possibility: looking at the new without paralyzing nostalgia**

Uncertainty, discouragement and the erosion of future plans can undermine the collective capacity to imagine alternatives and recognize the transformative potential of the new. Is it possible we are not fully perceiving new experiences and possibilities because we long for the past or fear future uncertainty?

This is precisely why this Congress proposes to **bring us together to examine the present through the lens of possibility and emerging trends**, rather than focusing on the central collapse. We propose doing so without naively denying the collapse. Recognizing the initiatives that reinvent politics and care for the common good—and the obstacles and challenges we face—is a key part of the intellectual and political we seek to advance through this encounter.

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Levels of analysis	Transformations of the global order (collapses)	Emerging phenomena (innovation)
Macro	<p>Geopolitical restructuring (United States, China, Russia) and its implications in Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p>The end of the Cold War: deterioration of Welfare States and the Human Rights Covenant.</p> <p>The technological revolution and its economic, social and cultural impact; platform capitalism, digital capitalism, technological feudalism, digital finance phase of capitalism.</p> <p>The worsening environmental crisis and the extraction of primary goods.</p> <p>The impact of transhumanism, biodigital society and dehumanization (those who can be killed, disposables), on notions of citizenship and rights.</p>	<p>China's advances in financial and technological innovation.</p> <p>The transformation of alliances in Latin America and the Caribbean given the USMCA</p> <p>Multi-front wars and the transformation of military power</p> <p>The reordering of middle powers</p> <p>New strategies and plans for access to knowledge. Technology regulation and redistribution proposals.</p> <p>New indigenous, Afro and other forms of activism</p> <p>New languages and forms of human and post-human activism.</p>
Meso	<p>The decline/dismantling of States (capacities, administrations, public-social policies, erosion of fiscal-tax agreements).</p> <p>The decline of democratic systems (growth of autocratic tendencies).</p> <p>The decline of traditional representation/mediation: antipolitical attitudes, distrust and loss of legitimacy of political parties, unions, corporations.</p> <p>Few versus many: flexible yet entrenched elites; withdrawal from public life; mass, digital mobilization without intermediaries.</p> <p>The compensatory role of the heteronormative family amid State adjustment and decline</p> <p>The growth of anti-rights ultraconservatism.</p>	<p>Fiscal activism; possibilities and obstacles to redistribution</p> <p>Collective mandates.</p> <p>Polling vs. deliberation.</p> <p>The renewal of democratic innovations: changes in light of assessments of democratic innovations since the 2000s.</p> <p>The transformation of the elites: flexible and entrenched networks.</p> <p>The Caring society versus dehumanization (incidence at the macro level).</p> <p>Resistance and innovation to counter anti-rights ultra-conservatives.</p>
Micro	<p>New forms of subjectivity.</p> <p>Changes in religious adherence and spirituality.</p> <p>Changes in discourse.</p>	<p>Post-human identities.</p> <p>The expansion of conservative neopentecostalism versus new hybrid expressions: between pro-rights activist subjectivities (i.e., feminist, human rights) and progressive religious activist subjectivities.</p> <p>The rise of manospheres, <i>incels</i> versus the deconstruction of masculinity.</p> <p>The spread of denialism and <i>fake news</i> versus the emergence of information verification and transparency movements.</p> <p><i>The rise of tradwives, tradfems</i> versus new expressions of dissident sexualities.</p>

## References

Agamben, Giorgio. 1998. *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Translated by Daniel Heller-Roazen. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

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Güezmes García, Ana, Nicole Bidegain Ponte, y María Lucía Scuro. 2023. "Igualdad de género y sociedad del cuidado." *Revista de la CEPAL* 141: 179–192.

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Urbinati, Nadia. 2023. *Pocos contra muchos: El conflicto político en el siglo XXI*. Buenos Aires: Katz Editores.

## Session organization guidelines

One of the main goals of the LASA Congress is to facilitate the highest level of intellectual exchange in the Social Sciences and Humanities around Latin America and the Caribbean. An important condition to meet this goal is to ensure that our sessions incorporate significant levels of diversity with respect to various criteria. These diversity criteria include the institutional affiliations of the panelists, their region of origin, their current career stage, and gender diversity. Not all these criteria can be met in each and every session, but when possible they should be taken into consideration when organizing sessions. A session made up of people from the same institution will be given very low priority or will be rejected. At least two or more institutions should be represented, if possible. Even when a session is focused on a single country, diversity can be found among its participants with people based in different countries. Such diversity can add different perspectives on the same country. Having academics in distinct phases of their careers, from post-graduate students to the most established, facilitates the promotion of productive intellectual networks and the possibility of mentorship. Gender diversity is expected in an association in which women constitute more than half of the membership.

### Permanent subject areas

The Executive Committee or a subcommittee appointed by the Executive Committee will periodically evaluate the permanent subject areas proposed by the program committee to determine their inclusion in the list of permanent subject areas. The program currently has 36 permanent subject areas.

### New subject areas for each congress

The Program Committee may propose specific subject areas it considers relevant in the framework of its programming.

## Important

Before sending a proposal, please review all information about submitting proposals at the following link: <https://lasaweb.org/es/lasa2027/proposals/>

For more information about the paper selection process, please consult the following link: <https://lasaweb.org/es/lasa2027/selection-process/>

You are invited to submit a proposal for a presentation or a panel discussion that addresses the theme of the Congress or any subject related to the program agenda. LASA also receives applications for travel grants for presenters or panelists who qualify. Go to the LASA website to review the eligibility criteria. All proposals for presentations, panel discussions and travel grants should be sent to the LASA Secretary through the online application system before September 9, 2026 at 5 p.m.

**The deadline to submit proposals is September 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. ET.**

Application forms and instructions will be available on the LASA website: <https://lasaweb.org>.

Presentations are not accepted by mail. An email confirmation will be sent immediately upon successful submission of the proposal. If you do not receive it, contact the LASA Secretary before the deadline to confirm your submission, at [lasa@lasaweb.org](mailto:lasa@lasaweb.org).

## Program agenda

Select the most appropriate subject for your proposal from the following list and enter it into the designated space in the proposal submission system. You may only submit one subject. Send your correspondence only to the LASA Secretary.

### Permanent Subject Areas

#### Agrarian and Food Studies

Gabriela Torres-Mazuera, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social

Cátia Grisa, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul

#### Archives, Libraries and Digital Scholarship

Mario Cámara, Universidad Nacional de las Artes

Agustín Ricardo Díez Fischer, Institute for Studies on Latin American Art

Alejandra Celedón, Universidad Diego Portales

#### Art, Music and Performance Studies

María Denise Cobello, Universidad Nacional de las Artes / CONICET / Universidad de Buenos Aires

Ariel Florencia Richards, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Isabella Vergara C., Princeton University

#### Biopolitics and Biopower

Rodrigo José Parrini Roses, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco

Sayak Valencia, El Colegio de la Frontera Norte

Zandra Pedraza Gómez, Universidad de los Andes

#### Childhood and Youth Studies

Valeria Llobet, Universidad Nacional de San Martín

Úrsula Zurita, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales-México

#### Civil Societies and Social Movements

Mónica Dowbor, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul

Ana Natalucci, Universidad Nacional de San Martín

Carlos Torrealba, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

#### Culture, Power and Political Subjectivities

Paola Cortes-Rocca, Universidad Nacional de las Artes / CONICET

Jossianna Arroyo-Martínez, University of Texas at Austin

Paula Serafini, Queen Mary University of London

Maya Aguiluz-Ibargüen, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

#### Democratization and Political Process

Enrique Peruzzoti, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella

Michelle Vieira Fernández, University of Brasilia

Elena Martínez Barahona, Universidad de Salamanca

#### Economics and Political Economy

Heidi Jane Smith, Universidad Iberoamericana

Ivani Vassoler-Froelich, State University of New York-Fredonia

César Castillo-García, Wesleyan University

#### Education

Mauricio Zabalgoitia Herrera, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Alexánder Hincapié, Universidad de San Buenaventura

#### Environment, Nature and Climate Change

Cesar Gamboa, Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales / Universidad de Salamanca

Marcela Torres Wong, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales-México

Rosa Lehmann, Heidelberg University

#### Feminism and Gender Studies

Niki Jonshon, Universidad de la República

Lucía Núñez Rebolledo, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Pascha Bueno Hansen, University of Delaware

#### Film Studies

Carolyn Fornoff, Cornell University

Víctor Manuel López Ortega, Universidad Pedagógica Nacional, Unidad 161 Morelia

Irene Depetris Chauvin, Universidad de Buenos Aires / CONICET

#### Health and Well-being

Jose Ragas, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Robert Murillo, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Rio Grande do Sul

Andrea Figueroa, University of Victoria

#### History and Archaeology

Luis Muro, Field Museum

Sarah Foss, Oklahoma State University

#### Human Rights and Memory

Silvia Dutrénit Bielous, Instituto Mora

Jose Szwako, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

Katherine Hite, Vassar College

#### Indigenous Languages and Literature

Jennifer Cárcamo, University of California-Irvine

María José Rodríguez Pliego, Northwestern University

#### Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants: Epistemologies and Knowledge

Itza Amanda Varela Huerta, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Xochimilco

Joanna Boampong, University of Ghana

Marisol Alcocer Perulero, Universidad Autónoma de Guerrero

#### International Relations/Global Studies

Marianne Marchand, Roger Williams University

Amalia Campos-Delgado, University of Leiden

**Labor Studies**

Cecilia Senén González, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales-Argentina

Ana Miranda, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales-Argentina

**Language and Linguistics**

Cristina Isabel Maymí, University of Texas at Austin

Tania Gomez Retana, CUNY Graduate Center

**Latinx Studies**

Melisa Argañaraz Gomez, University of Connecticut

Eric Macias, American University

Wilin Buitrago Arias, University of Oxford

**Law and Justice**

Marjorie Marona, Universidade Federal do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

Gabriela Cuadrado-Quesada, Institute for Water Education

Rogério Arantes, Universidade de São Paulo

**Literature and Culture**

Macarena Urzúa, Universidad de Santiago de Chile

Martín de Mauro Rucovsky, Universidad de Córdoba

Andrea Jeftanovic, Universidad de Santiago de Chile

Irina Troconis, Cornell University

Esther Whitfield, Brown University

**Literature Studies: Colonial/19th century**

Alejandra Uslenghi, Northwestern University

Rocio Quispe-Agnoli, Michigan State University

**Literature Studies: 20th/21st centuries**

Mário Augusto Medeiros da Silva, Universidade Estadual de Campinas

Eleonora Cróquer Pedrón, 17, Instituto de Estudios Críticos

**Mass Media and Popular Culture**

Giuliana Cassano, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

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**Migration and Refugees**

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**Otros saberes and Alternative Methods**

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**Public and Social Policies**

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Sara Niedzwiecki, University of California-Santa Cruz

Zoila Ponce de León, Pittsburgh University

**Race and Ethnicities**

Gisela Carlos Fregoso, Universidad de Guadalajara

A. Tito Mitjans Alayon, Colectivo para Eliminar el Racismo en México /Universidad Iberoamericana

Osmundo Pinho, Universidade Federal da Bahia- Salvador

Isabela Fraga, Tufts University

**Religion, Politics and Society**

Gabriela Arguedas Ramírez, Universidad de Costa Rica

Elaine Penagos, Trinity University

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**Security and Violence**

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Yadira Galvez Salvador, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

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**Sexualities and LGBTI Studies**

Javier Fernandez Galeano, Universitat de València

Mir Yarfitz, Wake Forest University

Cole Rizki, University of Virginia

**Urban Studies**

Marcela Meneses Reyes, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Luisa Sotomayor, University of Toronto

**New for LASA2027**

**América Latina en el reordenamiento mundial**

Aldo Panfichi Huamán, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

Ernesto Isunza Vera, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social-Golfo

**Representación, participación y activismos en tiempos de colapso**

Rebecca Abers, Universidade de Brasília

Karina Bárcenas Barajas, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

**Cuidar lo común en contextos de desmantelamiento**

Rossana Castiglioni, Universidad Diego Portales

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Maria Cecilia Rossel, Universidad Católica de Uruguay

**Revolución digital, conocimiento y cultura en tiempos de policrisis**

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Azucena Castro, Rice University

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