

## LASA expresses concern about the conditions of scientific research in Argentina

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The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) expresses concern about the situation of scientific research and the academic community in Argentina.

[The Argentine government has decided to abolish the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation and replace it with a lower-ranking Secretariat of Innovation, Science and Technology.](#) Alongside this decision, it has extended last year's budget of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (Conicet), which implies that it will only have resources to function until the middle of this year. This scenario has created significant uncertainty among researchers, particularly among younger ones. Conicet has postponed the publication of the results of the competition for approximately 300 scholarships for doctoral studies completion, and there is even more uncertainty regarding 1,300 doctoral scholarships, entry into the research careers, as well as the freezing of promotions in scientific careers.

LASA understands the complex economic situation that the Argentine government must confront but emphasizes that scientific capacity is essential for promoting the welfare and development of our societies. Similarly, research in Social Sciences and Humanities is crucial for developing effective public policies in key areas and priority objectives such as poverty reduction, citizen security and the consolidation of the rule of law.

With a historical tradition of more than six decades and today comprising more than 10,000 researchers, 11,000 doctoral and postdoctoral fellows and more than 2,600 technicians, Conicet is the backbone of Argentina's scientific research system. Attempts to impose partisan agendas have failed in the past and will continue to fail in the future, as they overlook the ideological and epistemological diversity of the Argentine scientific community and its fundamental role in society.

The destruction and threat to similar organizations in other Latin American countries, such as the case of the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (Conicet) in Venezuela; the blocking of funds to both the National Fund for Scientific and Technological Development (FNDCT) and the Coordination of Higher Level Personnel Training (CAPES) in Brazil, occurred in the period 2019-2022. These are examples that offer a dramatic lesson of the high cost paid by societies that defund their scientific communities. In fact, as pointed out by the [United Nations](#), this defunding affects the fulfillment of more than 50% of the goals for 2030, outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by that organization.

LASA urges the Argentine government and all governments in the region to intensify their efforts to support the production of new knowledge about and from Latin America.

- [El Conicet postergó las convocatorias a becas hasta contar con nuevo presupuesto y denuncian despidos](#)
- [El ajuste de Milei en el Conicet: desfinanciamiento, becas suspendidas y despidos](#)
- [Support for the integrity of Argentina's science system \(ISC\)](#)
- [La comunidad científica mundial manifiesta su apoyo a la ciencia argentina](#)
- [Siguen los reclamos internacionales para que Milei no desmantele el sistema científico](#)

## About LASA

The Latin American Studies Association (LASA) is the world's largest professional association constituted by individuals and institutions devoted to the study of Latin America and the Caribbean. LASA currently has over 13,000 members from around the world and a committee that defends academic freedom and human rights.

If you wish to interview a LASA Executive Council member, you can contact the LASA communications office at (412) 648-7929 or send an email to [lasa@lasaweb.org](mailto:lasa@lasaweb.org).

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