

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS · JUSTLA MID CONFERENCE

REIMAGINING JUSTICE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Normativity, Politics, and Society · Mid Conference

**24 — 27 NOV ·
2026**

UNIVERSITY OF CAMPINAS · UNICAMP ·
BRAZIL

SUBMISSION DEADLINE **July 27, 2026** Notification of acceptance: August 20, 2026

Liberal democracies are increasingly confronted with structural crises. Several mutually reinforcing dynamics - extreme levels of economic inequality, intensifying anthropogenic climate change, large-scale migration and the hardening of border regimes, digital transformations that fragment the public sphere, the emergence of new forms of populism and authoritarianism, and the collapse of the post-Second World War international order - are reshaping citizens' normative expectations, the material and political conditions of social life, and the patterns of social recognition upon which democratic legitimacy depends. Although the crises affecting democratic societies also have contingent causes, often stemming from the failure to fully realize the values and promises of liberal democracy, it is increasingly evident that their historical, structural, and systemic dimensions cannot be adequately addressed without reimagining the paradigm of justice that took shape over the course of the twentieth century. This challenge calls for a multidisciplinary reflection capable of engaging, at once, the normative foundations of justice, the institutional conditions of democratic life, and the social conflicts through which claims to equality, freedom, recognition, and belonging are articulated.

These concerns will be at the core of the mid-term conference of the Horizon-MSCA Staff Exchanges project *Justice in the XXI Century: A Perspective from Latin America – JUSTLA*

(Grant Agreement No. 101183054 - Coordinator University of Catania - DSPS). Bringing together seven European universities, eleven Latin American academic institutions, and approximately 150 scholars, JUSTLA seeks to foster North–South academic dialogue and to develop new lines of inquiry in political theory capable of challenging and broadening the dominant liberal paradigm of justice. The mid-term conference aims to create an interdisciplinary and transregional forum for rethinking justice in the twenty-first century from situated perspectives, with particular attention to how democracy, inequality, migration, the climate crisis, digital governance, recognition, and social resistance are transforming the conceptual and institutional grammar of justice. Rather than treating Latin America merely as a site of application for established theories, the event seeks to place Latin American experiences, conflicts, and critical traditions at the center of a broader effort to reconstruct the normative vocabulary through which justice is theorized today.

The conference is organized in partnership with the National Institute of Science and Technology for Studies on the United States - INCT-INEU, the Program of Political Science at the University of Campinas (Unicamp), and the projects Crossing Boundaries: Migration and the Shaping of Global Political Theory (FAPESP, Grant No. 2024/12506-0) and Embedding Justice: New Frameworks of Social and Climate Justice in Contemporary Political Theory (FAPESP Grant no. 2025/09557-5). It is designed not only as a space for presenting ongoing research but also as a platform for building a shared research agenda across political theory, political science, international relations, law, and related fields. Its central objective is to advance a collective reflection on the limits of inherited paradigms of justice and to formulate new conceptual, methodological, and political tools for understanding the democratic possibilities of the present.

In this regard, we invite contributions from philosophy, political theory, law, sociology, and related disciplines organized around six thematic working groups:

THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

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| 01. Democracy, Constitutionalism, Law, and the Reconfiguration of the State | 02. Inequalities, Political Economy, and Distributive Justice |
| 03. Recognition, Social Conflict, Protest, and Forms of Resistance | 04. Digital Politics, Populism, and Authoritarianism |
| 05. Climate Justice, Green Transitions, and Historical Reparations | 06. Global Justice, Borders, Migration, and Historical Inequalities |

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Abstracts should be 250-300 words, include up to 5 keywords, and clearly outline the argument and its relevance to the conference themes. Please include a short bio (max. 150 words) with your institutional affiliation, academic position, contact information, and the working group where, in your opinion, your paper falls. The conference will be held in person at the **University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Instituto de Filosofia e Ciências Humanas (IFCH), from November 24 to 27, 2026**. The official language is English. There is no registration fee.

Online Form:

🌐 Reimagining Justice in the 21st Century: Normativity, Politics, and Society

Queries: justla.midconference@gmail.com

CONFIRMED KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Alvaro Bianchi – Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Brazil)

Brandon Terry – Harvard University (USA)

Camilo Burian Lopes – Universidad de la República (Uruguay)

Christian Schemmel – The University of Manchester (UK)

Corinna Mieth – Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany)

Darrel Moellendorf – Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main (Germany)

David F. L. Gomes – Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (Brazil)

Luigi Caranti – Università degli Studi di Catania (Italy)

Maria Fernanda Novo – Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

María Pía Lara – Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (Mexico)

Matheus Gato – Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Brazil)

Roberto Gargarella – Universidad Torcuato Di Tella (Argentina) / Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain)

Yara Frateschi – Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Brazil)

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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