



**Call for Research Contest
FLACSO Argentina - Aurora Humanitarian Initiative**

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND PRAXIS OF GRATITUDE

General bases

1. Presentation

Social movements, both in Latin America and in the rest of the world, represent a new way of understanding the political dimension of social practices and the place of diverse groups focused on public advocacy. These groups appeal to different senses of action, of commitment to the neighbor, of social transformation, which give greater place to the sense of collaboration, to the daily and microsocial dynamics and to the new political subjects. These subjects are part of a process of complementing the role of traditional actors, such as the State, political parties, NGOs, etc. The idea of gratitude in action is installed as an ethical notion that circumscribes the political definition of these spaces, not only from notions such as ideology or militancy, but rather from an ethic of reciprocity, which evokes a commitment from the notion of risk, vulnerability and moral response to the humanitarian crisis.

The research contest ***Social Movements and Praxis of Gratitude*** aims to qualitatively contribute to a conceptual and empirical reflection on gratitude as a motivation for action in contemporary social movements in Latin America that act in the field of defense of human rights, civil and economic. Studies are expected to contribute to the investigation of symbolic and practical forms in which the social value of gratitude is manifested in the collective actions of social movements in specific cultural, political and economic settings and in themes, among others, such as migrations, ethnic groups, education, housing or environmental problems and collective health.

The general purpose of this project is to make visible in the regional and international academic community the collaboration agreement between FLACSO Argentina and the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative (IHA) through the promotion of three subsidies for social and humanistic research. The contest is aimed at professionals in the field of social and human sciences, there being no conditions in the age limit or academic degree obtained. The projects are individual. The dates of presentation of the research projects extend between **December 10, 2017 and March 16, 2018**.

The three best research proposals will be selected by an ad hoc Evaluation Committee composed of specialists. The amount of the subsidy for each selected project is US \$ 3,000. The investigation must be carried out in 5 months, between April 16 and August 17, 2018.

2. Main Objectives

1. Contribute to the definition of the notion of gratitude in action as an operative category for social analysis and humanistic reflection.

2. Update knowledge about social movements in Latin America and their ways of linking with the State and civil society based on their ethical philosophies and concrete practices.
3. Consolidate regional information tools that allow influencing national and international agendas in the area of social movements.
4. Promote the exchange of experiences among the regions, mainly the link between the Global South and the Global North, mediated by the action of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative in promoting a new humanitarian movement based on the philosophy of gratitude.

3. Areas of inquiry

The projects submitted for selection must submit original contributions in one or more of the following domains:

1. **Theoretical**: conceptual reflection in social, political or philosophical theory about the role of the feeling of gratitude and reciprocity in the practice of social movements, especially in what implies the incidence in instances of vulnerability and humanitarian risk. Keywords: gratitude, reciprocity, empathy, hospitality, morality.
2. **Empirical**: case study from the social and human sciences approach that provides methodological tools for the analysis of how gratitude is expressed in the action of a Latin American social movement. Keywords: gratitude, Latin America, social organizations, civil society
3. **Applied**: proposals for a social impact project that aspires to install the notion of praxis of gratitude as the guiding idea of its philosophy, organization and effective practice. Keywords: gratitude, applied project, social impact, transfer.

4. Stages

The contest presents four correlated stages:

1. Presentation of a research project (Spanish language) to compete in the contest according to the guidelines indicated in the previous points and the stipulated formats and times (see points 5 and 6 respectively).
2. Presentation of the project in the *Seminar on Social Movements and Praxis of Gratitude* to be held at FLACSO on April 24, 2018 (Spanish language).
3. Presentation of a research advance and general thesis in the *Aurora 2018 Dialogues*, to be held in Yerevan, Armenia, between June 8 and 10, 2018 (English language).
4. Presentation of the final document of the investigation on August 17, 2018 (Spanish language).

5. Extension and presentation formats

- Stages 1 and 2: extension between 5,000 and 6,000 words (does not include bibliography and annexes). The proposals must include: objectives, work hypothesis, state of the matter, feasibility and work schedule.
- Stage 3: extension between 6,000 and 7,000 words (does not include bibliography and annexes). The document must contain the objectives, hypothesis, general thesis and progress of the investigation in progress.
- Final document: extension between 13,000 and 14,000 words (does not include bibliography and annexes). The article must present the development and conclusion of the research carried out according to the writing and argumentation standards of the social and human sciences.
- General format of presentations: Source TNR 12, space 1,5, Sheet A4, normal margins.

6. Schedule

- Announcement of the call and deadline for submission: December 11, 2017 to March 16, 2018
- Selection of the proposals by the Jury: April 9, 2018
- Communication of the selected works: April 10, 2018

- Start of the investigation: April 16, 2018
- Presentation of the Project in the Seminar Social Movements and Praxis of Gratitude: April 24, 2018
- Presentation of the thesis and progress of the research in the Aurora 2018 Dialogues: June 8-10, 2018
- Delivery of the final document of the investigation: August 17, 2018.

7. Conformation of the jury

According to the variety and number of projects presented, the corresponding juries will be defined. The members of the jury will be announced on March 16, 2018 at the close of the call.

Coordination Team

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