

CALL
LAI Alumni Network Meeting
and Co-Writing Challenge 2024

Topic:

“Polycrisis in Latin America.

The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic and its Interconnectedness
in the Context of Global and Regional Crisis“

When and where: July 8-12, 2024, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
Application deadline: March 15, 2024

The Latin American Institute invites its Alumni 2024 to a network meeting. This year's alumni program considers the concept of "polycrisis" (Morin, 1999; Tooze, 2022) and focuses on the current situation of Latin American countries in a global context. The Covid-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and its consequences, wars, and geopolitical tensions with far-reaching effects on trade and international political alliances determine the immediate present. However, the term "polycrisis" does not merely refer to the coexistence of disparate shocks, but to their global and regional interdependencies and their complex interlocking consequences and causes. The crisis scenario thus becomes greater than the sum of its components. The multiple economic and social problems, the threat of climate crises, impending ecological tipping points, fragile democracies and ever faster transformation processes require new solutions and resilience.

Latin America has been one of the regions most affected by the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide. The pandemic hit the countries of Latin America at a time of major economic, ecological, and social crises. The explanation for the consequences of the pandemic must therefore also be sought in the interaction of multiple crisis scenarios, which became particularly visible in many countries during the COVID-19 pandemic and exacerbated poverty and social inequalities.

The international alumni meeting of the Latin American Institute will address the relevance of this scenario of multiple crisis thematically and by promoting concrete scientific publication projects of the alumni with the connections and effects of these crises in the context of Latin America. In addition, the LAI Alumni Program 2024 offers the opportunity for further academic training, the development of scientific projects and networking with international alumni, researchers, and students of the LAI in Berlin.

The methodological focus of the Alumni Meeting 2024 is the collaborative writing of scientific texts. Alumni apply with scientific co-writing projects in groups of two to a maximum of four people. As part of a workshop on academic writing methodology, they receive impulses through structured inputs on collaborative writing as well as focused writing time to continue working on the texts. Therefore, writing projects should be sufficiently advanced for productive work on the text in Berlin. In addition, the alumni meeting program includes academic exchange and peer feedback on the writing projects, as well as networking and mentoring events at the Latin American Institute.

The overarching goal of the program is the strategic development of the international alumni work of the Latin American Institute through the consolidation and expansion of an international network and by

means of the Alumni mentoring program that brings alumni into exchange with students and researchers of the LAI and thus lays the foundation for a sustainable international network.

Program of the LAI Alumni Meeting 2024

- Training in academic writing and co-writing
- Presentation of writing projects and professional exchange in the format of a colloquium
- Mentoring with LAI students and researchers
- Networking activities and cultural program in Berlin

Language(s)

Presentations should be held in Spanish or English; the writing workshop will be held in English. Spanish, English, Portuguese, and German are welcome as languages of the LAI alumni meeting and its discussion contributions.

Participation requirements

Groups of two to four participants with specific writing or publication projects are encouraged to attend. We especially encourage groups with collaborative writing projects between alumni and current LAI researchers to apply. Group members should not be working at the same university. International and interdisciplinary groups will be preferred. Applicants should provide evidence of initial collaboration, be able to work on a manuscript in Berlin and to present their writing project in a well-founded manner. Finally, it should be noted that writing projects in the field of polycrises can be both scientific publications and applications for funding for scientific projects. Possible preliminary work can also be submitted.

Further requirements:

You are an alumna of the Latin American Institute (LAI) of Freie Universität Berlin and have studied, taught or researched at the LAI for at least 3 months.

We consider alumni of the LAI:

- graduates of the Masters or Magister of the LAI
- former doctoral students and graduates of international graduate programs
- former exchange students and doctoral candidates
- former visiting researchers
- former visiting professors and lecturers

- Proven interest and a concrete writing project with the focus of the Alumni Meeting (see above).
- Relevant professional experience and current work in research, policy (consulting) or international cooperation.
- The possibility to travel to Berlin and to attend the entire program of the alumni meeting in Berlin (see above).

Funding and support

Participation in the LAI Alumni Program 2024 is free of charge for you.

The program funds cover your costs of travel to and from Berlin, hotel accommodation, tickets for public transport in Berlin and travel health insurance. Costs incurred for visas can be covered by arrangement.

A *per diem* of 96.00 euros can be paid to participants upon arrival in Berlin, provided they arrange their own accommodation and do not book a hotel through the alumni program.

Meals during the program will be partially financed. Any other costs are to be borne by the alumni or their organizations.

Application and selection

1. Application form, must be submitted by each group member. Download [here](#).

The form contains:

- a short CV (max. 250 words, fully formulated)
- a project description (max. 450 words) and bibliography
- The application forms must be submitted by all group members.

2. A manuscript of the writing project in its current state (pdf-file attached to the mail with your application).

3. A scan/photo of your valid passport

4. Please register online in the alumni network [Red LAI Alumni](#).

5. Please send your complete application documents by **March 15, 2024** to alumni@lai.fu-berlin.de
(Incomplete applications or applications received after this date will no qualify)

If you have any further questions, please contact alumni@lai.fu-berlin.de.

The results of the application process will be announced by mid-April 2024.

The LAI Alumni Program is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and receives support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).