

**Mecila:**

## Call For Applications Mecila Doctoral Researcher 2025

**Mecila**, the *Maria Sibylla Merian Centre Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America*, is one of five international centres for advanced studies in the humanities and social sciences financed by the **German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)** in cooperation with local institutions and funding agencies. Mecila is an academic consortium composed of three German institutions: **Freie Universität Berlin** (coordination), **Universität zu Köln**, and **Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut** (Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz); and four Latin American institutions: **Universidade de São Paulo**, **Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento**, **El Colegio de México**, and **Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales** (CONICET / Universidad Nacional de La Plata). Mecila's **headquarters** are in **São Paulo**, Brazil.

Mecila offers up to **6 scholarships to PhD Students enrolled in a doctoral program of Freie Universität Berlin, Universität zu Köln, Universidade de São Paulo, El Colegio de México and Universidad Nacional de La Plata** for **research stays of 5 months** (between June and November 2025) in **São Paulo**, Brazil.

Mecila studies the multiple interrelations of **conviviality** and **inequality** from an interdisciplinary perspective. It focuses on processes of negotiation, legitimation, contestation, and transformation of existing hierarchies as they take place in everyday interactions and within institutions. The historical, environmental, economic, social, and political contexts in which these interactions occur, as well as their representations, are of central relevance. Mecila is organised into three Research Areas **(a) [Hi]Stories of Conviviality**; **(b) Medialities of Conviviality** and **(c) Politics of Conviviality**. The project, the doctoral students will develop during their research stay in São Paulo will be attached to one of the Research Area. For more information on Mecila see <https://mecila.net/>

The **monthly allowances** depend on the personal situation of the selected Doctoral Researcher. For Doctoral Researcher from Freie Universität Berlin, Universität zu Köln, El Colegio de México and Universidad Nacional de La Plata **travel costs** (return Economy flight ticket) from city of home institution to São Paulo will be paid. Scholarships or salary payments must be interrupted during the duration of the Mecila sponsorship or in case this is not possible, will be taken into account.

**Responsibilities:** During their stay in São Paulo doctoral students should pursue research related to one of the Research Areas and Mecila's overall thematic profile. They should participate actively in the Centre's activities in São Paulo and engage in interdisciplinary exchange. They are required to carry out activities relevant to their dissertation during their term (completion of at least one dissertation chapter, library or archival research in São Paulo or collection of empirical data in São Paulo).

**Selection process:** Interested PhD Students enrolled in a doctoral program at FU Berlin under supervision (Erstgutachten) or co-supervision (Zweitgutachten) of a faculty member of the Institute for Latin American Studies (LAI) are invited to submit an application in a single PDF-Document **until 16 December 2024** sent to: Dr. Raquel Rojas (raquel.rojas@fu-berlin.de)

The **application must** include:

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- Letter of motivation with envisaged contribution to Mecila,
- CV with publication list,
- Supervisor's recommendation letter,
- Proof of enrolment in a PhD program of the Mecila consortium member
- In case they receive o scholarship or grant: Proof of that scholarship/grant
- Doctoral proposal (exposé) or dissertation chapter,
- Workplan for the stay at Mecila