

Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Graduate Workshop:

Governance, Inequality, and Civic Life



Call for Applications

The Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) is pleased to announce the *Latin American and Caribbean Studies Graduate Workshop*, made possible through a grant from the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP). This year-long, interdisciplinary, and methodologically pluralistic workshop is designed to strengthen PhD student research and training while building a community of scholars across social science departments whose work focuses on Latin America and the Caribbean.

ILAS serves as a bridge between disciplinary inquiry and regional expertise, fostering community and comparative engagement among scholars of Latin America and the Caribbean, fostering sustained interdisciplinary conversations on pressing political, social, and economic issues within Columbia's broader social science ecosystem. Leveraging the Institute's strengths, this Workshop will create a unique opportunity for the intellectual and professional development of graduate students engaged in social science research.

Workshop Structure: The Workshop for 2026 focuses on the overarching themes of *Governance, Inequality, and Civic Life*. A small cohort of selected graduate students will meet regularly to present and refine works-in-progress with peers and faculty coordinators. This represents a unique opportunity for graduate students to receive focused feedback through interdisciplinary dialogue and provides new structured opportunities for student training, intellectual development, and professional networking.

The workshop will meet in person twice per semester during the 2026 calendar year to workshop pre-circulated papers or dissertation chapters. The ILAS Director and a Faculty Co-Coordinator from Columbia University will guide the discussion during each two-hour session. Food will be provided during each meeting.

The Workshop will culminate in a day-long seminar in the Fall of 2026, featuring leading social science scholars from outside Columbia University who will be invited to comment on the work that students will have revised throughout the year.

Application Process and Eligibility: Through a competitive application process, a cohort of six to eight PhD students from across the social sciences will be invited to form part of the Workshop. We will prioritize social science students, but given the Workshop's deeply interdisciplinary nature, it will also consider PhD student applications whose research has a strong social component from other departments and schools, including, but not limited to, the School of International and Public Affairs, the Mailman School of Public Health, the Climate School, the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Teachers College, and the Department of Latin American and Iberian Cultures.

Eligible participants must have successfully defended their dissertation prospectus and have conducted at least a sustained period of preliminary collection and analysis of empirical data prior to the start of the Workshop.

To apply, students should fill out this [brief Google form](#). The form requests basic background information as well as brief information on your dissertation research focus and main geographic and thematic research interests.

The deadline for students to apply is Friday, January 23rd.

For any questions about the Workshop or the application process, please reach out to Romina Kotsamanidis (rq2148@columbia.edu)

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