FÓRUM BRASILEIRO DE SEGURANÇA PÚBLICA

Call for Applications: FAPESP Postdoctoral Fellowship

Project "Analysis of the Methodology and Cost Estimate of the Pena Justa Plan"

FAPESP grant 2025/28398-5 · Public Policy Research Program · Principal Investigator and supervisor: Renato Sérgio de Lima · Published: 21 October 2026

English translation of the official call (Edital), published in Portuguese. In case of any discrepancy, the Portuguese version prevails.

Please note: the interview (stage 2) is conducted in Portuguese.

The Brazilian Forum on Public Safety (Fórum Brasileiro de Segurança Pública, FBSP) announces the selection of 1 (one) Postdoctoral Fellow, with a fellowship from the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), to work on the project above. The selection follows FAPESP rules for Postdoctoral Fellowships and for Fellowships as a Budget Item of Research Grants.

1. The project

The project is developing a replicable methodology to estimate the cost of implementing the Pena Justa Plan in the 26 Brazilian states and the Federal District. The Pena Justa Plan was drafted under the coordination of the National Council of Justice and the National Secretariat of Penal Policies of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, in response to the Supreme Federal Court ruling in ADPF 347, which recognized an "unconstitutional state of affairs" in the Brazilian prison system.

The research combines document analysis of the state and Federal District plans, supervised use of artificial intelligence, standardization of reference costs, comparison with the cost of expanding prison capacity, and analysis of states' budget capacity based on their budget laws. The project also includes workshops with penal policy managers.

2. Fellow's research plan

Title: The Pena Justa Plan and the strengthening of penal policies in Brazil: methodological contributions to overcoming the security-driven model centered on incarceration.

The fellow will be responsible for the conceptual and institutional dimension of the costing methodology. Activities include:

- document review of the state and Federal District plans and analysis of their alignment with the National Plan;
- literature review on penal policies, prison policy and cost estimation in public policies;
- development of indicators and technical review of the results of artificial intelligence processing;
- input for reference values, for the zero prison-deficit scenario and for the analysis of state budget laws;
- planning and conducting workshops with penal policy managers;
- fieldwork with state penal services, including technical visits to management bodies and penal facilities and interviews with managers and staff, when required for the research;
- in the second year, a comparative analysis of state implementation arrangements for the Pena Justa Plan and of their relationship with the estimated cost and financial feasibility;
- preparation of funding recommendations, a methodological guide for replication, reports and scientific articles;

- outreach and teaching activities related to the project.

The project's statistical calculations will be carried out with specialized technical support. The fellow is expected to define categories, criteria and parameters and to validate the results.

3. Fellowship terms

- **Duration:** 24 months.
- **Monthly stipend:** BRL 12,570.00, according to the FAPESP Table of Fellowship Values in Brazil in force since 1 August 2025. The stipend will follow the FAPESP fellowship table in force and the conditions applicable to the grant.
- **Research Contingency Fund** (Reserva Técnica), under FAPESP rules, for expenses directly related to the research.
- **Relocation allowance** (Auxílio Instalação), when the fellow needs to move to the city of the Host Institution, according to FAPESP rules.
- Other benefits provided for in FAPESP rules, such as maternity or paternity leave and reimbursement of social security contributions, under FAPESP conditions.
- **Location:** FBSP headquarters, in São Paulo (SP), with regular in-person interaction with the project team.
- **Expected start:** 1 December 2026 (subject to review and approval of the nomination by FAPESP).

The fellowship does not create an employment relationship with FBSP or with FAPESP.

4. Mandatory requirements

1. PhD degree obtained less than 7 (seven) years ago, in Brazil or abroad, except under the conditions set out in FAPESP Ordinance PR No. 171/2024 (leave due to childbirth or adoption, disability, temporary incapacity, or intensive care of sick, elderly or disabled persons). Candidates who have not yet completed their PhD may apply. Proof of completion is mandatory by the time the fellowship is accepted.
2. During the fellowship, FAPESP rules on exclusive dedication and the prohibition of holding other positions or income apply, subject to any exceptions FAPESP may authorize under its regulations.
3. Place of work: FBSP headquarters, in São Paulo (SP), with participation in in-person activities and regular interaction with the project team, according to the work plan.
4. Candidates must meet FAPESP regularity requirements applicable to the award of the fellowship, where relevant.
5. Foreign candidates: obtaining, under their own responsibility, the documents required to enter and stay in Brazil.

5. Desired profile

The items below guide the assessment, but none of them is eliminatory:

- background in sociology, political science, law, economics, public administration or related fields;
- research on penal policies, sentence enforcement, the prison system or the criminal justice system;
- knowledge of the Pena Justa Plan, ADPF 347 and the organization of penal policies in Brazilian states;
- experience with public policy analysis, public budgets or cost estimation;
- experience with qualitative and documentary methods and with dialogue with public managers;

- relevant scientific and technical output, considered as a whole and in relation to the candidate's career path;
- international research experience and fluent reading in English are an advantage.

6. Impediments and conflicts of interest

- Candidates who have a close family relationship with the Principal Investigator and supervisor of the fellowship may not be nominated, in accordance with FAPESP rules.
- Members of the selection committee must declare any conflicts of interest regarding the candidates. A member with a conflict capable of compromising their impartiality will be barred from taking part in the assessment and decision on that application. Impediments and the measures taken will be recorded in the minutes.

7. Application and documents

Applications are free of charge and must be sent exclusively by email to **recrutamento@forumseguranca.org.br**, with the subject line "Edital PD Pena Justa – [candidate's name]". Documents must be sent as PDF files:

1. Curriculum summary in the FAPESP format (*Súmula Curricular*, fapesp.br/5266) and a link to the Lattes CV, if available;
2. PhD diploma or record of the thesis defense; for those who have not yet defended, a statement from the graduate program with the expected defense date;
3. official document containing the complete PhD academic transcript;
4. cover letter of up to 2 pages, explaining how the candidate's background fits the research plan;
5. work proposal of up to 3 pages, indicating how the candidate would approach the comparative analysis of state implementation arrangements for the Pena Justa Plan planned for the second year.

Incomplete applications or applications sent after the deadline will not be considered.

8. Selection process

The selection will be conducted by a committee chaired by the Principal Investigator and composed of two other members, at least one of whom is external to FBSP. Members with a conflict of interest regarding any candidate will declare themselves barred from assessing that application.

Stage	Criteria	Weight
1. Document review eliminatory and classificatory	Career path and scientific output (40%); work proposal (35%); cover letter and fit with the plan (25%). Score from 0 to 10. Up to 5 candidates with a score of 7.0 or higher proceed to stage 2.	60% of the final score
2. Interview classificatory	Command of the subject, consistency of the proposal, capacity for institutional dialogue and teamwork. Remote, in Portuguese, up to 40 minutes. Score from 0 to 10.	40% of the final score

The committee will apply the criteria and weights set out in this call and will record the scores and the justification for the final ranking. In case of a tie, priority will be given, in this order, to: the most recent PhD;

international research experience; the highest score for the work proposal. The committee will record in the minutes the justification for the choice, which will be included in the nomination submitted to FAPESP.

9. Timeline

Stage	Date
Publication of the call	21 October 2026
Application deadline	6 November 2026, 23:59 (Brasília time, UTC−3)
Stage 1 results	9 November 2026
Interviews	10 November 2026
Final results	11 November 2026
Deadline for requests for reconsideration	13 November 2026
Submission of the nomination to FAPESP	by 16 November 2026
Expected start of the fellowship	1 December 2026, subject to FAPESP approval

Results will be communicated by email to all candidates. Duly substantiated requests for reconsideration may be sent within 2 business days after the final results, to the same application address.

10. Final provisions

1. The award of the fellowship depends on review and approval of the nomination by FAPESP. Selection under this call does not guarantee the award.
2. The fellow must comply with FAPESP rules for Postdoctoral Fellowships, including the submission of scientific reports, participation in the Mentoring Program for Research Career Consolidation, the Code of Good Scientific Practice and the Open Access Policy.
3. This selection process is valid for 12 months from publication and may be used to replace the fellow during that period, subject to the ranking order, the availability of the fellowship and FAPESP approval.
4. The call will be published on the FAPESP Opportunities portal and in widely visible international outlets in the field.
5. Cases not covered by this call will be resolved by the selection committee, in accordance with FAPESP rules.
6. Questions may be sent to the application address up to 3 days before the deadline.

São Paulo, 21 October 2026.

Renato Sérgio de Lima
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