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REVISTA LATINOAMERICANA
DE CIENCIAS SOCIALES, NIÑEZ Y JUVENTUD

Special Issue Call for Papers

Youth, Generational Renewal, and the New Right: Subjectivities, Political Cultures, and Emerging Forms of Mobilization

Volume 25, Issue 3 (September–December 2027)

Call opens: First week of July 2026

Submission deadline: January 13, 2027

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Over the past decade, **radical right-wing, conservative, and libertarian political movements** have experienced significant expansion across different regions of the world. Latin America has



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not been immune to this process. The emergence of new right-wing political organizations, leaderships, repertoires of collective action, and digital communities has coincided with increasing participation by young people in political spaces traditionally associated with older generations, as well as with the rise of new profiles of party militants, activists, influencers, and political entrepreneurs.

While a substantial body of scholarship has examined the electoral rise of the new right, its anti-establishment discourses, and its digital communication strategies, we still know relatively little about the generational dimensions of these processes. Is there a generational renewal within the right? What role do young people play in the production, circulation, and legitimization of new political identities, values, and repertoires of collective action? How do the narratives of the new right resonate with the living conditions of younger generations, particularly among sectors affected by economic precarity and insecure labor conditions?

This Special Issue seeks to contribute to these debates by exploring the relationship between youth and the new right from an interdisciplinary perspective. On the one hand, we aim to understand how discourses centered on merit, entrepreneurship, individual freedom, masculinity, the nation, security, the family, and social order resonate among different groups of young people and become expressed through shared sensibilities, public narratives, and political engagement within movements, organizations, and party structures. On the other hand, we seek to examine how these interpretive frameworks intersect with the everyday experiences and ways of life of activists, many of whom are shaped by precarity, inequality, vulnerability, and uncertainty, and who find in the narratives of the new right compelling responses to their social and political concerns. We are also interested in analyzing how the new right provides diagnoses, identities, and horizons of meaning that resonate with young people experiencing political disaffection, economic frustration, or disenchantment with traditional institutions.

This Special Issue also aims to examine the processes of cultural renewal that characterize the contemporary right. Beyond conventional political parties, leaders, and organizations, the new right increasingly manifests itself through cultural ecosystems composed of digital communities,



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content creators, musical groups, the circulation of books, clothing brands, business initiatives, social movements, spaces of sociability, and forms of cultural consumption that contribute to the dissemination, legitimization, and normalization of particular worldviews among younger generations. These spaces function not only as channels for political communication but also as sites of identity formation, the construction of collective belonging, and the circulation of values, emotions, and lifestyles.

Finally, this Special Issue seeks to explore the role of digital technologies in shaping the new right-wing political cultures. Social media platforms, digital infrastructures, algorithmic systems, and, more recently, generative artificial intelligence technologies are profoundly transforming the ways in which political content is produced, circulated, and consumed. The capacity of these technologies to amplify messages, personalize political discourse, foster transnational communities, and generate visual, audio, and textual content at scale raises new questions about contemporary processes of political socialization, radicalization, mobilization, and youth identity formation. In this context, it is essential to examine how the new right appropriates these technologies, incorporates them into its repertoires of political action, and the effects these processes have on the formation of political subjectivities among younger generations.

We understand youth not merely as an age-based category but also as a space for identity formation, political experimentation, cultural production, and the construction of future aspirations. Young people's experiences constitute a particularly significant terrain for examining the tensions between precaritization, uncertainty, individualization, and the search for recognition that characterize contemporary societies. Likewise, we conceive of the new right as a heterogeneous and multidimensional phenomenon that combines political, cultural, economic, affective, religious, and technological dimensions. Understanding these developments requires attention not only to their institutional expressions but also to the everyday practices, cultural consumption, and processes of subject formation through which they generate political support and social legitimacy.



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From this perspective, this Special Issue invites reflection on the multiple ways in which young people participate in the configuration, circulation, and transformation of the contemporary right, as well as on the ways in which these political and cultural currents produce new identities, imaginaries, and forms of collective action. Rather than assuming an automatic relationship between youth and conservatism, or between precarity and radicalization, we seek to explore empirically the mechanisms, mediations, and contexts that make possible the convergence between particular generational experiences and the political projects of the new right. Ultimately, we aim to bring together contributions that enhance our understanding of how the generational, cultural, and technological transformations of our time intersect with the emergence of new actors, sensibilities, and forms of right-wing political mobilization in Latin America and other regions of the world.

Scope

We invite scholars from sociology, political science, anthropology, cultural studies, communication and media studies, social psychology, education, and related disciplines to submit original contributions based on empirical research that deepen our understanding of the relationships between youth and the new right in contemporary contexts. Submissions may include case studies, comparative analyses, literature reviews, theoretical reflections, or methodological innovations.

Thematic Areas

Theoretical and empirical contributions addressing, but not limited to, the following topics are welcome:

1. Generational renewal and right-wing political cultures.
2. Youth, subjectivities, and social experiences.
3. Gender, sexuality, religion, and cultural contestation.
4. Cultural ecosystems, consumption, and lifestyles.



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5. Digital platforms, algorithms, and artificial intelligence.
6. Nationalism, collective identities, and social exclusion.

Origin of the Proposal

This Special Issue emerges from the **Ibero-American Network for Studies on Youth Participation and Activism (RIEPAJ)**, an international academic network that brings together scholars interested in examining the contemporary transformations of youth political participation, emerging political cultures, and the diverse forms of activism developed by new generations across Ibero-America and the Global South.

Additional Information

Languages: Manuscripts are accepted in **Spanish, Portuguese, and English.**

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