

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS

INTERGENERATIONAL MOBILITY IN LATIN AMERICA

I - Context

Latin America is one of the regions with the highest levels of inequality in the world. Despite the improvements achieved during the first decade of 2000, in the last years many countries in the region have shown only mild reductions -or even increments- in their inequality metrics. The economic and social crises triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic threaten to worsen the situation for the years to come.

The inequality in several individual well-being dimensions is strongly correlated with the inequality experienced by the previous generation: living conditions are transmitted in multiple ways from parents to children. Being born in a vulnerable family, in which parents have low educational levels, are employed in low-skill jobs, have accumulated few assets, and reside in unfavorable environments, condition quite strongly the possibilities of reaching higher levels of well-being than those of the previous generation, both in absolute and relative terms.

Understanding which are the main barriers that harm social mobility is essential to design policies that enable Latin-Americans' well-being regardless of their starting points in life. Despite the enormous relevance of these barriers, the research focused on identifying and measuring them is still scarce in the region. One key constraint to deepen the analysis of intergenerational mobility in our region is the limited availability of sources of information linking parents' and their children's measures of well-being (income, education, health, assets, among others).

Policies oriented to promote social mobility in Latin America might be crucial not only to promote social inclusion, but also to improve the allocation of talent in our economies. Both features contribute to more productive, robust and integrated economies. In other words, this more dynamic approach to study the inequality phenomena, which focuses on tackling the persistence of certain aspects across generations, may help to characterize a set of policies able to promote higher levels of both equity and efficiency in Latin American countries.

II – General objective

The current call for projects aims to support research efforts that contribute to the understanding of the intergenerational social mobility patterns in Latin American countries and the mechanisms and policies that can break the persistence of inequalities across generations.

III – Topics

A non-exhaustive list of topics which are of interest for the current call is the following:

- Relationship between inequality and intergeneration mobility
- Relationship between intra and intergenerational mobility
- Mobility and poverty traps
- The role of social protection systems in the intergenerational mobility
- Representation of minorities in decision-making positions in public and private institutions and its consequences on mobility
- New information sources and methodologies to explore intergenerational mobility in different dimensions of individual well-being (income, occupations, education, health, assets and others)
- Mechanisms behind the persistence in human capital accumulation across generations
- Education and social mobility
- Fertility, household composition, teenage pregnancy and intergenerational mobility
- Policies to support vulnerable families in the formation of their children's human capital
- Access to labor opportunities and the role of social networks and family ties
- Relationship between discrimination and income mobility
- Labor informality and mobility
- Spatial-urban factors that open opportunities in the labor market and for human capital accumulation
- Migration and intergenerational mobility
- Entrepreneurship and mobility
- Mechanisms behind the persistence in the (im)possibility of assets accumulation
- Policies of financial inclusion to promote mobility

IV – Budget

A maximum of three prizes will be awarded. Each winning proposal will receive a research grant of up to **USD 15,000** to carry out the project. This grant will be disbursed through a consulting contract signed with any member of the research team or her/their institution. A budget proposal is not required.

V – How to apply

To apply, you should fill this [online form](#) before **February 21**, at 23:59 (Buenos Aires time). (Note that you need a google account in order to apply.) You will have to upload the following three pdf documents:

- (i) Research proposal: it should be **4 pages long at most and 2000 words at most**. We will value a clearly stated research question, and well-suited models, data, and empirical approaches to address the question. Proposals that surpass the maximum length will not be evaluated. The project must produce novel knowledge. The proposal must describe the stage of the project at the time of submission (initial stage, some advances, very advanced).
- (ii) Research team: this document should list the team members, including full names, affiliations, and email addresses.
- (iii) CV of the lead researcher.

We accept multiple submissions by the same research team. Each proposal will be evaluated independently, and more than one proposal per team may be selected.

VI – Activities, deliverables and schedule

Winning proposals will have eight months to complete the project. The time schedule is:

21-feb-2021	Proposal submission deadline .
17-mar-2021	Notification of winning proposals.
27-aug-2021	Submission of the first draft of the working paper, including preliminary results.
Sep-2021	Presentation of the work in progress , in a closed-doors seminar organized by CAF. This seminar will be held in a city in the region (to be defined) and CAF will cover the expenses for economy-class air-fare and lodging for one author per project. If the workshop cannot be held in person, it will take place virtually by means of video-conference.
15-Nov-2021	Final submission , consisting of a completed research paper and a short policy brief highlighting the main results. The paper will be published in the CAF's working paper series, and after that authors may freely submit their papers to any academic journal. Both the paper and the policy brief should follow a template that will be provided by CAF to each winning team.

VII – Selection committee

The committee in charge of the selection decisions will be composed of Francisco H. G. Ferreira (London School of Economics), Hugo Ñopo (GRADE), Lucila Berniell (CAF), Dolores de la Mata (CAF) y Ernesto Schargrodsky (CAF).

VIII – Contact

You can find answers to frequently asked questions in this [document](#). In case any questions remain, please contact us at investigacion@caf.com.