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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CROWN FAMILY SCHOOL OF  
SOCIAL WORK, POLICY, AND PRACTICE  
Advancing a More Just and Humane Society

# LANSUG's Call for Papers for its Second LACSUG Conference

## Subnational Governance in Latin America Building Effective Institutions in Turbulent Times.

Santiago de Chile June 24-26, 2026

Sponsors and Collaborating Institutions



The Latin American Network on Subnational Governance (LANSUG) along with the University of Chile Department of Public Administration and Management, Faculty of Government, and the University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice, is pleased to announce its **Call for Papers** for the second LACSUG Conference “Subnational Governance in Latin America: Building Effective Institutions in Turbulent Times”

The conference will be held at the University of Chile in Santiago de Chile on **June 24-26, 2026**. Following the inaugural conference held in Cartagena, Colombia, in 2024, this second conference marks an important step toward the consolidation of Latin American Network on Subnational Governance (LANSUG), a community of scholars focused on issues of governance, public management, and public administration at the subnational and local levels within Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Scope

Following successive waves of public sector reform, the past two decades have seen a surge of innovative governance strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean (Cejudo 2015; Chudnovsky 2021; Oszlak 2022), with an important expression on subnational levels. Decentralization reforms in the late 1980s and 1990s shifted significant policy responsibilities to subnational governments, that in the last decades have led to the proliferation of hybrid models that involve non-governmental organizations and civil society groups in co-producing public services (Saravia and Gomes 2008; Ramos Larraburu and Milanese 2020; Sanabria-Pulido and Leyva 2023). Since these reforms have accumulated over time, they result in unique combinations of organizational and institutional features that do not always fit neatly into existing categories (Chudnovsky 2021).

Understanding governance modes, policy capacities, and performance at state, municipal, and local levels is essential for fostering broader social well-being across the region (Ospina et al. 2004; Batley et al. 2012; Avellaneda 2023). This comprehension becomes particularly critical in the current context of climate change, migration processes, post-pandemic adaptation, and democratic backsliding. This weakening of political institutions poses significant challenges to subnational governance in a region characterized by both the relevance and diffusion

of certain participatory local policies (Porto de Oliveira, 2017) and territorially uneven democratic progress following the transition from authoritarianism (Eaton & Giraudy, 2025; Giraudy, 2017).

With the aim of strengthening and advancing Latin American research in public management, administration, and policy, the conference organizing committee invites paper proposals on a diverse range of topics related to subnational governance in Latin America and the Caribbean. The organizing committee is particularly interested in work that incorporates perspectives and cases from Latin American and Caribbean contexts, while also seeking to engage with, qualify, or challenge existing theories or findings in public management, administration, or policy.

We are particularly interested in having a **sub-track within the conference around work aiming to develop a shared approach or typology of local governance arrangements present within the region**. Additional relevant topics for the conference include, but are not limited, to:

- Institutional and policy capacity at the subnational level
- Administrative reforms, decentralization and subnational governance
- Drivers and consequences of hybrid service delivery models
- Local leadership, public managers, and management strategies in local government
- Public employment, human resources, and organizational behavior
- Street-level bureaucracy and behavior of civil servants across levels of government
- Policy design and implementation across cases, sectors, and areas of public action
- Technology, algorithmic governance, and AI in subnational governance
- Multilevel governance, intergovernmental relations and network governance
- Ethics, transparency, and corruption in subnational governance
- Drivers and consequences of democratic backsliding and policy dismantling for subnational governance
- Role of city councils and state legislatures in governance and policy making

## Submissions

The organizing committee requests that interested participants submit paper proposals up to 300 words using the following link:

<https://forms.gle/fpzmWHnMFf7Edvh1A>

The **deadline** for submissions is **February 15, 2026**; early submissions are strongly encouraged. Proposal acceptance and scholarship decisions are expected to be finalized by March 2026. Final drafts of all papers to be presented during the conference will be due on June 1, 2026. Questions about the CFP can be directed to: [lacsug.conference@gmail.com](mailto:lacsug.conference@gmail.com)

## Conference Details

- While the **working language** of the conference for presentations and discussions will be **English**, the organizing committee will accept abstract submissions in English, Spanish, or Portuguese.
- **A limited number of stipends will be available** to facilitate travel and participation in the conference for early-career scholars, PhD students, and scholars from underrepresented backgrounds, contingent upon the availability of funding.
- A **registration fee of \$50 USD** is required for participation in the conference. This fee supports the organization of future academic events and enhances the LANSUG network.
- **Full papers** will be due before the conference, on **June 1, 2026**.
- The conference will follow a standard format consisting of panels with 3-5 papers and 12-15 minutes allotted for presentations, followed by discussant comments and audience Q&A.

## Organizing Committee

- Claudia N. Avellaneda, Indiana University Bloomington, USA
- Guillermo M. Cejudo, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, México
- Edgar Ramírez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, USA
- Eduardo Grin, FGV EAESP, Brazil
- Pablo Sanabria-Pulido, Universidad Icesi, Colombia
- Nathalie Méndez, Universidad de los Andes, Colombia
- Alan Zarychta, University of Chicago, USA
- Ricardo A. Bello-Gómez, Rutgers University, USA
- Karina Retamal, Universidad de Chile, Chile