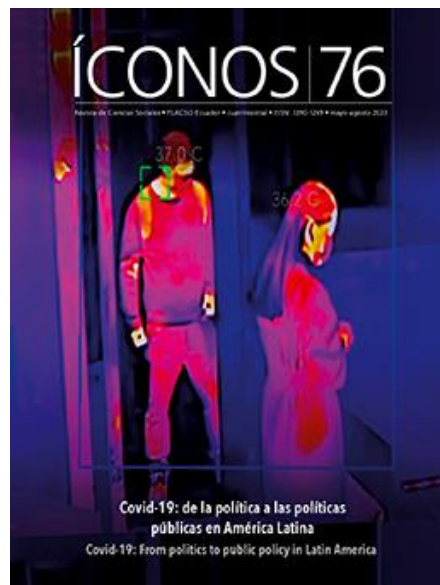


ÍCONOS Revista de Ciencias Sociales

CALL FOR PAPERS

Covid-19: From politics to public policy in Latin America



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Infectious diseases have shaped social evolution in ways no less powerful than wars and economic crises. The pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that began in late 2019 is shaping major changes in contemporary societies. Economic performance and labor relations, in addition to the social ties that generate social fabric, have been significantly impacted during this pandemic. The effects have been felt differentially around the world. As of the first quarter of 2022, about 440 million cases and six million deaths have been recorded. The United Nations reports that because of the spread of the virus progress achieved by economic and social policies over the last 10 to 15 years has retreated, especially in the least developed countries. There is also evidence of changes that may open opportunities for systemic change in the labor dynamics of some industries and for new forms of social cohesion through mechanisms of solidarity and reciprocity.

In the political realm (i.e., competition for resources, collaboration in decision-making, and the exercise of power), the pandemic has forced governments to adjust their short- and medium-term priorities, thus affecting the formulation and implementation of public policies. These changes are expressed in multiple dimensions – relations between branches of government and between them and the media; social movements; and international actors. However, changes have not been homogeneous across sectors. Due to the nature of the phenomenon, there have been immediate changes in the health and education sectors, but other sectors such as agriculture have witnessed somewhat more gradual innovations to adapt to the restrictions and opportunities of the pandemic.

This dossier focuses on the study of the complex interactions between politics and public policy in Latin America. The pandemic is developing in the region in a context of the return of conservative political agendas that pursue the reversal of rights and the reduction of the size of the state and that question the role of scientific knowledge in decision making. At the same time, new leftist political projects are emerging, as in the case of Chile, which is in a process of constitutional change. These and other transformations affect processes of policy formulation and implementation, opening opportunities for certain actors to advance their agendas, whereas others remain on the sidelines. On the other hand, initiatives to respond to the pandemic are influenced by public policies and formal and informal institutions from past decades that reduce the scope of necessary innovations. Taking these considerations into account, the articles for the present dossier may refer to the following topics:

- The shifting role of the state and its forms of intervention in society during the pandemic and the transition to a post-pandemic moment.
- The emergence of political agendas and their translation into new public policies and institutions.
- Conflicts between branches of government and their effects on decision-making processes to manage the pandemic and the transition to a post-pandemic moment.
- Innovations in the public sector for implementing decisions at the national and subnational levels of government, and difficulties in implementing new public policies.
- The development of autonomous initiatives by organizations and social movements to manage the pandemic in the face of the weakness and absence of the state.

Se recibirán contribuciones en español, inglés o portugués, no obstante, los artículos seleccionados se publican en español. La revista aclarará dudas o contribuirá a perfilar las propuestas hasta el inicio del período de recepción de contribuciones.

Los artículos deben ajustarse a la política editorial y a las normas de publicación de la revista (disponibles en www.revistaiconos.ec). Para la selección de artículos se utiliza un sistema de evaluación por lectores pares (*peer review*).

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