

## ÍCONOS Revista de Ciencias Sociales

### CALL FOR PAPERS

### SUBNATIONAL ELECTORAL SYSTEMS IN LATIN AMERICA



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Electoral systems govern local and regional elections. Some formal rules for distributing power are the same as those at the national level, whereas others are specific to subnational competitions. Recent electoral reforms have affected subnational electoral systems in several ways. On the one hand, reforms at the national level have been directly applied at the subnational level as well; on the other hand, other reforms have focused on distinct aspects of subnational rules, without changing national rules. Those systems with electoral federalism represent a third model, whereby national electoral reforms generate a framework of subnational legislative harmonization and requirements.

Although these dynamics shape electoral systems, they have received little attention among researchers, and (comparative) knowledge about their functioning and reform is quite limited. We know little about what subnational electoral systems (broadly conceived) are like or about the multilevel interactions that may occur between different levels of competition.

The objective of this dossier is to strengthen and deepen our knowledge about the design, functioning, effects, and reforms of electoral systems at the subnational level. In a context of increasing importance of subnational elections and differences in partisan dynamics between levels of the political system, it is crucial to better understand what incentives these subnational electoral systems offer to political actors and how and according to what logics these rules are changed.

Existing research is very limited, mostly descriptive and focused on individual countries. Thus, this call is particularly interested in comparative studies of an analytical and/or explanatory nature – whether in federal countries or, especially, in unitary countries – in relation to the effects that these electoral systems may have on other dimensions of the political system.

In recent years, moreover, many changes in electoral systems have been introduced in Latin America, both in federal and unitary countries. These reforms have modified various aspects related to the type of political parties that can participate, the political representation of women, limits to reelection, gender-based political violence, the composition of subnational legislative bodies, or the introduction of new popularly elected offices. Thus, “electoral reformism” in Latin America is recurrent, has consequences at subnational and multilevel scales, and requires new analyses to understand how subnational electoral rules function currently.

This dossier brings together papers from different disciplines or with interdisciplinary perspectives regarding three main topics:

1. *Subnational electoral systems*: comprehensive (and comparative) analyses of both the design of the systems and their main components and electoral regimes in more general terms, including electoral rules that are not traditionally analyzed but that can have a significant impact on political competition and representation, such as gender quotas or parity or candidate selection processes.
2. *Electoral reform processes*: studies that examine recent electoral reform processes at the subnational level or national reforms that have had an impact on subnational rules – particularly studies that examine the effects of these reforms, the actors that promoted these processes, and the reasoning behind them, as well as research that describes processes that evidence interactions between levels of competition.
3. *Electoral systems and their effects*: analysis of the consequences of subnational electoral designs on various aspects of electoral competition and participation, on political and social actors, and the relations between state and society. Studies that explore the territorial changes of these effects are particularly welcome.

Article submissions are accepted in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, though the selected articles will be published in Spanish. The journal will clarify any doubts and provide feedback on proposals until the submission deadline.

The articles must comply with the editorial policy and publication standards of the journal (available at [www.revistaiconos.ec](http://www.revistaiconos.ec)). A peer review system is used for the selection of articles.

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