# Mecila:

## Maria Sibylla Merian International Centre
## Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America

## Research Programme

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## Conviviality-Inequality in Latin America

## Executive Summary

### The Centre

Mecila is one of five international centres for advanced studies in the humanities and social sciences financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in cooperation with local institutions. The Maria Sibylla Merian Centres aim at developing cutting-edge research through horizontal interdisciplinary cooperation among scholars from Germany, the Centre's host countries, and other regions of the world.

Mecila is an academic consortium composed of three German institutions: Freie Universität Berlin (coordination), Universität zu Köln, and Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz); and four Latin American institutions: Universidade de São Paulo, Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento, El Colegio de México, and Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (Conicet / Universidad Nacional de La Plata). The Centre draws on long-term collaborative ties between these institutions.

Although Mecila has its headquarters in São Paulo, its activities take place at all seven member institutions, as well as at other cooperating institutions with joint projects.

The Centre is led by the Executive Board, consisting of representatives of its seven member institutions, one representative of the Postdoctoral Researchers and the Scientific Manager. Each year, the Executive Board elects four Directors (two from Germany, two from Latin America) to lead the Centre. Two of these Directors are based in São Paulo during their terms, while the other two chair the Centre from their home institutions.

An Ethics Committee and an International Advisory Board composed of outstanding scholars and representatives of civil society closely follow the activities of the Centre in order to ensure scientific excellence and social relevance in all research and outreach activities, as well as transparency, gender balance, and intersectional equity in all selection processes.

### Research Programme

Mecila researches the co-constitution of conviviality and inequality from an interdisciplinary and historical perspective. Accordingly, the Centre focuses on the processes of negotiation, legitimation, and transformation of existing hierarchies as they take place in everyday interactions and within institutions. The legal, economic, environmental, and political contexts in which these interactions occur, as well as their representations (e.g. in literary texts, mass media, art objects and popular culture) are also of central relevance.

According to our relational and interdependent perspective, we postulate, firstly, that actors do not exist prior to interactions, but only through them; and secondly, that structures and interactions are mutually formed. Thus, our starting points are the *convivial configurations* in which the connection between conviviality, difference, and inequality is embedded. *Convivial configurations* can refer either to relations among humans or to interdependent ties between humans and non-humans, encompassing animals, plants, spirits, and artefacts. Taken from a diachronic perspective, *convivial configurations* are affected by daily transformations and by moments of inflection triggered either by the accumulation of minor changes (re-negotiations of everyday relations) or by more profound ruptures such as disasters, revolutions, and coups d'état. To identify different stages (prior or posterior to inflection) within the same *convivial configuration*, we refer to *regimes of conviviality*.

The Centre is equally interested in theoretical discussions and in empirical studies. Mecila is open to all methods and materials relevant to the humanities and social sciences, including, among others, qualitative and quantitative data, archives, literary texts, art objects, acoustic and iconographic collections, cartographies, social media samples. All disciplines and scholars belonging to the broad fields of the humanities and social sciences can potentially participate in the activities of the Centre. The only requirement is an interest in both focusing on the nexus conviviality-inequality and engaging in interdisciplinary dialogue in a broader sense.

The Centre is committed to research excellence, as well as to the production, dissemination, and exchange of knowledge relevant to social transformations towards the strengthening of democracy, the mitigation of social and power asymmetries, and the fostering of sustainable human-nature relations).

Mecila's researchers are grouped in one of three interdisciplinary Research Areas according to their research topics:

1. *(Hi-)Stories of Conviviality*: This Research Area brings together projects with a focus on the historical and narrative dimension of the nexus conviviality-inequality. Guiding questions include investigations into the ways in which past and present convivial configurations and regimes are shaped by various entangled histories. Hence, juridical and socio-economic aspects will play a central role in this Research Area due to their importance in maintaining or shifting a given convivial regime.

2. *Medialities of Conviviality*: This Research Area focuses on processes of co-production and circulation of knowledge and representation relating to the nexus between inequality and conviviality. This includes both immaterial flows of ideas, values, and imaginaries as well as relevant practices and materialisations. Writing, drawing, photographing, collecting, and exhibiting offer important clues to the study of how notions of conviviality – for instance, as utopias or mythical pasts – were manifested in objects produced and circulated in convivial and unequal contexts. The role of new media will also be of interest for this Research Area.

3. *Politics of Conviviality*: Projects focusing on the negotiation of differences and inequalities in everyday life and within institutions fall under this Research Area. Its central research questions concern the everyday and institutional practices which reinforce or diminish patterns of inequality within convivial configurations. It also considers how various agents – including social movements, governments, academics, and migrants among others – foster or challenge existing inequalities.

**Instruments and Formats**

Conceived as a transnational research network, Mecila articulates the pertinent research and outreach activities conducted by a group of 18 Principal Investigators and three Postdoctoral Researchers, who are based at the consortium institutions, in cooperation with 14 Associated Investigators from various institutions. Each year, several fellows are recruited via calls for application to join the Centre and develop their own research projects, or to participate in specific activities.

In order to ensure consistent and symmetrical exchange among its scholars, Mecila offers an annual general meeting, regular workshops and a weekly colloquium at its São Paulo hub. In order to foster an exchange with non-academic knowledge producers and to discuss its research results with a broader public, Mecila promotes joint workshops with civil society and social movement representatives, and organises public conferences, lectures, and workshops with local audiences.

The Centre's primary research results are regularly published in Mecila's Working Papers Series (available via free open access), as well as through press releases, Mecila's Blog, a Podcast Series, interviews, and op-eds. Consolidated research results are published in books, edited volumes, and in articles and dossiers in outstanding journals. Policy recommendations are published in policy papers. Each year, the Centre offers the following grants and fellowships:

1.  Five Senior and four Junior Fellowships: Applicants for senior fellowships are outstanding, well-established scholars, while applicants for junior fellowships are excellent early-career scholars who have obtained their doctorate degree in the humanities or social sciences no longer than five years prior to application. Senior and junior fellowships are grants for stays from March to November (except in 2020 from May to November) at Mecila hub in São Paulo, and entails participation in at least one visit for a lecture or similar activity at El Colegio de México, Mexico City, and/or Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales in La Plata, Argentina. Senior and Junior Fellows are expected to develop their own research project within the field conviviality-inequality, and to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue in the weekly colloquium and other relevant events and activities. Senior and Junior Fellows are also expected to contribute at least one working paper to Mecila's Series and at least one outreach activity (interview, blog contribution, video, public lecture, policy paper, etc.). Fellows are recruited by an international call open to applicants from all countries and all disciplines of the humanities and social sciences. The main selection criteria are the scientific quality of the candidate's research profile and project proposal, as well as the overall contribution to Mecila. Applications for junior and senior fellowships are submitted to a peer-review process. Final decisions fall on the Executive Board in close consultation with the Advisory Board and the Ethics Committee.

2.  Two Thematic Research Groups: Each year Mecila offers two Thematic Research Groups the opportunity to spend ten weeks in São Paulo to work collaboratively on Mecila's annual focal theme. The focal theme for 2020 will be "Conservatisms." Each of the Thematic Research Groups are composed of four fellows, including junior and senior scholars. At least one member of each group must be affiliated with one of the consortium institutions. The groups are expected to contribute at least one paper to Mecila's Working Paper Series, participate actively in the Centre's activities, and to engage in interdisciplinary exchange. The Thematic Research Groups are chosen through international calls. Applications are submitted to a peer-review process. Final decisions fall on the Executive Board in close consultation with the Advisory Board and the Ethics Committee. Due to the start of the project well into the year, only one Thematic Research Group will be awarded in 2020.

3.  Six Doctoral Fellowships: Applicants must be PhD students enrolled at one of the consortium institutions and interested in spending one academic term (from March to July or from July to November) at Mecila's hub in São Paulo. Doctoral Fellows should participate actively in the Centre's activities and to engage in interdisciplinary exchange. They are required to carry out activities relevant to their dissertation during their term (completion of at least one dissertation chapter or collection of relevant field data). Doctoral Fellows will be chosen by means of a call for applications broadly distributed within the consortium institutions. Key selection criteria are the academic performance and the thematic coherence of their doctoral project with Mecila's research programme. Application decisions fall on the Executive Board through a transparent peer-review process.

4.  The Mecila Research Chair: The Cátedra Mecila will be awarded to a scholar from one of the Latin American consortium institutions for ten-week research stays at one of the Latin American partner institutions. The Mecila Research Chair will rotate during the year between all four Latin American partner institutions, according to the following provisional schedule: 1 February to 15 April: USP; 16 April to 30 June: IdIHCS; 1 August to 15 October: CEBRAP; 16 October to 31 December: COLMEX. Mecila Chair Holders are expected to give at least one public lecture at the host institution and to engage there in interdisciplinary dialogue on the research topics addressed by Mecila. Mecila Chair Holders will be selected according to the excellence of their academic profiles and the subject adequacy of their ten-week research

workplan. Decisions on applications fall on the Executive Board through a transparent peer-review process. Due to the start of project well into the year, the Mecila Chair will rotate on a shorter seven-week schedule in 2020: 1 May to 20 June: USP; 21 June to 15 August: IdIHCS; 16 August to 7 October: CEBRAP; 8 October to 30 November: COLMEX.

5. <u>Short-term Research Visits</u>: Distinguished visiting scholars will be invited for short-term residencies (up to two weeks) in order to carry out specific cooperation activities with other Mecila researchers at the seven consortium partners. Since this particular grant supports ongoing research projects, only Mecila's Investigators can submit suggestions for invitations of short-term scholars to the Executive Board. Application decisions fall on the Executive Board through a transparent decision-making process.

6. <u>Reciprocal Fellowships</u>: using their own funds, FU Berlin and Universität zu Köln offer scholars from Latin America fellowships of up to two months in Berlin and Cologne, where successful applicants will carry out activities related to Mecila's research programme. Due to the institutional character of the funding for reciprocal fellowships, grant decisions fall on the Principal Investigators of the respective institution through a transparent decision-making process.

## 1. Research Programme of the Centre

### 1.1. Research Programme: Objectives, Approaches, Topics, Methods, and Formats

*Objectives*

How do people across Latin America and the Caribbean cope with inequality in a globally entangled world, both historically and in the present? How do they relate to each other, to society at large and to nature, science and technology under conditions of complexly interwoven asymmetries? What are the ways in which interdependent inequalities are signified, reproduced and negotiated in convivial configurations and regimes? These questions are at the core of the Maria Sibylla Merian Centre, which focuses on the co-constitution of conviviality and inequality in Latin America, including the Caribbean. In doing so, Mecila seeks to overcome methodological nationalisms and to link divorced strands of research, contributing to a truly international, interdisciplinary and symmetric academic exchange. By means of collaborative and convivial work between excellent junior and senior scholars, Mecila aims to continue conducting cutting-edge research responding to the insight that Latin America has historically been marked by intercultural coexistence under striking asymmetries that reverberate and take new turns in the present.

Due to European colonial expansion, the forced displacement of enslaved Africans, and global capital accumulation, the region referred to today as Latin America has been unequally entangled with other parts of the world for centuries. Thus, inequalities along the lines of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, citizenship and other social categories have been commonly cemented but also

contested both within the region as well as between Latin America, the Caribbean, and the rest of the world. The interplay between cementation and contestation may be illustrated by a historical example pointing to the complex and conflictive interactions established by fugitive slaves who set up *mocambos* (Maroon settlements) in Northern Brazil in the late 18th century: "They looked to the other side of the border and saw French settlers and peasants and Amerindian settlements and other groups of fugitives and deserters who, although not good friends, became occasional trading partners" (Gomes 2003: 260).[1] The negotiation and (temporary) bridging of differences, then, was part and parcel even of contexts marked by extreme hierarchies, as represented by slavery and other forms of bonded labour and exploitation. In addition, colonialism massively damaged the environment across the region, from the Brazilian Atlantic forest (Dean 1987) to the Peruvian and Bolivian Andes (Robins 2011). Our Centre is interested in the study of such tension-filled relations and interactions, including their literary and cultural representations.

After the cycle of national independences starting with the Haitian Revolution (1791-1804), the abolition of the Spanish American *sistema de castas*[2] and the abolition of slavery during the 19th century, tensions related to intercultural, interethnic and interreligious coexistence did not disappear. On the contrary, social disparities deepened and nationalisms crystallized, while immigration from Europe, Asia, the Middle East and within Latin America heightened diversity (Lesser 2013). During the 20th century, various nationalist strategies led to the construction of discursively stable nations, oftentimes facilitated by authoritarian regimes and military dictatorships. By the beginning of the 21th century, however, the so-called Pink Tide swept across Latin America, enabling more progressive governments to reduce poverty and slightly mitigate income inequalities (Ystanes/Strønen 2018).

New forms of politicisation of ethnicity and the diversification of modes of living including gender relations as well as a growing multi-religiosity have led to important reconfigurations of the symbolic ties which shape most Latin American nations, conferring a new visibility to questions related to difference (Potthast et al. 2015). While struggles for national sovereignty continue to take place in the Caribbean (Bonilla 2015), several Latin American states ratified international conventions and introduced instruments into their constitutions which account for collective "minority" rights in terms of race, sexuality, gender and ethnicity, thus reflecting new identity politics and forms of citizenship in the region (Costa 2012; Gargarella 2013).

Today, the political landscape has yet again changed tremendously. Since the recent presidential

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[1] For a complete list of bibliographical references, please refer to Appendix B1.
[2] It has been shown that the *sistema de castas* was not equally relevant in all places and periods during colonial times. Furthermore, other models of social ordering existed which cut across the logic of the *casta* system (e.g. Noack 2011).

elections in Brazil, Latin America's largest country has a far-right president whose government follows an ultraliberal economic programme combined with a reactionary agenda in terms of moral codes and habits. This political change is in consonance not only with developments in other Latin American countries such as Colombia and Ecuador, but it also mirrors global tendencies toward right-wing forces which are vehemently opposed to policies in favour of women, migrants, indigenous people, Blacks and LGBTQI* communities, amongst others. Individuals at the crossroads of these categories, such as Black women, are particularly disadvantaged (Carneiro 2011; Ribeiro 2018). According to the new right-wing forces, affirmative action policies are instruments implemented for disseminating "cultural Marxism" and "gender ideology" to the detriment of meritocracy and the Christian and heteronormative nuclear family, allegedly the basis of sociability in the region (Lempp 2019; Messemberg 2017). Yet these new right-wing and even far-right forces not only oppose the mentioned policies and groups, but they also reject environmental limits for capitalist expansion and thus endanger the shared basis of existence of all humans and non-humans.

Since we firmly believe that the critical analysis of these new developments and their historical roots require interdisciplinary and international attention, Mecila aims to continue making timely and differentiated contributions to understanding these issues *in situ*. Therefore, we propose "Conservatisms" to be the first cross-sectional topic guiding the Centre's yearly Call for Thematic Groups (see 2.1.).

As in the preliminary phase, one of the main objectives of the Centre is to acknowledge, build on, produce and disseminate knowledge in and about Latin America contributing to mitigate North-South asymmetries which shape the global academic system (Keim et al. 2014). Headquartered in São Paulo, one of Latin America's largest cities, the Centre is also anchored in Spanish-speaking countries, fostering the production and circulation of knowledge across borders. In particular, we draw on Latin American academic, artistic and literary work dedicated to representing and discussing tensions and challenges of living together in contexts of difference and inequality. Placed at the centre of scholarly interest in the region at an early stage (e.g. Vasconcelos 1927; Freyre 1933; Ortiz 1940), these issues continue to shape current debates. In fact, studies exploring the nexus between social inequalities and gender, intercultural and interethnic relations in the postcolonial era have become one of the most productive and internationalised fields of Latin American research (e.g. Bocarejo 2014; Briones 2005; Irurozqui 2000; Lugones 2008; Rodríguez Garavito 2015; Sabato 2001; Sieder 2002; Walsh 2009). Similarly, seminal philosophical and literary works have attempted to grapple with conviviality in Latin America and especially in the Caribbean, as shown by the concepts of *négritude, créolisation* and *relationalité* (Bernabé/Chamoiseau/Confiant 1989; Césaire 1987; Glissant 1981, 1990), and which increasingly also inform scholarship in and about Europe (Boatcă

2014; Gutiérrez Rodríguez/Tate 2015).

Finally, more recently, widespread interest in discussions on the coexistence between human and non-human beings have also built new bridges between debates in Latin America and elsewhere (Cadena 2015; Canessa 2017). Overall, however, leading scholarship on conviviality has only marginally considered research from Latin America, thereby reinforcing – even if unwillingly – the European and North American dominance within an unequal global academic system. In a similar vein, very few empirical studies have been conducted in the region from a conviviality perspective: Latin America is virtually absent in two pertinent anthologies dealing with conviviality (Nowicka/Vertovec 2014; Wise/Noble 2016). Since its inauguration, Mecila has aimed to fill this gap by enriching ongoing debates on conviviality and inequality with excellent research carried out in and about the region. In doing so, we consider difference and inequality not to be external to conviviality, but that they constitute each other mutually.

### *Approaches*

The debates about coexistence in contexts marked by inequalities and differences have ubiquitous geographical, intellectual, and political-normative origins. Not only does the definition of coexistence vary, but the subjects of coexistence can also diverge, as they may include humans and non-humans such as plants, microorganisms, animals, spirits, and artefacts (see Nobre/Costa 2019). In this broad research field, we identify at least four strands[3]:

i) *The Ecological Critique of Capitalism*: Inspired by different academic traditions and fields of social activism linked to Latin America, including the third world movement, liberation theology, the pedagogy of the oppressed as well as by European radical humanists, Illich (1973), in his seminal book *Tools for Conviviality*, takes a normative stance towards self-refraining, that is, limitations imposed on individuals in times of rapid industrial and technological change. Defined as an "autonomous and creative intercourse among persons, and the intercourse of persons with their environment […]" (Illich 1973: 11), conviviality is, according to Illich, the aspired goal to be reached by recourse to social tools and institutions. Illich's critique saw a sweeping revival with the emergence of the *Mouvement Convivialiste* which appeared in France in the 2010s (Caillé 2011; Les Convivialistes 2013). Combining Illich's work with Marcel Mauss' gift theory (Mauss 1925), *convivalisme* regards the gift as the key element of social interactions not only in those contexts called by Mauss "archaic societies", but also in the highly diversified societies of the 21st century (Adloff 2018). Another important element of the *convivialiste* agenda is the critique of capitalist economic

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[3] For a more detailed discussion about the state of the art in conviviality research, see Costa (2019a). Please note that this division is not rigid. The debates are rather complementary and many intersections exist between these four strands.

growth as developed within the scope of the *décroissance* movement. According to the diagnosis developed by the *convivialistes*, capitalism, particularly financial capitalism, destroys the greatest human treasure which is "la richesse de leurs rapports sociaux" and also leads to the deterioration of relationships among human beings and non-humans (Les Convivialistes 2013: 26; Caillé 2011). In Europe, this critique has increasingly inspired social movements and non-profit organisations in fields such as animal and environmental protection, urban gardening and organic farming as well as urban planning and convivial technologies (Vetter 2017). In Latin America, balanced human-nature relations are captured in concepts such as *pachamama*, *terra mater* and *buen vivir*, offering fruitful perspectives for the conviviality debate (Briones 2019; Dussel 2008; Gutiérrez Rodríguez 2011).

ii) *The Critique of Anthropocentrism and Sociocentrism*: Critiques of anthropocentrism have stretched across the humanities and social sciences. However, the current focus on the interdependence between living beings, artefacts, and spirits is unprecedented (Braidotti 2013; Haraway 2016; Sundberg 2014; Viveiros de Castro 2009). In fields such as urban geography (Hinchliffe/Whatmore 2006) and in the study of soil (Given 2017), new concepts such as "living cities", "multi-species entanglements" have been used to defy human exceptionalism in favour of a focus on interdependent assemblages including humans, animals, plants, microbes, etc. (Houston et al. 2018). The critique of sociocentrism adds up to critique of anthropocentrism insofar as it also challenges the predominant definition of society within the social sciences: This approach builds on the critique against grand sociological narratives which claim that society is based on "socio-structural imperatives (through roles, statuses and juridical rules)" (Overing/Passes 2000: 14) and on strict separation between public and private, formal and informal, domestic and collective spheres. These features render "minor sociabilities", such as indigenous sociability, invisible to sociology, since they are not compatible with its prevailing concept of society based on sharp distinctions between macrostructures and everyday relations. To overcome this conceptual limitation, the authors cited suggest an "anthropology of the everyday", according to which conviviality is rooted in affection, the inseparability between social spheres and the continuous conversion of non-human and apparently disruptive forces – such as spirits and gods – into sources of social life (see also Gose 2008; Isbell 1997; Overing 1999; Rosengren 2006). A similar critique was voiced by Yanomami shaman and activist Davi Kopenawa in cooperation with anthropologist Bruce Albert (Kopenawa/Albert 2013). In an internationally acclaimed autoethnography, Kopenawa draws a picture of the Yanomami as deeply connected to the spirits of the forest (*xapiri*), but whose lives are seriously endangered by missionaries, gold prospectors and government officials, amongst others.

iii) *The Critique of (Neo)liberal Multiculturalism*: Since the late 1990s, different authors have criticised the numerous cultural policies developed within liberal multiculturalism (Kymlicka 1995),

or neoliberal multiculturalism, as critics call this field (Hale 2006). British sociologist Paul Gilroy (2004, 2006) triggered such a critical standpoint, using the notion of conviviality to respond to the political challenges which emerge from reified identities. He argues that reactions against liberal multiculturalism should not lead to the denial of *multiculture*, understood as existing social and cultural diversity. However, rather than evoking the alleged virtues of Eurocentric universalism in a Neo-Kantian cosmopolitan tradition, Gilroy privileges a "cosmopolitanism from below" originating from daily negotiations of differences (Gilroy 2004, 2013). Without denying the existence of racism, sexism and other forms of violence against "minorities", he acknowledges the creative and unforeseen ways in which individuals cope with diversity and inequality, especially in urban neighbourhoods: "Conviviality is a social pattern in which different metropolitan groups dwell in close proximity, but where their racial, linguistic and religious particularities do not – as the logic of ethnic absolutism suggests they must – add up to discontinuities of experience or insuperable problems of communication" (Gilroy 2006: 40). In recent literature about migration and diversity, Gilroy's notion of conviviality as negotiated coexistence of difference in everyday life was cited among the major contributions to the field (Nowicka/Vertovec 2014; Wise/Noble 2016). In these works, conviviality turns into a social tool to deal with difference in situations of cooperation and conflict (Heil 2015).[4]

Latin American scholars have added a crucial point to this debate by stressing that (neo)liberal multiculturalism does not recognise extensive local knowledge gained through centuries of coexistence in diverse and unequal contexts (Gonçalves/Costa 2016). From this appraisal, substantial efforts emerge to critically recover local repertoires, concepts and political arrangements to deal with the challenges of living together in Latin America, such as *mestizaje* (Wade 2018), *buen vivir* (Acosta 2015), *interculturalidad* and *plurinacionalidad* (Walsh 2009) as well as *comunalidad* (Aquino Moreschi 2013).

Multiculturalism was also criticised through the lens of literary studies. In partnership with German and Latin American colleagues, Ottmar Ette has developed the paradigm of *Konvivenz* to refer to coexistence in and with difference as a context in which life is lived in its irreversibility, indivisibility and unpredictability (Ette 2012: 89). The semantics of cultural mixture employs metaphors such as "cultural archipelagos" and "kaleidoscopes", making the connections between *Konvivenz* and conceptual references developed in the francophone and hispanophone Caribbean

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[4] Critiques of liberal multiculturalism have recently gained relevance in two politically opposite fields. In some European countries, Gilroy's post-identitarian approach has become increasingly influential in progressive artistic and political "postmigrant" initiatives (Römhild 2018; Stewart 2017). Simultaneously and for contrary reasons, ultranationalist movements in different regions of the world have attacked multicultural policies, which, in combination with the empowerment of groups such as women, Blacks, and migrants, have allegedly reconfigured existing nation states making them hostile and foreign to their "own citizens" (Hochschild 2016).

visible, as highlighted by Müller (2018).

iv) *The Critique of Coloniality*: Since the 1980s, research about the consequences and continuities of colonial relations in contemporary societies has influenced the humanities and social sciences. For our research programme, studies from postcolonial and decolonial fields provide important sources as they take adequately into account profound power imbalances resulting from colonial legacies and postcolonial configurations. Decolonial approaches, in particular, have been advanced by Latin American scholars (e.g.: Quijano 2000). Interlinked with feminist perspectives developed in the region (Anzaldúa 1987), this field provides relevant tools for studying conviviality and inequality in Latin America. Yet postcolonial scholarship dealing with other regions is equally illuminating: Mbembe (1992, 2001), for example, has analysed the structures of domination in Africa during colonialism and after national independence. According to him, in postcolonial Africa, states are plural, radical, and ungovernable within the boundaries of legal and organised political systems; and authoritarian power (*commandement*) assumes an obscene and grotesque form. Critically drawing on Bakhtin, Mbembe demonstrates that in the Cameroonian postcolonial regime, excess and obscenity are intrinsic to the *commandement's* rituals of domination, since power only exists through the participation of the masses in public rituals and in ceremonies, which build up the *commandement* as fetish. According to Mbembe, rituals establish a connection between the subalterns and power in a way that, from an analytical viewpoint, "the emphasis should be on the logic of conviviality, on the dynamics of domesticity and familiarity, inscribing the dominant and the dominated within the same episteme" (Mbembe 2001: 110). With a focus on the interrelations between Europe and Latin America, Gutiérrez Rodríguez (2011, 2015) has also shown how the critique of coloniality can be connected to the conviviality debate. In the case of feminised domestic work carried out by "undocumented" migrants, apartments are spaces in which conviviality and inequality are intimately intertwined. Accordingly, she suggests to creolize the notion of conviviality, that is, to account for the colonially entrenched histories shaping living together in Europe. With reference to Glissant, then, "the concept of creolization proposes an ethics of 'living together' driven by the unexpected and resulting from the multiple encounters and connections in our lives. Creolization speaks about an affective being in the world – the sensibility that nourishes the potential of conviviality" (Gutiérrez Rodríguez 2015: 97; see also Wasser 2018).

The brief review above reveals an impressive increase in conviviality research across various academic fields. In spite of divergence regarding theoretical approaches, these studies have two points in common. First, all of them explore interdependences between processes, contexts and interactions beyond fixed territorial spaces. Second, these studies depart from an exclusive focus on macrostructures by putting daily interactions at the forefront of analysis. From a normative standpoint, however, there

is a clear cleavage among the scholarship reviewed: with few exceptions, research on conviviality privileges the cooperative dimension even when they point to conflict and competition. This normative bias in favour of "good conviviality" explains, at least partially, why existing studies mostly fail to adequately explore inequality. When taken into consideration, inequality usually serves as context or empirical fact rather than as an inherent element of convivial relations.

This appraisal of the state of the art guides our own idea of conviviality. Conviviality thus refers to the relational dimension of social life. While "living together", "cohabitation" or "coexistence" refer to shared (everyday) life in general, conviviality specifically points to the *interactions* which take place under conditions of negotiated inequality and through the articulation of differences, mediated at the individual and institutional levels. These interactions may include attempts of temporary or sustained cooperation to change inequality patterns. Competition, conflict and violence, however, are equally ingrained in interactions and can thus sustain and strengthen inequalities. In other words, there is a *deep connection between conviviality, inequality and difference*. Therefore, it is crucial to analyse the specific ways in which these three dimensions interrelate in each context.

According to our understanding, *inequality* refers to the distance between positions occupied by individuals or groups of individuals in social hierarchies, including four interrelated dimensions:

i) *Socio-economic Inequalities* refer to distance in terms of income and wealth or, broadly speaking, of possession of socially valued assets (Braig/Costa/Göbel 2016, Motta/Jelin/Costa 2018).

ii) *Power inequalities* relate to the discrepancy in peoples' possibilities to shape their lives according to personal plans and interests. Accordingly, it implies distances in quality or enforcement of individual and collective rights but also in the distribution of possibilities to influence political will and decision-making, considered always from a relational perspective (Elias 1971: 142-143).

iii) *Socio-ecological Inequalities* refer not only to the unequal access to environmental goods such as fresh water and clean air, but also to the consequences of how individuals and groups represent, transform and appropriate nature, given that nature and society are mutually and interdependently constituted (Dietz 2018; Göbel/Góngora-Mera/Ulloa 2014).

iv) *Epistemological Inequalities* refer to different capacities to influence the recognition of knowledge as valid and valuable or as trivial and superfluous, thereby widening Foucault's definition of the episteme as "the 'apparatus' which makes possible the separation, not of the true from the false, but of what may from what may not be characterised as scientific" (Foucault 1980: 197).

Different groups may play a role in the analysis of inequality. Individuals distributed into income quintiles or deciles and classified – not by themselves, but by researchers of social stratification – as strata of classes are the most common groups, at least in inequality research. Additionally, binarily defined groups such as men and women, Blacks and whites as well as immigrants and citizens, are

oftentimes employed in studies comparing diverging positions in the social structure. Scholarship on inequality addresses these various positions in the social structure either separately in order to grasp different types of inequalities concerning gender, ethnicity, class, etc. or through the combination of different axes of inequality as developed by intersectional approaches (see Góngora-Mera/Vera/Costa 2019; Jelin/ Motta/Costa 2018).

In our research programme, *differences* refer to the common traces evoked in the process of articulating – in the sense of enunciating – inequalities, either to protect one's own social position in the social hierarchies or to claim the mitigation of inequalities. Empirically, the articulation of differences often combines various and diverse axes of inequality, as in the case of the struggles of indigenous women in Latin America or migrant women in Germany to improve their legal status. This does not entail economic assumptions, as if difference emanated from social position. It is not the social position in itself, but its cultural and political assessment as fair or unfair, which determines the articulation of differences. Similarly, culturalism is ruled out: Although moral or cultural inclinations play a key role in the mobilisation of groups and individuals for or against inequality, these predispositions build up an extensive and flexible repertoire of possibilities contingently articulated (Costa 2019b). As relational features, difference and the four dimensions of inequality acquire consequences and meanings as long as they are represented and interpreted *in concrete social interactions*, which in turn reflect existing inequalities and differences. This is what we mean when we consider inequality, difference and conviviality as mutually constituted.

### *Topics and Methods*

Studying the interactive dimension of social life from a relational, interdependent, and interdisciplinary perspective poses several challenges. These challenges start when defining the *unit of analysis or observation*: what is the relevant unit? A neighbourhood or an indigenous community, as in most research connected to the critique of sociocentrism? A corpus of specific texts as in the *Konvivenz* approach? Or the entire world, as preferred by the *convivialistes*?

Given the relational perspective adopted by Mecila, our units of analysis cannot be pre-defined based on geographic criteria or political-administrative divisions, since the social relations which shape conviviality are unknown before a research project starts. As such, research about conviviality, according to our understanding, requires relational and dynamic units which allow for the adjustment of observations to the relevance of interactions for each specific inquiry. Moreover, the unit of analysis needs to be flexible enough to incorporate relations which do not occur face-to-face, as communication through artefacts also shape conviviality in everyday life. In addition to "material" flexibility, the unit also needs to be flexible in terms of time insofar as it allows for the integration of diachronic analyses into conviviality. Thus, although convivial relations are contingent and volatile, conviviality is certainly

historically constituted, as detailed below.

Moving in tandem with the unit of observation, there is the focus of analysis, as emphasis on relations and interdependence implies that we start with interactions rather than pre-defined people or structures. As stated above, a relational and interdependent analysis must consider that, firstly, actors do not exist prior to interactions, but only through them. Secondly, structures and interactions are mutually formed. Inspired by the relational perspective in the social sciences (Dépelteau 2013), our starting point are *convivial configurations* in which the connection between conviviality, difference and inequality is embedded. Convivial configurations, which include into interactions not only people but other living beings, spirits, and artefacts, constitute the units of analysis which are relevant for various research projects of different disciplines to be developed within the frame of Mecila. A convivial configuration is the relational and dynamic unit that is shaped as research progresses. It includes relations occurring in both synchronic and diachronic dimensions. In convivial configurations, actors do not precede interactions, but are formed through them; and so are structures.

For methodological purposes, we distinguish three interrelated dimensions of convivial configurations (Mecila 2017): *Contexts* are political, legal, economic, ecological, spatial, social and cultural frameworks in which convivial relations occur. *Interactions* among humans as well as between humans and non-humans point to the ambivalences ranging from cooperative to conflictive elements. This dimension builds the core of what we call conviviality. *Representations* refer to the ways in which humans imagine and communicate conviviality through symbolic and aesthetic practices.

As dynamic and relational units of analysis or observation, convivial configurations undergo processes of reconfiguration and reformulation. Taken from a diachronic perspective, convivial configurations are affected by daily transformations and by moments of inflection triggered either by the accumulation of minor changes (re-negotiations of everyday relations) or by more profound ruptures such as disasters, revolutions and coups d'état. To identify different stages (prior or posterior to inflection), within the same convivial configuration, we refer to *regimes of conviviality*. Convivial configurations combined with regimes of conviviality are at the core of our methodological tools to address the connection between inequality, difference and conviviality. On that basis, the Centre will continue to grow as an innovative forum for transnational academic production marked by concrete efforts for more symmetric cooperation between institutions and researchers from different countries, disciplines and career stages. In order to achieve this objective, three realms of reflection build the Centre's backbone:

*Transference/translation* implies the analysis of historical and contemporary tensions, transformations and negotiations inherent to the processes of circulation of knowledge, ideas, norms, together with practices and their materiality (Bachmann-Medick 2012; Klengel 2018; Venuti 2008).

*Positionality/multi-perspectivity* acknowledges that all knowledge is "situated" (Haraway 1988) – that is, non-universal – making it necessary to reflect on the multiple locations of knowledge production and circulation and the position of each of them in the realm of academic and non-academic networks of power (Martín/Göbel 2018). This also implies a sound strategy of including non-academic knowledges and their protagonists (social movements, artists, indigenous groups, organic intellectuals, practitioners, etc.) into knowledge production and exchange.

*Trans-regionality* puts emphasis on entanglements – in the sense of understanding how past and present interactions interweave Latin America, Europe and other regions of the world – and the promotion of international circulation of knowledge and experiences. At the institutional level, our transregional perspective benefits from exchange with the network of Maria Sibylla Merian Centres established in other world regions.

### *Research Formats*

Recurring to our positive experiences during the preliminary phase and developing them further, Mecila will bring together excellent scholars from different generations, disciplines and regions. The length of their active involvement varies according to the terms established for each group. The following groups of researchers will accompany the Centre's work during the main phase, ensuring continuity and sustainability:

Eighteen *Principal Investigators* (PIs) are members from partner institutions who regularly participate in the project, including the rotating Board of Directors responsible for the scientific research programme (see Appendix B4).

Fourteen *Associated Investigators* belong to consortium partner institutions or other institutions. They complement themes, disciplines or regions beyond those covered by the Principal Investigators (see Appendix B5).

Three *Postdoctoral Researchers*: Employed by each of the three German institutions for a period of three years, they will spend extended periods in São Paulo and at the nodes in Mexico and Argentina, maintaining active channels with the German institutions of the consortium. They will thus support the continuity and transference of research results to new Fellows as well as the communication among different institutions, especially within the Research Areas as described below. Each of them will be responsible for the coordination of one Research Area together with the respective Spokespersons as detailed below. All Principal and Associated Investigators as well as the Postdoctoral Researchers are encouraged to contribute at least once a year to Mecila's Blog (*Global Convivial Forum*) with an entry (interview, dialogue, short essay, op-ed, etc.) derived from their research findings and addressed to a broad audience.

Five *Senior Fellows* and four *Junior Fellows* will be selected through annual international calls for

application. They will conduct research stays of nine months (seven months in the first year) in São Paulo from March to November. Applicants for senior fellowships are outstanding, well-established scholars and/or tenured professors, while applicants for junior fellowships are excellent early-career scholars who have finished their PhD in the humanities or the social sciences within the last five years. Senior and Junior Fellows are expected to develop their own research project within the field conviviality-inequality, participate actively at the Center's activities and engage in interdisciplinary exchange. Senior and Junior Fellows are also expected to write at least one paper for the Mecila Working Paper  Series and contribute at least one outreach activity (interview, blog contribution, video, public lecture, policy paper, etc.).

Three *Doctoral Fellows* will be recruited twice a year among the doctoral candidates enrolled at Mecila's consortium partners. Mecila's scholarships will enable them to conduct research stays of five months in São Paulo from March to July and from August to December.

Distinguished *Visiting Scholars*, including researchers and non-academic knowledge producers (e.g. social activists, representatives of indigenous organisations, artists), will be invited for short-term residences (up to two weeks) in order to carry out specific cooperation activities with other Mecila investigators at the seven consortium partners (workshops, publications, etc.). Since this particular grant supports ongoing research projects, only Mecila's Principal Investigators, Associated Investigators, and Fellows can apply for invitations for short-term Visiting Scholars. Application decisions fall on the Executive Board through a transparent decision-making process.

While the aforementioned actors will be able to engage in discussions with each other in numerous events, Mecila is organised in three Research Areas in order to ensure a more intensive exchange according to broad thematic lines:

*Research Area A: [Hi]Stories of Conviviality*
*Spokespersons: Carlos Alba (COLMEX), Samuel Barbosa (USP), Barbara Potthast (UzK)*
Building on a series of joint activities such as our successful international conference "Convivial [Hi]Stories" during the preliminary phase, this Research Area will bring together projects with a focus on the historical and narrative dimension of conviviality. Guiding questions include research into the ways in which past and present convivial configurations as well convivial regimes are shaped by the crossroads of various entangled histories. In this vein, juridical and socio-economic aspects will play a central role due to their importance in maintaining or shifting a given regime, that is, the arrangement between inequality, difference and conviviality. The ways in which these arrangements are negotiated, represented and narrated in historiographic and also literary production are also of utmost interest.

*Research Area B: Medialities of Conviviality*

*Spokespersons: Gloria Chicote (IdIHCS), Barbara Göbel (IAI), Susanne Klengel (FU Berlin)*

This Research Area focuses on processes of co-production and circulation of knowledge and representation relating to the nexus between inequality and conviviality. This includes both immaterial flows of ideas, values and imaginaries as well as their related practices and materialisations. Writing, drawing, photographing, collecting and exhibiting offer important clues to the study of how notions of conviviality – for instance, as utopias or mythical pasts – were manifested in objects produced and circulated in convivial and unequal contexts. The role of new media in negotiating inequality and conviviality will also be of interest for this Research Area. In addition, current debates about memory or the restitution of cultural heritage exemplify how medialities of conviviality are subject to complex, historically configured negotiations.

*Research Area C: Politics of Conviviality*

*Spokespersons: Sérgio Costa (FU Berlin), Laura Flamand (COLMEX), Marcos Nobre (CEBRAP)*

Projects focusing on the negotiation of differences and inequalities in everyday life and within institutions fall under this Research Area, with its central research questions concerning the institutional mechanisms facilitating or diminishing patterns of inequality within convivial configurations. It also considers how the continuation of these patterns is fostered or challenged by various actors – including social movements, governments, academics, migrants, among others – across Latin America.

## 1.2. Cooperation with Other Institutions

Since Mecila already encompasses seven institutions, we do not plan to formally include new institutions in the consortium. An intensive cooperation with our Associated Investigators and their institutions will be pursued in the form of joint academic events, reciprocal invitations for lectures and short research stays. In the preliminary phase, Mecila has regularly cooperated with institutions, research groups and other organisations having similar research agendas for co-organising events and exchanging research results, calls and other relevant information. This cooperation will be continued and broadened in the main phase. Besides, we will foster the successfully established cooperation with other Maria Sibylla Merian Centres, particularly with CALAS in Guadalajara. This entails the exchange of relevant information and publications, the promotion of joint academic events, the reciprocal attendance of events and the exchange among our Fellows in order to strengthen our transregional interests and the international impacts of our Centre.

Due to its social commitment and epistemological self-understanding, Mecila is especially interested in cooperating with non-academic knowledge producers, including artists, social movements representatives, indigenous thinkers, and other organic intellectuals. In addition to activities specifically designed to support cooperation at this level (civil society workshops, institutional

workshops, public lectures, etc.), in the main phase non-academic knowledge producers will constitute, as they did in the preliminary phase, an important portion of our short-term Visiting Scholars and guest speakers in all pertinent events.

## 1.3. Overall Benefit of the Research Achievements and the Collaborative Work

While addressing issues of societal urgency – how to tackle inequalities in and through convivial relations – Mecila seeks to combine and contribute to current debates conventionally held in separate fields such as the study of inequalities and diversity research (see also 1.5.). Bringing the interdisciplinary expertise of all consortium members and the scientific excellence of our future Fellows together, we aim at strengthening and making visible hitherto neglected Latin American and Caribbean perspectives. In doing so, Mecila seeks to become a model for international scientific cooperation where interdisciplinary work is conducted in accordance with the highest standards of academic excellence. This academic excellence has already become apparent by Mecila's publications in top journals and leading publishing houses, effectively shaping cross-disciplinary debates on conviviality and inequality from Latin American perspectives.

## 1.4. Publication Strategy

During Mecila's main phase, we seek to build on and extend our successful publication strategies established in the preliminary phase. As in the past, our research achievements are expected to strongly resonate within the international scientific community, especially across countries in Latin America and Europe. We thus pursue wide-ranging strategies to disseminate the work of the Centre. The internally peer-reviewed *Mecila Working Paper Series* (free open access) shares the first results of ongoing research projects carried out at the Centre in order to encourage the exchange of ideas and academic debate. All fellows will be expected to contribute at least one Working Paper based on the research conducted during their stay in São Paulo. Principal Investigators, Associated Investigators, and Postdoctoral Researchers are also strongly encouraged to publish their research findings, including both theoretical and empirical studies, in the Mecila Working Paper Series. The *Mecila Working Paper Series* has proven to stimulate debates, offering a fast and professional way for publication, especially for early-career researchers. Furthermore, research results will be published in individual and collective publications in the form of *monographs* and *edited volumes*. Part of these publications will appear in the Centre's own *book series "Conviviality-Inequality"*, to be published by an internationally renowned publishing house (Routledge). A number of works will also be published with our consortium partners' own publishers and their long-standing cooperation partners, including Routledge (Series "Entangled Inequalities"), De Gruyter (Journal "Iberoromania", "Jahrbuch Geschichte Lateinamerikas / Anuario de Historia Latinoamericana") and

Iberoamericana/Vervuert (Series "Bibliotheca Ibero-Americana", Journal "Iberoamericana. América Latina – España - Portugal" co-organized with IAI). Our researchers will also publish *articles* and *review articles* in international peer-reviewed journals. Overall, our publication strategy follows a multilingual approach: The Centre's works appear in at least one of its languages: English, Portuguese, Spanish and German.

## 1.5. Expected Impacts

### *Impacts on Expert Communities*

We are convinced that interdisciplinary research about Latin America in a global context substantially aids in drawing the missing link between two research fields: inequality and diversity research. While inequality research usually focuses on distances between groups or individuals concerning the possession of socially valuable goods and power resources (Kreckel 2004), diversity research is oftentimes dedicated to analysing the construction of ascriptions and (self-)representations in terms of gender, culture, ethnicity, etc. (Vertovec 2012). What is needed, then, is the deconstruction of the essentialist concept of (national, ethnic, cultural, etc.) identity still dominant in diversity research, as has been highlighted within the *Research Network for Latin America: Ethnicity, Citizenship, Belonging* (Potthast et al. 2015) and also in different research projects conducted by Mecila's Principal Investigators at USP and CEBRAP (Cunha/Barbosa 2018; Machado/Maciel 2017). At the same time, it is indispensable to include everyday interactions into inequality research to a greater extent. This has been underlined by the research undertaken in the frame of the *Research Network desiguALdades.net* (e.g. Henríquez Ayin et al. 2015; Skornia 2014) as well as by Mecila's Principal InvestigatorS at COLMEX and Universidad Nacional de La Plata (e.g.: Altamirano/Flamand 2018; Piovani/Salvia 2018). In joining forces, our consortium of institutions expects to advance cutting-edge research combining the perspectives of entangled inequalities (Góngora-Mera/Vera/Costa 2019; Jelin/ Motta/Costa 2018) with the field on conviviality (Nowicka/Vertovec 2014; Wise/Noble 2016).

### *Impacts in International Cooperation*

We expect the Centre to strengthen international cooperation at different levels. First, longstanding cooperation among Principal and Associated Investigators and their institutions will be improved through new contents and formats (Reciprocal Fellowships, research stays, joint events and publications, etc.). Second, the inclusion of young researchers (Doctoral and Junior Fellows, Postdoctoral Researchers) and Senior Fellows, Visiting Scholars, members of Thematic Groups and Participants of events will help expand and consolidate our collaborative, transnational network (see 2.1.). We also expect the research results and activities of our Centre to stimulate internationalisation in the humanities and social sciences which are usually still nationally bound (both in Germany and Latin America). We finally expect and target a significant impact in the support of a new generation

of researchers pursuing excellent academic work beyond disciplinary borders and North-South barriers.

*Societal Impacts*

Through regular exchange with civil society actors and the organisation of policy-relevant workshops and publications, we make a conscious effort to counter long-held practices of "ivory tower" academics. Both in its analytical and empirical dimensions of research, Mecila's conviviality-inequality framework does not shy away from dealing openly and attentively with pressing questions and their deep-seated historical roots, in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe as well as in the complex relations entangling these regions. In light of the very recent attacks on the humanities and social sciences by Latin American far-right forces, Mecila aims to light a beacon of hope in a region marked by ever-growing polarisations by establishing a vivid, robust and innovative forum for independent research. In recent times, moreover, both Germany in particular and Europe in general have been facing many challenges for living in/with differences and inequalities – as debates around migration have perhaps most impressively shown. We are convinced that Mecila's original theoretical approach to conviviality-inequality will yield powerful tools to better grasp, conceptualize and respond to such challenges.

As a Centre dealing with conviviality-inequality, we have agreed on a number of commitments which are to be ensured by different measures (see Mission Statement, Appendix B3). In addition to these commitments and measures, we aim to engage in a number of other outreach formats mirroring our social commitment. First, Mecila will host – both in Latin America and Germany – regular *Civil Society Workshops* focusing on current societal issues. Representatives of social movements, NGOs or other civil society actors will have the opportunity to bring in their perspectives, thereby providing complementarity and necessary correctives to our research. Second, our Centre will continue its cooperation with the Goethe-Institut São Paulo, the DWIH (German Centre for Research and Innovation, São Paulo) and the DAAD Martius Chair in order to set up the *Mecila Joint Distinguished Lectures*. As a public bi-monthly presentation series, it will make research findings accessible to the general public. Third, *four workshops*, two on data management and two on information infrastructure, will be organised in order to exchange institutional experiences and discuss the challenges of research data management and how to connect different information infrastructures in the context of the digital transformation, in order to assure broader access and co-management of information. A fourth instrument for improving our social commitment, community outreach and science-policy exchange are regular *Policy Papers* which make specific recommendations on the basis of detailed scientific analyses. Depending on the expertise of our Fellows, such Policy Papers topics could address issues of urban housing, indigenous rights and gender inequalities, among others.

A fifth instrument is Mecila's Blog (*Global Convivial Forum*) in which Mecila's scholars will regularly (at least two new pieces per month) publish contributions derived from their research and dedicated to a broad audience.

Lastly, Mecila's researchers will make their research results accessible to the general public through regular *press releases, articles in newspapers,* and other *media appearances*. A Podcast Series (*Conviva*) is in planning, in which Mecila's researchers present current research findings to a broader audience.

Providing technical and legal requirements are met, Mecila will offer live-streaming transmissions of its events. Video and audio recordings of these will be made available on the Centre's website and social media channels.

### *Institutional Impacts in Germany and Latin America*

By dealing with a cutting-edge topic of the contemporary humanities and social sciences' research agenda, Mecila is expected to produce significant impacts in the academic landscape in both Germany and Latin America. In Germany, the diffusion of Mecila's activities and research findings will contribute to consolidate the role of area studies in the academic and scientific landscape as driver of internationalisation of social sciences and humanities and catalyst of innovative research lines triggered from the Global South. At the level of each German partner institution, this potential is already being acknowledged in several efforts to build new institutional structures connected with the research topics and cooperation formats developed by Mecila. The establishment of two new Junior Professorships in the fields of Literature and Cultural Studies as well as Sociology of Latin America at FU Berlin in 2018, the nomination of a new Junior Professor (tenured position) for Latin American Literature with focus on Brazil at UzK (also in 2018) and the consideration of Mecila's research agenda in the acquisition policy of IAI are good examples of Mecila's impact on the development of new academic structures in Germany. In Latin America, all four partner institutions have also converted topics and cooperation formats developed by Mecila into central features of their institutional profile. The continuation of Mecila beyond the preliminary phase will consolidate Mecila's structural impacts in the academic and scientific landscape.

### 1.6. Planned Measures for Achieving International Visibility and Sustainability

International visibility is a constitutive dimension of all planned activities and will be targeted in the main phase by excellent multilingual publications, events and activities with outstanding participants, including invited international scholars, our carefully selected Fellows and Thematic Groups, Principal Investigators, Associated Investigators and Mecila Chair holders. In addition, cooperation with other institutions as described in 1.2. will amplify our academic networks and optimise the

dissemination of our research results and activities. Also, the planed network structure with a hub in São Paulo and activities in all five cities in which the partner institutions are based foster the Centre's international visibility in different countries and linguistic environments (see 2.1.). Furthermore, the perspective of the Centre allows for a transregional perspective, further improving the international perception and visibility of our research findings far beyond Latin American experts. Activities planned for the main phase will continue in the final phase of three years and also after the entire grant period. For the realisation of this plan, our Postdoctoral Researchers and the Principal Investigators in Germany and Latin America will prepare pertinent research proposals for funding agencies, including Brazilian agencies, especially the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP), which is a major public agency offering funding lines in all areas encompassed by the Centre (doctoral and postdoctoral scholarships, fellowships for international scholars, academic infrastructure, etc.; see http://www.fapesp.br/en/). They may also apply for funding lines in Argentina (CONICET) and Mexico (CONACyT). These different funding lines combined with the commitment of the seven partner institutions will enable the establishment of a vivid international Centre with a long-term focus on conviviality and inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## 2. Management and Organisation of the Centre

### 2.1. Organisational Structure

*Executive Board and Directors*

As during the preliminary phase, the Centre will be led by an Executive Board which will meet four times a year via videoconferences or in-person meetings. The Executive Board consists of ten members, one representative of each of the seven consortium partners, one representative of the Postdoctoral Researchers, and one additional Principal Investigator from FU Berlin as the coordinating institution. The Scientific Manager of the Centre attends its meetings ex officio. The members of the Executive Board will take all major decisions, including the selection of fellows and the decision of Annual Focal Themes for the Thematic Groups and workshops in close consultation with the Advisory Board and the Ethics Committee. The Executive Board will elect four Directors (two from the German partner institutions and two from the Latin American partner institutions) among the Principal Investigators, representing the three Research Areas and different countries in accordance with the disciplinary and linguistic diversity. Two Directors will be based in São Paulo while the other two will closely follow the Centre's activities from their home institutions. At least one Director will lead the Centre's activities for two consecutive years to ensure continuity. The Directors will be in charge of leading the scientific work of the Centre and the implementation of the research programme and other scientific work defined by the Executive Board. They will rotate according to the following preliminary schedule:

| Year | Designated Directors (to be confirmed) |
|---|---|
| 2020-2021 | Sérgio Costa (FU Berlin), Marcos Nobre (CEBRAP) Barbara Potthast (UzK), Gloria Chicote (IdIHCS) |
| 2021-2022 | Susanne Klengel (FU Berlin), Marcos Nobre (CEBRAP) Barbara Potthast (UzK), Gloria Chicote (IdIHCS) |
| 2022-2023 | N.N. (UzK), Samuel Barbosa (USP) Susanne Klengel (FU Berlin), Laura Flamand (COLMEX) |
| 2023-2024 | Barbara Göbel (IAI), N.N. (CEBRAP) Laura Flamand (COLMEX), N.N. (FU Berlin) |
| 2024-2025 | Barbara Göbel (IAI), N.N. (UzK) Samuel Barbosa (USP), N.N. (IdIHCS) |
| 2025-2026 | Sérgio Costa (FU Berlin), N.N. (IAI) Samuel Barbosa (USP), N.N. (COLMEX) |

*Cooperation Goals and Structure*

Having its headquarters in São Paulo, Mecila understands itself as a *transnational network* including research, researchers and activities based at all seven consortium members and their cooperation partners. To achieve the goal of articulating these various research contexts, Mecila has developed the following mutually complementary collaborative research and exchange structure:

*São Paulo hub*: Distributed among the two consortium partners in São Paulo (CEBRAP and USP), Mecila's main research activities encompass the development and discussion of Fellows' individual projects, regular talks by Visiting Scholars and a weekly colloquium at CEBRAP. All Doctoral and Postdoctoral Scholars will have their offices at USP in order to facilitate their integration into the local academic community. Senior Fellows will be based in individual offices at CEBRAP to enable close contact with other CEBRAP research groups in which professors from three major universities from the region work together: USP, Universidade de Campinas and Fundação Getúlio Vargas. As in the past, the weekly colloquium will be attended by everyone who is in São Paulo at one given time: Senior and Junior Fellows, Postdoctoral Researchers, Doctoral Fellows, local Principal and Associated Investigators as well as Mecila's Directors. Hence, the Weekly Colloquium is a privileged space of exchange and interaction for early-career researchers and senior scholars from different disciplines and institutions. Moreover, each year, a kick-off workshop and a final workshop will take place in order to introduce the new Fellows into the pertinent academic community and to give to them the opportunity to present their final research results.

*Project activities in Mexico City and La Plata*: Mecila's presence in Spanish-speaking countries will be strengthened by regular activities taking place at IdIHCS and COLMEX under the guidance of these institutions' Principal Investigators as well as Associated Investigators and Postdoctoral

Researchers. This encompasses short stays and lectures by Fellows established in São Paulo, the hosting of the Mecila Research Chair (see below) as well as events organised by local partners and joint workshops.

*Project activities in Berlin and Cologne*: Regular activities taking place at FU Berlin and IAI in Berlin and at UzK in Cologne will strengthen Mecila's presence in Germany. This encompasses lectures by Mecila's Principal Investigators, residencies for Mecila's scholars hosted by the Reciprocal Fellowship Programmes (see below), events organised by local partners and joint workshops.

*Thematic Research Groups*: Each year, Mecila will offer the possibility for two Thematic Research Groups to stay in São Paulo for two and half months in order to work collaboratively on a focal theme, resulting in working papers, journal articles and book chapters, among others. Selected on the basis of international calls, these groups consist of junior *and* senior scholars. At least one member of the group has to be affiliated with one of the consortium institutions. In each application round, another focal theme will be chosen by the Executive Board in consultation with the Advisory Board. The provisional selection of focal themes is a result of our discussions in the preliminary phase and includes: Conservatisms, Indigeneities, Materialities, Intimacies, Knowledges, Informalities. Each focal theme will constitute the main focus of the *Thematic Workshop* that will take place in rotation in all five cities in which Mecila's partner institutions are located.

*Reciprocal Fellowships*: In order to develop more symmetrical cooperation among their partners located in different countries, UzK and FU Berlin will use their own budgetary resources to offer Fellowships of one to three months to Latin American Principal Investigators, Associated Investigators and other outstanding scholars from Latin American partner institutions for research stays in Cologne and Berlin. During these stays, fellows will develop their individual Mecila research projects and will be fully integrated into the research activities of the three German partner institutions, interacting with Principal Investigators, Associated Investigators and other pertinent scholars.

*Annual Meeting*: The Centre's Annual Meeting in São Paulo will consist of a two-day International Conference, a two-day Forum for Young Researchers and a one-day follow-up for internal evaluations and strategic planning among the Executive Board, the Advisory Board and the Ethics Committee (see 3.2.).

The *Mecila Research Chair* (Cátedra Mecila) will be awarded to a scholar from one of the Latin American consortium institutions for ten-week research stays at one of the Latin American partner institutions. The Mecila Research Chair will rotate during the year among all four Latin American partner institutions. It contributes to integrate research developed at different partner institutions and

to increase the visibility of Mecila in different regions of Latin America.[5]

Various instruments, at different levels, promote the integration and articulation of the activities developed at the seven partner institutions. On a strategic organisational level, the Coordination Office is responsible for gathering information concerning events and publications developed by the partner institutions and disseminating it among all of Mecila's Investigators as well as to a broad audience (via tools such as a monthly Newsletter, social media posts and conventional media appearances). On an analytically substantive level, the Research Areas' Spokespersons and the Postdoctoral Researchers designated to each area coordinate the collection, synthesis and discussion of all relevant research findings taking place at every partner institution. Finally, on a third level, all members of Mecila will take part in the proposal and organisation of common events, including annual meetings and the several workshops that build up a space for discussing, promoting and further developing the research production of Mecila's Investigators from all consortium members. These instruments are designed to facilitate and strengthen the complementarity between the partner institutions, whose synergetic combination of different organisational and research profiles is one of Mecila's hallmarks and distinctive advantages. Through the established dynamic networks between the consortium partners, Mecila is well positioned to achieve multiple effects not only in research and teaching, but also in terms of the dialogue between academic and non-academic audiences.

### *Management and Support Staff*

In order to sustain its research network character with a hub in São Paulo and local and joint activities in La Plata, Mexico City, Cologne and Berlin, Mecila's management structure combines a Coordination Office based in São Paulo with decentralised management resources, partly financed by the consortium members. In addition, Mecila's three Postdoctoral Researchers, employed by one of the three German partner institutions using the BMBF grant, will coordinate the various activities of our Research Areas. The Coordination Office based in São Paulo is responsible for the operational management of the Centre and reports to the Directors and to the Executive Board. It is composed of six members and four Student Assistants:

The *Scientific Manager*, based at CEBRAP, is an experienced PhD holder in a pertinent discipline and is in charge of the overall coordination of the Centre. The role requires wide-ranging project management skills, including knowledge of grant writing and financial management. Mariana Teixeira, trained as a philosopher and social scientist in Brazil and Germany, has held this position since March 2019. Due to her excellent coordination skills, we expect her to continue working with us in the main phase. The *Scientific Editor*, to be based at CEBRAP, will be an English native speaker

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[5] Provisional schedule of the Mecila Chair: 1 February to 15 April (USP), 16 April to 30 June 30 (IdIHCS), 1 August to 15 October (CEBRAP), 16 October to 31 December (COLMEX).

with a pertinent doctoral degree who is responsible for Mecila's publications (at least 25 working papers per annum in addition to books, dossiers, etc.). This role includes consulting for Mecila's (especially early-career) researchers for their own publication strategies. Additionally, Mecila will employ an *Events and Outreach Coordinator*, a multilingual assistant to be based at CEBRAP, who will coordinate the Centre's events, ranging from international conferences to weekly colloquia. We expect Melanie Metzen, who has impeccably conducted these activities during the preliminary phase, to continue working with us during the main phase. Moreover, Mecila's *Administrative Assistant*, a bilingual assistant to be based at CEBRAP, will help to administer all activities of the Centre, ensuring the thorough and timely preparation of financial matters and other reports. In addition to the staff mentioned above, two *Administrative Assistants* (one based at USP, one based at CEBRAP), will provide assistance for Mecila's researchers (primarily its Fellows) before and after their arrival. This administrative support is needed in varied fields such as visa applications, accommodation and childcare in São Paulo, access to libraries, archives and language courses, as well as networking opportunities with the scientific community. Lastly, four part time *Student Assistants*, two based at USP, two based at CEBRAP, will help Fellows and Mecila's researchers in their research activities as well as in the organisation of meetings and events.

## 2.2. Interdisciplinary Cooperation

Our fruitful interdisciplinary work is grounded on at least three pillars:

i) Methodological and theoretical focus: As developed above (see 1.1.), our interdisciplinary research approach integrates scholarship on living together, further established within the humanities, with research on inequality, extensively developed in social sciences. Moreover, our methodological tools, materialised in the categories "convivial regimes" and "convivial configurations", allow us to grasp the nexus conviviality-inequality from an interdisciplinary angle as well as from diachronic and synchronic perspectives. Furthermore, the three levels of analysis we focus on (contexts, interactions, and representations) foster interdisciplinary cooperation insofar as different disciplines complement each other in researching these different levels using their specific methods and materials.

ii) Composition of research teams and research formats: Our Principal and Associated Investigators represent eleven different disciplines in the humanities and social sciences. All of them as well as their home institutions have broad experience in interdisciplinary work. The openness for interdisciplinarity will also be a criterion for the selection of Fellows and Postdoctoral Researchers (see 2.4.). Moreover, all planned formats for collaborative work are designed for the promotion of interdisciplinary cooperation at different levels. While cooperation within the Research Areas allow for cooperation among more closed disciplines and the Thematic Groups foster interdisciplinarity around a specific topic, conferences and the weekly colloquium strengthen the exchange among

researchers working in a broad range of disciplines and topics.

iii) Exchange with non-academic experts: Through regular dialogue with representatives of social movements, public sphere actors, and other non-academic experts, Mecila challenges the borders between disciplines and between these and the non-academic world, fostering transdisciplinary knowledge production.

## 2.3. Collaboration with Mecila's Fellows

Besides developing their own research projects addressing conviviality-inequality, Junior and Senior Fellows will be fully integrated into the collaborative research established at the Centre through various means. They will join one of the three Research Areas participating in their specific activities as well as in the Weekly Colloquium, in the kick-off and in the final workshops, in the Annual Meetings and in the Annual Thematic Workshops. All Fellows should contribute at least once to the Working Paper Series while the Senior Fellows are expected to deliver a public lecture in the Mecila Joint Distinguished Lecture Series.

## 2.4. Selection of Fellows

The selection of Fellows will be organised according to the following plan: As a first step, all Fellowship applications (including Thematic Groups) are subject to an early suitability assessment by the Coordination Office and Directors concerning formal criteria. Second, they will be peer-reviewed internally by one Principal or Associated Investigator and by one external outstanding scholar in the appropriate subject field. This will result in a shortlisting of candidates who will be contacted for final interviews. The final decision will be made by the Executive Board in consultation with the Advisory Board and the Ethics Committee (see 2.7.), aiming at a regional, discipline, and gender balance as well as intersectional equity. The participation of the Advisory Board and the Ethics Committee ensures a fair and transparent application process. The primary selection criterion for all fellows is the expectation that each Fellow's stay at Mecila will yield original and excellent research results. The scientific merit of the project will be assessed in terms of its originality and the importance of the scientific questions addressed. Successful candidates must show an appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary, gender, and diversity aspects. The appropriateness of the proposed methodology and the feasibility of the timeframe will also be assessed. In terms of long-term impact, the quality of the proposed measures to disseminate the project results will be evaluated. As far as doctoral and postdoctoral applicants are concerned, the project should be appropriately ambitious and enhance the career prospects of the applicant.

The calls for applications for all fellowships will emphasize that the Centre is equally interested in theoretical discussions as well as empirical studies. The calls will also express Mecila's openness to all methods and materials relevant to the humanities and social sciences, including qualitative and

quantitative data, archives, literary texts, art objects, acoustic and iconographic collections, cartographies, social media samples, etc. All disciplines and scholars belonging to the broad fields of the humanities and social sciences interested in addressing conviviality-inequality in Latin America or in other regions can potentially participate in the Centre's activities. The only requirement is an interest in both focusing on the nexus conviviality-inequality and engaging in interdisciplinary dialogue in a broader sense.

## 2.5. Follow-up Contact and Integration

As a transnational network, Mecila aims to establish long-term cooperation opportunities among its members. In that sense, the research stays of Fellows must be regarded as steppingstones for further collaborative work. Besides specific long-term projects among various members such as joint publications and conference contributions, Mecila actively promotes the integration of former Fellows in one of the consortium institutions. Besides the aforementioned Reciprocal Fellowships, this will be established by instruments already implemented at FU Berlin and UzK (e.g. Albert's Global Researcher Network, Forscher-Alumni-Programm, Red LAI Alumni) as well as by supporting applications of former Fellows for third-party grants awarded by different institutions to German consortium members (e.g. Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, European Research Council). In addition, the higher education institutions of the consortium seek to include Mecila's research topics among the areas to be covered by current and future professors.

## 2.6. Support of Early-Career Researchers

At Mecila, special attention is given to the supervision, promotion and encouragement of students, Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows. During their visits to São Paulo, Doctoral Fellows (see 2.1.) will have a mentor at USP, chosen according to their specific research topic. This mentorship aims at ensuring excellent supervision during their research stays. Postdoctoral scholars will be highly represented and supported at our Centre: As Postdoctoral Researchers (3 positions), Junior Fellows (4 positions per year) and within Thematic Groups (4 two and half-month positions each year). During an Annual Forum for Young Researchers, Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellows will have the opportunity to discuss their work and to exchange experiences about career-planning. Lastly, students will be involved in Mecila's research topics and activities by way of teaching projects at USP, COLMEX, UzK and FU Berlin, following successful experiences developed during the preliminary phase.

## 2.7. Advisory Board and Ethics Committee

The *International Advisory Board* will be designated by the Executive Board for periods of two years renewable for a further two years. Composed of five members who are outstanding pertinent scholars

with recognised international reputations and at least one representative of civil society, the International Advisory Board will ensure the quality of Mecila's research and its link to the non-academic sectors of society. It advises the Executive Board in all relevant academic decisions, including the selection of Fellows, the definition of the yearly thematic focus, the evaluation of the internationalisation and publication strategies. The following members are planned to compose the International Advisory Board: Arjun Appadurai (New York University/ Hertie School of Governance), Thomas Duve (MPI für europäische Rechtsgeschichte), Jeffrey Lesser (Emory University), Nilma Lino Gomes (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais), Paula-Irene Villa Braslavsky (Ludwig-Maximilian Universität München) (see Appendix B6). For ensuring gender balance, the gender relation will be changed in two years as the board will be composed of three female and two male members.

Furthermore, the Centre's work will be closely accompanied by an *Ethics Committee* whose members are chosen for a term of two years. It consists of one member of the Advisory Board, an experienced scholar (Marianne Braig from FU Berlin, who has contributed as a Principal Investigator in the preliminary phase, will serve in the Committee's first term), one representative of the Postdoctoral Researchers, and one representative of the administrative staff. The overall task of this committee is to safeguard research integrity (good scientific practice) as well as principles of equal opportunity within the Centre, especially gender balance, and, following an intersectional approach, other structurally disadvantaged and underrepresented groups. The Ethics Committee will also arbitrate conflicts which may emerge among Mecila's scholars and cooperation partners.

## 2.8. Contributions of the Latin American Partner Institutions

### *Universidade de São Paulo (USP)*

As part of the São Paulo hub, USP will provide *adequate infrastructure* for the work of Doctoral Fellows and Postdoctoral Researchers and for the coordination staff located at its central campus as well as further spaces for the Coordination Office, which have been in use from the beginning of the preliminary phase. As in the past, all researchers of the Centre will receive access to the university's *infrastructure* including libraries, archives, etc. In addition, during the entirety of the grant period, USP members will apply – in cooperation with the Centre's Postdoctoral Researchers – for other funding for the co-financing and *expansion of the Centre's activities*. USP will enable its professors and researchers to fully participate in the Centre's activities, including their participation as Principal Investigators and Directors. Like all universities that are part of the consortium, USP will continue to develop *teaching projects* addressing Mecila's research agenda and will also adopt suitable measures in order to secure the *sustainability and institutionalisation of the Centre* after the end of the BMBF grant period.

USP will also make efforts to implement a Mecila Chair with its own funds, as a support instrument for Mecila's activities during the funding period, and to ensure their continuity after the funding period.

### *Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (CEBRAP)*

In tandem with USP, CEBRAP constitutes Mecila's hub in São Paulo, providing *adequate space* for part of the Coordination Office and all Senior Fellows. Building on the positive experiences of the preliminary phase, CEBRAP's team will continue to provide *guidance and administrative support* for the work of the Coordination Office. In order to broadly connect the Centre's activities with the local academic community, CEBRAP will provide *space for mid-sized events* and the Weekly Colloquium. Just like USP, CEBRAP will implement structures to ensure the sustainability of the Centre: During the entire grant period, CEBRAP's members will apply for other funding for the co-financing and *expansion of Mecila's activities*. CEBRAP will contribute to securing the *sustainability and institutionalisation of the Centre* after the end of the BMBF grant period by shaping the direction of their own investments and instruments (position specifications for professors, internal funding) as well as through appropriate *grant applications*.

### *Instituto de Investigaciones en Humanidades y Ciencias Sociales (IdIHCS)*

As Mecila's node in Argentina, IdIHCS (CONICET/Universidad Nacional de La Plata) will continue to make significant contributions by providing its *facilities and administrative support* to carry out scientific activities. Moreover, it will *support academic stays* of the Centre's researchers and Fellows at IdIHCS, offering its infrastructure and technical assistance, as well as providing full access to libraries, archives and information resources. Moreover, IdIHCS will promote the inclusion of Mecila's publications in its *publication programme* (indexed and open access book series and journals). Like all universities that are part of the consortium, IdIHCS will continue to develop *teaching projects* addressing Mecila's research agenda.

### *El Colegio de México (COLMEX)*

As Mecila's node in Mexico, COLMEX will *implement and disseminate the Centre's activities* in Mexico and the broader region, including Central America, Canada and the USA. Furthermore, COLMEX will provide *infrastructure and guidance* to the Fellows of the Centre during their stays in Mexico. Not only will COLMEX enable its professors and researchers to fully participate in the Centre's activities, it will also *reduce internal duties* of its professors directly engaged with the Centre (Principal Investigators). Like all universities that are part of the consortium, COLMEX will continue to develop *teaching projects* addressing Mecila's research agenda. In doing so, COLMEX can draw on a number of successful teaching activities with FU Berlin, especially in the area of doctoral programmes.

## 2.9. Contributions of the German Partner Institutions

***Freie Universität Berlin (FU Berlin)***

FU Berlin has already made substantial contributions in various forms and will continue to do so even more intensively in the main phase. Besides the administrative supervision of activities in São Paulo, FU Berlin also coordinates Mecila's activities on its Berlin Campus. Therefore, FU Berlin will continue financing *two part-time project positions* based in Berlin combining coordination and management responsibilities in order to support the communication between the Centre, the Latin American partners, the FU Berlin administration and the grant administrator (DLR). Along with the organisation and coordination of events and travel, these assistants will be responsible for administering the flow of funds, reporting and budget control, and for supporting Latin American Fellows who come to Berlin within FU's own Fellow programme. Moreover, the *FU Berlin Liaison Office in São Paulo* will provide significant support for the Centre's work with its expertise in legal, tax, and other administrative matters. To redistribute the internal duties of its professors directly engaged in Centre's activities and to improve the careers of young scholars working in the Centre's research fields, FU Berlin appointed two new *Junior Professors* during the preliminary phase at LAI: one for Brazilian Literatures and Cultures (Mariana Simoni), and one for Sociology with emphasis on Latin American environmental and inequality research (Renata Motta). The professorships will be evaluated and prolonged in the main phase. Furthermore, FU Berlin's own contributions include the financing of a competitive *Fellowship Programme* which will enable researchers from Latin America to come to Berlin as Visiting Researchers. For this purpose, FU Berlin will provide offices with *adequate workspaces*, meeting rooms and a conference room. Visiting Researchers will be involved in relevant academic activities including regular colloquia and other pertinent events at FU Berlin. Like all universities that are part of the consortium, FU Berlin will continue developing *teaching projects* addressing Mecila's research agenda.

***Universität zu Köln (UzK)***

As agreed upon in the preliminary phase, UzK will focus thematically on the historic and cultural dimension of conviviality and inequality, and will be responsible for Mecila's research data management. It will also provide vivid exchange with scholars working on similar topics in other areas by connecting Mecila scholars with the Global South Studies Center Cologne (GSSC). The GSSC is an autonomous, interdisciplinary Centre of Excellence of UzK with a substantial annual budget. Collaboration with the GSSC will also provide a long-term perspective for research on conviviality. In order to strengthen this cooperation, UzK will finance a *Fellow Programme* for researchers from Latin America to come to UzK, which will be integrated into the *International Faculty Programme* already existing at UzK. All Fellows and researchers from the Centre will have access to the library and office facilities of UzK and will be able to participate in the various research activities hosted at this institution. Like all universities that are part of the consortium, UzK will

continue developing *teaching projects* addressing Mecila's research agenda, particularly at the interdisciplinary *Cologne Latin American Studies Center* (CLAC) and the *Portuguese-Brazilian Institute* (PBI), which is currently developing a Master's programme in Brazilian Studies. During the preliminary phase of Mecila, a new *junior professorship* focusing on *Latin American media studies* was established in order to extend the disciplinary range of research on Latin America at UzK. With the establishment of a *Data Management System*, UzK has already contributed substantially to Mecila in the preliminary phase. The university financed a 25% position, held by Milagros Pacco, in order to establish the *research data management system* as well Mecila's own *cloud system*. This system was already established at the beginning of 2019 and is being used successfully by the members of Mecila for internal communication. In addition, the position was topped by another 25% in order to administer funds and programmes. During the main phase, Uzk will continue to provide the data management and administration with a 50% position, in addition to the support and guidance granted by the university data management and the third-party funding administration department. Thus, it will provide support for Mecila's researchers on the ever-increasing importance of planning, acquisition, processing and storage of research data. At the same time, this position assures the quality of and access to data, potentially enabling its reproducibility and re-use.

### *Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI)*

IAI will provide access to its information infrastructure and its *outstanding multimedia library holdings*, including special collections, for Principal Investigators, Associate Investigators, Postdoctoral Researchers, Doctoral, Junior and Senior Fellows of the Centre. This also includes specialist consultation and providing workspaces in the library as well as additional workspaces. The Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz will provide *two fully equipped rooms* for Researchers and Fellows in Berlin. Furthermore, all researchers of the Centre will receive access to all *electronic resources* of the library (e-journals, e-books, databases, digital collections, etc.). The library will pay special attention to the needs of the Centre in *future acquisitions*. The personnel resources required for the maintenance of the virtual reading room (cataloguing, coordination of outsourced digitisation) as well as the management of the publication server will be provided by IAI. The Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz will finance an additional librarian position (TvöD 9c Bund, 100%) for the entire main phase, in order to support IAI's key role in developing Mecila's information infrastructure. Using its own resources, IAI will incorporate publications and other Mecila productions into the library's holdings, assuring their worldwide visibility through their presence in diverse catalogues (GBV, World Cat, etc.) and their sustainable future accessibility in repositories. It will connect Mecila members to its extensive and diverse networks, in particular the international researchers staying each year at the institute that reach over 70 in number. Located in the centre of Berlin, IAI will provide *event and meeting infrastructure* (rooms, technical and logistical support) for the Centre's activities.

It will also provide its well-established specific expertise in science-policy exchange and in dialogic formats with civil society. For the latter, IAI will support the *public outreach* of the Centre through advertising by means of the Institute's wide-ranging, multilingual channels (programme information and leporello, newsletter, flyer, website, etc.).

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# Mecila: GENERAL STRUCTURE



**INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM**

**Germany**
FU Berlin
UzK, IAI

**Latin America**
USP, Brazil
CEBRAP, Brazil
IdIHCS, Argentina
COLMEX, Mexico

**GOVERNANCE**

Advisory Board

Ethics Committee

Executive Board

Directors

Sc. Manager

Coordination Office

**RESEARCH AREAS**
(Hi)Stories
Medialities
Politics

Principal Investigators

Mecila Chair Holders

Postdoctoral Investigators

Associated Investigators

Senior and Junior Fellows

Research Groups

Doctoral Fellows

**RESEARCH SUPPORT**

General Management

Information Infrastructure

Data Management