

## Special Issue of *Revista de Ciencia Política*

### **Research Transparency in the Social Sciences: New tools, Old Principles.**

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*Revista de Ciencia Política* invites scholars to take part in a special issue on research transparency in the social sciences and specifically in political science. The goal of this special issue is threefold. First, it seeks to bring debates about boosting transparency—which has received prominent attention especially among scholars using experimental methods—closer to the study of Latin American politics. Second, it aims to foster methodological debate about the virtues and challenges of study pre-registration, results-blind review, and other means of limiting publication biases in the social sciences. Third, it aims to highlight substantive research that uses these methods to bolster the transparency and credibility of research results. This initiative will also establish the *Revista de Ciencia Política* as a journal that accepts results-blind review of registered pre-analysis plans.

### **Background**

There is increasing attention in the social sciences to the way in which research is conducted, reported, and published. One important concern focuses on publication bias—the tendency of journals to publish only statistically significant results—which can undermine the credibility of bodies of literature as a whole. More broadly, scholars have focused on boosting the credibility of research, for example, by promoting greater data availability and replication files for published research. Many of these debates have emerged in connection with the application of experimental methods in the social sciences in particular (see [www.e-gap.org](http://www.e-gap.org), [bitss.org/](http://bitss.org/)), but the issues apply to non-experimental as well as experimental research.

The movement towards greater research transparency, as well as the rise of experimental methods, has important implications for the study of Latin American politics. Compared to scholarship on several other regions, however, these issues have not been highlighted as prominently in Latin America. This special issue hopes to engage recent debates and consider their importance in the Latin American context and especially to explore both the strengths and limitations of novel ways of conducting research.

As a first step to accomplishing these goals, for this special issue we invite proposals on:

- a) Methodological issues regarding research transparency, the application of pre-analysis plans to non-experimental research, or discussions of causal inference in the social sciences

b) Original substantive research, planned or ongoing, for which the author/authors have not yet analyzed outcome data. Researchers must send the registered version of the pre-analysis plan. These pre-analysis plans will be reviewed and assessed with respect to the importance of the research question, the quality of the theory and hypotheses, and the strength of the planned research design. Experimental as well as non-experimental research is welcome.

Authors of research papers whose manuscripts receive positive reviews and are thus invited to move forward with publication will need to make available all background documents, including full replication files.

Proposals should follow the standard RCP submission requirements for articles (see: <http://www.scielo.cl/revistas/revcipol/einstruc.htm>) and should be submitted to: [revcipol@uc.cl](mailto:revcipol@uc.cl). Please indicate “RCP special issue submission” in the subject line.

Submission deadline: September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

Publication of the special issue: 2016-2017 Academic Year.