

Colombia Internacional

Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Political Science • Universidad de Los Andes (Colombia)

Call for Papers

The *Colombia Internacional* invites the academic community to participate in its next call for papers, for the special issue on **Money and Politics in Latin America**, coordinated by professor Néstor Castañeda (University College, London). Articles may be submitted between **October 15th and November 30th, 2017**.

This issue will focus on the analysis of the relation between money and politics in Latin America and its implications for the sustainability of democracy and economic development in the region.

The consolidation of democracy in most countries of the region opened the way to a more pluralist model of representation in which more actors have access to the political game, but the entrance costs are higher.

The individuals and/or groups with more resources to pay the entrance costs are usually better represented and more influential in the formulation and implementation of public policies. Therefore, it is not surprising that diverse interest groups and businessmen (legal and illegal) invest enormous amounts of money in financing political campaigns and recruiting politicians who sympathize with their interests. Nor is it surprising that political parties and candidates devote a large part of their time and efforts to looking for campaign contributions. These are now habitual practices in the electoral competition of pluralist democracies.

Nevertheless, as the *Lava Jato* and *Odebrecht* scandals show, the excessive influence of interest groups, companies and private donors in shaping public policies and the assignation of State resources is one of the biggest challenges for democracy in Latin America.

First, the principles of democratic representation break down when political parties and candidates are more attentive to the interests and preferences of a few individuals than those of the majority of citizens. Second, public policies are less efficient as tools to promote economic development because they are designed to favor private interests and not promote the general welfare of a nation. Third, electoral competition is distorted and loses legitimacy because some politicians have more money available to finance their campaigns and some social sectors find it difficult to attract candidates who wish to represent them. Fourth, in highly fragmented electoral contexts (as happens in many of the region's countries), the circulation of money in electoral campaigns weakens the party system, encourages the favoring of personalism and facilitates the creation of electoral "micro-companies". Fifth, these distortions of the system of democratic representation affect the sharing out of public resources and limit the capacity of governments to ensure a more equitable distribution of wealth.

Finally, and no less important, the growing cost of electoral campaigns and their fragmentation have opened the way for illegal and criminal enterprises to have a greater access to and influence on public policies. Despite the importance of these concerns, our knowledge of the relations between money and politics in the region is limited. Most of the recent studies of the subject have focused on describing and documenting the most common practices of financing politics in the region.

Some researchers have discussed the effect of campaign finance on electoral results. Others have written about the advantages and disadvantages for the institutionalization of political parties of the public financing of campaigns. More recently, there have been studies of the conditions in which interest groups influence certain public policies. Despite these important contributions to our knowledge of the subject, the study of the role of money in Latin American democracies is still in its early stage.

For this special issue of the Magazine, we invite academics and researchers to submit articles which, from different methodological standpoints, contribute to a rigorous and comparative study of the financing of politics and its effects on the consolidation of democracy in Latin America.

We are especially interested in articles which deal with some of the following subjects:

- Money and democratic representation:
 - The costs of electoral democracy in Latin America
 - Corruption, campaign finance and the allocation of public spending
 - Organized crime and the financing of electoral campaigns
 - Influence peddling, conflicts of interest and political representation
- Models of political financing in Latin America:
 - The impact of different schemes of campaign finance on the institutionalization of political parties
 - Electoral fragmentation and campaign finance
 - The effects of the financing of campaigns on electoral competition
 - Public financing and electoral competition
 - Recent reforms in schemes of financing campaigns and their consequences for representative democracy in Latin America
 - Electoral authorities, criminal financing practices and transparency
- The political power of interest groups:
 - The emergence and transformation of economic interest groups and their consequences for representative democracy
 - Sources of the political power of interest groups
 - Economic power and the formulation of public policies
 - Campaign contributions and legislative conduct

- The transformation of the relations between businessmen and the State, and its consequences for democracy and economic development.
- The channels and strategies used by interest groups to influence politics: organizations, social networks, lobbying, etc.
- Lobbying in Latin America

Colombia Internacional also publishes reviews, bibliographical essays and brief research studies with a critical focus on the specific subject of the special number. They may be submitted in English, Spanish and Portuguese. We also accept articles of general interest for other sections of the Magazine.

The Magazine's editorial norms and criteria for the submission of articles may be found on its website: <http://colombiainternacional.uniandes.edu.co/>

Instructions for the authors of articles are available at:
<https://colombint.uniandes.edu.co/index.php/en/authors/editorial-policy>