THE CULTURAL SOCIOLOGY PROGRAM

Programa de Sociología Cultural
Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), México

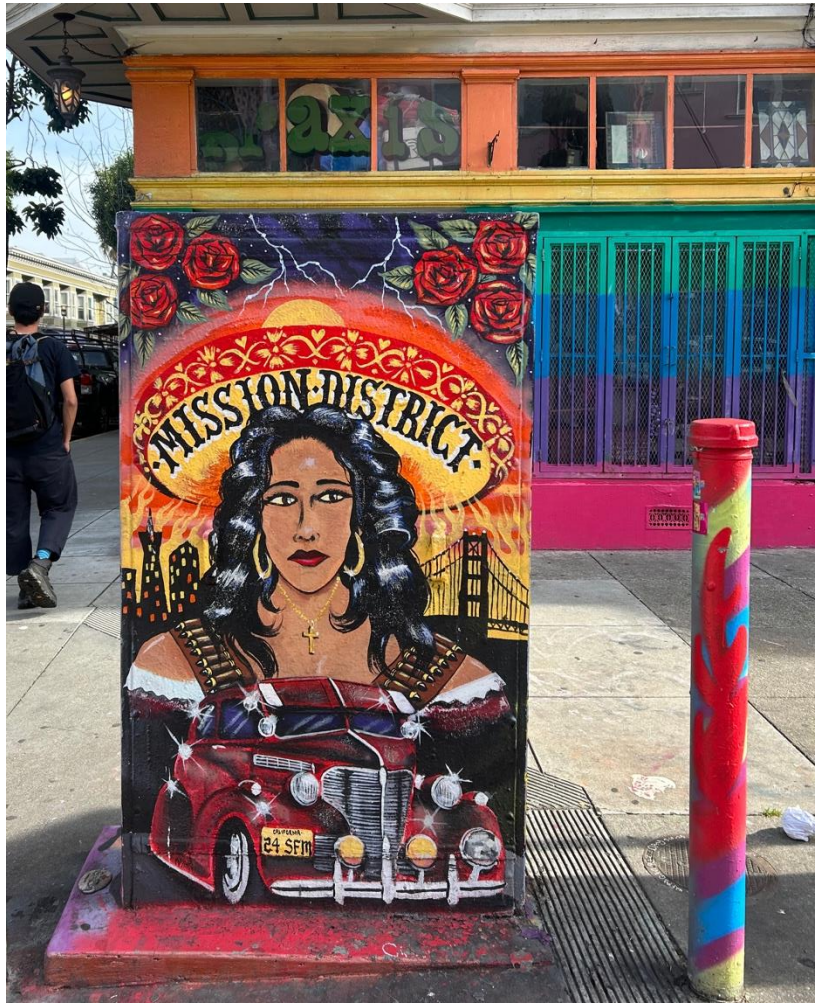
FLACSO
MÉXICO

PRESENTATION

The Cultural Sociology Program —Programa de Sociología Cultural, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), México— was established in June 2025 through a collaboration between FLACSO Mexico and the Center for Cultural Sociology (CCS) at Yale University.

It is a space for **reflection, dialogue and collaborative learning** centered on understanding the processes through which cultural meanings are generated, the ways they pattern life in community, and their relation to social structure and social action.

Its purpose is to become the Latin American reference point in the theoretical and empirical debate on Civil Sphere Theory – articulated around the Strong Program in Cultural Sociology – and its applicability in Latin America.



OBJECTIVES

“To build a research core specialized in **Civil Sphere Theory** in Latin America.”

The organizing axis is **civil sphere theory** as developed by Jeffrey C. Alexander: its concepts, its methodology and its relation to other social spheres.

To this end, the Program sets out its **(specific objectives**):

- To generate conceptual and methodological tools that illuminate the civil texture of Latin American social life.
- To examine how the civil sphere expands or contracts across different contexts in the region.
- To foster critical discussion of the concepts of the Strong Program from the standpoint of their applicability in Latin America.
- To articulate cutting-edge theoretical, methodological and empirical reflection.

STRATEGIC PILLARS

1. PRODUCTION OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

This pillar seeks to foster the generation of original, situated and cutting-edge knowledge on the intersections between social structures and the symbolic dimensions of contemporary life, with an emphasis on Civil Sphere Theory.

LINES OF ACTION

Epistemological and methodological rigor

- Research that combines theoretical depth with empirical soundness: qualitative, quantitative and mixed approaches to capture the complexity of cultural phenomena.

Thematic innovation

- The study of emerging problems: democracy, political and social polarization, new and old extremisms, violence, trauma, iconicity, social movements, Indigenous peoples, digital identities, new affectivities, collective memory, cultural inequalities, migration and the dynamics of the civil sphere in Latin America.

Research with public impact

- Findings engage the public sphere and contribute to the design of informed social agendas.

2. STRENGTHENING RESEARCH NETWORKS

This pillar seeks to position the Cultural Sociology Program as the articulating node of the academic conversation on the Strong Program in Cultural Sociology in the Latin American context, transcending institutional boundaries.

LINES OF ACTION

- Collaboration with the Department of Anthropology at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Iztapalapa, for the short courses and the micro-certifications.
- Ties with researchers from universities working on topics related to Civil Sphere Theory, within and beyond Latin America.
- Exchange between students of FLACSO Mexico and of the Yale CCS and its affiliated researchers.
- Coordination with the Cultural Sociology and History Seminar at FLACSO Mexico for joint activities.
- An active presence at LASA, ALAS, ISA and CLACSO to project the intellectual capital of the Cultural Sociology Program in global disciplinary debates.

3. KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION

This pillar seeks to promote access to the intellectual capital produced by the Cultural Sociology Program, ensuring that findings reach both specialized and broader public audiences.

LINES OF ACTION

Microsite of the Cultural Sociology Program A digital platform within the FLACSO Mexico website: a central repository, curated content and the visualization of research.

Dialogue series and academic outreach
Hybrid forums, open seminars and book presentations that connect researchers, students and social actors.

Transmedia communication
Research results in accessible formats: infographics, short videos and an active presence on social media.

ACTIVITIES

01

Workshop «Reflections on the Civil Sphere in Latin America»

A virtual space for reflection and theoretical dialogue. Sessions first discuss the concepts of the Strong Program and then their applicability to specific cases. Participation is by invitation and sessions are held every two weeks.

***Start date:** October 2026

02

Short courses (with micro-certification)

Specialized training in the concepts and methods of the Strong Program. At the end of each course, an academic micro-certification is awarded, endorsed by FLACSO Mexico and the Department of Anthropology at Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana, Iztapalapa. At least one course per semester.

***Start date:** First semester of 2027

03

Gatherings, colloquia and public conversations

Open spaces for dialogue, oriented to the exchange of ideas and reflections on concepts and methods that illuminate the cultural texture of social life. At least one per semester.

***Start date:** First semester of 2027

04

Publications and digital content

Original research will be published in a range of formats: books, dossiers, edited volumes, working papers, outreach videos and podcasts, among others. Collaborations with other institutions and publishers will be sought.

***Start date:** Second semester of 2026

05

Journal of Cultural Sociology in Latin America

The first Spanish-language journal devoted to the applicability of the Strong Program in Latin America. A long-term project, a pioneer in its field.

06

Lecture series

"Democracy, Power and Performance." Five sessions with international specialists, on Tuesdays at 3:00 pm; each applies a theoretical perspective to a concrete case.

***Start date: October 2026**

ACTIVITIES UNDER WAY

01
Workshop «Reflections on the Civil Sphere in Latin America»

A virtual space for reflection and theoretical dialogue: sessions first discuss concepts and then explore their applicability to specific cases.

Start: October 2026

06 Lecture series

«Democracy, Power and Performance»
Tuesdays, 4:00 pm · Hybrid format

October 20, 2026	**Carlo Tognato** UN-Mandated University for Peace
November 3, 2026	**Nicolás Rudas** El Colegio de México
November 10, 2026	**Anne Taylor** Mount Holyoke College
November 24, 2026	**Jeffrey C. Alexander** Yale University
March 2027	**Philip Smith** Yale University

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