



Call for proposals

International Winter School

Current perspectives on forms of strong asymmetric dependencies in Charcas, Bolivia



July 27–30, 2026 La
Paz, Bolivia

The history we share is marked by different forms of strong asymmetric dependency that have shaped our societies. In the world of work, these relationships have been expressed with varying degrees of coercion and violence between individuals and groups. Slavery and other forms of free and unfree servitude have been and continue to be part of the transcultural history experienced in the pre-Hispanic territory that, from the 16th century onwards, would become the jurisdiction of the Royal Audience of Charcas, the administrative nucleus around which Bolivia would be formed in the early 19th century. Their results have shaped different scenarios of interaction and have an undeniable effect on the present. Why did they persist? How did they transform? What effects do they have on today's societies?

The Institute of Bolivian Studies (IEB), part of the Faculty of Humanities and Education Sciences at the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA), in coordination with the *Bonn Center for Slavery and Dependency Studies* (BCDSS) at the University of Bonn in Germany, consider it important to reflect from a historical perspective and from interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary angles on multiple phenomena that shape situations of strong asymmetrical dependency. As partners in this initiative, these institutions propose a look at current reflective and analytical trends in and about Bolivia within the following areas: grammars of dependency, coercive labor and mobility, practices and institutions, archives, memories and knowledge inherited by societies, or any other innovative proposal that may be relevant. For more information, visit the link: <https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en/about-us>

This winter school seeks to create a space for critical training, international collaboration, and reflection on the multiple forms of strong asymmetrical dependence that have shaped—and continue to transform— societies in the historical territory of Charcas/Bolivia, from the pre-Hispanic past to the present. By bringing together perspectives from the humanities, social sciences, and other related disciplines, from a historical perspective, we want to foster in-depth academic exchange, strengthen research capacities, and create networks that allow us to update key interpretations of different phenomena inherent to the worlds of work and workers from and about Bolivia. We promote plural, interdisciplinary, and inclusive participation.

Which teaching staff will be part of the event?

Researchers from the Institute of Bolivian Studies and the *Bonn Center for Slavery and Dependency Studies* whose research topics are related to the issues proposed in this call for papers.

Who can participate?

We invite students from anywhere in the world who are currently writing their postgraduate thesis (master's or doctorate) and who are reflecting on Charcas/Bolivia from the perspective proposed in this call to submit their proposals.

How to participate?

By sending a proposal for ongoing, original, unpublished research on the theme of the event. The proposal must include a title, a summary of the central argument of no more than 500 words, the student's institutional affiliation, and a brief biographical note, in a Word document, written in Spanish, to be sent to the email address: ieb.fhce@umsa.bo by **Thursday, April 30, at 5:00 p.m.**, Bolivia time, without exception.

Students will be selected from among the 12 planned participants, based on criteria of thematic relevance and the quality of the proposal's content and form. They will be notified by **May 11, 2026**, so that they can confirm their participation and organize their travel to La Paz, which must be covered by each participant or their affiliated institutions. The *BCDSS* will cover the cost of four nights' accommodation in La Paz for the selected students. During the event, the IEB will provide them with work materials and refreshments twice a day. In addition, they will receive a certificate of participation at the end of the week.

The full texts of their research presentations must be submitted by the selected participants by **mid-June 2026**. These must be written in Spanish, must not exceed six letter-size pages, with 2.5 cm margins, in Times New Roman 12 font, 1.5 line spacing. Before the event, participants will also be asked to send the presentation they wish to be projected.

Event dynamics

The winter school will take place from Monday, July 27 to Thursday, July 30, 2026. We propose sharing a lunch together on the first day and a closing dinner on Thursday. During each day of work and following a previously circulated program, students will present their reflections and receive feedback from their peers, as well as engage in dialogue with the group of specialists who will accompany them on a daily basis. In the afternoons, they will have the opportunity to attend practical debate workshops on material selected by the teachers. Each session will include a snack break provided by the IEB. The day will end with a lecture by a specialist, which will have a different disciplinary focus, but always from a historical perspective.

There will be a space for listeners

In order to reach a wider audience, once the official program is released, between 5 and 10 registrations will be accepted for the morning sessions, as listeners and with the right to a certificate. For more information: ieb.fhce@umsa.bo

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