

Revista de Estudios Sociales

CALL FOR PAPERS

The *Revista de Estudios Sociales (RES)* of Universidad de los Andes (Colombia) kindly invites the academic community to submit articles for a special issue on the topic of:

“Collaborative Methodologies and Knowledge Production”

Guest Editors:

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Articles should be submitted between
February 1st – 28th, 2026

Submissions will be accepted in either **English, Spanish, or Portuguese**, and should follow the [editorial and stylistic guidelines](#) of *RES*.

All papers should be submitted through the following link:
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Overview

In recent years, the social sciences and humanities have seen a significant rise in the use of collaborative methodologies. This trend is closely tied to a series of shifts—such as the representational/writing turn, postcolonial and decolonial turns, affective turn, and ontological turn—that have unsettled long-held certainties in the field. It also stems from specific moments that have brought renewed scrutiny to the political economy of academic knowledge. Collaborative methodologies—many of which have roots in feminist and decolonial practices—openly reject the claim to represent the other (Mendia Azkue *et al.* 2014; Martínez Espínola 2024). That is, they avoid defining others or speaking on their behalf. These methodologies are grounded in the belief that knowledge production is not the sole privilege of hegemonic academic expertise, but that those who take part in the research as interlocutors (or even as co-researchers) are also producers of valid and relevant knowledge (Aparicio and Blaser 2008; Caicedo 2018a and 2018b; Quintana, Jaramillo, and Caicedo 2022).

This methodological shift has opened up a wide range of possibilities that go beyond traditional academic formats (Montezemolo 2003). We have seen knowledge circulate through articles co-authored by all research participants, as well as in working papers and co-created projects and methodological tools that extend beyond written formats intended solely for academic use (Forero Angel 2025). These formats also include positioned and experimental writing that makes explicit its standpoint, its geopolitics of knowledge, and its commitment to imagining futures that are less unjust, less racist, less classist, and less unequal (Castro-Gómez, Lander, and Mignolo 2014; Castañeda Salgado *et al.* 2019).

Collaborative work also acknowledges that knowledge production cannot remain isolated from other disciplines. In this light, collaboration takes shape by moving beyond the notion of the researcher as a neutral or detached figure. Instead, the researcher is seen as a builder of relationships and outcomes within configurations that include both human and non-human actors and that draw on a variety of styles and formats. Consider projects such as Ethno-Graphic, PositiveNegatives, the graphic novels *Ortiz* (Forero Angel 2025), *Caminos condenados* (Ojeda *et al.* 2016), and *El antagonista: una historia de contrabando y color* (Laurent, Egea and Vega 2013), or the initiative Forensic Tales: Embodied Peace and Violence in Colombian (Post) Armed Conflict (Olarte-Sierra *et al.* 2023). Collaborative approaches involve questioning conventional research roles, forging interdisciplinary alliances, and developing forms of production beyond the traditional academic article—formats that enable knowledge to circulate in ways that are valuable and meaningful to participants. They also demand recognition of who the subjects are, as well as the emotions, affects, and worlds with which we interact.

However, there is always the risk of taking shortcuts or falling into traps: traditional categories and inaccessible language are often reproduced, once again excluding the very people the research seeks to engage. Sometimes, the possibility of dialogue is abandoned—not to erase differences, but to imagine new platforms where common ground might still be possible, always without guarantees, in a world in ruins. Collaboration varies depending on who is involved: working with subaltern subjects is not the same as working with those in positions of power, and these differences bring specific methodological and ethical challenges that must be critically addressed.

The Global South has a tradition of participatory action research that has shaped Latin American anthropologies and rejected a position of neutrality in order to imagine and propose alternative research methodologies in specific political contexts. How can we navigate the inherent asymmetries in these relationships? In what ways can collaboration transform previously hierarchical structures? Does it still make sense to draw a line between activism and research? What does it mean to think and write, alongside emotions and affect, ethnographies that break the heart? (Behar 1997). This dynamic challenges the boundaries between research and action, as well as the hierarchies that have traditionally shaped knowledge production.

Research questions and collaborative methodologies do not emerge in a vacuum—they are shaped by specific geopolitical conditions and respond to particular contexts. Increasingly, these approaches involve working with power groups, the state, and institutions that were once simply the subjects of study but are now becoming co-producers of knowledge. Examining power, the state, and institutions from within raises important methodological questions for collaborative research (Aparicio Cuervo and Fernández Pinto 2022;

Martínez-Moreno and Forero Angel 2024). Crafting a research question also involves selecting methodological strategies, and both steps bring ethical concerns that go far beyond obtaining informed consent. Collaboration calls for an ethical commitment that moves past formal requirements, creating space to reflect on the impact of the research on participants and the environments in which it takes place. It also invites deeper questions—such as what it really means to understand power from the inside (Ortner 2016).

This call seeks contributions from researchers who explore, question, and experiment with collaborative methodologies in their many forms. We welcome both theoretical articles and case studies that:

- Critically reflect on the need for collaborative methodologies
- Examine the ethical and political complexities involved in choosing collaborative approaches
- Take a critical stance toward collaborative methodologies themselves

If you have questions about these or other potential topics, please contact one of the guest editors: Ana María Forero Angel (am.forero260@uniandes.edu.co), Juan Ricardo Aparicio (japarici@uniandes.edu.co), or María Fernanda Olarte-Sierra (mafe.olarte-sierra@univie.ac.at).

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