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Title: Shaping Healthcare in Post-Colonial Latin American: Mexico, Guatemala, and Cuba in Transition

My dissertation will examine nineteenth-century public health policy in the emerging nations Mexico and Guatemala, as compared to the continued colonial status of Spanish Cuba. Many recent studies of the early national period have shown that the collapse of the Spanish monarchy in America created openings for previously excluded groups to participate in political mobilizations and press claims for citizenship rights. I will test whether this opening also provided new opportunities for medical practitioners and examine how local events influenced national medical institutions.

With the support of the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences, I was able to complete the Guatemalan portion of my research. In Fall 2007, I traveled to Guatemala to visit the archives and local libraries. With the help of a Guatemalan research assistant, I was able to locate, transcribe, and copy archival materials related to government policy, medical licensing boards, hospitals, pharmacies, and individual practitioners in early nineteenth-century Guatemala.

Since this research trip, I presented papers at two conferences in 2008.\* Although the primary focus of the papers was Cuban medical juntas, my research of the situation in Guatemala provided a valuable comparison. For 2009, I have paper proposals pending for CLAH and LASA.

Guatemala was my fourth, and final, dissertation research trip. Having completed my dissertation research in Guatemala, Cuba, Mexico, and Spain, I was awarded a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for 2008-2009. I am currently working with my sources and writing my dissertation. I am grateful for the support from the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences, which was key to helping me reach this stage.

\*Papers:

*Independent Medical Juntas in Colonial Cuba, 1820-1843*, presented at *The Cuba Project*, CUNY, New York, March 14, 2008.

*Practicing medicine and politics: The Medical Juntas in the early 19th-century Cuba*, presented at the American Association for the History of Medicine, Rochester, NY, April 12, 2008.