

Ph.D. Preliminary Examinations

Field: Latin American History

February 2008

I. Answer the following obligatory question:

Recent scholarship on race, gender and sexuality has aimed to nuance and correct the meta-narratives of both the colonial and national period. Discuss trends in two themes, (i.e. social history, cultural history, state-building for both empires and nations or economic history) over the past three decades for the colonial and national periods of Latin American history, and explain how recent interventions have altered scholarly understandings of the meta-narratives of Latin American history. What continues to be the major challenge for research and scholarship in social, political and national histories of Latin America? What are the important achievements of recent monographs or multi-authored volumes in these fields?

II. Choose two of the following questions. Write a historiographical essay that answers each part of the question. Cite and discuss at least five major historical works that illustrate the concepts, content, and methodologies that are relevant to the question and your essay.

- a. Ethnohistory has played an important role in the development of Latin America historiographies for more than half a century. What has ethnohistory contributed to our knowledge of the colonial and nation-period of Latin American history? What types of critiques have been leveled against the notion of ethnohistory, and are they justified? How has the field of ethnohistory changed over the past decades in terms of the questions asked, the methodologies employed, the subjects studied, and the conceptual and theoretical frameworks in which research

