**Area Studies Division (ASD) Meeting**

University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign

January 14, 2021; 10:00am-11:00am CT

*Online Zoom Meeting Minutes* (DRAFT)

Present: Mara Thacker (Chair), Jan Adamczyk, Atoma Batoma, Clara Chu, Kit Condill, Katie Ebeling, Bob Geraci, ShuYong Jiang, Joe Lenkart, Laila Hussein Moustafa, Antonio Sotomayor, Kristen Allen Wilson (Guest), Steve Witt

Meeting started at 10:02 am

1. Sign up for Note Taking

* Clara agreed to take the minutes for the meeting.

2. Approval of the Minutes from December

* Antonio moves to approve the Minutes of the December 10, 2020 ASD meeting, seconded by Steve. Minutes were adopted.

3. Reports

a. Collection Development Committee ([CDC](https://www.library.illinois.edu/staff/committee/collection-development-committee/)) (Kit). A CDC meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 10am to present anticipated acquisitions budget cuts. All are asked to consider potential responses to present and discuss at meeting.

4. Antonio Research Presentation <https://www.asotomayor.com/>

* Antonio discussed his research activities, which have two main paths:

(1) Book project: The book *Religious Games: The YMCA, Sport, and Imperial Statecraft in Cuba and Puerto Rico, 1898-1950s* is in preparation.

* Revised Chapter 1 of his book (Sotomayor, Antonio. [*The Sovereign Colony: Olympic Sport, National Identity, and International Politics in Puerto Rico*.](https://f054d46f-e575-45a6-b638-a02251e4a4ae.filesusr.com/ugd/3948f8_215d3127408c4e12802d27aa4936dd11.pdf)Lincoln: The University of Nebraska Press, 2016.) and published it as an article (["The Triangle of Empire: Sport, Religion, and Imperialism in Puerto Rico’s YMCA, 1898-1926."](https://hcommons.org/deposits/item/hc:23267/) *The Americas: A Quarterly Review of Latin American History*74, 4 (October 2017): 481-512). This led to his current book project.
* Chose to compare Puerto Rico to Cuba because of similar historical developments at the time and relationship with US. Traveled to Cuba in early 2020 and has collected substantive data. Havana YMCA was shut down in the 1940s so the time period for the book stops at this time. Religion and sports programs are studied. The first chapter is a survey of similar issues in Latin America, in order to provide context.

(2) Historical genealogy, informed by library work, such as [The Conde de Montemar Letters 1761-1799](https://quest.library.illinois.edu/Conde-de-Montemar-Letters/).

Questions and discussion followed re: book project. ShuYong, Bob and Mara observed similar dynamics in China, Russia and India, respectively, to which Antonio agreed and the differences are in the specificities of the opposition related to political and/or religious reasons.

5. Discussion Items:

a. Illinois Distributed Museum (Kristen Allen, Coordinator)

*The Illinois Distributed Museum seeks to show the innovations that have occurred at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. The museum highlights the work that staff, faculty and students have completed at Illinois and is meant to share these stories with the campus and community.*

*The IDM focuses on innovation that has occurred at the University of Illinois, whether catalyzed by students, by faculty, or by individuals outside the academy. Innovation is broadly conceived as the processes, knowledge frameworks, methodologies and/or technologies that provide a novel approach to meeting a societal need or solving a societal problem. Innovation is further framed as a long-term collaborative and iterative process in which happenstance and serendipity may play a role.* (<https://distributedmuseum.illinois.edu/>)

* Aim of presentation is to share the project with diverse audiences and to learn what research is going on campus and innovations that can be included.
* a project of the University Archives, conceived broadly and not just to focus on technology. The website includes sites of innovation, and information on exhibits and tours.
* Kristen’s job is finding new innovations, which have to have been conducted and created while individuals were on campus.
* Recommendations to Kristen included innovations in the humanities, a review of researchers publishing record to identify more, and cross-/multi-disciplinary innovations.
* Please submit any innovations for consideration to Kristen [klallen3@illinois.edu](mailto:klallen3@illinois.edu) or send to Mara who is happy to compile then to forward to Kristen.

Mara asked if there were any questions or announcements. Hearing none, she announced that Bob Geraci will present his research at the next meeting (Feb. 11th, 10 am), asked to send her any agenda items, and thanked those who attended and presented.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.