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CURRENT AND FUTURE RESEARCH PLANS

When I complete my dissertation on the early modern Carvajal family in spring 2008, I intend to extend my research to include the family's 16th century expansion into colonial Spanish America. By incorporating research on the family's transatlantic migration to *Nueva España* (colonial Mexico) and their failed expeditions to the southern tip of *Rio de la Plata* (colonial Argentina and Chile), my enhanced book manuscript will trace the continued evolution of the family's occupational and social status, as well as speak to the nature of first contacts between Europeans and Americans.

My primary research on the Carvajal family in colonial Mexico is already complete. I previously finished this research at the *Archivo General de Indias* (Sevilla, Spain) and at the *Archivo General de la Nación* (Mexico City, Mexico). Specifically, I reviewed and ordered reproductions of over 177 individual historical folios (approximately 28 linear inches of documents) relating to the colonial Mexican family. My research on the family's failed voyage to *Rio de la Plata* is complete, with the exception of securing reproductions of a few additional documents from *Archivo de la Real Chancillería de Valladolid* (Valladolid, Spain). After collecting these supplemental research materials, I anticipate completing two additional chapters on the Carvajal family in the Americas by January 2009.

I plan to spend 2009 focusing on further revising my dissertation, and incorporating these two additional chapters into a book manuscript. It is my goal to submit my book manuscript to prospective publishers by the end of 2009. Additionally, I expect to convert my dissertation chapter on the creation of the Carvajal and Santa Maria family confederation into an article for publication.

During the summers of 2008 and 2009, while preparing my book manuscript for publication, I plan to return to Spain to begin a new research project on the family, cultural, religious, and economic relations of Extremaduran Jews, Muslims, and Christians during the 13th through 15th centuries. During my dissertation investigations in the cathedral and municipal archives of Zamora, Plasencia, Caceres, and Trujillo, I encountered a limited, but rich collection of documents (family, local administrative, and royal) that illuminates the lives of Jewish and Muslim religious minorities in medieval Christian Castile. Other than Haim Beinhardt's seminal work, *Trujillo, a Jewish Community in Extremadura on the Eve of the Expulsion from Spain* (1980), there is limited scholarship on this topic. Unlike the extensive research on the relations of these three faiths in the more cosmopolitan Crown of Aragon, there are no Castilian corollary studies. By exploring Castile's sparsely populated periphery, where royal power was weak and local authority ruled supreme, my research will generate new insights into the nature of the medieval co-existence of Jews, Christians, and Muslims.