

CONEX FELLOWSHIP

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Fellow Name and Surname: Roger Louis Martínez-Dávila

Project acronym: GCS – EESSPHAÑA

Project title: Global Citizen Scholars: Energizing English and Spanish-Speaking Humanists to Advance Knowledge and Act

Funding Scheme: Experienced Professor

Project starting date: 30/09/2015

Project end date: 29/09/2018

*The final report must be submitted by the researcher (CONEX fellow) **within the last 15 days** before the end of the project. This report should be signed by the researcher (CONEX fellow) and mentor.*

Roger Louis Martínez-Dávila

Jaime Alvar Ezquerro

PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

As a CONEX Marie Curie Fellow at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, I advanced my professional-scholarly goals that pertain to my research project, Global Citizen Scholars: Energizing English and Spanish-Speaking Humanists to Advance Knowledge and Act (GCS – EESSPHAÑA), as well as other scholarly and public dissemination endeavors. *GCS – EESSPHAÑA* is a global educational, research, and social engineering initiative. My project thrust *UC3M* into the forefront of (1) reclaiming humanity’s deep-seated cultural curiosity; (2) mobilizing technology to energize English & Spanish-speaking students (Global Citizen Scholars) to learn about and contribute to scholarly research on medieval/early modern Jewish, Christian, and Muslim cooperation and conflict; and (3) developing a new cooperative education-research model for the 21st century. My primary achievements of the three-year fellowship, which extend beyond the discrete *GCS – EESSPHAÑA* project, included the following items.

Massive Open Online Courses

My first MOOC integrating online education with crowdsourced transcription of manuscripts for research purposes took place in the summer of 2014. Since then, and through this specific project, I delivered several MOOCs via the Coursera.org-University of Colorado System and the edX.org-Universidad Carlos III de Madrid collaborations. As of early fall 2018, almost 22,000 students from over 140 nations have participated in the MOOCs. Similar to other MOOCs, student completion rates for the courses range from 8% to 19%. Demographically our students are older, better-educated, more often to be women, and English-speakers. These types of students seem well positioned to take on the challenge of not only learning about religious diversity during the Spanish Middle Ages, but also well suited to the difficult task of learning to perform manuscript analysis. Over four years, these citizen scholars transcribed most of the 600+ page *Libro I* of the *Actas Capitulares* of the Cathedral Chapter of Plasencia as well as dozens of documents from the cathedral archives of Burgos and Toledo.¹ Table 1 displays the seven MOOC course editions we authored as well as student enrollments and the specific manuscript collections we investigated. It is worth noting that starting in spring 2018 each Coursera.org MOOC enrolls a new cohort of students every six weeks, or about eight course sessions each calendar year. Thus, this project will continue for several years after the completion of my fellowship.

Table 1: Deciphering Secrets MOOCs: Editions, Enrollments, Manuscript Collections

MOOC	Edition	Enrollment	Manuscript Collections
Unlocking the Manuscripts of Medieval Spain (Coursera)	Summer 2014	10,600 students	19th century copy of the 600+ page <i>Book One (1399-1453) of the Capitulary Acts</i> of the Archivo de la Catedral de Plasencia (Spain)
Unlocking the Manuscripts of Medieval Spain (Coursera)	Spring 2016	6,000 students	Same as prior MOOC.
Unlocking the Manuscripts of Medieval Burgos (edX)	Summer 2016	1,700 students	13th, 14th and 15th century manuscripts from the Archivo de la Catedral de Burgos (Spain) and the Archivo Municipal de Burgos (Spain).
Unlocking the Manuscripts of Medieval Burgos (edX)	Spring 2017	1,400 students	Similar materials to the prior MOOC on Burgos.

¹ Many of Deciphering Secrets’ crowdsourced manuscript collections are routinely updated on the research section of our website. See <http://www.decipheringsecrets.com/research/>.

MOOC	Edition	Enrollment	Manuscript Collections
Unlocking the Manuscripts of Medieval Toledo (edX)	Fall 2017	1,300 students	13th, 14th and 18th/19th century manuscripts from the Archivo y Biblioteca de la Catedral de Toledo (Spain), Archivo Municipal de Toledo (Spain), and the Archivo Historico de la Nobleza (Toledo, Spain)
Burgos: Deciphering Secrets of Medieval Spain (Coursera)	Continuous enrollment since Spring 2018	1,500 students	Similar materials to the prior MOOC on Burgos.
Toledo: Deciphering Secrets of Medieval Spain (Coursera)	Continuous enrollment since Summer 2018	800 students	Similar materials to the prior MOOC on Toledo.

New Scholarly Methodology to Teach Medieval Paleography

I developed a new and novel methodology for teaching Spanish paleography to non-specialists using MOOCs, which is called the “SILReST Paleography Method”. Using the transcriptions prepared by MOOC students, Ms. Maria Martin Vidales (UC3M graduate student) and I qualitatively and quantitatively evaluated the effectiveness of the SILReST Paleography Method and its ability to predict (statistically) the quality of manuscript transcriptions. The statistically-significant analysis demonstrates that after only two weeks of MOOC training, students’ average error rate, or the number of identifiable mistakes in recognizing individual letters, for transcription was only 12.13%. Thus, not only is the method effective at teaching paleography, but also it can be used by researchers to evaluate the caliber of transcriptions. These results are presently being published in the article, “Deciphering Secrets of Medieval Cathedrals: Crowdsourced Manuscript Transcriptions and Modern Digital Editions”, in the December 2018 issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Bulletin of the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies*.

Promotion to Tenured Associate Professor at the University of Colorado (USA)

In June 2017, I was promoted to a fully-tenured Associate Professor of History at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. The granting of tenure, or a lifelong appointment, is the most desirable scholarly achievement in the American higher education system.

Publication of *Creating Conversos* with the University of Notre Dame Press (2018).

My new book, *Creating Conversos: The Carvajal-Santa María Family in Early Modern Spain*, was published by the *University of Notre Dame Press (2018)*. The press describes the book, “In *Creating Conversos*, [the author] skillfully unravels the complex story of Jews who converted to Catholicism in Spain between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries, migrated to colonial Mexico and Bolivia during the conquest of the Americas, and assumed prominent church and government positions. Rather than acting as alienated and marginalized subjects, the conversos were able to craft new identities and strategies not just for survival but for prospering in the most adverse circumstances.”

May 2018 Grant Awarded of \$100,000 USD from the University of Colorado for the “Augmented Reflections: Experiencing the Interchange of Plains Indians and Spaniards in Southern Colorado, 1500-1850 CE” www.augmentedreflections.org

This endeavor reshapes interpretation, understanding, and knowledge by generating virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality worlds (AR, interactive digital projections placed over the real world). We are creating a methodological interpretive digital experience that places participants within a narrative of Plains Indian life, Indian-Spanish interchange, and the Spanish-Indian (Hispano) settlement of southern Colorado. Akin to a three-act drama, our project grants the public and researchers a chance to observe, evaluate, and reflect upon the cultural transformation of southern Colorado from the 16th-19th centuries.

1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES, WORK PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE PROJECT

1.1. PROJECT OBJETIVES

- Develop, teach, and complete the Deciphering Secrets: Unlocking the Manuscripts of Medieval Burgos (Spain) Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) and Deciphering Secrets: Unlocking the Manuscripts of Medieval Toledo (Spain) on edX.org.
- Enhance my publication record while maintaining my research efforts and teaching initiatives.
- Experiment with new digital humanities methods, practices, and theories to enhance research methods and dissemination of information to scholars and the general public.
- Publish my 600-page monograph, *Creating Conversos: The Carvajal-Santa Maria Family in Early Modern Spain*, with the University of Notre Dame Press (USA).
- Publish my article, “Spanish Online Resources for Latin American History”, in the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies Bulletin.
- Co-author and publish the article, “Telling Stories: Historical Narratives in Virtual Reality,” in the Routledge UK Handbook volume titled, *Digital Medieval Literature and Culture*.
- Co-author and publish the article, “Remediation and 3D Design: Immediacy and the Medieval Video Game World,” in the Routledge UK Handbook volume titled, *Digital Medieval Literature and Culture*.
- Co-author and publish the article, “Deciphering Secrets of Medieval Cathedrals: Crowdsourced Manuscript Transcriptions and Modern Digital Editions,” in the *Bulletin of the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies*.

1.2. PROJECT EXECUTION

The primary project execution requirements were to develop, teach, and complete several Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and to publish the article, “Deciphering Secrets of Medieval Cathedrals: Crowdsourced Manuscript Transcriptions and Modern Digital Editions”, in the December 2018 issue of the peer-reviewed journal *Bulletin of the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies*. The article has been accepted for publication and the table below presents the execution of the MOOCs.

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Toledo: Deciphering Secrets of Medieval Spain (Coursera)	Continuous enrollment since Summer 2018	800 students	Similar materials to the prior MOOC on Toledo.

1.3. SUMMARY OF DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOTATION OF RESULTS

Scientific Publications

- Martínez-Dávila, Roger Louis. *Creating Conversos: The Carvajal-Santa Maria Family in Early Modern Spain*. Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press, 2018. (This book project started before I accepted the CONEX fellowship and therefore it is not an open access resource.)
- Martínez-Dávila, Roger Louis. "Spanish Online Resources for Spanish and Latin American History." *Bulletin for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies*, Volume 41, Issue 1 (2016). (Open Access)
- Martínez-Dávila, Roger Louis, Paddington Hodza, Mubbasir Kapadia, Sean T. Perrone, Christoph Hölscher, and Victor R. Schinazi. "Telling Stories: Historical Narratives in Virtual Reality." *Routledge Digital Medieval Literature and Culture*, eds. Jen Boyle and Helen J. Burgess. 2018. (This project started before I accepted the CONEX fellowship and therefore it is not an open access resource.)
- Martínez-Dávila, Roger Louis, and Lynn Ramey. "Remediation and 3D Design: Immediacy and the Medieval Video Game World." *Routledge Digital Medieval Literature and Culture*, eds. Jen Boyle and Helen J. Burgess. 2018. (This project started before I accepted the CONEX fellowship and therefore it is not an open access resource.)
- Martinez-Davila, Roger Louis, Sean Perrone, Francisco Garcia Serrano Nebras, and Maria Martin de Vidales Garcia. "Deciphering Secrets of Medieval Cathedrals: Crowdsourced Manuscript Transcriptions and Modern Digital Editions", *Bulletin of the Association of Spanish and Portuguese History* (2018). (Open Access)

Dissemination and communication activities:

- Offered an additional session of Deciphering Secrets: Unlocking the Manuscripts of Medieval Burgos (Spain) MOOC. The session, offered from 02/14/2017 to 04/11/2017 had 1,353 students.
- Martinez-Davila, Roger Louis. "[Shields of Grace.](#)" *El Palacio*. Winter 2016: 56-65.
- Martinez-Davila, Roger Louis. "Global Citizen Scholars: Mobilizing the public to assist with paleographic transcription of medieval manuscripts using Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)." *Associazione per l'Informatica Umanistica e le Culture Digitali (AIUCD) 2017 Conference*, Sapienza Università di Roma (Italy), January 28, 2017.
- Martinez-Davila, Roger Louis. "Case Study: Deciphering Secrets MOOCs: Crowdsourcing Medieval Manuscripts on Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Co-Existence." *Open Education Europa*. February 26, 2017. <https://www.openeducationeuropa.eu/en/case-study/deciphering-secrets-moocs-crowdsourcing-medieval-manuscripts-jewish-christian-and-muslim>
- Deciphering Secrets MOOCs - Evaluating the Effectiveness of the SILReST Method for Teaching Paleography. *Tableau Public*. May 8. 2017.

List of Intellectual property rights resulting from the project

None

Other merits not mentioned and that should be taken into account

In May 2018, I was awarded a \$100,000 USD grant from the University of Colorado for the "Augmented Reflections: Experiencing the Interchange of Plains Indians and Spaniards in Southern Colorado, 1500-1850 CE". See: www.augmentedreflections.org

This endeavor reshapes interpretation, understanding, and knowledge by generating virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality worlds (AR, interactive digital projections placed over the real world). We are creating a methodological interpretive digital experience that places participants within a narrative of Plains Indian life, Indian-Spanish interchange, and the Spanish-Indian (Hispano) settlement of southern Colorado. Akin to a three-act drama, our project grants the public and researchers a chance to observe, evaluate, and reflect upon the cultural transformation of southern Colorado from the 16th-19th centuries.

1.4. CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Promotion to Tenured Associate Professor at the University of Colorado (USA)

In June 2017, I was promoted to a fully-tenured Associate Professor of History at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. The granting of tenure, or a lifelong appointment, is the most desirable scholarly achievement in the American higher education system.

1.5. SECONDMENTS AND RESEARCH JOURNEYS

None.

1.6. ETHICAL ISSUES

No issues to report.

2. IMPACT AND ADDED VALUE OF YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT

Overall, I would describe the CONEX fellowship as an exceptionally positive, substantive, life-altering, and beneficial experience that has substantially enhanced my scholarly expertise and public recognition in the fields of medieval Spanish history and the digital humanities. The three-year fellowship created the necessary conditions for me to aggressively pursue a larger-scale collaborative project that bridged academia, the Spanish Roman Catholic Church, multiple Spanish municipalities and their archives, Spanish cultural institutions and museums, and national archives. Further, the fellowship extended my work to almost 22,000 students in 140+ nations. Thank you.