

**PhD Program in History**  
**First Exam in Colonial Latin American History Fall 2018**

Please choose **two** of the questions from those listed below, one from Part One and one from Part Two. Please prepare your answers in an essay format. Citations are not necessary unless quoting, and can be informal for any work on the course syllabus. You will have eight hours during which to write your essays and submit them as e-mail attachments to Marilyn Weber: [mweber@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:mweber@qc.cuny.edu)

Part I:

- 1) The state—framed variously as the Crown, the Monarchy, an imperial formation, or empire, the Spanish presence, force, rituals, or a monopoly over legitimate and performative violence—figures prominently in the formation of early Spanish America. At the historiographical level, how have scholars since the publication of Charles Gibson's *The Aztecs Under Spanish Rule* represented the state? Do their views diverge? If so, how and on what grounds (conceptually, methodologically, or thematically)? On the basis of the existing literature with which you are familiar, how did the role of the 'state' shift and why? Here you are being asked to think systematically about the existence of the state and how such an existence varied up to the second half of the seventeenth century.
- 2) Material life—subsistence, production, trade, exchange, and social reproduction—have been foundational in the histories of colonial Latin America. Did material life change with the entrada and the early imposition of colonial rule? If it did, for who did it change? How might one describe the patten of change in the Americas before 1560? What factors precipitated change? What were the institutional arrangements that mediated colonial material life? In addressing this last question, please identify major historical moments when shifts in the dominant forms of material life experienced change.

Part II:

- 1) On the basis of the existing literature, what dynamic existed between the colonial state and the colonial economy? An answer to this question as framed supposes a distinction between abstractions identified as state and economy. Is this the view that emerges from the existing literature? On which theorist do the various authors rely for their formulation of the state and economy? In identifying those influences, please grapple with the specific ideas or claims about the state form, the nature of the economy and the relationship between the economy and the state as conceived by the theorists and their respective theories.

- 2) Over the course of the semester, we discussed how the social histories associated with the 1980s reconfigured the study of Latin American colonialism. Please describe the representation of Spanish and Portuguese colonialism that emerges in and through 1980s social histories. How did these studies address the economic practices associated with colonialism? In what ways, has the subsequent historiography refined the perspectives derived from Karen Spalding, Steve Stern, and Brooke Larson?