

FINAL REPORT

1. Description of grant-supported activity

My research is currently focused on the representations of physical violence in the 1207 epic Lay of el Cid. Within this frame of reference, I studied how the text differentiates between two kinds of violent actions: those performed by the high nobility of the ricosombres and those of the king. Although these actions can generally be organized in the paradigm bellum publicum - bellum privatum (public and private war), the Lay portrays a private conflict that is resolved through public means: after his sons-in-law beat their wives, el Cid brings them to the royal court rather than exact personal revenge. I postulate that this episode encodes a trend in the Castilian society towards a centralization of authority into the monarchic institution, and the correlative integration of nobility into the apparatus of royal power. Although the presence of this particular political discourse has been observed in legal texts in the late 1200's, nobody has found formulations as early as those I observe. I am currently working on a book where I discuss all of these problems. My goal, for the period of time covered by the grant, was the completion of the two first chapters of this book.

2. Where you able to complete the project? Describe any difficulty you had.

I completed my stated goal. The only significant difficulty emerged when, after completing these two chapters, I moved into the fourth. I found that I needed to reorganize my argument almost from scratch in order to integrate some data I had not included in my original outline. I was unable to take a research trip to Spain that I had included as a possibility in my original plan. Since I was in the process of obtaining my Permanent Resident authorization, I found I had to be present in the States in order to fulfill possible requests for additional documentation. I plan to take this trip in Summer 2008.

3. Did, or will, the project result in a specific product -- a manuscript, composition, syllabus, etc? If so, please describe and indicate state of development.

I completed the section of the manuscript I intended to produce. Having a substantial section of the final manuscript enabled me to discuss its publication with two publishers, and I received two publication proposals that I am currently considering. I expect to complete the book during the second half of 2008, and see it published in the first semester of 2009. In addition to that, some of the data I worked with was the basis for the papers I read in three professional conventions: the Conference on Ibero-American Culture and Society (University of New Mexico), the Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association and the Conference of the Medieval Association of the Midwest.