Abstract:
Historians and other humanists have spent a great deal of energy studying historical legacies. The notion that “the past weighs heavily on the present” is now a standard mode of analysis in the humanities.

Moving beyond this paradigm, I want to turn our attention to the more common, but overlooked historical practices of "futuremaking" and the management of risk. In this book project I examine how Mexicans thought about, planned for, and manipulated a future full of risk from the mid colonial period into the early republic (roughly 1650-1850).

By recovering the history of the future in the past, this project offers scholars a more robust model for the study of time experience and innovation.