

8 March 2007  
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**Irish Latin American Research Fund  
Application Form**

Name	Dr Matthew Brown
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Email	Matthew.brown@bristol.ac.uk
University or institutional affiliation (if any)	(Please specify department) Department of Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin American Studies, University of Bristol
Member of the Faculty?	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, rank: Lecturer in Latin American Studies
Student?	Undergraduate <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Principal advisor or thesis director:
Independent Scholar?	No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Intended Product	Thesis <input type="checkbox"/> Dissertation <input type="checkbox"/> Book <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Article <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> (describe)
Date degree expected or date of project completion	Early 2009
Title or research topic (please include the time period being studied):	Daniel O'Leary and José María Córdoba, 1828-1829  (the wider project of which this forms part examines the period 1800-1860)
How did you learn about this research grant opportunity? (Please be specific)	From Edmundo Murray, after I had written 'Crusaders for Liberty or Vile Mercenaries?: The Irish Legion in Colombia', for <i>Irish Migration Studies in Latin America</i> , (2006), <a href="http://www.irlandeses.org/brownm01.htm">http://www.irlandeses.org/brownm01.htm</a> .
Proposed field trip: purpose, destination, dates of travel and proposed duration of stay (may be changed)	I plan to go to the town of Rionegro in Antioquia, Colombia, to examine local and regional archives, for the reasons explained in the Project Description, attached. I plan to travel in September 2007, and to spend one week in Rionegro, and one month in Colombia in total.
Estimate of actual expenses; please provide details of air, automobile, bus, rail, or other expenses and local accommodations (please add an	I have already been granted the airfare from London to Bogotá by the University of Bristol Faculty of Arts Research Fund. I am only applying here for funding for the Rionegro part of the trip. Bus from Medellín to Rionegro: 50 euros Accommodation per night in Rionegro: 50 euros (6*50=260 euros) Subsistence per day in Rionegro: 30 euros (6*30=180 euros)

itemized budget):	
Amount of grant support requested (in Euros)	490

Before submitting the application, did you attach:

- ✓ Your Project Description (max. 3 pages)?
- ✓ Your Curriculum Vitae (max. 3 pages)?
- ✓ Your Itemised Budget (1 page)?
- ✓ UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS: A letter of recommendation from your principal faculty advisor (may be mailed separately)?
- ✓ Did you ensure that your research project is undoubtedly relevant within the Scope of Study of the Society for Irish Latin American Studies, i.e., "the migration of people from Ireland to Latin America, their settlement, lives, and achievements, as well as those of their descendants, together with contemporary presence of Ireland and people of Irish ancestry in the life and culture of Latin America, and the presence of Latin Americans in Ireland"?

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Signature  Date 4. nov 07

The application must be received (or postmarked) on or before the established deadline at:

The Society for Irish Latin American Studies  
Maison Rouge  
1268 Burtigny  
Switzerland

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR APPLICATION VIA EMAIL.

## Project Description

'Daniel O'Leary and José María Córdoba, 1828-1829'

Dr. Matthew Brown

Lecturer in Latin American Studies

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This project explores the relationship between Daniel O'Leary (born in Cork) and José María Córdoba (born in Antioquia). Both men served under Simón Bolívar during the Wars of Independence in Gran Colombia, and rose to the rank of General in the Colombian army after independence from Spain had been achieved. Having been comrades, friends and correspondents for several years, in 1829 they found themselves on opposing sides of a major rebellion against the legitimate government in Colombia. Using Córdoba's family archive and local depositaries in Medellín and Rionegro, I hope to trace the causes and consequences of this spectacular falling-out between O'Leary the naturalised Irish-Colombian, and Córdoba the patriot rebel.

On 17 October 1829 O'Leary and Córdoba led their respective armies to the plain of El Santuario. O'Leary commanded the Colombian army; two of his officers were also Irishmen; Ruperto Hand and Thomas Murray. Córdoba led a poorly-organised band of local men, outnumbered two-to-one by O'Leary's forces, who had rebelled against Simón Bolívar's dictatorship in the name of freedom. In this sense O'Leary found himself in the unexpected position – after having served the cause of national independence for over a decade at Bolívar's side – of being the repressor of rebellion, and representing the forces of order and stability based in the national capital, Bogotá.

My research on O'Leary and Córdoba forms part of a wider research project which examines the social and cultural aspects of British informal empire in Colombia and Venezuela in the nineteenth century. I began the project during my Jean Monnet Fellowship at the European University Institute in 2005-2006. I



have since presented preliminary research findings at the AHA Annual Conference in Philadelphia in January 2006; at the Congreso de Americanistas in Sevilla in July 2006; at the University of Nottingham in November 2006; and at the University of Cambridge in November 2006. I have been invited to present findings from this research project at the University of North Carolina in May 2007.

The project builds upon the conceptual advances drawn together in my BIRTHA conference 'Informal empire? Commerce and culture outside Britain's empire in the long nineteenth century', held here on 26-27 January 2007. Detail about the conference can be found at [http://www.bris.ac.uk/arts/birtha/conferences/informal\\_empire.html](http://www.bris.ac.uk/arts/birtha/conferences/informal_empire.html). The papers from the conference are currently being revised for publication by Blackwell in 2008, provisionally titled *Informal empire in Latin America: Commerce and Culture*. Integral to this edited collection, and to my own research project described above, is the understanding of 'the British empire' from a broad and comparative perspective, in which the involvement of peripheral and marginal groups – in this case Irishmen and Colombians – are fore-grounded. In this sense, empire becomes less about the policies and ideologies emanating from London, and more about the negotiations and experiences of individuals on the ground in the formal and informal colonies.

The research on O'Leary and Córdoba which I need to undertake in Medellín and Rionegro is essential to the completion of this project. In September I will be travelling to Colombia for a three-week trip. In this trip I will spend two weeks in Bogotá, consulting military service records in the Archivo General de la Nación in Bogotá, the capital of Colombia. I will then move on to spend one week in Medellín, the capital of the department of Antioquia, where I will consult regional archives, particularly the Archivo Histórico de Antioquia, the Archivo Histórico Judicial and the Archivo Histórico de Medellín. While in Medellín I will present preliminary research findings to the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medellín campus, who have been inviting me so to do for the past three years. Medellín and its surrounding area is one of the principal centres of interest in the project.

The University of Bristol has awarded me its maximum grant of £1,300 towards this project, which should cover the Bogotá and Medellín legs of the research.

Research in Rionegro, also in Antioquia and the home town of José María Córdoba, is however absolutely necessary to making the trip worthwhile. In Rionegro I will carry out research in the Archivo Histórico de Rionegro, in the Casa de la Cultura of Rionegro, which contains absolutely key documents for the project. I am therefore applying to this fund for this supplementary aspect of the trip. Without it the project will remain incomplete.

It should be noted that although Colombia has its security concerns, I have made three unproblematic previous research trips to Bogotá, Popayán, Cartagena and other parts of Colombia (in 2001, 2002 and 2003). Medellín should be a similarly negotiable proposition. At present it is also possible to conduct research in Rionegro, although the ups and downs of paramilitary demobilisation (begun 2002) in the area mean that the practicalities of the research trip will be considered before departure in August 2007.

Conducting the research described above will allow me to complete all the necessary preparations for the book that I plan to produce out of these investigations. The manner in which O'Leary's Irishness contributed an essential layer in protecting him from allegations of representing British interests in Colombia, is a crucial element of the project. I will write the first draft of the book – building on the five conference papers already written and presented – in the academic year 2007-2008. The book's provisional title is *Colombia and Europe: How Love, Culture and Murder Built an Informal Empire*.

MB 4 March 2007