

# INTRODUCTION\*

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SUSTAINED SCHOLARLY INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA AND A BROADER CONCERN with Pan America have long been demonstrated within the academic community by a comparatively small group of devoted men and women in diverse fields of learning. This interest is particularly strong in the United States where a tradition of research on Pan America is rooted deeply in the past century. Over the decades the corps of serious students has grown in number—modestly and sometimes erratically in the earlier years, more numerous and consistently in the latest years.

One meaningful measure of this serious and increasing focus of research is revealed in the number of dissertations written on Pan American topics. Almost a century has elapsed since Yale University, in 1869, became the first American university to accept a doctoral dissertation on a Pan American topic. From 1869 to the close of the 1964–65 academic year, 101 institutions of higher education in the United States and two in Canada accepted 3,107 doctoral theses focusing on some aspect of Pan America. All but nine of these studies were submitted to United States institutions. In the five years covered by this supplement, each year has exceeded the previous one in the number of theses accepted: 117 in 1961, 129 in 1962, 172 in 1963, 198 in 1964, and 226 in 1965, a total of 842. Thus, of the 3,107 doctoral studies accepted for a degree in the period 1869–1965, more than 27 per cent were submitted in the last five academic years. Nineteen hundred and sixty-five was the first year the annual output of Pan American theses exceeded two hundred. Yet the number of doctoral dissertations concerned with a Pan American subject has never been large in relation to the total number of theses accepted by all institutions in all disciplines. The proportion has held consistently between one and two per cent of the total approved in a given year.

This supplement brings up to date the bibliography of dissertations published in 1962 by the Pan American Union<sup>1</sup> which reported doctoral theses accepted during the period 1869–1960. Like its predecessor this five-year supplement is broadly conceived and encompasses all disciplines and all geographic areas, including non-Hispanic areas in Latin America. Also included are regions of the United States if the study focuses on a time when the region

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was part of the Spanish empire in America (e.g., a thesis on Spanish administration in California), or if the focus is on a contemporary Latin American group in the United States (e.g., a thesis on Cubans in Miami, Florida).

The analysis that follows is presented according to area, subject, and institution. Given the limited time span covered by the bibliography, the assessment is properly a general picture of the meaningful characteristics and trends rather than an excessively delineated portrait.

## AREA ANALYSIS

The geographical coverage of the 842 dissertations is notable for its diversity both in the large number and in the widely varied size of areas involved. Fifty geographical units are used to classify the studies, and their scope ranges from hemispheric dimension to a few square miles of island environment (Table 1). There are some theses whose area of concern overlaps two or more regions so that the number of dissertations arranged by area appears as 950.

Diverse though the geographical representation is, the geographical concentration is the more assertive and significant feature. Mexico is exclusively or partially the concern of almost one out of four theses (22.9 per cent). The United States ranks second with approximately half the number of dissertations as Mexico and accounts for almost 12 per cent of the total. Together Mexico and the United States are the area setting for more than one-third (34.7 per cent) of all dissertations. If the next three areas—Puerto Rico, Brazil, and Peru—are added, majority representation is attained with 51 per cent of all theses having been written on some aspect of one of these five areas.

The premier position of Mexico can be attributed to several factors. The country's rich and significant pre-Columbian past, its role as one of the major centers of Spanish colonial interest in the New World, the region's lengthy and tumultuous quest for independence and political maturity, and its dynamic economic development in the twentieth century have attracted scholars from diverse disciplines. Practical considerations are also important. Geographical proximity to the United States is a notable influence. Closeness implies accessibility and better prospects of completing research, writing up the results, and receiving a doctorate in this lifetime. The lack of financial resources, that proverbial monument to hard times, are almost always a major problem for the graduate student. Given the slender financial means of most students and their proximity to a country with such a notable, varied past and vigorous present, it is not at all surprising that graduate students have made Mexico the site of a substantial share of their dissertation labors. This was also the case in earlier periods of the twentieth century.

Much of the duplicate area listing explains the high rank of the United States in the Pan American setting. Some studies, especially in history, govern-

TABLE 1

*Dissertations by Area, 1961-1965*

1. Mexico .....	218	27. British Honduras .....	6
2. United States .....	112	28. Bermuda .....	5
3. Puerto Rico .....	61	29. Hispanic America .....	5
4. Brazil .....	49	30. Dominican Republic .....	4
5. Peru .....	46	31. Honduras .....	4
6. Argentina .....	43	32. Middle America .....	4
7. Chile .....	42	33. Nicaragua .....	4
8. Latin America .....	42	34. Uruguay .....	4
9. Colombia .....	34	35. Virgin Islands (U.S.) .....	4
10. Cuba .....	24	36. Antigua .....	3
11. Guatemala .....	23	37. Bahama Islands .....	3
12. Jamaica .....	23	38. British Colonies .....	3
13. Venezuela .....	23	39. El Salvador .....	3
14. Western Hemisphere .....	15	40. Andes .....	2
15. Bolivia .....	14	41. Gulf of Mexico .....	2
16. Costa Rica .....	14	42. Anguilla .....	1
17. Panama .....	14	43. Barbuda .....	1
18. Spanish America .....	14	44. Curaçao .....	1
19. Central America .....	12	45. Dutch Guiana (Surinam) .....	1
20. West Indies .....	11	46. French Guiana .....	1
21. Caribbean Area .....	10	47. Guadeloupe .....	1
22. Trinidad-Tobago .....	10	48. Guyana .....	1
23. Ecuador .....	9	49. Haiti .....	1
24. Paraguay .....	9	50. Virgin Islands .....	1
25. South America .....	7		—
26. Barbados .....	6		
		TOTAL .....	950

ment and politics, and economics, have dealt with military, diplomatic, and trade relations between the United States and some other area or areas in Latin America. Similar comparative relations are also found to a lesser extent in educational and sociological studies.

The oft-stated idea of the Caribbean as an admirable laboratory for the study of cultural differences within a broadly similar physical setting is nowhere more tested than in Puerto Rico, which was the locale for 6.4 per cent of all dissertations. It is doubtful that any area of similar size in the world today has been, in a five year period, the object of comparable scholarly examination. Certainly there is no other in Latin America. After Puerto Rico, Cuba and Jamaica, with 24 and 23 dissertations respectively, were the two other islands most studied in the pursuit of a doctorate. The list of remaining islands that have been study sites is a lengthy one and collectively all the islands of the

Caribbean accounted for 162 dissertation locations or 17 per cent of all Pan American theses.

The ABC countries plus Peru rank next in number of dissertations, with a collective output of 180, or 19 per cent of the total. The importance of these countries within Latin America has long been recognized, yet it is reasonable to presume that their share of scholarly attention expressed in dissertation format might have been greater had these countries been geographically closer to the United States. For example, the nations of Cuba, Guatemala, and Jamaica each have approximately one-half the number of theses that are recorded for either Argentina or Brazil or Chile or Peru, yet they are many times smaller in size of area and size of population, have a far more limited resource base, and in general have played a relatively less prominent role in the development of Latin America.

Collectively the Central American republics (including Panama) and British Honduras claim 80 theses, or 8.4 per cent of the total. Almost two-thirds (64 per cent) of all theses on the area, however, are concerned with some topic centered on Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama while each of the remaining parts of the region at best mustered no more than half a dozen dissertations. The runaway position of Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama in dissertation standing reflects the greater role these countries have played in this isthmian setting.

Fifty-seven theses, or 6 per cent of all dissertations written on a Pan American topic, approach their research in a framework that encompasses either the Western Hemisphere or Latin America.

## SUBJECT ANALYSIS

One look at the subject coverage of the 842 dissertations written on a Pan American topic (Table 2) reveals at once the range of subjects (30) and the confinement of most thesis research to one of a few disciplines. The four leading subjects—history, language and literature, economics, and anthropology—each claimed at least ten per cent of all dissertations and together were the subjects for a majority (53.8 per cent) of the Pan American theses. Almost one out of every seven theses was written either in history or in language and literature. These two disciplines also accounted for nearly all of those theses of a biographical nature.

The concentration of dissertations is also seen by subject grouping. So viewed, the social sciences and humanities<sup>2</sup> accounted for three out of four of the studies, claiming 75.1 per cent of all Pan American topics. This was distantly followed by the physical sciences (15.4 per cent) and education and home economics (9.5 per cent).

The dominance of the four leading disciplines justifies some limited examination of each to discern possible trends in Pan American research. Bio-

TABLE 2

*Number of Dissertations by Subject, 1961–1965*

1. History .....	128	17. Home Economics .....	4
2. Language & Literature .....	124	18. Social Psychology .....	3
3. Economics .....	107	19. Social Work .....	3
4. Anthropology .....	94	20. Fine Arts .....	2
5. Education .....	76	21. Geophysics .....	2
6. Government & Politics .....	63	22. International Law & Relations..	2
7. Geology .....	58	23. Journalism .....	2
8. Geography .....	40	24. Physics .....	2
9. Zoology .....	40	25. Psychology .....	2
10. Sociology .....	39	26. Speech-Theatre .....	2
11. Botany .....	14	27. Chemistry .....	1
12. Religion .....	11	28. Mathematics .....	1
13. Agricultural Economics .....	6	29. Oceanography .....	1
14. Music .....	6	30. Philosophy .....	1
15. Agriculture .....	4		
16. Health Sciences .....	4	TOTAL .....	842

graphical theses, regardless of the discipline in which they were written, are examined separately.

### *History*

The 128 dissertations in history sustain the subject in the first rank it has always displayed over the last one hundred years where research on Pan American themes are concerned. For analytical purposes the dissertations are grouped into one of four categories: (1) Colonial, (2) Wars of Independence through the Spanish-American War, (3) post-Spanish American War, and (4) General. The period following the Spanish-American War was the concern of 48 theses, more than one-third of all history dissertations, followed by the second period with 38 studies. The Colonial era was the directional interest of 33 theses. The fourth category, General, is assigned to those works that defy classification into one of the other three categories. Nine theses were so classified. The increasing emphasis on twentieth century times reflects a comparatively recent trend in historical research on Latin America.<sup>3</sup>

The overall leadership position of history is not greatly revealed by first place ranking within the areas indicated in Table 1, but this subject has respectable representation in many areas, often in a second or third position. In the case of both the Spanish America and the United States categories, however, almost one-half of the theses are written in history.

### *Language and Literature*

Like history, language and literature has long maintained a scholarly in-

terest in Latin America. Almost half (57) of the 124 theses on the subject delve into analysis of particular works in various forms (poetry, novel, short story, etc.). Another 30 theses are more biographical in that they emphasize the author rather than specific literary works. Closely following are 26 dissertations that treat of linguistics. A handful, 11, are studies in aesthetics and literary criticism.

Language and literature accounts for all dissertations categorized under Hispanic America and for approximately one-third of all theses written on Argentina, Bolivia, and Colombia.

### *Economics*

Almost one-third (35) of the 107 dissertations in economics involve financial studies, followed by 27 theses on institutional economics. These two aspects far outdistance the remaining arbitrarily selected categories: transportation and trade (10), industrial (9), labor (8), land reform (7), economic integration (6), and marketing (5). Increasing interest in matters of economic integration and land reform is reflected in the increasing number of theses on these two topics. There is a relative decline in the number of trade and transportation studies, however, as compared to previous times. Financial and institutional works have maintained their high standing.<sup>4</sup>

Economics has a leadership position in Brazil and Chile with one-fourth of all theses in both countries, and in the area category of Latin America with more than one-third of the total.

### *Anthropology*

The Pan American area has provided the anthropologist with a rich and inexhaustible lode of research material which he has mined with vigorous effort and much gratification for many years. Not surprisingly, therefore, anthropology ranks high among the diverse disciplines studying the region.

Of the 94 dissertations in anthropology more than half (49) are community studies. The focus of community research may involve a limited geographical area such as a neighborhood or encompass the region of a larger group such as the Mayas. Nevertheless, the dominance of this aspect of doctoral study is in keeping with the overall research trends of the discipline.<sup>5</sup> The second category, with 26 theses, are studies of the art and artifacts of given regions. The remaining dissertations, 19 in number, are divided among institutional studies, linguistics, and physical anthropology.

Anthropology accounts for one-half of all the dissertations concerned with Guatemala and claims one out of every four theses written on Peru, more than any other single discipline. Anthropology is also the premier subject preference in Mexico accounting for almost one-fifth of all studies, though language and literature are not far behind.

## Biography

Almost one out of every seven thesis writers has heeded literally the advice of Alexander Pope that the proper study of mankind is man. The lives of 124 individuals are examined. Some are "complete" biographies while others detail only a segment of the individual's existence.

No person is the central concern in more than three theses. Five individuals receive attention in three dissertations each: Woodrow Wilson (1856–1924); José Vasconcelos (1882–1959) and Alfonso Reyes (1889–1959) of Mexico; Lucila Godoy de Alcayaga (1889–1960) of Chile, recipient of a Nobel prize in literature in 1945 and better known by her pseudonym of Gabriela Mistral; and Miguel Angel Asturias (1899– ) of Guatemala.

Each of the following 12 individuals is the focus of attention in two theses apiece: liberator Simon Bolívar (1783–1830); Mexicans—Juan Ruíz de Alarcón (1580–1639), Antonio Caso (1883–1946), Lazaro Cárdenas (1895– ), Agustín Yáñez (1904– ), writing also under the *nom de plume* of Mónico Delgadillo, and Octavio Paz (1914– ); Argentinians—Jorge Luis Borges (1899– ) and Alberto Evaristo Ginastera (1916– ), the latter his nation's leading contemporary composer; Bernardo Guimarães (1825–1884) of Brazil; Augusto Goemine Thomson (1880–1950) of Chile, published also under the name of Augusto d'Halmar; Rómulo Gallegos (1884– ) of Venezuela; and Emilio Ballagas (1910–1954) of Cuba.

Lifespan analysis of the biographical subjects reflects a decidedly minority interest in figures of the colonial period. Instead almost three out of four persons (73 per cent) were born after 1825, and two out of five were born after 1875. Twelve per cent of the persons studied have lived their entire lives in the twentieth century. Only one-fourth of the individuals died before 1875 while two out of three died in the present century. Almost one out of five (19 per cent) is still living.

## Others

Though not analyzed individually it is worth noting that the next ranking subjects—education, government and politics, and geology—do account for the largest share of the dissertations in certain geographical areas. Dissertations in education make up almost one-fourth of those written on Puerto Rico, closely followed by economics. Somewhat over one-third of the hemisphere-wide studies are written in the field of government and politics. Geology is the only physical science that occupies a leading position in any area. Slightly more than one-third of all theses on Venezuela treat of that country's geology.

## INSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS

It is of some peripheral value and interest to note the distribution of dissertations by institution. One hundred and three colleges and universities

TABLE 3

*Number of Dissertations by Institutions, 1961–1965*

1. Columbia University .....	58	15. Princeton University .....	17
2. University of California, Berkeley .....	49	16. Yale University .....	17
3. University of Texas .....	48	17. University of Illinois .....	15
4. Harvard University .....	41	18. University of New Mexico .....	15
5. University of California, Los Angeles .....	32	19. Stanford University .....	14
6. University of Chicago .....	30	20. Indiana University .....	13
7. University of Wisconsin .....	29	21. University of Iowa .....	13
8. University of Florida .....	28	22. University of Southern California .....	13
9. New York University .....	26	23. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill .....	12
10. University of Michigan .....	21	Sub-Total .....	570
11. Michigan State University .....	21	Number from Remaining 80 Institutions .....	272
12. Cornell University .....	20		
13. Louisiana State University .....	19		
14. University of Pennsylvania .....	19	TOTAL .....	842

shared the function of accepting the 842 theses. Despite this substantial institutional representation, however, only a small number of schools accounted for a majority of the dissertations. Of the 103 schools, only 23 had 12 or more theses submitted on a Pan American topic (Table 3). These 23 educational centers accounted for slightly more than two out of three (68 per cent) dissertations. The concentration of Pan American theses in a few institutions is reinforced further by noting that almost one-third of the studies (31 per cent) were submitted to the six universities that head the list: Columbia, California (Berkeley), Texas, Harvard, California (Los Angeles), and Chicago.

Most schools that rank high in output on this study are also among the institutional leaders in total number of doctorates conferred annually by all colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. For example, Columbia (including Teachers College) and California (Berkeley), in that order, are the leaders in the total number of doctorates awarded annually. The most notable exceptions to this pattern are Texas, Florida, Louisiana State, and New Mexico, which accept a large number of dissertations written on a Pan American topic but confer a comparatively small total of doctoral degrees.

## CONCLUSION

Despite diverse institutional, subject, and area representation, the number of schools accepting most of the dissertations written on a Pan American topic are but a handful. Most of these topics have been undertaken within one of a

few disciplines whose methodology has been applied in major measure to only a few geographical areas.

Over several decades internal changes within disciplines are more noticeable, such as the increase in microstudies and less stress on macrostudies, and, when and if feasible and desirable, the increase in the application of sophisticated statistical techniques among the several social sciences.

The present annual output of doctoral dissertations on a Pan American topic exceeds 200. If this yearly amount is sustained there will be a cumulative total of more than 4,000 theses by 1969, the centennial year of the first doctoral study with a Pan American theme submitted to a United States university. The small group of scholars devoted to the study of this part of the world continues to increase in numbers. Even so, for the near future this will remain a small community of individuals when measured against the still greater number needed to study the things that should be subjected to scholarly examination.

#### NOTES

1. Frederick Elwyn Kidder and Allen David Bushong, *Theses on Pan American Topics Prepared by Candidates for Doctoral Degrees in Universities and Colleges in the United States and Canada*. Bibliographic Series No. 5, 4th edition (Pan American Union, Washington, D.C., 1962).
2. Geography, being both a social science and a physical science, has been divided accordingly in these subject groupings. Of the 40 dissertations in geography only three were written in physical geography.
3. See Stanley J. Stein, "Latin American Historiography: Status and Research Opportunities," in: *Social Science Research on Latin America*, Charles Wagley, Ed. (New York, 1964), pp. 86–124.
4. See Carlos Massad, "Economic Research in Latin America," in: *ibid.*, pp. 214–242.
5. See Arnold Strickon, "Anthropology in Latin America," in: *ibid.*, pp. 125–167.