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IRIS' International Research and Training Grant for Incoming Graduate Students allowed me to complete a research trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina that successfully expanded my work. During this Summer of 2023 I spent six weeks there visiting local archives, like the National Library, the Museo Mitre and the Library of Congress. I researched the contemporary coverage of *Una excursión a los indios ranqueles* by Lucio V. Mansilla (1870) in the local Argentine media, which is a topic that remains mostly unexplored. This book will be the main focus of at least one chapter of my Ph. D. dissertation.

I was able to read many newspapers from the 1869-1871 period, such as *La Tribuna* (where Mansilla originally published his book as a series of letters from June to October of 1870), *La Prensa*, *El Nacional*, *El Mosquito*, *La Revista de Buenos Aires*, *La Revista del Río de la Plata* and *La Revista Argentina*, which have not yet been digitalized. This was my first opportunity as a young researcher to engage in archival work, something that I had been looking forward since I arrived at UW. I learned many habits that will be crucial for future archival work: how to properly look for and access archived material (often very old newspapers that required special care), how to engage with specialized librarians, and how to optimize my reading habits to cover the almost immeasurable amount of material that I needed to read.

During my stay in Buenos Aires, I took at least two hundred photocopies and photographs of pages that contain interesting and relevant information in many areas: from political discussion about the complex frontier conflicts with the indigenous groups that maintained control of Patagonia; to arguments concerning the need for government support of European immigration to Argentina. I

intend to use these documents to structure my conceptual framework, and to be able to analyze the state of socio-political discourse at the time. I also verified that Mansilla was going through a period of highly-publicized activity, both in the standard press and in the political arena, which made sure that any new works by him would circulate well in the then small but very active Buenos Aires cultural scene.

Thank you for the opportunities this grant allowed me.