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Domains: The Colonial Spanish America Digital Jurisdiction Project Proposal

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Domains: The Colonial Spanish America Digital Jurisdictions Project is a collaborative project born from (but not in) a graduate course on the History of Law in the Spanish Atlantic in 2017. Brainstorming during a seminar, the students proposed that a problem we were puzzling over—which has impacts on how Latin American history is taught at the introductory level—had a digital solution. We began work outside of class on creating this site.

When we teach, learn and think about earlier times, we tend to imagine that people were located in bordered territories like our modern nations, counties, and cities. We look at one-dimensional maps of, say, a Spanish viceroyalty in the New World, and think we have the whole picture.But before the modern era, people recognized that they were embedded in diverse *relationships* of power and place that transcended boundaries on maps. Structures of authority and belonging were multiple and messy, and people negotiated their position in the colonial world from within several domains at once: Church, crown, their guild, their village.

Domains maps the competing and collaborative, contiguous and concentric legal authorities in colonial Spanish America. Created by a volunteer team of post-docs, doctoral students and faculty in the Department of History with assistance from our GIS Center, it is a first cut at representing the overlapping layers of legal jurisdiction using ARC GIS and ESRI StoryMap. It is very preliminary, and I would welcome being part of the Digital Humanities Faculty Seminar to discuss its uses in the undergraduate classroom, whether other digital features could enhance it, and whether it can be a platform for future student collaboration. I also host its entry point on my personal website and would like to explore alternatives.