The project consists of a workshop that will plan an innovative book on the "History of the Americas." There is, to my knowledge, no such book though it is clear that there are many commonalities in the history of the hemisphere. This workshop intends to work out a schema for writing such a history, invite authors from throughout the hemisphere to participate, and write such a history under my editorship.

The History of the Americas is a unit of analysis that has been lacking in the historical literature despite the fact that it makes much sense. The Americas have a common indigenous past, were colonized by European powers around the same time, and most gained independence within a half a century. Other, more recent trends, such as the fate of indigenous peoples, environmental effects, and common political trends such as liberalism or populism cry out for a comparative hemispheric-wide analysis.

BACKGROUND:

There are many ways of defining the history of regions. Most common by far are still national histories or of regions within national boundaries. On the other hand, World History is another unit of analysis that has been popular for some time. Newer trends include Atlantic History and now, Pacific History. Curiously, a logical unit of analysis is a hemispheric one for the Americas, which, unlike European, Asian, or African History, simply does not exist with some rare exceptions. Instead, the hemisphere has been divided into at least two sections - Latin America and the Caribbean and North America (above the Rio Grande).

OBJECTIVES, GENERAL AND SPECIFIC:

The workshop will make possible the discussion of a common framework that will inform an analysis of the history of the hemisphere. A preliminary breakdown into separate chapters on indigenous history, environmental history, political history, economic history, and Inter-American relations will be discussed to see whether this is a workable framework.

In addition, the periodization of the framework will be an important topic. The question is whether the five themes mentioned above will be divided into periods, with a preliminary breakdown into pre-Columbian, colonial, and republican periods is sufficient or whether a more fine-grained division is more useful.
Lastly, the workshop will bring together historians and historical geographers who are willing to participate as authors. One important point of discussion will be who else to invite as authors. The objective will be to find the best scholars who are experts on these topics but also to create a book that reflects all the regions, if possible, of the hemisphere.

METHODOLOGY:

The workshop will set out the parameters of the book in regards to topics, periods, and the authors of the each chapter. Unlike other such endeavors, each author will be asked to take on the topic and period of their choice and write about the whole region, from Canada to Argentina/Chile. To do this, the workshop will also create a network of scholars in different disciplines who will be able to help the authors in finding the bibliography, review chapters, and provide advice on approaches for the regions of their specialty. The workshop will set as its goal creating this network.

The participants of the workshop will also design a program for the translation of the chapters into Spanish, Portuguese or English (and perhaps French) so that the final product will be available in all three languages. The participants will also help in making contacts with different presses for the publication of the book in the three (or four) languages.

PRODUCTS:

A book titled "Historia de las Americas" that will be available for purchase in Spanish, English, Portuguese and (perhaps) French.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND EXPECTED BENEFITS:

This book will help the inhabitants of the hemisphere understand their common history. This will lead to a greater understanding of the commonalities within the region and present the first systematic understanding of the hemisphere as a whole through its history. It is likely that the book may serve as a text for high school or university students and thus promote hemispheric thinking and a more sophisticated understanding of the region as a whole.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

The grant will cover a two-day workshop, to be held just before the PAIGH meetings in Buenos Aires in 2012.

The participants afterward will write their chapters, plus other scholars invited to participate. Chapters will be due approximately eight months later, at which point they will be sent out for translation in the other two languages. In the meantime the editor, Erick Langer, in conjunction
with other participants, will arrange for publication of the work with appropriate presses in the three languages.

The book will be ready in 2013 or 2014.