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Tentative Title of Dissertation:

The Chasquis of Liberty: An Indigenous Vision for Independence, 1778-1825

Abstract:

My dissertation analyzes a group of indigenous and mestizo revolutionaries who traveled throughout the Americas promoting political liberalism and independence. These men served as the *chasquis of liberty* during the Spanish-American wars of independence. A *chasqui* was the rapid traveling foot messenger of the Andean pre-conquest and colonial worlds, connecting multiple nested communities. While only a few of the *chasquis of liberty* physically ran the Inca trails, as true *chasquis* would have, others served a similar role and helped forge a national consciousness for the emerging Bolivia. Pazos Kanki and his peers united disparate struggles for independence and facilitated the exchange of ideas that gave rise to republicanism in Bolivia and the broader Americas. The *chasquis of liberty* reveal that indigenous revolutionaries contributed to the political debates of the nineteenth century by offering an innovative form of nationalism that transcended the usual geographical, racial, and social barriers that defined the Age of Revolutions.