

## ***Introduction***

By James (Jim) Wilkie

As this Homenaje Event was about to open on May 16, 2016, the organizer Samuel “Sami” Schmidt privately asked me nine questions (which he had informally heard in different ways from nearly all participants):

(1) Who are you, Jim? (2) ...and how as a young man coming from the mountains of Idaho, did you manage to greatly impress so many people in the World?... (3) what led you to become the rare specialist on **Political-Economic-Social History** who would be the first to conduct an **independent audit (1900 -1976)<sup>1</sup> of the Mexican Central Government projected and actual expenditure?...**

(4) the first to establish the field of **Statistical History** analyzing long-data series in your many books and articles and also in the interpretive section of the UCLA *Statistical Abstract of Latin America* ?,... (5) develop your model **Oral History** approach to record your conversations with leaders of Mexico’s “Revolutionary Family” and its opponents?... (6) the first to establish (1967 - 1973) the new scholarly field—*Elitelore* to counterbalance the established field of *Folklore*?... (7) the first to develop an organized international focus on “**Mexico and the World**”?... (8) the first to develop the “**U.S.-Mexico Model**” to facilitate the flow of **Not-For-Private-Profit Funds (Non-Profit Funds) between the two countries,**” which you have expanded for **all countries** seeking to tap America’s largest non-governmental pool of funds in the world?... (9) the first to develop a new **Schema of Mexican History** that presents a logically consistent framework (based on your definition of *Statist Centralism, Anti-State Decentralism*, and a middle ground between them—*Active Statism*.

Until now I have not responded to Sami’s nine questions above that that he raised May 16th until now in this Introduction. In

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<sup>1</sup> James W. Wilkie, *The Mexican Revolution: Federal Expenditure and Social Change Since 1910* (1st Edition Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967, and 2nd Edition, 1970) carried the audit data from 1900 to 1963.

[http://www.profmex.org/mexicoandtheworld/volume20/2latespring2015/The\\_Mexican\\_R\\_evolution\\_Federal\\_Expenditure\\_and\\_Social\\_Change\\_Since\\_1910.pdf](http://www.profmex.org/mexicoandtheworld/volume20/2latespring2015/The_Mexican_R_evolution_Federal_Expenditure_and_Social_Change_Since_1910.pdf)

In the first edition in Spanish, the audit data is continued to 1976: *La Revolución Mexicana (1910-1976) Gasto Público y Cambio Social* (México. DF: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1978), Epilogo I, p. 350; y Epilogo II, “Un Análisis Comparativo de México, Bolivia y Costa Rica”:

<http://www.profmex.org/mexicoandtheworld/volume8/1winter03/03index1.htm>

the meantime, with three new long papers now included, and the revised papers from Juárez, it seems necessary to add to Sami's List: "Suppose all nine questions are all on target, what do we know from all homenajes presented in this book?..To Sami's List it is important to ask **(10) How could it have been possible to establish since the 1960s all of the nine above "once-in-a-lifetime" new approaches to interdisciplinary studies?**

**In my view, key papers presented in this volume help me to rethink who I am and what I have accomplished:<sup>2</sup>**

*(A) We all know from the Homenaje by Richard ("Dick") Wilkie* how, as two brothers, Dick and I have capitalized on our joint geographical and on intellectual explorations from childhood to the present. Dick not only recounts our experiences together in the high mountains of Idaho, but also our years together at Mexico City College (1956-1958 and 1960-1961), over 8,100 feet elevation in contrast to the city at 7,500 feet.

Dick also recounts our travels to Central America (December 1957-April 1958), when we lived in San José de Costa Rica for more than three months. There we studied by correspondence with U.S. universities to meet the course work needed for credits that MCC had approved for us before leaving for Fall Quarter in on our own schedule in Costa Rica. San José City had little traffic and we lived the small scale life, quite a change from Mexico City. We paraded around the Central Plaza, young men counter-clockwise and young women clock-wise, each looking for partner to later meet for coffee or an hour to dance. We loved to dance "Mi Cafetal," which later became famous around the world where we found it different places and time, always reminding of San José de Costa Rica.

Dick tells of our travels with Edna (Edie) around South America (1966-1967 and 1975-1977). In our travels in 1975, I told Dick and Edie how important she had been in developing my 1973 book on *Elitelore*. When she read the first draft in 1972, she told me: You have gotten the structure wrong. Throw out this version and start over by rethinking what you are trying to say. I was not crushed, because I know that her judgment is infallible always and she is always seeking to help protect me from imprecise wording. So as I reconstructed the book, and presented it for her evaluation. She suggested some changes, and by the third version, she found it to

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<sup>2</sup> My following use of letters of the alphabet does not necessarily correspond to the numbering of the 10 questions above.

meet her high standards. She was my Virtual Co-Author.

I have included below Appendix 1 to this Introduction in order to tell how, in 1967 at the New York City Conference on Folklore and Social Science,<sup>3</sup> I faced the Folklorist critics, who wanted to prevent the rise of the new field Elitelore. I knew that against the gathered “Academic Mob,” I had Edie on my side. Unbeknown to us, we would soon have the help of the major “Social Science Folklorist” at the Conference, against what appeared to insurmountable odds. But enough here, the surprising story is told in Appendix 1.

*(B) We know from my Professor Lyle C. Brown about some important aspects of my life at Mexico City College,<sup>4</sup> and beyond. Lyle helped me launch my academic career by approving my idea of analyzing the role of Lázaro Cárdenas in Mexico before, during, and after his Presidency. Lyle himself had been focused on Cárdenas’ role as President of Mexico.<sup>5</sup>*

Lyle writes about my travels and conversations (which were not recorded, as Lyle explains why Cárdenas did want a tape recording of his voice but acceded for me to take written notes of our discussions and debates. Lázaro was very interested in lauding Emilio Portes Gils’ role in founding the PNR as well his presidency in general that accomplished so much as Lyle points out.

Also, Lázaro was helpful in to me willing to discuss my periodization of his political role from the 1920s to the 1940s and beyond to when was the Chief Developer/Chief Advisor for Mexico’s River Basin Development of the Balsas/Tepalcatepec rivers Readers will find Lyle’s account to be fundamental in understand the many roles in which over time Lázaro was involved, and why he was able to work with President Miguel Alemán, with home he they long shared dams to be built for electrification and irrigation in order to make “la tierra caliente” able to support settlement and agricultural growth.

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<sup>3</sup> At the Social Science Research Council Conference on Folklore and Social Science, *New York City*, November 10, 1967, I was invited to formally present my concept of “Oral History of ‘Biographical Elitelore’ in Latin America.” The idea of the Council was to then open the floor for discussion and debate, which did not happen as planned.

<sup>4</sup> From my time forward with Lyle in his course on American History in 1958 at MCC, he helped me refine my academic writings academically by revising and improving them, for which I am for ever grateful.

<sup>5</sup> Lyle’s 1964 Classic PHD thesis at Austin’s University of Texas is at: [http://www.profmex.org/mexicoandtheworld/volume21/4latespring2016/LYLE\\_PHD\\_Thesis.pdf](http://www.profmex.org/mexicoandtheworld/volume21/4latespring2016/LYLE_PHD_Thesis.pdf)

Later Lyle traveled in December 1964 with Edie and I to participate in our interview General Juan Andreu Almazán in Acapulco; and Lyle worked with Edna and I to publish the first seven of our Mexican Oral Histories in 1969.)

(C) *We know from Jesús Arroyo about my roles as helping him originally gain a major grant from the Hewlett Foundation, and our joining forces to Co-Edit the Book Series on Cycles and Trends in Mexico's Development (which carried special ongoing funds from the Hewlett Foundation for editing and publishing works peer reviewed and then authorized by the PROFMEX Editorial Board),<sup>6</sup> and my naming him Co-Editor with me of the peer-reviewed PROFMEX Journal, Mexico and the World,<sup>7</sup> as well as had a much greater "academic multiplier effect" than I was fully aware was taking place. Jesús' Hewlett Foundation grants and his new Co-Editorships allowed him to expand his Instituto de Estudios Económicos y Regionales (INESER), and helped him gain the justified fame to (1) request to decentralize the National System of Investigators (SNI) to not only focus on providing financial bonuses for highly ranked Mexico City scholars,<sup>8</sup> but also to include more faculty at the University of Guadalajara (UdeG) as eligible to receive SNI distinction. (2) to organize the establishment of a new and the very new modern new Campus El Centro Universitario de Ciencias Económico Administrativas (CUCEA), for which he became the Founding Rector, and served several terms When I saw the gold plaque awarded to Jesús by President Vicente Fox for his achievement as becoming the Founding Rector of CUCEA, I knew that the plaque elegantly recognized his successful conclusion to having succeeded in the complex UdeG where many faculties and different scholarly groups compete for limited funding. Jesús had prevailed because of the original support with outside funds provided by the Hewlett Foundation Funds, which Clint Smith and I had been convinced that Jesús needed. Certainly I always gave all my moral support to Jesús, who became a diplomat-academic and Rector of his own well-planned new UdeG decentralized University Campuses.*

Many thanks, Jesús, for the manner in which you summed statistically the results of our Book Series since 1990,<sup>9</sup> we can be

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<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.profmex.org/ciclosytendencias/>

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.profmex.org/webjournal.html>

<sup>8</sup> Thus, enabling them, for example, to have the financial-base salary independent from promotions they might not receive from unfriendly rectors at the own University.

<sup>9</sup> For the first volumes of the PROFMEX Books Series, Sergio de La Peña and I had two

proud that we have published a total of 55 books. For my part, let state that the PROFMEX Journal has published almost 75 issues since inception in 1994.

(D) *We know from Adriana Patricia (Paty) López Velazco about the extent and importance of my role in PROFMEX-ANUIES International Projects, Conferences, and Publications.* Their are eight volumes in the PROFMEX-ANUIES Series, which she mentions:

PROFMEX-Asociación Nacional de Universidades e Instituciones de Enseñanza Superior) Series, 1981-2000, Co-Sponsored by UCLA <http://profmex.org/Series%20on%20PROFMEX-ANUIES%20International%20Conferences.html>

Series Editor: James W. Wilkie.

1. *Estudios Fronterizos*, eds. Antonio Gago Huget y Michael C. Meyer (México, D.F.: ANUIES y PROFMEX, 1981).
2. *Ecology and Development of the Border Region*, ed. Stanley R. Ross (México, D.F.: ANUIES y PROFMEX, 1983).
3. *Rules of the Game and Games Without Rules in Border Life*, eds. Mario Miranda Pacheco and James W. Wilkie (México, D.F.: ANUIES y PROFMEX, 1985).
4. *One Border, Two Nations: Policy Implications and Problem Resolutions*, eds. Oscar J. Martínez, Albert E. Utton, Mario Miranda Pacheco (México, D.F.: ANUIES y PROFMEX, 1988).
5. *Reciprocal Images: Education in Mexican-U.S. Relations*, eds. Paul Ganster y Mario Miranda Pacheco (México, D.F.: Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Azcapotzalco, PROFMEX, ANUIES, 1991).
6. *Changes in U.S.-Mexican Economic Relations: Beyond the Border*, eds. Paul Ganster, Arturo García Espinoza, Arturo Grunstein. México, D.F.: Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Azcapotzalco, ANUIES, PROFMEX, 1994).
7. *México y las Américas*, eds. Carlos Pallán Figueroa, James W.

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Virtual Co-Editors: **Sylvia Ortega and Edmundo Jacobo**, successive rectors at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Azcapotzalco, who began the series and arranged to publish it. We are thankful that the four of us always met to get the Series launched, and that Sergio and I had Sylvia and Edmundo with the imagination and the “know-how” to do it.

Wilkie, Jesús Arroyo Alejandro (México, D.F.: ANUIES, PROFMEX, Universidad de Guadalajara, 1996).

8. *México y el Mundo*, eds. James W. Wilkie, Alejandro Mungaray y Jesús Arroyo Alejandro (México, D.F.: PROFMEX, ANUIES, Universidad de Guadalajara, Gobierno del Estado de Michoacán, Centro de Investigación y Desarrollo del Estado de Michoacán, 2000).

Paty mentions our PROFMEX 1996 Beijing Conference to introduce Mexico's scholars to Chinese Scholars. The resulting 1999 book *México Frente a la Modernización de China*, Edited by Oscar González Cuevas, can be freely consulted or downloaded at <http://www.profmex.org/ciclosytendencias/vinculos/res16.html>

Further she relates the extent and import of my opening of PROFMEX to Japan and China, about which I can say further that led many graduate students and professors enroll at UCLA to work under my direction with grants from Ford Foundation/China.

Many thanks, Paty, for summing up so much, and thanks to your Co- Coordinator David Rodríguez Álvarez for managing to stage efficiently the process of publishing each book since 1995 in la Serie de Ciclos y Tendencias en el Desarrollo de México.

*(E) We know from Olga Magdalena Lazín about my having opened PROFMEX to Eastern Europe and Russia in the early 1990s, and especially after she joined with me to help new Hungarian, Romanian, and Russian NGOs learn about how to gain tax-free funding from U.S. Foundations by following my "U.S.-Mexico-Model for facilitating the free flow of Not-for Private to Funds to Mexico.*

As Olga reminded all the national leaders with whom we met, "foundations" may go may involve very different kinds of (for example) private universities, private hospitals, and private legal aid societies that may legally pay salaries, rent, supplies, and related costs such as travel if the charges are related to expenditures in each foundation's Constitution and Bylaws, which have been approved by the U.S. IRS and its Mexican equivalent.

The "U.S. Mexico Model"<sup>10</sup> developed the clear Framework needed by Mexican NGOs/Foundations to become equivalent" to U.S. Not-for-Private Profit U.S. Foundations. My Project was originally supported by the El Paso Community Foundation (on

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<sup>10</sup> The Model clarifies, among other issues, the very complex legal concepts set forth in Section 501(c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, which authorizes U.S. Foundations to donate their funds to "equivalent" foreign Non Profit Foundations.

behalf of the U.S. Council on Foundations).

Subsequently, the Mexican National Lottery under Manuel Alonso Muñoz supported my Project to expand what it called my Mexican-U.S. Model, thus positioning Mexico in its new light as leading the way to the rise of U.S. Foundations to fund the social, economic, and political development of the “new” non-Communist countries. Not until the fall of the Iron Curtain were countries that had been held captive to the despotism of the USSR become (like Russia itself) free to seek new development solutions—all of which need the high level of foundation funds enjoyed by Mexico.

Yet the major problem that still exists is that many leaders of each of the “new” Eastern European countries tends to see their country’s own foundations as taking funds and power out of the hands of the Central Government. They do not realize that if, under my Model, they reform their historical tax code, they will be able to bring in large funds from U.S. foundations that will jump-start many new activities as well as raise expenditure for fully taxable salaries, goods, and services. Thus the Central Government has more money and power under its control even as the country’s own foundations have more funds to develop innovative programs for which the Central Government and State Bureaucracy neither can advance promptly nor implement efficiently.

A related problem for leaders Government as well as foundations in each Eastern European country is they do not usually understand that “*Non-Profit*” does not mean “*no profit*” at each year’s end.

Thus, as we began to meet with leaders in the early 1990s, Olga and I realized that we needed to shift from the concept “Non-Profit Foundations” to “Not-for-Private Profit Organizations” (NPPOs),<sup>11</sup> which are supposed to generate a profit to be invested in world markets (largely stock markets) to accumulate a corpus of funds that earn enough interest yearly to pay operating expenses.

Government tax leaders, who change often, have to be made newly aware by their National Association of Foundations to learn

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<sup>11</sup> It is important to know that **the USA has no “U.S. Law for Foundations**, but rather concepts which we here best describe as pertaining to NPPOs that allow any Foundation chartered by the U.S. Treasury to make a profit as well as invest it for two purposes: (a) to grow the corpus of funds needed to maintain foundations to continue without end, unless the original donors set a final year to close; and (b) to use the interest to operate from year to year. However, under the IRS Tax Code, if any donations go to private uses (that is are used outside the Constitution and bylaws of the foundation), those “donations” must be renamed as “unrelated income to the foundation’s chartered purpose.” Such unrelated income is not only taxed, but if extensive can call into question the foundation’s standing as a Tax Free Entity for Income and Expenditures.

the differences between “NPOs” and “NPPOs,”<sup>12</sup> or they will not know that how the U.S.-Mexico Model can open their country to expand its national money supply.

Even once Tax Officials know what has to be done to change the historically wrong tax code, they must explain why to their Congress and then marshal public support for change.

Fortunately our efforts in Eastern Europe have begun to have impact, but much remains to be done to change left over Communist ideas about taxation, and even older pre-1948 national ideas, which understood little of the modern world.

On a personal front, we have learned how Olga’s role in trying to help her country is rooted in her 1986 attempt to escape from Romania’s Securitate,<sup>13</sup> which has continued since 1948 (from high visibility to 1989) to work behind the scenes (since 1990) to ruthlessly dispatch “enemies of the state,” while continuing to manage the corrupt Government at all levels of power by intrusively SPYING on all people who live in or enter Romania.

How this national tragedy will end, no one knows because citizens are afraid to be “overheard” by the “Big Brother”—the omnipresent Securitate.

*(F) Oscar J. Martínez latest work has helped us understand his perspective on the geography of Mexico.* He has decided that the country’s geography of extremes (such as too much or too little rainfall in various areas and difficulty of traveling east and west over difficult mountain ranges, as well as the lack of rivers to penetrate shipping into the country) is the main problem holding major parts of Mexico in the inequality of poverty that prevents the country from developing into a modern nation.

See his paper in this Homenaje and his 2015 book:

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<sup>12</sup> **Most NPOs are unable to receive donations that are tax deductible to the donor, but all donations received by NPPOs are deductible from the donor’s taxes.** The idea that tax deductions are even possible is a concept held to be suspicious by the historically backward Eastern European and Russian Tax Codes not yet reformed correctly. The old tax codes purposefully do not want to encourage private donors from giving to NPPOs, because the sought to channel such funds to their National Treasury Department—thus enhancing a major perk the old leaders to quietly profit personally from old systems rife with corruption. They did not understand that when foreign NPPOs donated funds to East Bloc NPPOs, those funds expanded the money supply, rather than diminished it because non payment taxes on incoming NPPO funds was (and is) minimal in relation to the inflow of grants to countries were (and are) cash poor.

<sup>13</sup> The Romanian Securitate operated openly until the 1989 military execution of the country’s mad dictator, after which the Securitate continues, ostensibly from behind the scenes, but quite as dangerous as ever.



***Mexico's Uneven Development:  
The Geographical and  
Historical Context of Inequality.***<sup>14</sup>

Back in El Paso in the 1990s, after we finished up a solid day of our work at the Hotel El Paso,<sup>15</sup> Oscar and I invited others on our Team to rapidly cross the border to enjoy the great Latino music in the safe Juárez City of bygone days.

(G) *Peter Reich reminds us of my first article:*

***'The Meaning of the  
Cristero Religious War  
Against the Mexican Revolution,***<sup>16</sup>

with which he surprised me. This had always been seen by others and me as the launch of my interest in statistical history, being used in this case to analyze the situation which the Church (1926-1929) found itself involved against the Government in Mexico City.

But Peter takes a new look for which I congratulate him. After fitting me into the French *Annales* School and later structuralists, Peter writes:<sup>17</sup>

“Jim Wilkie incorporated and expanded structural methodology in his three investigations of Church-state relations beginning in the late *Porfiriato* and continuing into the twentieth. Peter’s view of my oral interview with Catholic lay activist **Miguel Palomar y Vizcarra** (conducted in 1964 and published in 1969),<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> New York: Taylor and Francis.

<sup>15</sup> The Hotel El Paso had arranged to put at my disposal space for working and holding meetings for the Ford Foundation Grant to PROFMEX-ANUIES. Under the terms of the grant, we sought to propose new ways to “Manage the Greater Urban Area of Ciudad Juárez-El Paso as One City Arbitrarily Divided by an International Border, 1992-1994.” The Hotel was an ironic tribute to Pancho Villa, who might well have wanted to himself open the border permanently in his raid March 9, 1916, on Columbus, New Mexico.

<sup>16</sup> *Journal of Church and State* 8:2 (Spring 1966), pp. 214-233.

<sup>17</sup> Because Peter wrote this text prior to the May 16-17 Conference, this advance draft that he sent to me, may differ from his final paper.

<sup>18</sup> See the Palomar interview at <http://www.elitelore.org/VolII.html> Peter notes that the urban and rural workers, supported by credit unions, formed the basis for the militant Cristero resistance groups of the 1920s such as the *Liga Nacional Defensora de la Libertad Religiosa*. Peter writes that the Liga’s organizational cohesion explained the continuity in the ideological traditionalism of the laity, and thus why not all Catholics supported the Church hierarchy’s 1929 compromise with the government—the so-called *arreglos*—that ended the military conflict with the *Cristeros*.

“In turn, the moderation of the episcopate and state itself followed a traditional pattern of lax anticlerical enforcement also dating from the late nineteenth century. Of course, we

has given me an articulate view of myself that I did not consciously know. But now I do, and his analysis does make sense. Also I am grateful for hearing from Peter about the impact that I had on his PHD thesis—now I know only 21 years later. In reality, we were both so busy in that earlier era that we had little time to engage in the deep thinking about our high quality intellectual relationship that Sami has provided for this Homenaje.

(H) *Juan Moreno, who at met at the Mexican Treasury Ministry*, became one of my best sources for long-term Statistical data. Also, my intellectual interchanges with him meant that I invited him to move to UCLA to earn his PHD, which he soon accepted to do with the help of funding from his Ministry and other government sources. I have always been proud of Juan's brilliant research published in two volumes as *FOBAPROA: The Cost of the*

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cannot forget that Palomar, in looking backward, may have been inventing his own 'elitore,' in Wilkie's later terminology, justifying himself by maintaining that his positions had long antecedents.

"Building on his interview with Palomar y Vizcarra, Wilkie developed a conceptual explanation of the *arreglos* in his 1966 article, 'The Meaning of the Cristero Religious War against the Mexican Government.' By elucidating the structures of conciliation and extremism within both Church and state, he showed that neither institution was monolithic, so that the moderates on both sides made peace while the radicals continued zealous resistance and anticlerical struggle well into the 1930s. Thus the respective structures of bureaucracy and polarization proved more important than the formal categories of 'religion' and 'secularism.'"

"Wilkie took a broader, more synthetic approach in his 1970 "**Statistical Indicators of the Impact of National Revolution on the Catholic Church in Mexico, 1910-1967.**" Delineating the structures of religious affiliation, Church-sponsored marriage, divorce, and inhabitants per priest through time-series statistics culled from census data, he found a significant downturn in these measures of Church influence in the decades following the Revolution.

"But cognizant of the multiple factors behind any trends over the *longue durée*, he considered that this weakening of affiliative intensity may just as easily have been caused by population growth and public health improvement as by government anticlerical policies. All three of Wilkie's Church-state studies illustrate how the structures of religious relationships underlie the surface of political events, which they might or might not influence..."

"Jim Wilkie's work on religion and politics creatively applies structural analysis to the terrain of modern Mexican history. His originality consists in showing how structures of ideological affinity always underlie and at times influence historical events. He did not mean that events are subordinate to timeless structures, but rather that a comprehensive 'total history' gives the best approximation of what actually happened.

"Historians can't privilege certain types or items of evidence, but have to examine all of it critically or run the risk of advancing partisan rather than scholarly goals. Guided by this principle, Wilkie's nuanced structuralism remains a model not only of rigorous analysis but also of the conscientious pursuit of professional ethical standards."

*Rescue Mexican Banks*,<sup>19</sup> in 1995, with overhang of problems lasting years.

Juan's current access to the 'Secret Files' in the Mexican Military Archives are presenting the possibility to reassess the role of Lázaro Cárdenas in controversial events of the 1920s in rural Mexico.

(I) *Arturo Grunstein, one of my first grad students from Mexico*, chose to write his first graduate paper on Elitelore. Arturo astounded me with his understanding (intuitively?) of Elitelore from the moment he discovered it. But for his 1994 PHD thesis he turned to analyze the railways in Mexico under Treasury Minister José Y. Limamntour (1893-1911), who reported regularly to President Porfirio Díaz about foreign and domestic bond holders.

With the occasion of this Homenaje organized by Sami, however Arturo decided that he would finish his unwritten thoughts about Elitelore and expand that original paper from the perspectives that he has acquired since leaving UCLA. The Result is a tremendous Tour de Force, written with wit and irony. I can see in my mind's eye Arturo having written this paper with excitement in his eyes, a la Carlos Fuentes or Gabriel García Márquez!

(J) *Rafael Rodríguez Castañeda, who had conducted research for Oscar Lewis in Mexico and Cuba*, has honored me in his article in this book by having developed a list of distinguished persons who have been able to help Mexico understand itself better and be understood more clearly around the world. His list of impactful foreign visitors to Mexico includes: Bernal Díaz del Castillo, Fray Bernardino de Sahagún, la marquesa Calderón de la Barca, Alexander Von Humboldt, Malcom Lowry, Antonin Artaud, Oscar Lewis y Ruth Lewis y James W. Wilkie.

(K) *Alfonso J. Galindo, author with me of the PROFMEX CV (June 2016)*, had the stamina of intellectual knowledge to work for months to revise and update the records of what PROFMEX has accomplished on many fronts. Alfonso recalled many events that I had long since forgotten in the constant advance into new projects and meetings around the world, and publications.

Alfonso is the well merited PROFMEX Executive Vice President and CEO as well as President of PROFMEX-Mexico, AC.

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<sup>19</sup> See:

<http://www.profmex.org/mexicoandtheworld/volume14/3summer09/1fobaproa.html>

With his 2007 UCLA PHD in hand, Alfonso became for several year's UCLA Representative in Mexico.

The 2016 PROFMEX Curriculum is freely available at: [http://www.jameswilkiepublicationlinks.org/pub/PROFMEX\\_CV\\_June\\_2016.pdf](http://www.jameswilkiepublicationlinks.org/pub/PROFMEX_CV_June_2016.pdf)

Thanks is due to Alfonso from all of us for having brought together the 2016 PROFMEX CV.

*(L) Carlos B. Gil and I always remember how he arrived from his U.S. diplomatic post in Santiago de Chile to study under me at Ohio State University in 1968 just as I was leaving to join the UCLA faculty. Carlos arrived a year later at UCLA with his wife and children again making the move. His wife wondered how they could survive without the nanny, cook, and driver that they had in the U.S. Foreign Service.*

Just at that time, I invited Carlos and his wife to my home in Pacific Palisades to join the incoming students arriving to begin their M.A. Program in Latin American Studies. I lost sight of Carlos and wife because they walked along the outside of my window-doors to look inside, as she said, to see how professors live. Then I heard a stir and saw his wife leave rapidly. Carlos told me that when she looked inside my office, with the usual professorial clutter of books and papers, she told him: "If this is the way professors keep their offices, I don't want any part it," and she immediately left him forever. Fortunately, Carlos' mother lived over the mountain in San Fernando Valley and he was able to take up his PHD studies forthwith.

Carlos' research took him to his family's hometown of Mascota, Jalisco, where he did a micro study that revealed how that region, like so many others in Mexico, was by-passed by the violent phase of the Mexican Revolution in the 1910s. This superb PHD thesis became a 1983 book entitled *Life in Provincial Mexico: National and Regional History Seen from Mascota, Jalisco, 1867-1972*, published by UCLA Latin American Center Publications, assured him a professorship at the University of Washington (Seattle), and off he went happily to establish a new life for his family.

Carlos excellent 2012 book is entitled *We Became Mexican American: How Our Immigrant Family Survived to Pursue the American Dream*. In this book, Carlos traces the family as if moved by stages north on the map to reach California and make a place for itself, waiting for his birth in the USA.

(M) *George Baker wonderful my long -time colleague*, with our wide interests, found ourselves at a 1993 meeting in Hermosillo with the Sonora State Government, which wanted advice on how to improve agricultural development, but that was too general to have any meaning for us.

Just before we left, out of desperation one official told us that the State had problems with a local olive-tree economy in Caborca, to the northwest of where we were in the State Capital. Then another development official asked us if we knew anything about growing olive trees to generate a healthy Mexican market and an export market for bottling and sending olives to the United States.

Both of us immediately said yes. George had studied how Israel had successfully met the challenge of growing trees under desert conditions, and I had been recently been reading about problems and solutions to growing olive trees in California.

Suddenly we were invited to visit Caborca in a subsequent trip to contact the olive-tree growers and advise olived tree owners about how to save their orchards.

When we met the olive-tree owners after we drove to Caborca from Arizona, we could immediately see the problem. They were flooding water under the trees so that they had started to grow outward rather than up toward the sky.

Eventually we explained to the growers they would have to tear out the existing “failed trees” and start over with new ones using Israeli drip agriculture, which would send the new trees upward as well as drastically cut the overuse of water, which itself was depleting the water table in the region and threatening to break the water table’s natural barrier to the influx of salty sea water into the fields below the olive trees, thus destroying them, and threatening the water table for a huge region.

About the growth of olives for the local and U.S. market, we asked if they had visited the local supermarket in town to see from where their olives on the shelves came from. Nobody had checked so we took a group of growers to see for themselves. And we found that the only olives and olive oil being sold in town was imported by the Arizona Olive Company.

At that point, some of the grown said “those are our olives that we sold to middlemen who trucked them away, the drivers not even knowing where the olives were destined to go.” After further discussion, it became clear to all the Caborcan growers that the olives that they had sold at bargain prices (owing to the fact that the old Caborcan olive processing plant had broken down and had closed) meant that they had felt lucky to get what little they did.

No Caborcan growers realized that their olives were sent across the border to the Arizona Olive Company, which processed the olives and sent bottles of olives and olive oil back to sell in Caborca.

We explained to the growers that there was a further problem for Caborca: The Arizona Olive Company was well funded with new and modern processing plants and they could send their buyers out in new trucks to blanket the purchase of all olives grown in northern Sonora—without the Caborcan processing plant, all growers in the State had no real market except what little the Arizona Olive Company wanted to pay.

On top of these spiraling problems of which the Caborcan olive growers were now aware, the majority of growers realized that they had no future because it would be too costly to cut down the failed trees, and take too long to plant and allow the new trees to mature to be able to yield olives—indeed years would be lost, and most growers would have to declare insolvency.

George and I realized that we were in the precarious position of having explained that apparently there was no solution for their small community. How long would it take to build a new processing plant some asked? And how would the construction of a new plant be financed? What to do?

George and I left promising to meet with the State Economic Development Office in Hermosillo, where we had signed the contract for our consulting services.

In Hermosillo we were told that there were no funds to help Caborca growers, but for us to submit the report,<sup>20</sup> noting that there might be a delay in being paid owing to the fact that the original Development Office had spent all of the fund, and its Officer who we had taken the same job in better paying Mexican States.

Well, we laughed to each other, but we had met many olivetree growers who had been eager to become part of our “Investigative Team.” And we had tracked down the Arizona Olive Companies legal (but unethical) roles.

The interlocking complexities and alternatives that we left for them in Caborca were not what the growers wanted to hear.

The final question from the olive-tree growers was: “Is there no simple solution to our problems?”. What, Dear Readers, would you say to those olive-tree growers?

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<sup>20</sup> For our report to the State Development Officials, see: <http://www.profomex.org/mexicoandtheworld/volume3/4fall98/olivodecaborca.html>

(N) *María Herrera-Sobek* has written the Dedication to this book. It is the:

***CORRIDO DEDICADO A JAMES WILKIE***  
***Written by María Herrera-Sobek (May 17, 2016)***  
**Can be sung with the music of “Rosita Álvarez”**

And it was my great pleasure to watch all of us join in singing this corrido, which is included María’s article in this book. For the text of the song, see the Dedication above at page x.

(O) Let me mention here my little-known book in progress growing out of my Oral History Interviews with Norman E. Borlaug and Roberto González Barrera about Mexico’s **Two Green Agricultural Revolutions for the World:**

At Mexico City’s Polyforum on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of GRUMA (Grupo Maseca), May 13, 1999: President of Mexico Ernesto Zedillo welcomed Norman E. Borlaug and his Mexican Team back to Mexico; and I gave the keynote address: to tell the history of why, after all his success in Mexico winning the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize, Borlaug had to leave Mexico in the first place, and to tell the audience about the history of how Roberto González Barrera successfully developed Healthy, Safe Cornmeal for Mexico and Many Other Countries.

Each of these two leaders was responsible for having launched the World’s 1st and 2nd Green Agricultural Revolution from Mexico to The World.

This is fascinating history that most Mexicans and Americans have little if any knowledge. I look forward to bringing this book to conclusion soon. Peter Reich would say, no doubt, that this book (like one more aspect of the underlying economic history that is contributing to help understand the Mexico’s socio-economic *structure* in the long-term.

In 1999, Vicente Fox joined me in awarding the PROFMEX PRIZE to Roberto Gonzalez Barrera for having added vitamins and mineral to his to his cornmeal production line, with Barrera paying half the cost, and the other half being paid with help of Mexican Governors.

Led by Gov. Fox, this cost sharing helping Barrera to distribute fairly and freely Vitaminized Tortilla cornmeal in Mexico’s States that joined with Govenner Fox to be members in the movement to improve the quality of food for people so poor that many only eat only tortillas, and up to seventeen per day.

*(P-1) We are reminded via Skype from Spain by Miguel Rivera-Ríos (UNAM) about my first book *The Mexican Revolution: Federal Expenditure and Social Change Since 1910* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967, 1970)*

[http://www.profmex.org/webjournal\\_listedbyvoldat.html](http://www.profmex.org/webjournal_listedbyvoldat.html)

*[Scroll down to: Vol. 20 No.2 (Late Spring 2015): Translated as *La Revolución Mexicana (1910-1976) Gasto Público y Cambio Social* (México, DF, Fondo de Cultura Económica, 1978, 1987)*

<http://www.profmex.org/mexicoandtheworld/volume8/1winter03/03index1.htm>

*(P-2) As we know about Sami Schmidt, he is the academic leader who has made possible this event by inviting all of us to be here in Juárez.*

Further, he has brilliantly organized this volume according to the wide spectrum of research that matches my own publications ranging from Historical Statistics to Historical Elitelore.

Even in the first telephone call from Sami in (1977-1978) saying that he was in Los Angeles and would like to meet me, as we talked by phone I “heard” and “saw in my mind’s eyes” a twinkle of brilliant humor in Sami’s “eyes.” And when we met for dinner, I said to myself: “Yes, there is the twinkle,” which soon turned to easy laughter as we got to know each other. I knew from those moments onward that I wanted to invite Sami to become Post-Doctoral Fellow with me at UCLA.

About the importance of the eyes, Lázaro Cárdenas had said to me in 1962, “When I look into a persons eyes, I can tell within a minute whether or not I can trust that person for life.” (Wow,” I said to myself: “I am glad that I have passed the Lázaro Test.”) Indeed, when I met with Sami that first time, I was glad to see that he passed the “Lázaro Test.”

It was wonderful to have Sami at UCLA where he immediately interacted so well with my seminar students that he became my Co - Professor. What more luck could I ask for?

Much more, it turned out, because Sami soon won appointment to the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), where he effectively took over the Center for Inter-American and Border Studies. All this was favorable to me because I was spending much time in El Paso to develop my plan for Ford Foundation grant (1992-1994) to PROFMEX – ANUIES for making *Policy Recommendations for Managing the El Paso – Ciudad Juárez*



*Metropolitan Area.*<sup>21</sup> (Indeed this was the name for the 1994 final publication by Sami and David E. Lorey.)

In 1991 when I had first gone to *El Paso Community Foundation* (ECF) to discuss funding of what would become our “Cross-Border-Cities Project”, **President Janice W. Windle** introduced me to the *Ford Foundation in New York and Mexico City*, the former already funding ECF as a “Model Community Foundation” for the USA, and contributed ECF funds to make the project possible. Janet always found a way to solve any problem. I suggested at the time she should consider a slogan: “ECF—a Community Foundation for this Globalizing World.”

Funding was forthcoming when I fleshed out the Plan that offering a new approach for world academic research that would unite the three universities competing on each side of the border. Preposterously, each claimed to solely “own” academic rights to their cross-border area. As the Ford Foundation funded our Project, it wished me luck in developing my new model, which had failed around the world.

With Sami’s help, we began to meet with the rectors in Mexico, who initially rejected our Model’s postulate that research teams, set up to represent cooperating scholars, be paid directly their research stipend and operating funds, which would not be filtered through any university. The Mexican rectors claimed that their professors were already being paid for their research, and in case each rector claimed a requirement to receive a fee for overhead costs.

Sami was especially effective with the troublesome rectors: Either follow our Model or your institution will receive no credit for its “academic contribution” to this first ever major International and Interdisciplinary Project funded by the Ford Foundation.

Eleven teams focus on eleven topics,<sup>22</sup> here again Sami

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<sup>21</sup> By Schmidt and Lorey (El Paso: El Paso Community Foundation and UTEP Center for Inter-American and Border Studies, 1994):

<http://www.profmex.org/mexicoandtheworld/volume8/3summer03/RecENGEIPaso1.pdf>  
and in Spanish:

[http://www.profmex.org/mexicoandtheworld/volume8/3summer03/recomendacion\\_decursos.htm](http://www.profmex.org/mexicoandtheworld/volume8/3summer03/recomendacion_decursos.htm)

<sup>22</sup> Sami noted in the final publication (p. 2) the following Teams (each of which had funds for research assistants).

MANAGING URBAN SERVICES IN EL PASO-CIUDAD JUAREZ. *Principal Investigators: Samuel Schmidt (UTEP) and James W. Wilkie (UCLA).*

“THE RIGHT TO KNOW”: HAZARDOUS WASTE AWARENESS. *Principal Investigators: René Franco Barreno and Manuel Burgos (UACJ).*

EVALUATION OF THE SOURCES OF POLLUTION IN CIUDAD JUAREZ. *Principal Investigator: Juan Efigenio Sánchez (UACJ).*

played the key role. (As Project CEO based at UCLA, I could not play Sami's influential daily role in Juárez and El Paso, but rather concern myself with financial issues involving, for example, spot funding not anticipated in the original grant.

About the very successful Final International Conference for this project I wrote:<sup>23</sup> "PROFMEX convoked a meeting in El Paso, January 13, 1994, to make practical research recommendations intended to ease tension at the border and promote management internationally. Selected Project findings were presented to U.S.-Mexican policy making teams led by Ambassador to Mexico James R. Jones and Mexico's Undersecretary of Finance Francisco Gil Díaz." Project recommendations for breaking bottlenecks in U.S.-Mexican interaction were warmly accepted by the group.

For example, to reduce the need for Mexicans to pass through U.S. Immigration and Customs controls merely to use the U.S. Postal Services, Gil Díaz offered and U.S. Postal authorities agreed to establish a pilot U. S. Post Office in Mexico. Mexican foreign relations authorities led by Eduardo Ibarrola (Director General of the Mexican Consular Corps) and immigration authorities led by Javier Zenteno and Raul Solórzano (Advisors of Mexico's National Migration Institute) agreed to streamline visas as well as create a new academic visa. Sometime later, I said to George Baker: "Sami did such a great job in organizing the whole of our work in El Paso-Juárez, that I asked George: Where was Sami when we needed him in caborca." (See Part "M," above.)

I will always remember Sami's role in working with Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) to award me a series of UNAM Medals:

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THE PERCEPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN JUAREZ / EL PASO. *Principal Investigators: Pablo Vila and Ángela Escajeda (COLEF).*  
MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF THE HUECO BOLSON IN THE JUAREZ AREA. *Principal Investigators: Alfredo Cervantes and Mauricio G. Mercado (UACJ).*  
BACTERIOLOGICAL STUDY OF DRINKING-WATER QUALITY IN CIUDAD JUAREZ. *Principal Investigators: Alfredo Granados Olivas and Hernán Cavazos Hermosillo (UACJ).*  
GEOHYDROLOGICAL STUDY OF THE TERRAZAS ZONE IN THE JUAREZ VALLEY. *Principal Investigators: María del Rosario Díaz Arellano, Alfredo Granados Olivas and Hernán Cavazos Hermosillo (UACJ).*  
HOUSING, SELF-BUILDING, AND SELF-DETERMINATION. *Principal Investigators: Eduardo Barrera and Leticia Castillo Quiñonez (COLEF).*  
FEMALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN CIUDAD JUAREZ. *Principal Investigator: Cheryl Howard (UTEPA).*  
LABOR IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN CIUDAD JUAREZ AND EL PASO. *Principal Investigator- Kathleen Staudt (UTEPA).*

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, p. 3.

- 1982 Medal “Academia de San Carlos,” Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), “For Having Developed the Concept of Elitelore.”
- 1984 UNAM Medal of Honor, “For Major Studies in Oral history and Public Expenditure.”
- 1985 Medal Commemorating UNAM Autonomy Since 1929, “For Twenty Years of Innovative Research.”

The 1985 article that appeared early that day in the *Gaceta de UNAM*, was splendid except it got the daily headline wrong when it announced that my 1985 Medal would mark my 50th year of teaching and research—it should have said 50th birthday coming up in 1986.

When, as Sami walked to and for on the UNAM campus, many professors stopped to salute me and usually said: “You look quite young to have been teaching for 50 years.” As Sami tried to correct the impact of erroneous campus newspaper headline, he always quietly elbowed me to pass his amusement on to me. We laughed out loud later. I said: “Sami, you should include this joke in a forthcoming book or article on academic jokes! Or did you tell the *Gaceta* to in this case to play a “practical joke” on me?”

But it wasn't tears of laughter which came to my eyes, but gratitude to Sami for the statements in his article for this Homenaje about the impacts I have had on his academic life. Forgive me for not having realized earlier, but we usually took for granted our close personal and academic relationship. Usually a “wink of the eye” confirmed where we stood, no?

Sami, as I tacitly suggested above in my remembrances of the El Paso-Juárez Project as of 1993, it is only fitting that I thank you expressly now here in the Juárez of 2016, for having been my “Virtual Co-CEO” for the successful completion of what the Ford Foundation called our path-breaking Model for Academia as well as for the Policy Recommendations for this El Paso-Juárez “world” of two cross- border cities.

Sami, also let me thank you for the impact you have had on my life and academic career!

**(Q)** What is more, let me thank my close advisers and key colleagues who have enabled me to advance on the nine **“once-in-a-lifetime” new approaches to interdisciplinary studies listed at the outset of this Introduction, where I quote Sami’s nine questions.**

My colleague **David E. Lorey**, who as my Deputy at the PROFMEX-UCLA Program on Mexico, did much to develop our book publications. Further, he joined me in expanding our

International Conferences, even as he relieved my workload by teaching my course on “Mexico’s ‘Permanent’ Revolution Since 1910.”

David was so perceptive at staffing of our Offices that he “found” **Raúl Lomelí**, whom he hired as his Special Assistant and then kept out of my knowledge, rightly fearing that I would make him my Special Assistant. Ironically, Raúl had found us because when he arrived as a new UCLA “math-whiz” student directly from his California Central Valley farming area, he looked immediately for the tallest building on campus to take his first elevator ride to a high view. But in his view from the top Raúl discovered not only the gorgeous view of Bel Air Golf Estates (including the mansion of former President Reagan) and Westwood, but found on the top floor the Academic Office of the PROFMEX-UCLA Program on Mexico, where he realized that his calling was to transfer to Mexican Studies.

I finally “discovered” Raúl at my 1994 PROFMEX-ANUIES Conference in Puerto Vallarta when I saw an oddity: a young man (obviously representing UCLA) dressed in a suit and tie on the beach, oblivious to the tropical heat. In quizzing him, I realized that, indeed, I had found *my* Special Assistant, who had been “hidden” from me.

Raúl Lomelí soon became my Chief of Planning, and later my Ambassador, Trouble-Shooter, and Co-Conference Organizer at Guanajuato (1999), and Morelia (2001), for example.

Raúl (my Virtual Co-Director) helped me to establish the UCLA Migrant Student Leadership Institute (MSLI, 2007-2012), funded for six years by UCLA, the Association of Migrant Parents in California, and especially the California Department of Education, with generous in-kind corporate support from SaberEsPoder (SEP), headed by Raúl and Amir Hemmat (former PROFMEX Vice President, now SEP President and CEO).

This Institute invited 100 outstanding college-bound students from most Migrant Regions in California to spend July each year (all expenses paid for travel and living in the UCLA dormitories), thus enabling them to take classes from UCLA Professors and interact also with major guest speakers who discussed their own research.

See film 3 in: <http://www.profmex.org/films.html>

Noteworthy is Raúl’s work (1990-2010) with me and **Francisco Gil-Díaz** (Mexican Under-Secretary of Treasury and Bank of Mexico) to conduct research on tax payments. The

payments being considered are made by American citizens to the Government of Mexico and Mexican Citizens anywhere to the U.S. Government. Raúl and I continue research such ongoing U.S.-Mexico tax policies.

In the meantime, Raúl is known for often introducing me as follows: “Jim Wilkie is a Mexican trapped in gringo’s body....”

Representing another aspect, **Max Espinosa**, a great friend of Raúl and myself, comes to mind. I came to know Max as a star student when I supervised his B.A. graduation from UCLA at the same time as serving on the UC Board of Trustees as the Student Regent representing all 10 campuses. When the UCLA bureaucracy questioned him on how he had been able to do so much more than “normal” in the same academic year, I wrote a long letter to say why and how, indeed, Max is a true genius. Further, he has always worked long days with extraordinary verve and efficiency to achieve his goals.

Max went on become the Chief of Policy for the California State Assembly, and currently he is serving at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, based in Washington, D.C., where he is East Coast Senior Program Officer. In his past and present capacities. Max is known for brilliantly foreseeing and developing major new research projects.

To plan for new PROFMEX projects, **Ronald G. Hellman** (Graduate School of the City University of New York) continues to be a thoughtful strategist helping me to assess possibilities for new ways to face our academic future. Ron introduced me to **Manuel Alonso Muñoz**, CEO of Mexico’s National Lottery, who was vital in the opening of PROFMEX to Europe.

At UCLA I benefitted from guidance by **Robert N. Burr**, our senior Latin Americanist who eventually became Chair of the History Department. His understanding, trust, and generosity, which he gave to all faculty marked a “Golden Age” for his professors—Thanks, Bob, your memory lives on with all of your colleagues.

Further, **Johannes Wilbert** (UCLA Professor of Anthropology), Director of the Latin American Center for 20 splendid years, invited me to become Associate Director of the Center and Editor of the *Statistical Abstract of Latin America* (SALA, 1976-2002). My Editorship of SALA and its Supplement Series continues to have volumes in print: <http://www.international.ucla.edu/lai/publications/sala-.WJCP1xh-LwQ>

In the meantime, Johannes arranged a three-year travel grant for me to visit all the main Statistical Agencies for each of the traditional twenty countries of Latin (including Haiti, but excluding

English speaking countries). Thus from 1975-1977, I was able to spend each summer traveling (with my family) to stay considerable amounts of time, especially in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, and Venezuela. Thanks, Johannes.

My years in the UCLA Latin American Center continued with Director **Carlos Alberto Torres** (CAT), Professor of Education, for whom I served as his Associate Director. Once Carlos Alberto returned to devote full time to the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Sciences (GSEIS), I followed his path. My research project on U.S.-Mexico Tax Policies is now located at his Paulo Freire Center in GSEIS. I know that I can always count on Carlos Alberto for friendship and UCLA academic advice. Thanks, Carlos.

In Mexico, **Gabriel Camarena-García** (PROFMEX Coordinador of Telecomunicaciones) helped me in the 1990s to make a challenging transition to conduct research on Mexico-U.S. Taxation Issues. Gabriel introduced me such to key personages as **Germán Vega** (Ernst & Young, Mexico) our PROFMEX Secretary General in Mexico City and to **Bernadino González** (who was formerly with the U.S. Social Security Office [SSA] in Mexico, later at SSA-Washington, D.C., now PROFMEX Coordinator of U.S.-Mexico Social Security Studies), all of whom I give many thanks.

Let me recognize Jose T. Molina and Lorey Molina, who have opened their home in Beverly Hill to host many UCLA intellectually stimulating dinners as well as PROFMEX events and debates about U.S.-Mexico issues. With their friendship, generosity, and Jose's "photographic memory," they always kept our discussions on track. Jose's relevant quotes (summoned from his wide reading and stupendous experience) is a joy to behold. Thanks, Pepe and Laurie for your significant contributions to academia.

On an operational front, UCLA's **José Luis Bátiz-López** has become crucial to our tax research since 2008; and he is designer and builder of our publications online. His contributions continue to be enormous.

I could not have accomplished so much without the backing and help of all you.

ABRAZOS TO ALL!!!

Yet, what us the big question remaining from Sammy's List 9 questions on page 17: Question **(10)** is indeed, who am I?" I ask *myself* after having spent two wonderful days (May 16-17, 2016) in Juárez at the Homenaje that Sami organized in my honor. In hearing from former students (now my colleagues) as well as from my

professional colleagues with whom, together, we have developed projects and conferences, written articles and books, as well as received grants and reported our findings.

Now that I look back in this focused way, “How did I inmore to do?”

In reality, I was fortunate to get through many “closing doors” as the United States moved toward the massification of schooling and of academia. I did not have to be a great student in Boise, Idaho, Schools. I had been accustomed to start each year to arrive well after school had started (and well before school closed in the Spring) because I spent summers with my parents and Brother Dick (1945-1952) helping to run our mile-high mountain resort at North Shore Lodge on Warm Lake, at the edge of the Idaho Primitive Area. All my teachers realized I used each summer to read more books and news articles than any student did in two years.

My teachers were quite happy to leave me to learn on my own. My own motto as I grew up in Idaho was: “Read widely and look for opportunities which cannot be foreseen, then when the moment arises, step into the gap that holds most observers blinded or too timid to act.”

My second motto was “Ask questions” and remember there are always many “next questions” to be asked, as well as “why?”

I knew that my real education would come in college, and there I was never faced with taking a “required course.”

Indeed, when I read the MCC Catalog, I realized that I was able to design my own flexible major to obtain my B.A. in Social Sciences.

With my experience in Mexico and Central America, Berkeley was pleased to waive most courses, and send me back to Mexico to conduct my PHD research.

When I received the Bolton Prize in my second year as Assistant Professor at Ohio State University (OSU) and had offers to move to two State University of New York campuses (Stony Brook and Buffalo) as Associate Professor at each, I met with my OSU Dean of Social Sciences to request that I be promoted to OSU Associate Professor. He said “Jim, why do you want to be promoted to tenure so quickly?” My response: “...to know if I am going to stay here at OSU or not.” At that point he said “Well that is a great answer. Congratulations, I am signing your promotion papers when my staff has them ready by early afternoon.”

Ironically, in the following year, my plans that had been

developed with Alfred B. Garrett,<sup>24</sup> OSU's Vice-President for Research, who had brought me to Ohio, met a roadblock. My plans for my future did not jibe with those of the incrustated old professor who became the "new" Chair of History. This new Chair had been jealous of the facts that in my first year at OSU and my first professional faculty appointment, I had too high a salary and more staff and travel funds than he thought to be "proper." Furthermore this new Chair had been jealous of my office space that was thrice that of the entire Main History Office, not to mention being furious that I had been awarded a year-long "sabbatical" for my second year at OSU. Hence my new Chair told me, privately, "your easy days at OSU are in the past, and now you will have to suffer like the rest of us; and I will not meet your UCLA offer of a higher salary to move your operations to Los Angeles."

Thus, immediately, I met with Alfred, the kindred spirit who had arranged (1) my original appointment to OSU, (2) my year-long research leave for my second year, and (3) my funding by the OSU Board of Trustees to whom I had my plans to conduct Oral History and Elite Research in Mexico and South America) about the predicament that we faced with the jealous new Chair of History, Alfred was stunned. After we discussed all options, he concurred with me that I should accept the offer from UCLA. As Alfred summarized matters: "A powerful, narrow-minded Chair of any Department is a blight on the University's ability to foster imaginative research and will drive the best minds out to find open more situations."

Thus, I transferred my operations to UCLA in mid-1968, in what Alfred called my serendipitous move to continue delving into to processes of how leaders think and try explain themselves.

## APPENDIX I

*The first elitelordist faces folklorists who believe that he is trying to "steal their thunder"*

Eddie and I told Dick about the 1967 Folklore and Social Science Conference at the Wenner-Gran Foundation in New York City.

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<sup>24</sup> Alfred (1906-1996) was author of *Flash of Genius* (1963), which looked outside the sphere of the Hypothesis Method to help us fathom 27 breakthroughs that advanced modern science through a prepared mind that is alert to *fortunate happenstance*. See <https://library.osu.edu/find/collections/the-ohio-state-university-archives/digitalcontent/ohio-state-university-oral-history-program-2/> then go to oral history program 2/#G.



There I first offered my idea of Elitelore to a huge Meeting Hall filled only by men and Edie as the one woman (and obviously a pregnant woman, as if flaunting some unknown code) who had dared to enter a “men- only-academic affair.” My paper had been distributed to each academic, and the whole group was hostile to me even before I got up to deliver it in person, except one, or perhaps, two people.

First, I knew that I had in my corner Edie,<sup>25</sup> who had grown up in Guatemala and probably knew more than anyone in the Hall about living Folklore, and who by the period from 1963 to 1965, had joined with me as we tape recorded for posterity more than twenty Mexican important leaders, seven of whom we were about to publish in our 1969 co-authored book *México Visto en Siglo XX: Entrevistas de Historia Oral* (México, D.F.: Distributed by Cuadernos Americanos for the Instituto Mexicano de Investigaciones Económicas). This book contained interviews with political leaders from left to right in Mexico, but we were cautioned by the publishers not to include any analysis of each person because of a potentially harsh reaction by the right-wing PRI President Gustavo Díaz Ordaz. Díaz a “No-Nothing-Authoritarian,” despised intellectuals and was infamous for sending out his “goon-squads” to punish those who he felt were unsettling to the “National Interest as only he defined it”.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Edie had earned her B.A. in Romance Languages at UC Berkeley and was working in the Special Collections Unit at the Bancroft Library under the Campanile bell tower. When I met her there in the stacks doing my PHD research on Mexico in 1962. She told me how Hubert Howe Bancroft had traveled though California and other nearby states to interview how the people had experienced their individual lives in the settlement of Western American, 1840-1905—he wrote down their statements (including quotes from their letters and diaries) as they talked. These testimonies soon became a huge series of books by region and the intellectual core of the 40,000 materials that Bancroft sold to Berkeley in 1905. In 1962-1963, before leaving for Mexico, Edie reintroduced me to Professor George P. Hammond (my M.A. Chair and Director of the Bancroft Library), and I told him my plan to conduct tape-recorded Oral History interviews (as I had done with the old-time mountaineers In Idaho), but this time with Mexicans with diverse political leaders to develop new sources for my PHD dissertation. Hammond immediately offered his own research office (next to his Director’s Office), and told the staff to give first priority to launching my work with Edna, including arrangement to fund our needs by shifting Edna from her work in Bancroft Special Collections to work with me. Further, he provided money from his own UC Research Fund to buy magnetic recording tape and high quality equipment for our trip to Mexico, as well as for Bancroft to buy copies of our recorded tapes to save for posterity, but being sure that we retain all intellectual property rights. George sent us off in July 1963 with his formal endorsement: “Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie, you an opening a new trail that Bancroft himself would have rejoiced.”

<sup>26</sup> Fortunately, In 1969 we were not physically threatened, but *only* fiercely criticized by Horacio Quiñones (in his weekly newsletter for Mexico’s Political Elite), who found our book to be “asqueroso, baboso, tortuoso, torpe, repulsivo, taimado, nauseabundo, estúpido, despreciable, sandio, estulto infame, ignorante y mentiroso ” Indeed he claimed that we brought the book out of the CIA Psychological Laboratories seeking to destabilize

Second, I felt that the famous Social Scientist and Folklorist, **Philip D. Curtin**, from his seat in the middle of the Head Table on stage looking over the whole Hall, had seemed positively pleased as I read my paper.

When I finished reading, a general eruption of anger arose against me for a reason that I did not know until a sympathetic Folklorist sitting next to Edie and me in the last row, bent over to whisper in my ear: “The Folklorists here are furious. **They believe that with your concept of Elitelore, you are deliberately trying to discredit the newly accepted PHD field of Folklore Studies, especially at Indiana University.**

With that knowledge I asked the Chair for the right to defend myself against the lore of apparent “mob psychology” building against me. With permission then, I stood up to say: “I am here to laud all of you for having won the long struggle to finally establish Folklore Studies as a valid, respected field of Academic Studies and its own faculty, which has mostly seen Folklorists appointed to Anthropology, English, or History Departments.

“However, I think that Folklore is more complex than you may realize. Let me give an example that just has left to my tongue:

**“All men are Men, but some are Women. All people (including Elites) share Folklore, but major leaders have their own Lore and I call it Elitelore”**. And I added that Elites often create Folklore To win the folk to follow them. What we can be certain of is the Folklore and Elitelore are the «two sides of the same coin»”.

The Conference Hall grew too quiet, seeming stunned because I had brought in the above metaphor the fact that ‘All Men’ also include ‘Women’ to illustrate also how Folklore and Elitelore are needed to explain each other. (Off to the side, I heard someone mutter, “egad, women again—does Wilkie have no feeling for our feelings?”). “Then at that moment Edie stood up to say that **“Jim Wilkie is right: Some Men may be famous Folklorists but they have to begin to recognize That Elite women and men have both Elitelore and Folklore, but the folk have only Folklore”**

When at that point some Men began to shout, Professor Curtin broke that momentary noisy interlude by saying: “Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie are right, let me turn this event into one that reflects the positive view that I present in my Critical Analysis of James’ pathbreaking paper, which I here read in part to you now: “A few years ago I published a book called The Image of Africa [1964]

dealing with attitudes toward Africa among the British elite of the early nineteenth century. After reading Professor Wilkie's paper, I realized that this was elitelore. It seems to me that this kind of work with widely-held attitudes, sentiments, badly-understood theory, and the like is an area into which historians of ideas (whatever their label) should move. With the kind of oral-data collection which Professor Wilkie is undertaking, we could begin to look seriously at a whole range of problems that have hardly been attacked so far.

"[One of the areas] involves the range of variation within the structure of elite beliefs. The question can be put another way: how far do individual formulations on any subject differ from those that are dominant or normal to their social class and time."

"A second problem deriving from the first is the role of intellectual leadership in changing the norm for an elite group. One example in Western intellectual history is the way in which the precise formulations of intellectual leaders like Marx or Freud were disseminated throughout the educated classes of the Western world - and how in the process they were misunderstood and misapplied, how, in fact, very few people who talked about them had actually read through the works of Freud or had actually read the whole of *Das Kapital*. A third problem in this general area would be to ask in what ways the general structure of beliefs impinges on the world of events and I take this to be one of Professor Wilkie's concerns."

"Finally -though by no means the end of problems in this area - is the question of how events or 'the lessons of experience' alter the structure of belief."

Dick was pleased to here how Edie and I had survived with a surprise win, the Folklorists having suddenly turned from an angry attitude to a civil attitude with general acceptance of my idea of Elitelore.

Of course, Edie was my Co-Author in publishing all of our Oral Histories since 1969, and the current book that she is now editing to be published in 2017-2018 is our Oral History with Bolivia's Víctor Paz Estenssoro (as interviewed from 1965 to 1985).<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Paz is Bolivia's greatest intellectual and political leader, not only during his active life from 1941 to 1989, but for all Bolivian history, he has no peer in his impact on the course of Bolivian history. (The mindless reinvention of Paz's "self-acknowledged failures" by the mentally unstable "President" Evo Morales—2006-2020—has jeopardized any real socio-economic progress in Bolivia's future.)