



Project Title: *Transatlantic Discourses of White Slavery*

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B. Restatement of problem researched or creative activity

This project looked at the literary and socio-political discourses of white slavery across the Atlantic between 1880 and 1935 in newspaper publications, journals, international agreements, and conference proceedings published in Europe. While part of the European society viewed white slavery as a “necessary evil”, others broke the silence by outbursts of social indignation, denouncing the moral problem, and even considered it a national menace. Newspapers like *La lantern* in France, *El país* in Spain, and the *Pall Mall Gazette* in England began a series of revelations that meant to prove the existence of markets dealing with young white girls, becoming at times, the only channel that disclosed these practices. At the Library of Congress, I conducted research in the Newspaper and Periodical Collection, and in archives where I looked at official documentation from the *Boletín Informativo del Patronato de Protección a la Mujer*, the *National Vigilance Association*, and other documents pertaining to the white slave trade.

C. Brief review of the research procedure utilized

Due to the widespread nature of the topic, during this trip to the Library of Congress at Washington D.C., I centered my research on publications from Spain, France, and England, considered being three of the main exporters of women to the South American ports of Buenos Aires and Montevideo. Having already conducted preliminary research on the trafficking of European women with the purpose of sexual commerce in Argentina and Uruguay, I focused on the European countries to compare the journalistic and official publications discourses that stemmed from the topic, to the literary production and reception in the Old Continent. I spent six working days researching at the Newspapers and Current Periodical, Microfilm and Law Library reading rooms. I attended a "Research Orientation to the Library of Congress" course on the first

day that provided me with an introduction about using the library collections and resources efficiently.

D. Summary of findings

I spent most of the time on the Newspapers and Current Periodical reading room where I was able to obtain photocopies of articles related to white slavery from *Le Matin*, the *Pall Mall Gazette* and *La época*. Additionally, I was able to save as PDF some articles from a very fragile bound volume of *ABC*, a newspaper published in Madrid from 1918, which proved to be very productive. In the Microfilm room, I had access to documents, journals and books only accessible on the premises of the Library of Congress. Among the most valuable material I found, I was able to secure as PDF the whole publication of *The Sentinel* (1879-1900) subtitled as *The Organ of the Social Purity Movement, a monthly magazine devoted to the advancement of public morality, to the suppression of vice, and to the abolition of its regulation by the state*.

E. Conclusions and recommendations

I have been working on an essay entitled “Tradición y cambio en *Trata de blancas*: matrimonio y educación femenina en Inglaterra y España” (whose draft I append) that is near completion. It will be sent to *Gestos*, a peer-reviewed journal that specializes on Hispanic theatre, no later than November. Also, based on the research done, I will present a paper at the South Central MLA Meeting in Hot Springs this November entitled “Between Politics and Society: White Slavery in England and Spain at the turn of the 20th Century”. I will also use the collected material for other article publications, setting as my goal a long-term project that will result in a book publication.