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Obituary for Christopher Schmidt-Nowara (1966-2015)

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**Christopher Schmidt-Nowara
(1966-2015)**

Christopher Schmidt-Nowara passed away suddenly in Paris on Saturday, June 27th at the age of 48. Schmidt-Nowara was a prolific chronicler of the history of slavery and emancipation in the Hispanic world, as well as politics and ideas in the Spanish empire. He received his B.A. from Kenyon College in 1988. He completed his PhD from the University of Michigan in 1995, under the direction of Rebecca Scott, and taught at Fordham University in New York City for over a decade before joining the faculty at Tufts University in 2011. At the time of his death, he was Prince of Asturias Chair of Spanish Culture and Civilization at Tufts.

His research focused on slavery and emancipation in the Hispanic World, as well as political ideas in the Spanish Empire. He's remembered particularly for his three books: *Empire and Antislavery: Spain, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, 1833-1872* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1999); *The Conquest of History: Spanish Colonialism and National Histories in the Nineteenth Century* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008); and *Slavery, Freedom, and Abolition in Latin America and the Atlantic World* (New Mexico: University of New Mexico Press, 2011). His most recent research involved examinations of Spanish prisoners of war in the resistance to French rule, as well as Spanish independence struggles in America. At the time of his death, he had just completed a manuscript entitled *Flight to Freedom: A Spanish Prisoner in Napoleon's Europe, 1814*, an edition of Lieutenant Fernando Blanco White's account of his escape from captivity during the crisis of the Napoleonic Empire. Family and colleagues are working to make sure that it appears in print in the near future.

Within the profession, Chris was a dedicated teacher and mentor, and an advisor to many on writing, teaching, research and life in general. He was a member of the editorial boards of three journals, including this one, the *Bulletin for Spanish & Portuguese Historical Studies*, as well as *Illes i Imperis/Islands and Empires*, and *Social History*. In addition to his siblings and parents, his daughter, Althea, survives Chris.