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My dissertation focuses on how 13th century Iberian written texts make use of the human body to express humor. I analyze the interplay among these texts and images related to them (illuminated manuscripts, paintings, sculptures). I traveled to Spain in order to visit several of the libraries and churches which house these texts and images. I spent three weeks in Santiago de Compostela researching at the Arquivo do Reino de Galicia and at the Library of the University of Santiago. I also visited the Cathedral and other small churches in the area, which contain sculptures from the 13th and 14th centuries. I also stayed in Lugo two weeks, doing research at the Arquivo Provincial, which is located in center of the city, but I took day trips to different villages nearby. I went to the Arquivo Diocesano of Mondoñedo; I visited the church of Saint Mary in Meira; and I also spent a day in Ponferrada visiting the exposition "Templum Libri". This exposition includes an incredible collection of facsimile illuminated manuscripts, maps and drawings in different formats from the 9th to the 14th centuries. I spent two days in Burgos visiting the cathedral and the Monastery of San Salvador de Oña to take a look at the 13th century paintings describing the life of Saint Mary of Egypt. I stayed one day in Zaragoza in order visit the cathedral and one day in Teruel for the same purpose. During my two days in Alicante I visited the Archeological Museum and different small churches nearby.

Thanks to the Mellon Foundation Area and International Studies Fellowship, I was able to complete my research and I will spend the following weeks analyzing the data I collected in Spain. I had the opportunity to observe multiple artistic testimonies of the representation of the human body that belong to the same time period (12th to 14th centuries) but from different cultures within the Iberian Peninsula. In my dissertation, I will apply what I learned about these differences to the corpus of texts which are my focus of study.

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