Abstract
More than serving as a useful category of historical analysis, friendship can be a useful site for the exploration of non-heteronormative relationships and identities prior to the medicalization of homosexuality in the late nineteenth century. This essay reviews and applies the historiography of U.S. Gender and LGBT studies to a case study analyzing the correspondence and relationships of an elite Mexican youth, José María Calderón y Tapia during the 1830s-1850s.

Keywords
Friendship, patronage, affection, homosociability, correspondance.