The prospect of bringing Latin American studies to St Antony’s arose in 1959. Lord Astor had invited Deakin to become a member of a committee controlling a trust fund he had created for assisting scientific and other studies. When asked by Astor whether he had any project to recommend to the fund’s committee, Deakin suggested that a grant of £2000 should be made to the college for one year in the first instance to enable a college member interested in Latin American studies to be sent to Latin America. The Astor Foundation then made a grant to St Antony’s of $10 000 for the study of Russian history and Latin American studies.

The possibility of making Latin America one of the regional areas in which the college specialized was exercising Deakin’s mind at the end of the 1950s, probably because Raymond Carr became a member of the SCR in 1959. A history fellow of New College, Carr intended to write a book on the Spanish Civil War, but was already developing an interest in Latin America. The college agreed to pay from the European Studies Fund the expenses of his journey to Spain to do research. Carr organized a seminar on the civil war in the college during 1959. He was then asked by Deakin, one of the editors of the *Oxford History of Modern Europe*, to write the volume on Spain. To free himself from tutorial duties in order to do so, he applied for a Leverhulme research award, which he received on Deakin’s recommendation.

After discussions between Deakin and Carr about the prospects for Latin American studies, in June 1960 the college formally approved the setting up of a Latin American study group and authorized the Warden to raise funds for this purpose. There was to be only a modest development, with a view to the establishment at some stage of a Latin American seminar and the appointment of a research fellow in the field.
had no history of the study of post-colonial Latin America. In the list of Oxford theses on the subject, only two or three predate the founding of St Antony’s Latin American Centre. As regards the rest of the country, all that existed was a small group working with Professor Robin Humphreys at University College London, which was concerned exclusively with colonial Spanish America and geography. There was no one in the country working on Latin America after 1825. The college accepted a student in 1960 to work on the commercial development of the Pacific coast of Latin America – Juan Maiguashca-Guevara, of Princeton and Harvard Universities.

Latin American studies also seemed a promising area for development because it might attract funds from the United States. The subject of Latin America had come to prominence in the American mind after Fidel Castro’s defeat of Batista in Cuba. During a trip to the United States in 1961 Deakin received the impression that Ford and Rockefeller were willing to encourage the build-up of Latin American studies in Britain, and there was also a possibility of some support from the Carnegie Foundation. In October–November 1962 Deakin and Carr made an exploratory Astor Foundation/British Council trip to several Latin American countries, and Carr visited Mexico.

In 1962 the college initiated a Latin American seminar, which Carr organized. In the same year John Prestwich, of the board of the modern history faculty, asked Deakin and Carr to draft a special subject on Latin American history for undergraduates, to be included in the revised syllabus of the history school. Matters came to a head at a meeting held in London on 5 June 1962, at which representatives of the universities, the University Grants Committee, the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) and the Foreign Office were present. They decided to set up a University Grants Subcommittee to study the whole question of promoting Latin American studies in Britain, on the same lines as the 1961 Hayter committee on Oriental, Slavonic, East European and African studies. The committee was established under the chairmanship of Professor J.H. Parry, principal of the University College of Swansea.

Later in 1962 Robert Heussler, who had been a student at St Antony’s in the 1950s and was now the representative of the Ford Foundation’s Latin American programme, visited England to study the position. Deakin suggested that St Antony’s should not delay in making proposals for the support of Latin American studies, which he recommended be done only on a capital endowment basis, with the possible exception of accepting, if offered, finance to establish one or