Examining different methods of oxidizing bulk polycrystalic cobalt sample to prepare  $CoO_x$  surface, examine thermal stability of prepared layers by XPS & TDS, comparison to mixed  $CeO_x/CoO_x$  oxide thin films. Chemical reactivity - adsorption of isotopicaly labeled CO on  $CeO_x/Co_3O_4$ , methanol oxidation on  $CeO_x/CoO$  under UHV conditions characterized by QMS.