

History 820 Problems in Latin American History Fall 2009
Trans-disciplinary Borderlands in History, Culture, and Place
Tuesdays 5:00-7:50pm, Hamilton Hall 425

The purpose of this seminar is to engage in a critical discussion of ethnohistory as viewed and practiced in different disciplines. To this end, we will read key representative monographs for different geographical regions and historical periods of Latin America, focused on “ethnic” identities and interethnic relations in the hybrid and heterogeneous societies of Ibero-America. Together, we will compare and evaluate different conceptual and methodological approaches to the field of ethnohistory. Through the examination of theoretical articles and a thoughtful critique of the methodologies employed in the historical monographs, the seminar will raise questions about what constitutes ethnohistory and explore the trans-disciplinary dimensions of this field of study, with linkages to anthropology, archaeology, and geography.

We will explore the following themes in the seminar:

- *Indigenismo* and the foundations of ethnohistory.
- The production of space, archaeology, and ethnohistory.
- Philologies new and old.
- Gender and ethnic identities.
- Ethnohistory, cultural hybridity, and *mestizaje*.
- Spatial and cultural borderlands, “go-betweenes” and *ladinos*.

Readings:

Herman Bennett, *Africans in Colonial Mexico: Absolutism, Christianity, and Afro-Creole Consciousness, 1570-1640*. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2003).

Kathryn Burns, “Notaries, Truth, and Consequences” *AHR* 110 (2) April 2005, pp. 350-379.

Louise Burkhart, *Holy Wednesday: A Nahuatl Drama from Early Colonial Mexico*. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996).

Alejandro de la Fuente, *Havana and the Atlantic in the Sixteenth Century* (UNC Press, 2008).

Andrew B. Fisher and Matthew D. O’Hara, eds., *Imperial Subjects. Race and Identity in Colonial Latin America* (Duke 2009).

Karen Graubart. *With Our Labor and Sweat: Indigenous Women and the Formation of Colonial Society in Peru, 1550-1700*. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007).

Steven W. Hackel, *Children of coyote, Missionaries of Saint Francis. Indian-Spanish Relations in Colonial California, 1769-1850* (UNC-CH 2005).

Hal Langfur, *Forbidden Lands. : Colonial Identity, Frontier Violence, and the Persistence of Brazil's Eastern Indians, 1750-1830*. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006).

Henri Lefebvre, *The Production of Space* (trans. D. Nicholson-Smith, Chicago, 1991), selected chapters.

James Lockhart, "Sightings: Initial Nahua reactions to Spanish culture," p. 218-248 in S.B. Schwartz, *Implicit Understandings. Observing, Reporting, and Reflecting on the Encounters between Europeans and Other Peoples in the Early Modern Era* (Cambridge, 1994).

Claudio Lomnitz, "Elusive Property. The Personification of Mexican National Sovereignty," in Fred R. Myers, ed., *The Empire of Things. Regimes of Value and Material Culture* (School of American Research, 2001).

Alida Metcalf, *Go-Betweens and the Colonization of Brazil, 1500-1600*. (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2005).

Barbara Mundy. *The Mapping of New Spain: Indigenous Cartography and the Maps of the Relaciones Geográficas*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996).

Joanne Rappaport, *The Politics of Memory. Native Historical Interpretation in the Colombian Andes* (Duke 1998); *Intercultural Utopias. Public Intellectuals, Cultural Experimentation, and Ethnic Pluralism in Colombia* (Duke 2005).

Gil J. Stein, ed., *The Archaeology of Colonial Encounters. Comparative Perspectives* (Oxford, School of American Research, 2004). (Selected chapters)

Yanna Yannakakis, *The art of being in-between: native intermediaries, Indian identity, and local rule in colonial Oaxaca* (Duke 2008).

Working Methods

The seminar is intended to encourage discussion about the methods, purposes, and uses of different approaches to ethnohistory, working through assigned books and articles to achieve this goal. Each week two discussion leaders will facilitate the participation of all seminar members in critical and thoughtful discussions about (1) the principal book and (2) accompanying articles or bibliography or reviews of journals in the fields of Latin American and ethnohistorical studies. Students' written work will combine three short review essays on portions of the required readings and one long semester paper organized around a few of the themes and problems covered in the seminar: for example, the multidisciplinary linkages among archaeology, history, and ethnography in ethnohistory, how to define *ethnicity* itself, the differences and similarities between regions of primarily *indomestizo* and *afromestizo* heritages in Latin America. In addition to our regular meetings, the seminar will arrange two visits to Davis Library and Wilson Library to view Special Collections and review databases and research tools.

Weekly Topics and Readings

- August 25 First meeting. Introductions and assignment of discussion coordinators.
Discussion of two introductory readings: Marshall Sahlins, "The Return of the Event, Again. With Reflections on the Beginnings of the Great Fijian War of 1843-1855 between the Kingdoms of Bau and Rewa," in Sahlins, *Culture in Practice. Selected Essays* (London, Zone Books, 2000) 293-352; William Sewell, "A Theory of the Event: Marshall Sahlins's 'Possible Theory of History'," in Sewell, *Logics of History. Social Theory and Social Transformation* (Chicago, 2005) 197-224.
These two chapters will be posted on the course Blackboard site, it is not necessary to purchase the books.
- September 1 Archaeology and history.
Gil J. Stein, "The Comparative Archaeology of Colonial Encounters," p. 3-32; Janine L. Gasco, "Spanish Colonialism and Processes of Social Change in Mesoamerica," p. 69-108; Michael W. Spence, "A Zapotec Diaspora Network in Classic-Period Central Mexico," p. 173-206; Kent G. Lightfoot, "The Archaeology of Colonization: California in Cross-Cultural Perspective," p. 207-236; Katharina Schreiber, "Imperial Agendas and Local Agency: Wari Colonial Strategies," p. 237-262; Terence N. d'Altroy, "Remaking the Social Landscape: Colonization in the Inka Empire," p. 263-296; J. Daniel Rogers, "Archaeology and the Interpretation of Colonial Encounters," p. 331-354 in Gil J. Stein, ed., *The Archaeology of Colonial Encounters. Comparative Perspectives* (Oxford, School of American Research, 2004); Catherine Julien, *Reading Inca History*, Chapters 1-4, p. 3-165.
- September 8 Language, philology, and history.
Burkhart, *Holy Wednesday: A Nahua Drama from Early Colonial Mexico*; James Lockhart, "Sightings: Initial Nahua reactions to Spanish culture," p. 218-248 in Schwartz, *Implicit Understandings*.
- September 15 Race and ethnicity: colonial categories in ethnohistory.
Fisher and O'Hara, eds., *Imperial Subjects. Race and Identity in Colonial Latin America*; Claudio Lomnitz, "Elusive Property. The Personification of Mexican National Sovereignty."
- September 22 The spatial dimension of history.
Henri Lefebvre, *The Production of Space*, Ch. 2, "Social Space," p. 68-168; David Harvey, "Afterword," p. 425-434. **First review essay due on readings to date.**

- September 29 Space and cartography
Henri Lefebvre, *The Production of Space*, Ch. 3, “Spatial Architectonics,” p. 169-229; Barbara Mundy. *The Mapping of New Spain: Indigenous Cartography and the Maps of the Relaciones Geográficas*. Two discussion leaders to present the ideas of Lefebvre and Barbara Mundy’s work on mapping, space, and the body.
- October 6 Andean palimpsests: Indigenous and Hispanic worlds
Guest facilitator: Professor Patricia Morgado, NCSU. Readings: Morgado, synopsis of her work; Claire L. Lyons and John K. Papadopoulos, “Archaeology and Colonialism,” p. 1-23, in Lyons and Papadopoulos, eds., *The Archaeology of Colonialism* (Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, 2002); Catherine Julien, *Reading Inca History*, Chapters 5-9, p. 166-302.
- October 13 Andean palimpsests: gender, labor and history
Kathryn Burns, “Notaries, Truth, and Consequences” *AHR* 110 (2) April 2005, pp. 350-379; Karen Graubart. *With Our Labor and Sweat: Indigenous Women and the Formation of Colonial Society in Peru, 1550-1700*. Two discussion leaders to comment on the different origins and uses of texts referring to both pre-Hispanic and colonial issues and themes.
- October 20 Missions and ethnohistory.
Steven W. Hackel, *Children of coyote, Missionaries of Saint Francis. Indian-Spanish Relations in Colonial California, 1769-1850*; **Second review essay due on readings to date.**
- October 27 Afromestizo worlds.
Herman Bennett, *Africans in Colonial Mexico: Absolutism, Christianity, and Afro-Creole Consciousness, 1570-1640*; Alejandro de la Fuente, *Havana and the Atlantic in the Sixteenth Century*, Chapters 1, 6-7.
- November 3 Borderlands, warfare and intermediaries.
Alida Metcalf, *Go-Betweens and the Colonization of Brazil, 1500-1600*.
- November 10 Borderlands, warfare and the state.
Hal Langfur, *Forbidden Lands. : Colonial Identity, Frontier Violence, and the Persistence of Brazil’s Eastern Indians, 1750-1830*. **Third review essay due on readings to date.**
- November 17 **No Class. Students have time to work on semester projects.**
- November 24 Intermediaries: rebels or allies in colonial conflicts?
Yanna Yannakakis, *The art of being in-between: native intermediaries, Indian identity, and local rule in colonial Oaxaca*. Class meeting and pre-Thanksgiving dinner at Professor Radding’s home.

- December 1 Ethnic identities and politics.
Joanne Rappaport, *The Politics of Memory. Native Historical Interpretation in the Colombian Andes* (Duke 1998)
- December 8 Collaborative Research in Ethnohistory.
Intercultural Utopias. Public Intellectuals, Cultural Experimentation, and Ethnic Pluralism in Colombia (Duke 2005).
- December 15 **Final semester paper due.**