Abstracts

Martyrs and the discourse on martyrdom in the formation of the Jesuits’ frontier missions
Alejandro Cañeque, University of Maryland
Through an analysis of the discursive contexts and intertextuality of a series of Jesuit writings on martyrdom in the New World, this article argues that these accounts were believable—at the time—first because tales of martyrdom confirmed many contemporary the religious prejudices, especially such notions as the innate brutality of pagans, infidels, heretics, apostates and barbarians. Second, society as a whole was continually exposed to public spectacles of corporal punishment, episodes in a punitive culture whetted particularly by the body, such that little imagination was required to accept the reality and existence of such atrocities.
Keywords: Juan Bautista Ferrufino, Andrés Pérez de Ribas, hagiography, Company of Jesus

Sanctity and martyrdom in Jesuit and Franciscan testimonies concerning the Christianization of northwestern New Spain, 17th and 18th centuries
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Based on the detailed examination of writings about missionaries who died in the area of Pimería Alta (Sonora), and supported by maps of the area, this study explores how Jesuits and Franciscans worked to construct an image of northwestern New Spain as a geographic space successfully incorporated into Christianity. It elucidates how, in distinct contexts and epochs, and through the use of narrative processes that described the links that—through martyrdom or the uniting of places and peoples under the patronage of the Apostles and other saints—Jesuits and Franciscans configured a geography with a key com-
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mon denominator; namely, the triumph of the missionaries’ cause. In a region characterized by dissimilar conditions, promoting stories of sanctity and martyrdom became an important mechanism that allowed the clergy to promote, to diverse audiences, distinct proposals for the identification and organization of northwestern New Spain.

Keywords: Eusebio Kino, Javier Saeta, Pimería Alta, Juan Domingo de Arriccivita, Diego Bringas de Manzaneda

The cult to san Gonzalo de Amarante, ‘the Dancer’. Local religiosity in 19th-century Guadalajara

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Devotions and cults to different saints reflect needs that originate at the local level. One such case is the devotion to San Gonzalo de Amarante in 19th-century Guadalajara, in which believers characteristically danced before the saint’s image as a means of procuring protection from disease. Though prohibited with the aid of the Holy Inquisition in 1816 in several regions of the country, evidence indicates its survival in Guadalajara into the second half of the 19th century.

Keywords: popular devotions, local religiosity, Gonzalo de Amarante

A participative socio-ecological model for sustainable communitarian forest development in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico

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This study was conducted in the Papigochi River basin in the northwestern region of the state of Chihuahua, Mexico, an area where natural resources have deteriorated and the basic needs of inhabitants go largely unsatisfied. The objective was to design and apply a participative socio-ecological model to orient sustainable forest exploitation, based on three principles: participative democracy, a holistic vision, and strategic thinking. The model included the following aspects: local actors from the region as a base element; the model of “search conference-based” participative planning; sociocultural and economic analyses; and the application of a hierarchical system of indicators to evaluate sustainable development, which produced a score that fell into the
“poor” range. A strategic participative plan was integrated, including needs common to the area as a whole and specific to each sub-system (forest, agricultural). The participative socio-ecological model constitutes a prototype distinct from traditional ones, for it propels regional development policies through a holistic focus that seeks to respond to the needs of local actors. Moreover, it possesses the flexibility and versatility necessary to be applied to diverse geographic, sociocultural and economic conditions.

Keywords: participative socio-ecological model, sustainable forest exploitation, hydrologic basin, Chihuahua forests, rural forest development

Chichimec warriors: vindicating the savage Indian in dances of the Conquest
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On the basis of historical data gathered by Jesús Bustamante concerning the iconographic evolution of the American Indian in Europe, and fieldwork conducted in the state of Guanajuato among indigenous and mestizo groups that perform dances which include figures of Chichimec Indians, we traced the historical evolution of the representation of the Chichimec warrior. This essay traces the processes of the changes in dress, paraphernalia, and styles of confrontation through which the identification of the dancer with the stereotype of the “savage” Indian is realized. This detailed review provides elements for reflecting on the identitary role of the pre-Hispanic past and the stereotype that is renewed in dances that represent the Conquest.
Keywords: Indians, savages, Chichimecs, dances

The concept of equality in Mexico (1810-1824)
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This article expounds on the formation of the concept of equality in the period that began with the Hidalgo uprising of 1810 and continued until the implementation of Mexico’s 1824 Constitution. It analyzes, first, the values and theories that influenced
the development of this concept. Second, it explores the notion of equality sustained by the legislators at the first congresses. Finally, it examines the concept that appears in the text of the Constitution.

Keywords: equality, independence, liberalism, 1824 Constitution

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