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“Personal service” and related coercive labor relations in the Viceroyalty of Seventeenth-Century Peru

Abstract:

Labor relations in colonial Hispanic America changed their forms over time and geography. My hypothesis is that during the seventeenth century, coercion in labor relations increased due to the relative scarcity of labor – a consequence of the demographic debacle –, the profound disintegration of indigenous society, and the diversification of the colonial economy that demanded more workers. Taking as a common thread the transformation of old forms of organization and the emergence of new coercive configurations of labor, I will analyze the so-called *servicio personal* (personal service) and its different forms that developed in a large part of the territory of the Viceroyalty of Peru (present-day Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Ecuador).

The main source of analysis will be a "general census" held in Charcas – today Bolivia – in 1683, whose analysis I will combine with other sources, especially criminal trials. I have also carried out a comparative analysis with other censuses from the same period in modern-day northern Argentina and Paraguay. Finally, I have also recently worked in Ecuador, which allows me to propose some hypotheses for that territory based on judicial records. The dialogue between regions will reveal regional similarities and differences.

Bio:

I studied history at the National University of Córdoba, Argentina. Since 2002, I have been a full-time researcher at the Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, currently at the Instituto de Ciencias Humanas, Sociales y Ambientales in Mendoza (Argentina). My specialties are labor relations in Charcas (today Bolivia) during the seventeenth century, indigenous populations, social history of the Andes, herders and miners, historical data management (digital history/big data). Since 2009, I have been editor of *Población & Sociedad*, a social sciences journal.

I was vice-president (2017-2019) and president (2019-2021) of the Argentinean Association of Researchers in History.

I have been awarded the following research grants (selection): (international) John Simon Guggenheim, "Maria Elena Cassiet Fellowship" awarded by the John Carter Brown Library (USA), Alexander von Humboldt, Gerda Henkel, Maria Sibylla Merian International Centre, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) (Germany); (national) Agencia Nacional de Promoción Científica y Tecnológica and CONICET.