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Servants and masters: indigenous children and domestic service in colonial Lima

Abstract:

This talk addresses the situation of indigenous children who grew up working as domestic servants in Lima during the colonial period. The objective of the talk is to analyze the household as a space for the construction of different types of social relations, ranging from exploitation to affection, that were established between children, mostly migrants, and their masters in daily life. I consider that these relationships were determinant in the position that girls and boys came to occupy in colonial society as adults. The analysis incorporates the gender perspective to see if there were differences in the treatment received by girls and boys, and to what extent these differences conditioned their integration into colonial society as adults. In the last part of the talk, a comparison will be made with the current situation of children domestic servants, to see to what extent the relationships of dependency, exploitation and affection have been maintained or transformed with the transition to a society that identifies itself as democratic.

Bio:

Historian from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Ph.D. in History from the University of Connecticut, United States. Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Specialist in social history, history of colonial Peru (sixteenth - nineteenth centuries) and ethnohistory. Recent publications: "La leyenda de Naylamp en la memoria y la identidad de los pueblos de Lambayeque, costa norte del Perú" in co-authorship with Rafael Vega-Centeno (2023); "Articulación, derroteros y confluencia de los indios entre el mundo rural y el urbano (virreinos de Nueva España y del Perú)" co-authored with Xochitl Inostroza and Marina Zuloaga (2022); "Contrapunto entre mitas: trabajo mitayo en la sierra y la costa, la ciudad y el campo" co-authored with Francisco Quiroz (2022); "Bartolomé de Mesa Túpac Yupanqui: trayectoria de un comerciante de la elite indígena limeña (1774-1810)" (2019). She is currently working on her book manuscript on the spaces of political power, economic enrichment and social prestige for Lima's Indian elite during the colonial period.