

The Franciscans in Mexico: Five Centuries of Cultural Influence

October 13-14, 2017

Mexican Cultural Institute, Washington, D.C.

A Program of the Early Americas Working Group of Washington, D.C.

Generations of scholars have studied the multi-faceted experiences of the Franciscans in Mexico and the ways in which the Franciscan order shaped New Spain and the early Mexican republic. This conference examines the range of Franciscan influence and analyzes new scholarship that focuses on the multiple discourses with which friars engaged native peoples, creole populations, the vice-regal authorities, and other actors throughout the Spanish empire. The conference brings together junior and senior scholars to study the long Franciscan experience in Mexico on the eve of the commemoration of the quincentenary of the Spanish—and thus the Franciscan—presence in Mexico.

The conference further honors the work of the eminent historian Fr. Francisco Morales, OFM, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday in September 2017. Morales's studies of the Franciscans in Mexico and his promotion of the field have encouraged the work of several generations of historians of colonial and nineteenth-century Mexico. With this in mind, our program includes scholars whose research applies the methodologies of linguistic, social, and cultural history to the study of Nahua-Franciscan relations. Morales was one of the pioneers of this interdisciplinary approach during his years as a scholar at the Academy of American Franciscan History and in subsequent years as director of the Biblioteca Franciscana in San Pedro Cholula, Mexico (the library is housed in the Convento de San Gabriel, one of the first Franciscan churches in Mexico).

Conference Program

Organizers:

Thomas M. Cohen, The Catholic University of America

Jay T. Harrison, Hood College

David Rex Galindo, Max Planck Institute for European Legal History

Keynote Speaker:

Jaime Lara, Arizona State University

Contributors:

Pedro Ángeles Jiménez, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Rose Marie Beebe, Santa Clara University

Steven W. Hackel, University of California, Riverside

Hilaire Kallendorf, Texas A&M University

Kristin Dutcher Mann, University of Arkansas, Little Rock

Karen Melvin, Bates College

Verónica Murillo Gallegos, Universidad Autónoma de Zacatecas

Manuel Ramos Medina, Centro de Estudios de Historia de México CARSO, Mexico City

Mathew Restall, Pennsylvania State University

Robert Senkewicz, Santa Clara University

Cecilia Sheridan, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social,
Unidad Noreste, Monterrey
José Refugio de la Torre Curiel, Universidad de Guadalajara/Colegio de Jalisco
Jonathan Truitt, Central Michigan University

Major Sponsors:

Jay I. Kislak Foundation
Academy of American Franciscan History

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Library of Congress
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National History Center, American Historical Association

Friday, October 13:

10:00-12:00 Tour of Library of Congress (participating scholars and organizers)

2:45: Welcome and Introduction

3:00-4:30 Session 1: Rhetoric, Philosophy, and Theology

Chair: **Nelson Minnich**, The Catholic University of America

Hilaire Kallendorf, “Visions in the Service of Virtue: Rhetorical Mysticism in Motolinía’s
Memoriales”

Verónica Murillo Gallegos, “El pensamiento franciscano entre España y Nueva España. Temas,
problemas y autores del siglo XVI”

José Refugio de la Torre Curiel, “De la celebración al retraimiento: cambios en el discurso
sobre el martirio de los misioneros franciscanos en el centro y norte de la Nueva España, siglos
XVI-XIX”

5:00-6:00 Keynote Address: **Jaime Lara**, “The Friars’ Mosques: The Franciscan Architectural
Imagination in Jerusalem and Cholula”

6:00-7:00 Reception

Saturday, October 14:

9:30-11:00 Session 2: Pastoral Ideals and Practices

Chair: **Jeffrey Burns**, Academy of American Franciscan History

Rose Marie Beebe and Robert Senkewicz, “The Franciscan Missionary Experience in Baja California”

Steven W. Hackel, “The Missions of the Sierra Gorda before Serra: 1600 to 1750”

Karen Melvin, “Tierra Santa in New Spain: Franciscans, alms, and the santos lugares de Jerusalén”

11:30-1:00 Session 3: Franciscans as Cultural and Religious Intermediaries

Chair: **Emanuele Colombo**, DePaul University

Matthew Restall, “The Landa Conundrum”

Cecilia Sheridan, “Mediadores de la interculturalidad: la mirada misionera sobre los *otros* en el contexto de la evangelización franciscana en los espacios fronterizos novohispanos”

Jonathan Truitt, “Franciscans, Nahuas, and the Games They Played”

1:00-2:30 Lunch

2:30-4:00 Session 4: Art, Music, and Spirituality

Chair: **Arthur Dunkelman**, Jay I. Kislak Foundation

Pedro Ángeles Jiménez, “Franciscanism, art and history in New Spain and Mexico”

Kristin Dutcher Mann, “Marking Time & Space: Bells in the Missions of Northern New Spain”

Manuel Ramos Medina, “Fundación de la Orden Tercera de los Siervos de María Santísima de los Dolores”

4:00-4:30 Closing Remarks

All sessions are free of charge and open to the public.