

A groundbreaking study of kinship ties, conquest, and resistance in colonial Spanish California

Colonial Intimacies

Interethnic Kinship, Sexuality, and Marriage in Southern California, 1769–1885

By Erika Perez

“A gem of historical scholarship!”—**Vicki L. Ruiz**, author of *From Out of the Shadows: Mexican Women in Twentieth-Century America*

How do intimate relationships reveal, reflect, enable, or enact the social and political dimensions of imperial projects? In particular, how did colonial relations in late-eighteenth- and nineteenth-century southern California implicate sexuality, marriage, and kinship ties? In *Colonial Intimacies*, Erika Pérez probes everyday relationships, encounters, and interactions to show how intimate choices about marriage, social networks, and godparentage were embedded in larger geopolitical concerns. Her work reveals, through the lens of social and familial intimacy, subtle tools of conquest and acts of resistance and accommodation among indigenous peoples, Spanish-Mexican settlers, Franciscan missionaries, and European and Anglo-American merchants.

Concentrating on Catholic conversion, *compadrazgo* (baptismal sponsorship that often forged interethnic relations), and intermarriage, Pérez examines the ways indigenous and Spanish-Mexican women helped shape communities and sustained their culture. She uncovers an unexpected fluidity in Californian society—shaped by race, class, gender, religion, and kinship—that persisted through the colony’s transition from Spanish to American rule.

Colonial Intimacies focuses on the offspring of interethnic couples and their strategies for coping with colonial rule and negotiating racial and cultural identities. Pérez argues that these sons and daughters experienced conquest in different ways tied directly to their gender, and in turn faced different options in terms of marriage partners, economic status, social networks, and expressions of biculturalism.

Offering a more nuanced understanding of the colonial experience, *Colonial Intimacies* exposes the personal ties that undergirded imperial relationships in Spanish, Mexican, and early American California.

Erika Pérez is Assistant Professor of History, and Affiliated Faculty in Gender and Women’s Studies, at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

VOLUME 5 IN THE BEFORE GOLD: CALIFORNIA UNDER SPAIN AND MEXICO SERIES

JANUARY 2018

\$45.00s CLOTH 978-0-8061-5904-1

408 PAGES, 6.125 X 9.25

20 B&W ILLUS., 9 CHARTS

HISTORY/WOMEN'S STUDIES

ORDER ONLINE AT OUPRESS.COM

ORDER BY PHONE

INSIDE THE U.S. 800-848-6224 EXT. 1

INTERNATIONAL 919-966-7449

CALL CENTER HOURS

8:30AM-5:00PM EST


ORDER BY E-MAIL

ORDERS@LONGLEAFSERVICES.ORG

ORDER BY FAX

FAX: 800-272-6817 (24 HOURS)

FAX: 919-962-2704 (24 HOURS)

 SIGN UP FOR NEW BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS, SPECIAL OFFERS, AND MORE AT OUPRESS.COM

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA PRESS IS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH LONGLEAF SERVICES, INC. THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION. WWW.OU.EDU/EOO