The Global Spanish Empire
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Published by University of Arizona Press

Beaule, Christine and John G. Douglass.
The Global Spanish Empire: Five Hundred Years of Place Making and Pluralism.

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This volume is the culmination of several years of hard work by many dedicated people. The idea for this volume began in the summer of 2016, when Christine emailed John asking him if he would like to collaborate on a session for an upcoming Society for American Archaeology (SAA) annual meeting. The incubation period for the session—regarding topic ideas, who we really wanted to participate, and so on—took some time, but we organized an electronic symposium at the 2018 SAA meeting in Washington, D.C. The format required participants to write chapter-length papers and submit them electronically a month in advance so that they would be publicly available prior to the session for anyone to read. The discussion that unfolded at the conference included lively exchanges both within our group and with the audience.

Soon after we all headed back to our lives after the meeting, Christine and John were notified by Christine Szuter that our session had won the prestigious SAA–Amerind Foundation Award! Unfortunately, only a subset of the original session could attend the Amerind Foundation workshop; we truly appreciate those who were part of the original session but could not continue with the project: Elliot Blair, Yasmina Eliani Cáceres Gutiérrez, Jorge de Juan, and Matthew Liebmann. The summer and early fall were busy for seminar participants, writing and revising their chapters for the seminar. Most of the senior authors (except Martin Gibbs, Corinne Hofmann, and Kevin Lane) were able to meet for a five-day seminar in Dragoon, Arizona, at the Amerind Foundation. The Amerind Foundation treated us very well, between the seminar, the setting, and the amazing food, and all in attendance readily recognized what a career highlight it was. Much to our surprise, within roughly two hours on our first day of the workshop, we realized that the organizing theme for the seminar—ethnogenesis—was not clearly evidenced in many of the papers, as we had hoped. However, two central themes did emerge: pluralism and place making. As a result, after the workshop, all participants reworked their papers into the final versions published here.
First and foremost, we thank all the participants of the SAA symposium and the subsequent SAA-Amerind workshop for their hard work and creative energy as we worked together over the last several years. Everyone has been so thoughtful and helpful to one another as we’ve discussed and thought through each other’s chapters, and we are very pleased with the results. While some of us had known each other before, we all feel that the process produced close scholarly collaborations and friendships that we will treasure for the rest of our professional lives.

The Amerind Foundation and its president/CEO, Christine Szuter, funded our workshop and included our volume in the University of Arizona Press’s Amerind Seminar Series. We are all very honored to have been invited to do a seminar at the Amerind Foundation, and we are all eternally grateful for the opportunity. We greatly benefited from Christine’s valuable insights and support both during the workshop discussions and in the months since.

Allyson Carter, Scott Herrera, and others at the University of Arizona Press have been very thoughtful and supportive of this project, for which we are thankful. The anonymous peer reviews, as well as the critical reviews and thoughts by the seminar participants both in person and remotely, helped hone our ideas and made the chapters stronger both individually and as a group.

We are thankful for support from our employers for this project. John received professional development support from Statistical Research, Inc., for participating in both the SAA symposium and the subsequent Amerind Foundation seminar and for the cost of indexing. Christine gratefully acknowledges the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa’s University Research Council’s support for travel to the SAA symposium and her many supportive colleagues. Finally, we thank our dear families and friends for their love and encouragement, without which we could not do fun things like disappear into the Arizona desert for five days to talk archaeology.

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