

About the Series

Latin America Otherwise: Languages, Empires, Nations is a critical series. It aims to explore the emergence and consequences of concepts used to define “Latin America” while at the same time exploring the broad interplay of political, economic, and cultural practices that have shaped Latin American worlds. Latin America, at the crossroads of competing imperial designs and local responses, has been construed as a geocultural and geopolitical entity since the nineteenth century. This series provides a starting point to redefine Latin America as a configuration of political, linguistic, cultural, and economic intersections that demands a continuous reappraisal of the role of the Americas in history, and of the ongoing process of globalization and the relocation of people and cultures that have characterized Latin America’s experience. *Latin America Otherwise: Languages, Empires, Nations* is a forum that confronts established geocultural constructions, that rethinks area studies and disciplinary boundaries, that assesses convictions of the academy and of public policy, and that, correspondingly, demands that the practices through which we produce knowledge and understanding about and from Latin America be subject to rigorous and critical scrutiny.

Wandering Peoples: Colonialism, Ethnic Spaces, and Ecological Frontiers in Northwestern Mexico, 1700–1850 is an anthropological history of cultural resiliency, colonial relations, and trespassed frontiers. The study takes place in the borderlands of the Spanish Empire in North America during the region’s long political transition from a Spanish colony to an independent Republican state. Geographical and political frontiers created spaces of pliant social identities, where boundaries of ethnicity and class intertwined. In this volume, Cynthia Radding offers a new perspective both of the “frontier” and of the “world system” paradigm by rethinking the dichotomy of center and periphery. She views the frontier not as a wall, but as a permeable border where transformations occurred in both the indigenous and Hispanic cultural worlds. Moreover, she suggests that the center and the periphery coexist at the local level, while at the global level the center becomes a distant periphery.

This volume charts processes of emerging borders—those of indigenous communities and of social class—against the backdrop of human migrations and changing ways of life. Framing this regional history through the lens of social relations governing access to ecological resources, Radding demonstrates the cultural intricacies of resistant accommodation to dominant political power. Her theoretical approach straddles disciplinary boundaries of anthropology, history, geography, and ecology to bring Sonora's wandering peoples into view.

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