

“Indigenous Evangelists on the Jesuit Missions of Sinaloa,” paper presented for *Cultural Dynamics of Missions, Global Reformations: Transforming Early Modern Religions, Societies, and Cultures*, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Toronto, Canada, University of Toronto, September 30, 2017.

A common image of a missionary from the early modern period is a Jesuit seeking to convert indigenous people to Christianity. While their evangelical labour needs to be acknowledged to understand the expansion of the Counter Reformation Church, more attention needs to be given to indigenous preachers, informants, catechists, and translators. In this paper I analyze descriptions of indigenous evangelists in seventeenth-century mission histories of Sinaloa, concentrating specifically on the work of Juan de Albizuri and Andrés Pérez de Ribas. These two Jesuit historians focus primarily on the feats of their coreligionists, but they occasionally acknowledge Indian contributions to their “spiritual conquest” of northern New Spain. I contend that their representations of Indian preachers reflect an important aspect of mission life: Jesuits entered into partnerships with local Indian groups to spread the Christian faith. Breaking down the traditional binary between European missionary and indigenous convert allows us to better understand cross-cultural encounters in the Spanish world.

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EDUCATION

- 2012 Ph.D. in History, University of Toronto
2003 M.A. in History, Queen's University
2002 B.A. in History and Philosophy, Brock University

CURRENT POSITION

- 2015– Assistant Professor (LTA), History Department, University of Toronto

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016 Archibald Hanna Fellowship, Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library
2016 Short-Term Fellowship, Newberry Library
2015 Msgr. Francis J. Weber Fellowship, Huntington Library
2015 Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies Fellowship, Victoria University in the University of Toronto
2013 Center for New World Comparative Studies Fellowship, John Carter Brown Library

PUBLICATIONS

“La parte censurada de la *Historia de la Provincia* de Francisco de Florencia.” *Estudios de Historia Novohispana* vol. 44, no. 1 (2011): 141–188.

“Indigenous and Black Intellectuals in the Lettered City.” *Latin American Research Review* vol. 50, no. 2 (2015): 256–266.

RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS

“The Nobility of the Soul: Multiethnic Sanctity in the Early Modern Spanish World,” paper presented for *Indigenous Communities Confront Modernity and Identity*, The Conference on Latin American History, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, January 9, 2016.

“Jesuit Missionary Partnerships: Morisco, Indian, and Filipino Evangelists in the Spanish World,” paper presented for *Early Colonial Missions*, Colonial Christian Missions and their Legacies Conference, Copenhagen University, Copenhagen, Denmark, April 29, 2015.

“Indigenous Martyrs in the Early Modern Spanish World,” paper presented for *Politics, Ethnography, and the Paradoxes of Empire*, XXXII International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois, USA, May 24, 2014.