

Call for Papers

Archaeologies of Dependency in Latin America

International Conference

Organized by [Christian Mader](#), [Claire Conrad](#), and [Tamia Viteri Toledo](#)

September 7–8, 2023

Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, University of Bonn, Germany



The past and present have been shaped by relationships of asymmetrical dependency between various actors, both human and non-human. These relationships imply the control by one group or person over the actions of another, regulating access to resources and having profound material implications. The study of these material components of asymmetrical dependencies by archaeologists and scholars of related disciplines provide new insights for comparative studies of such relationships around the globe.

Primarily based on written evidence, the most studied form of asymmetrical dependency in the Americas is the trans-Atlantic slave trade between the sixteenth and the late nineteenth century. Yet a recent paradigm shift has resulted in the study of the entire range of dependencies—including colonialism, political-ideological coercion, tribute, servitude, serfdom, debt bondage, convict labor, indentured migration, labor migration, and forced relocation of groups of laborers—and the different time periods and regions in which these asymmetrical relationships existed. This new emphasis also entails the development and application of new theoretical and methodological approaches and is often based on material evidence.

In this conference, we aim to assemble a wide spectrum of archaeological perspectives on asymmetrical dependencies and related phenomena in Latin America. Case studies from any time period and region are welcome, as long as they consider archaeological evidence. We

particularly encourage participants to introduce the theoretical and methodological background of their research, as this information is an important foundation for discussion and comparison. Possible lines of evidence include (1) landscapes, architecture, and households; (2) artifacts and biofacts; (3) burials; and (4) written sources. Ideally, presentations will integrate several lines of evidence.

We are interested in contributions that focus on, but need not be restricted to, the following topics:

- Dependency on local, regional, and distant resources.
- Archaeological evidence of dependency relationships.
- Material culture of dependency, rank, and power.
- Correlations between written sources and the archaeological record on aspects of dependency.
- Challenges and chances of an archaeological approach to dependency.
- Postcolonial archaeological practices.
- Community-based participatory research.
- Embodied status differentiation.
- Power relationships between institutions and communities or individuals.
- Human and non-human interactions.
- Change and continuity of asymmetrical dependencies over time.
- Deep-time approaches.
- Transregional perspectives.

The conference will take place on September 7–8, 2023 at the Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies, University of Bonn, Germany. We plan to meet in person, but are also prepared for a hybrid or online event if necessary. The conference is organized by the research group “The Archaeology of Dependency (ArchDepth): Resources, Power, and Status Differentiation” (Christian Mader, Claire Conrad, and Tamia Viteri Toledo). Our plan is to publish the conference papers in a special issue of the *Boletín de Arqueología PUCP*. We invite contributions from scholars of all academic levels. Please submit your abstract (which should not exceed 200 words) by **January 31, 2023** to archdepth@dependency.uni-bonn.de. When sending your abstract, please also indicate whether you wish to apply for a travel bursary and from where you will be traveling (a limited number of travel bursaries should be available for accepted speakers).

Further information:

Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies:

<https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en>

Research Group “The Archaeology of Dependency (ArchDepth): Resources, Power, and Status Differentiation”:

<https://www.dependency.uni-bonn.de/en/research/research-groups/the-archaeology-of-dependency-archdepth-resources-power-and-status-differentiation>

Boletín de Arqueología PUCP:

<https://revistas.pucp.edu.pe/index.php/boletindearqueologia>