From the sixteenth century onward, Spain adopted a forced resettlement policy in its American colonies, which required widely scattered small indigenous settlements to consolidate into larger, planned towns. The main objectives of this policy were to promote conversion of the native population to Christianity, and to make it easier to exact taxes and corvée labor from them. Among all the forced resettlement projects realized in Spanish America, that of the fifth viceroy of Peru, Francisco de Toledo, stands out for its authoritarian character, drastic measures, large scale, and profound impacts. Between 1570 and 1575, Toledo made an inspection tour of the vast Andean region. Using appointed inspectors, he made a detailed census of the native population, assessed taxes and built new towns (reducciones). The census, produced at the end of his inspection tour, lists a native population of 1.4 million distributed in 839 towns.

This symposium will be the first event of a five-year research project that aims to establish a comprehensive picture of Toledo’s resettlement scheme. Despite its recognition as a watershed event in Andean history, Toledo’s reform has not received the scholarly attention it merits. Basic information about its ideological background is still lacking, as also are its relation to European imperial politics and its evolution as a colonial policy. The process of its implementation is also poorly understood. Previous studies on this topic are highly localized, and, as a result, there is no consensus regarding effects on native society. This research project will attempt to compare different regional cases and clarify the general characteristics of Toledo’s resettlement scheme. His reform will also be compared with similar reforms conducted elsewhere in Spanish America, and its significance in the history of Spanish colonization will be determined. Finally, the research project will compare Toledo’s policy with other measures of state intervention in Europe, and thus clarify its place in the early modern political landscape.
Friday, November 6

1:00-1:20  Opening Remarks

Project Overview


Akira Saito  (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan)

2:20-2:50  Coffee Break

Current Research Landscape

2:50-3:40  “Historiography of the Toledan Reducciones”

Jeremy Ravi Mumford  (Brown University, USA)

3:40-4:30  “Archaeological Perspectives on the Reducción Process: Considering Interregional Variation in the Movement’s Dynamics and Its Afterlives”

Parker VanValkenburgh  (Brown University, USA)

4:30-5:20  “Las reducciones toledanas en la tradición antropológica sobre las sociedades andinas peruanas”

Alejandro Díaz Hurtado  (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru)

5:20-6:30  Reception (Library gallery, 2nd floor)

Saturday, November 7

(Coffee, tea, and pastries available during the morning session)

Impacts of the Resettlement on Native Society

9:15-10:05  “Municipal Republics in the Iberian Atlantic World”

S. Elizabeth Perry  (Fordham University, USA)

10:05-10:55  “Viceroy Francisco de Toledo, Architect of Andean Christianity”

John Charles  (Tulane University, USA)

10:55-11:45  “Transiciones entre los Andes y las Tierras Bajas: hacia una aproximación comparativa de los modelos reduccionales”

Guillermo Wilde  (Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, Argentina)

11:45-1:10  Catered Lunch

Digital Humanities Approaches to the Resettlement


Steven A. Wernke  (Vanderbilt University, USA)

2:10-3:00  “Developing a Geodatabase to Understand Historic-Geographical Processes of Reducción”

Yasuhiro Kondo  (Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan)

3:00-3:30  Coffee Break

Sunday, November 8

(not open to the public) Garland Hall, Room 2A

8:30-9:00  Continental Breakfast

9:00-12:00  Round Table Discussions

Saturday, November 7 (continued)

Built Environments of the Reducciones

3:30-4:20  “A Reconsideration of Inca Architecture in the Early Colonial Period”

Stella Nair  (University of California, Los Angeles, USA)

4:20-5:10  “Restructuring Visions: Art and Indigenous Communities after the Toledo Reforms”

Hiroshi Okada  (Osaka University, Japan)

5:10-5:30  Closing Remarks

5:30-6:30  Reception (Library gallery, 2nd floor)