

In the Viceroyalty of Peru, Spanish authorities imposed several mechanisms to try to establish Christian social order among the colonists, as well as among the Inca and non-Inca indigenous populations. Although the evangelization had amounted to a reorganization of pre-Columbian rooted concept of space, the remote countryside remained pagan and unchanged for quite a long time. The implementation of *encomienda* and *reducción*, among other policies and practices since the end of the 16th century, aimed to gain better control over the indigenous population, which was to be subjected to a continuous process of changing their identity and customs in accordance with Christian values. The proposed project tackles the issue of those changes through a multidisciplinary investigation on nature, chronology, architectural and burial patterns, as well as identity of late pre-Columbian/ early Colonial indigenous community settled at Chacuas Jirca, an archaeological site located in the upper part of the Culebras valley of northern Peru. The main hypothesis of the project is that Chacuas Jirca, the centre of pre-Hispanic origin, continued to operate in the colonial period until the beginning of mass displacement of the indigenous population from their native areas, as a centre of high economic importance. Both archaeological and ethnohistorical sources will be studied to illuminate local impacts of colonialism. Given the unique archaeological context of the site of Chacuas Jirca, the project creates an opportunity to review the current state of knowledge about social reorganization in the times of early contact with Europeans.