

GenCen Spring 2019 Colloquia Series

*New Research on Women and Gender,
Global and Local Perspectives*

March 15, 1:30-3:00p.m.
International Center, Room 303

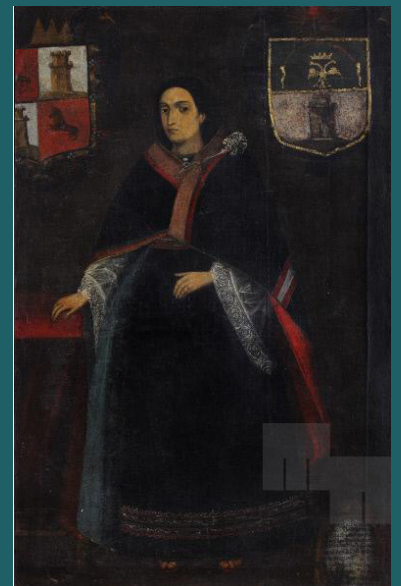
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Listening to Indigenous and Mestizo Women of Latin America's Past

Is it possible to imagine national histories written by women? If yes, would this be an expression of gendering historical discourse with an equal value as the official one written by male authors? And what does it mean to be a woman author? Direct and indirect women's access to the expression of their ideas and wishes on ink and paper has significantly contributed to the construction of the Latin American colonial archive. Nevertheless, this contribution to the area of Latin American women's studies still remains little known and understudied. Relegated to the margins of the canon and official discourses of the nation, the tradition of women's authorship in Latin America started as a crossroads of rhetorical practices and textual devices that used oral memory, women's aural and visual experiences, and narratives of identification.

Departing from documents produced by women of the Indigenous elite in the Andes, this presentation looks at narratives of identification by means of self-fashioning (after a concept originally proposed by Stephen Greenblatt) and re-fashioning of women as subjects in control of their social roles, finances, and writings. It aims to examine the construction of women's (self) representations where topics such as ethnic pride, social mobility, and genealogy converged in their contact with practices of the lettered city in sixteenth to eighteenth-century Spanish America (1550-1810).



"Manuela Tupá Amaru" (anonymous painter. Cuzco, Peru, ca. 1777)