Study questions

“Becoming Colonial” Lecture O’Toole 2b

These discussion questions are organized by the following three themes (bolded below): Andean and European combinations to make colonial, the Andean elites as intermediaries for the Spanish conquerors/colonizers, and how Andeans participated in colonial culture.

1. As you examine the portrait of don Marcos Chiquathopa/don Marcos Chigua and read the chapter by Thomas Cummins, how do you notice that this oil painting and others of Andean elite **combine** European and Andean types of representation? What do you notice about the imagery and the text? Given what you know about the process of colonization and empire building, how did the native elites of the Andes employ Inca signifiers during the Spanish colonial period? What were their purposes or intentions in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries? According to Thomas Cummins, what was don Marcos Chiquathopa/don Marcos Chigua claiming with his portrait?
2. How did the Spanish **rely on the Andean *kurakakuna*** to establish their empire and to colonize Peru, and the rest of the Andes? How did the Spanish change the Andean *kurakakuna*, or “mitigate” their “Indianness” (212), according to Cummins? What did *kurakakuna* such as don Marcos Chiquathopa/don Marcos Chigua need to prove in order to be recognized as authorities by the Spanish? Did the colonial portraits of the Inca articulate Spanish imperial/empire rule and its justification?
3. How does the art historian, Thomas Cummins, define **participation in colonial culture**? Given what you are learning about empire and resistance to empire, what would have been the multiple ways to participate in Spanish colonialism and empire building? How did Andean *kurakakuna* employ the portraits? How did Andean *kurakakuna* (and other Andeans) participate in colonial Spanish culture? How did the Andean *kurakakuna* make the Spanish into “others”?

Just a tip: *Kurakakuna* is the same as *curaca* is the same as *kuraka* is the same as *cacique*. All four of these italicized terms mean a local indigenous leader or leaders in the Andes.