Study questions

“Building on the Ruins of Empire” Lecture O’Toole 3b

These discussion questions are organized by the following three themes (bolded below): the construction of a scholarly **argument** (from a secondary source), indigenous Peruvian **politics**, and the **transcultural** self.

1. While you are reading James Scorer’s article, take notes about who Martín Chambí was and how he photographed Machu Picchu. Then turn to the online “Images: [Photographs of Martin Chambi](http://www.amber-online.com/collection/chambi-collection/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).” Where do you find evidence of Scorer’s **argument**? Where do you find evidence to question or to expand or to critique Scorer’s argument?
2. Who was Hiram Bingham and how did he photograph Machu Picchu? Then turn to the online “Video: [Photographs of Hiram Bingham](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAoLeoW5Uu0" \t "_blank).” (Remember that the person who created the video added the music.) Where do you find evidence of Scorer’s **argument**? Do Bingham’s photographs construct an “eternal present” (387)? Where do you find evidence to question or to expand or to critique Scorer’s argument?
3. How and why was Machu Picchu de-historicized? Why and how were the ruins of Machu Picchu critical to Peru and to Peruvians? Did *indigenistas* need Machu Picchu for their **political** and social goals?
4. How did Chambi use Machu Picchu? How did Chambi **self-fashion** his identity? Was Chambi historicizing Machu Picchu, or using the past, or using time, or using history? How did Martín Chambí respond to ideas of fixed identities or ‘authentic’ Indians?

Do you want to know more about what was going in Peru during the first part of the 20th century? Read the attached pdf from the Encyclopedia Britannica article on the history of Peru.