Corrupting the King’s Blood: Interpreting the Great Potosí Mint Fraud of 1649

Dr. Kris Lane

Thursday, February 4, 2016
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
UNM LAII (801 Yale Blvd NE)

Join us for a presentation in which historian Dr. Kris Lane discusses the great Potosí mint fraud of 1649. Historians such as Geoffrey Parker have lately reminded us that the seventeenth century was tough worldwide. Famine, plague, even glacial advance made life hard from Europe to China. In Spain and its overseas dominions, this ‘global crisis’ was made worse by a massive fraud inside the Potosí mint, high in the mountains of what is today Bolivia. What brought the great fraud about, and how was it disarticulated? What were the long-term consequences of the fraud and its aftermath? Was colonial corruption to blame?

Lane holds the France V. Scholes Chair in Colonial Latin American History at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he directs the graduate program. His books include Quito 1599: City & Colony in Transition (University of New Mexico), Colour of Paradise: The Emerald in the Age of Gunpowder Empires (Yale), and (with Matthew Restall) Latin America in Colonial Times (Cambridge). Lane also edits the journal Colonial Latin American Review. His current project, based in Bolivia, traces the history of the great Potosí mint fraud of 1649 and its global consequences.

Image: Painting from Martin de Murua, Historia general del Piru, c.1600 (Galvin ms.) by Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit laii.unm.edu/events