



The Tarascan Project (1939-1947) Researchers from UNM in a Collaborative Anthropological Research Between Mexico and the USA

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Join LAII for a talk about UNM's involvement in the Tarascan Project.

The Tarascan Project was a political collaboration between academic institutions and Mexican and American government agencies. The goal of the project was to carry out anthropological research activities in the indigenous regions of Michoacán. Its official duration was from 1939 to 1947, but its influence persisted for decades. The main institutions that financially and academically supported the project in Mexico were the National Polytechnic Institute, the National Institute of Anthropology and History, and the Department of Indigenous Affairs. In the United States, support primarily came from the University of California and the Smithsonian Institute, but also from the Carnegie Institute of Washington, the Social Science Research Council, the Department of State, and other institutions. Some researchers from other universities were affiliated with the Tarascan Project, for example, Donald Brand or Frances Leon (and Morris Swadesh) from UNM.

Dr. Lorena Ojeda Davila is a professor at the Faculty of History of the Universidad Michoacana de San Nicolás de Hidalgo in Mexico. She is a member of the National System of Researchers. She holds a PhD in Latin American History, Indigenous Worlds from the Pablo de Olavide University in Seville and a master's degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. She completed a postdoctoral stay at the University of California at Berkeley as a Fulbright García Robles research fellow. During 2019 she held the Fulbright Chair of Mexican Studies at the University of New Mexico and in 2025 she will hold this chairship at Yale University. This Summer she received the Greenleaf Award at UNM and worked extensively with the collections of the Southwest Research Center and other archives at UNM.



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