

# In the shadows of two Empires: the highlands and coast people in the Sacred Valley of Pachacamac (16<sup>th</sup> century). An interdisciplinary approach

**Responsible researchers:** Dr. Krzysztof Makowski Hanula, Mg. Carla Hernández Garavito, Mg. Iván Ghezzi Solís, Lit. Gabriela Oré Menéndez and Ba. Grace Alexandrino Ocaña  
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Department of Humanities - Archaeology Section

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This project is the first step in the development of the emerging branch of historical archaeology in Andean studies. Using the archaeological and historical sources, as well as the experimentation of new technologies applied to archaeological research, a first characterization of highlands - coast relations in the Pachacamac Valley (Lurín) during the early days of the colonial era is sought to achieve.

In particular, the research seeks to demonstrate that:

1. The incas boosted the growth of the Huarochirí province after its conquest, making it one of the road system axes that was part of the coast and the central highlands favoring the population transfer and the exchange between the two areas.
2. At the beginning of the colonial era, many inca settlements remained in force and were incorporated into the newly established colonial system. The architectural changes were minimal and radical changes in terms of settlement patterns were not immediate nor of fundamental interest for the central government.
3. The age of colonial transition was highly dynamic and a constant dialogue, where local identities were not lost immediately, remained; whereas these identities and traditions continued and were the basis for the stability of the colonial system during the early years of its establishment.

Within the progress of this research project, an opportunist prospecting went the headwaters of the Lurín River trying to define the type of occupation in the upper part of the valley. Many registered sites have similar features to the archaeological site of Pueblo Viejo - Pucara, located 15 minutes from the village of Pachacamac, implicitly suggesting the relation between highlands people and those placed in the coast who participated in the settlement of the incas in the Lurin Valley. In addition to the exploration of the area, one of the sites registered during the survey is being excavated. Canchaje site, Lahuaytambo district, Huarochirí, was chosen due to its architectural peculiarities probably related to the transitional period, since the settlement is similar to *Pueblo Viejo*, but with peculiarities that show a more Hispanic influence.