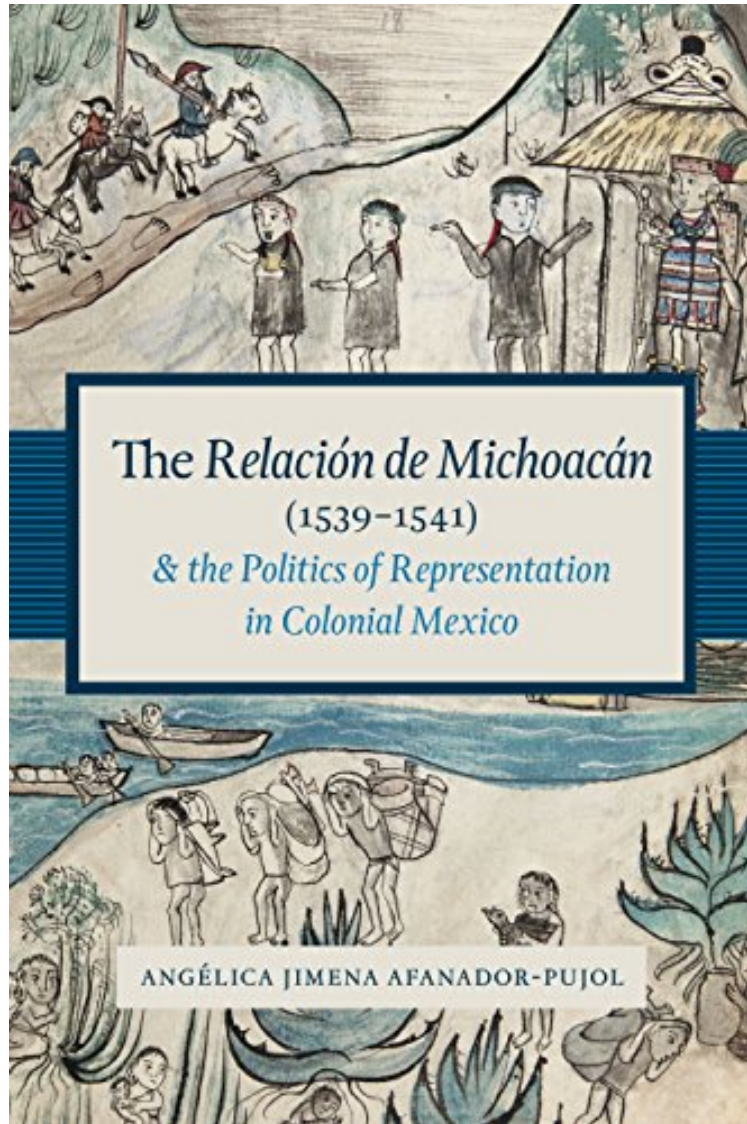


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The Relación de Michoacán (1539-1541) and the Politics of Representation in Colonial Mexico (Recovering Languages and Literacies of the Americas)

Angélica Jimena Afanador-Pujol
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Angélica Jimena Afanador-Pujol : The Relación de Michoacán (1539-1541) and the Politics of Representation in Colonial Mexico (Recovering Languages and Literacies of the Americas) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Relación de Michoacán (1539-1541) and the Politics of Representation in Colonial Mexico (Recovering Languages and Literacies of the

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Great reference for study.
Detailed explanations of the images throughout the book with numerous footnotes. A ton of work went into this book.

The *Relaci3n de Michoaca* (1539–1541) is one of the earliest surviving illustrated manuscripts from colonial Mexico. Commissioned by the Spanish viceroy Antonio de Mendoza, the *Relaci3n* was produced by a Franciscan friar together with indigenous noble informants and anonymous native artists who created its forty-four illustrations. To this day, the *Relaci3n* remains the primary source for studying the pre-Columbian practices and history of the people known as Tarascans or Purhepecha. However, much remains to be said about how the *Relaci3n*'s colonial setting shaped its final form. By looking at the *Relaci3n* in its colonial context, this study reveals how it presented the indigenous collaborators a unique opportunity to shape European perceptions of them while settling conflicting agendas, outshining competing ethnic groups, and carving a place for themselves in the new colonial society. Through archival research and careful visual analysis, Angealica Afanador-Pujol provides a new and fascinating account that situates the manuscript's images within the colonial conflicts that engulfed the indigenous collaborators. These conflicts ranged from disputes over political posts among indigenous factions to labor and land disputes against Spanish newcomers. Afanador-Pujol explores how these tensions are physically expressed in the manuscript's production and in its many contradictions between text and images, as well as in numerous emendations to the images. By studying representations of justice, landscape, conquest narratives, and genealogy within the *Relaci3n*, Afanador-Pujol clearly demonstrates the visual construction of identity, its malleability, and its political possibilities.

"Afanador-Pujol's book is an elegantly written and closely and judiciously argued interpretation of a key sixteenth-century ethnohistorical document. The author's astute and meticulous analysis of the document's pictorial content and its relationship to the text is persuasive, and it convincingly demonstrates the critical role of images in the articulation and negotiation of social identities in early colonial Mexico." (Eduardo de J. Douglas, Associate Professor of Art History, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and author of *In the Palace of Nezahualcoyotl: Painting Manuscripts, Writing the Pre-Hispanic Past in Early Colonial Period Tetzaco, Mexico*)
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About the Author
Angealica Jimena Afanador-Pujol is Assistant Professor of Art History at Arizona State University, where she teaches courses on the art and architecture of the peoples of the Americas.