

# Making Ends Meet in 19th Century Territorial New Mexico: New Mexican Ceramics and Identity

Erin Hegberg

Thursday, November 6

12:30-1:30 PM

SUB Cherry/Silver



In 19th century frontier New Mexico consumer relationships were charged with more than just economic convenience and reflected important social networks that were essential to the survival of Hispanic settlements. These relationships played a vital role in the formation and maintenance of modern Hispanic identity through the tumultuous changes of the Mexican and American Territorial Periods.

This talk presents research on the consumer relationships New Mexican Hispanic women maintained with Puebloans, Apaches, Anglo-Americans, and others in order to acquire and use locally produced ceramics. What women at Hispanic sites chose to consume, who they acquired materials from, and how they chose to use them are all consumer practices that helped construct Hispanic identities in 19th century New Mexico. Through close statistical analysis of technological style in the ceramic assemblage, I identify variation within broader identified production groups to understand what kinds of personal relationships Hispanos needed to acquire their pottery. Goods imported from the Santa Fe Trail or traders also suggest relationships between Hispanic residents and American capitalism and nationalist ideals. Examining consumer relationships helps us to understand how Hispanic people sought to integrate with or stand out from other groups on the landscape.

Erin Hegberg is a doctoral student specializing in 19th century historical archaeology. Her dissertation is currently titled “Consumer Relationships in 19th Century Territorial New Mexico: Regional Identity.” Her interests include examining relationships between material culture and identity, between local and regional identities, and between producers and consumers. Erin also works for the Office of Contract Archaeology at UNM, where she wrestles with issues relating to contact period archaeology and landscape archaeology.



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