



## Feminist Research Institute

# EN MANOS DE LA MUJER: INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN 19TH CENTURY HACIENDAS

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SUB Cherry/Silver*



This talk presents new research on indigenous women who lived and worked on Ecuadorian haciendas during the nineteenth century. This time period represented an era of double marginalization for indigenous women: law makers reserved citizenship for men and established a clear hierarchy of male power over women, while landowners and industrial elites prioritized male labor over female labor. Despite this increasing marginalization, indigenous women remained a vital part of their communities. Hacienda records reveal that indigenous women worked closely with their male counterparts and often acted as—and were recognized—as the head of their household. This research analyzes the activities of these women as they contributed to both family and community labor demands and maintained spaces of power for themselves within systems of increasing male domination.